



BULLETIN

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Editorial

“The devil is in the detail.”

Let's start with how to make the European Champions Cup a more meaningful event. Here's a suggestion. The first step is to separate the Bermuda Bowl qualification process into two parts. The first of these would remain the European Championship and the winner of that event would still be European Champion. Thereafter, the top 12 teams from the European Championship would enter the Bermuda Bowl qualification process via the Champions Cup. This would become a double-knockout event with the bracket formed from 1 v. 12, 2 v. 11 and so on, according to the teams' finish in the European Championship. The six winners from Day 1 would play a match on Day 2 (all matches would be a full day - say 60 or 64 boards in length - but could be longer if desired) and the three winners would qualify for the Bermuda Bowl. On this same day (Day 2), the six losing teams from Day 1 would play a match and the three losers would be knocked out of the running. The three winners would play a further match on Day 3 against the three losers from the undefeated bracket. These three winners would also qualify for the Bermuda Bowl, making six qualifiers in all. If Europe gets a seventh team, as sometimes happens when another NBO drops out, the highest-ranked team (from among the three latest KO losers) from the European Championship not yet qualified by these knockouts would make it.

Let's go on to the Rosenblum and firstly, do away with the 10-12 team round robins before the knockout begins. We have enough round robin events already in the Bermuda Bowl and WMSG. Instead, let's start the knockout immediately, as the Rosenblum was originally conceived and executed. This plan would be to divide (by seeding) the field into groups of four (and groups of three for the remainders) for direct knockout play, qualifying three teams from each group of four and two from each group of three, as was done in New Orleans in 1978. The goal would be to come to 96 teams (or 48, depending on the number of entries) then have those teams continue in full-day knockouts until six teams were left. At that point, those six would be joined by two teams from either a “B” knockout bracket or a “Repêchage”, those eight teams to continue until a winner was declared. An alternative would be to come to three teams and have one team join from the B bracket/repêchage. The idea is to return the Rosenblum to its original design as the “World Knockout Teams Championship”. Three, four, five or six days' play could be guaranteed to all teams based on the design of the “B” bracket/Repêchage. As far as seeding goes, the teams would be numbered according to their WBF ranks from number 1 to whatever. Teams would be designated by their country with, for example, Italy's top team being called Italy 1 and the next-ranked Italian team being designated Italy 2 and so on - no personal or sponsor names.

Next, let's take on the board-a-match world championship. On a four-year cycle, we could have:

2013 - Bermuda Bowl

2014 - Rosenblum KO Teams and World Open Pairs

2015 - Shanghai Cup (for example) - the new BAM world championship (see the Correspondence section)

2016 - WMSG / Olympiad

The Bermuda Bowl and Shanghai Cup would retain their current zonal qualification processes (22 teams from eight zones) and format (round robin qualifying eight teams for knockout play), the Rosenblum would return to national teams and direct knockout play, but with unlimited entries from each NBO and the WMSG would continue with one team from every WBF member nation divided into groups for round robin play and a 16-team KO.

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Brian Senior, Nottingham, UK

The first Bangkok International Bridge Festival was held in the Montien Hotel, just across the road from the famous Patpong night market and nightlife area of Bangkok, from January 30th to February 3rd 2013. There was a large Japanese contingent at the festival, with the field for the Championship Teams including seven from Japan out of a total of 34, and players from around a dozen countries in all taking part.

The opening event was the BBF Championship Pairs, played over an extended qualifying session followed by a final. This was won by S. Chaitad and S. Peeracha of Bangkok.

The MEA Open Teams Championship began on day two, with the first four of 12 x 10-board rounds of Swiss, and continued on days three and four. This event was interspersed with one-session Pairs events for which there was an overall championship - winners were the Thai pair of S. Chaitad and S. Peeracha.

The last day saw the semi-finals and final of the MEA Teams Championship. England/Malaysia defeated Pobsit (Thailand) by 64-42 in one semi-final, while the Chinese team representing Beijing Trinerger beat 2013 Japan Women Plus by 66-32 in the other semi-final. In the final, Beijing Trinerger defeated England/Malaysia by 70-49 overall. Meanwhile, 2013 Japan Women Plus won the third-place play-off match by 46-44. The winners, Beijing Trinerger, comprised LU Dong, WANG Yanhong, LI Rui, DONG Lidang, SHI Zhengjun.

It is time to look at some of the action...

Board 18. Dealer East. NS Vul.

♠ A 9 8 7 3	♠ K 5 2
♥ A 2	♥ K 7 6 4
♦ J 7 5	♦ A Q 10 8 4
♣ A 10 7	♣ 3
♠ J 10 6	♠ Q 4
♥ 9 8	♥ Q J 10 5 3
♦ 9 6 2	♦ K 3
♣ Q 9 8 4 2	♣ K J 6 5

West	North	East	South
Hackett		Sælensminde	
—	—	1♥	Pass
1♠	2♦	Pass	Pass
Double	Pass	2♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Paul Hackett is a double World Seniors champion in teams, but I think he would be higher placed in a world ranking of Pairs players than of Teams players.

This deal comes from the BBF Pairs Championship final. Erik Sælensminde's pass over the two-diamond overcall denied three spades so his subsequent two-spade bid had to be based on a doubleton. But he would surely have preferred to rebid a six-card heart suit, so was marked with only five of those and, as he might have passed the take-out double with decent diamonds, probably had either his actual distribution or perhaps 2=5=3=3 with at most one diamond stopper.

It seemed to Hackett that, with the diamond lead marked, the popular choice of a three-diamond bid, asking for a stopper, would just get his side to a bad game. Indeed, no game rated to be very good and, at matchpoints, there is no premium for bidding thin games. So Paul passed, a brave action holding 13 HCP facing an opening bid, and one that he would not have made at Teams, where the odds do favour being in thin games.

Hackett proceeded to wrap up an overtrick. Plus 140 was worth only a 50% score, but that was the best that could realistically be achieved from the position he had found himself in. The alternative three-diamond cuebid would have seen three notrump reached and that contract would have been easily defeated. Sometimes it is not possible to achieve a good result on a board, and the best that can be managed is damage limitation, salvaging what one can.

However, Hackett missed an opportunity on this next deal. (See top of next page.)

Two spades was weak, two notrump inquired, and three diamonds showed a minimum with a good suit. Hoping to be able to run the spades, North took a shot at three notrump.

Round 1. Board 10. Dealer East. Both Vul.

♠ A 10 ♥ K Q J 2 ♦ K 10 9 5 ♣ K J 3 ♠ 9 3 ♥ A 6 5 ♦ Q 8 4 2 ♣ Q 9 6 5	♠ J 7 ♥ 9 8 7 3 ♦ A J 7 ♣ A 8 7 2 ♠ K Q 8 6 5 4 2 ♥ 10 4 ♦ 6 3 ♣ 10 4
--	--

West	North	East	South
<i>Sælensminde</i>		<i>Hackett</i>	
—	—	Pass	2♠
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♦
Pass	3NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

There are a couple of ways to defeat three notrump. The simple way is for East to lead a low club and West to put on the nine, losing to the jack. When declarer plays a heart to establish his ninth trick, West wins and returns the club queen to pin the ten and the defence has five tricks.

Hackett led the jack of spades. Declarer had no choice but to win the ace and play a heart, Sælensminde correctly ducking to cut the defensive transportation. He won the second heart and led a low diamond to the ten and jack. Hackett now cashed the ace and that was the end of the defence; plus 600.

The winning defence is for East to return his second spade when in with the jack of diamonds. When declarer cashes the spades he hopelessly squeezes his hand and there is no ninth trick.

The last match of Day Two saw yet another win for Beijing Trinergy, who were undefeated to this point. However, let's take a look at one of their rare losing boards.

Round 8. Board 12. Dealer West. NS Vul.

♠ 10 6 ♥ A J 10 7 ♦ K 8 6 3 ♣ K 9 6 ♠ K J 4 2 ♥ 8 6 ♦ 5 4 ♣ 8 7 4 3 2	♠ A Q 9 7 ♥ K Q 3 2 ♦ Q J 9 ♣ Q 10 ♠ 8 5 3 ♥ 9 5 4 ♦ A 10 7 2 ♣ A J 5
--	--

West	North	East	South
<i>Li</i>	<i>Chongchana</i>	<i>Shi</i>	<i>Parich</i>
Pass	Pass	1♣	Pass
1♦	Pass	INT	Pass
Pass	Pass		

West	North	East	South
<i>Somma</i>	<i>Wang</i>	<i>Chinoros</i>	<i>Dong</i>
Pass	Pass	INT	Pass
Pass	Pass		

What would you lead from the South hand when East opens one notrump or opens a strong club and rebids one notrump over the one-diamond negative response? At clubs all around the world, people lead fourth-best of their longest and strongest suit, here a diamond. And at clubs all around the world one notrump would be set a trick, the defence establishing a third diamond to go with three clubs and the ace of hearts.

But at a higher level we tend to lead passively rather than from a broken four-card suit, figuring that there will be time enough to find a diamond switch if one is required. Sure enough, both our South players chose a spade lead, doing neither harm nor good but perhaps giving up a tempo.

Zhengjun Shi won in hand and cashed two more spades ending in dummy, Chongchana pitching a diamond. Shi now played a diamond to the jack, ducked, crossed to the last spade and led a heart to the queen. He had six tricks and the only hope of getting a seventh was a misdefence. Shi exited with the queen of clubs. Chongchana won with the king and played his low diamond through to the nine and ten. Parich cashed the ace, dropping his partner's king, cashed the fourth diamond and two clubs, and North's heart ace won the last trick; down one for minus 50.

Chinoros won the first spade in dummy and led a heart to his queen. When that held he crossed to the king of spades to play a second heart, won by Lu's ace. Lu played a low diamond and the defence played three rounds to set up the fourth diamond but this in turn established declarer's seventh winner; plus 90 and 4 IMPs to Team Phailin.

What North needed to do after winning the second heart was to continue with a third round to establish a second heart trick for the defence. Then they would have had two hearts to go with two diamonds and three clubs for down one. Perhaps he should have worked it out. Declarer was known to hold four cards in each major as South had shown his count in both suits. It may seem that it was unclear which way round declarer was 3-2 in the minors, but of course it was not so because South would have led from a five-card diamond suit. If declarer had the ace of clubs the

contract could not be defeated, while if he did not have it there was no rush to clear diamonds.

There were a couple of very interesting play and defence hands in Round 9 of the MEA Swiss Teams Qualifying stage.

Round 9. Board 24. Dealer West. Neither Vul.

<p>♠ A K 9 7 ♥ A 7 3 ♦ A ♣ A Q 8 4 3</p> <p>♠ J 10 8 5 4 3 ♠ Q 6 ♥ K J 8 5 ♥ Q 10 6 ♦ K 9 6 ♦ J 10 8 2 ♣ — ♣ 9 7 5 2</p> <p>♠ 2 ♥ 9 4 2 ♦ Q 7 5 4 3 ♣ K J 10 6</p>	
--	--

Assuming a pass from West – the hand doesn't quite fit into any opening bid – and a North who opens two notrump, an action I really hate when holding a singleton - North/South will just declare a peaceful three notrump. Where North makes the far more civilized (in my not at all humble opinion) of one club, perhaps he may find the club fit and get all the way to six clubs. This, incidentally, is why I dislike a two notrump opening – once there is a fit, the North hand is worth a lot more than 20-21, and a one-club opening is also far more likely to find a club fit, should there be one.

On these North/South hands, six clubs is only a borderline proposition, and careful defence beats it as the cards lie. East must lead a trump, which declarer can win with the king then cash the ace of diamonds. He continues with the top spades, throwing a heart from dummy, then leads a third spade. East is likely to discard, and he had better choose a diamond or the slam will come in, because declarer throws dummy's remaining heart on the spade loser. West wins but cannot play a second trump and, if East has not thrown a diamond, declarer can make his low trumps in hand by ruffing diamonds and make four top winners and eight trump tricks.

So, let us say that East does indeed throw a diamond on the third spade. West wins and must play a fourth spade. Why? Because that gives East an opportunity to discard a second diamond. Now, declarer can only take one low ruff in hand, and in the fullness of time will have to lose a trump to East for one down.

A popular auction on the next deal (see top of next column) was for North to open three spades and for South raise to game. I was one of a number of Easts to double – after all, North/South have not tried for a

slam and East does appear to have three trump tricks, so it is hardly unreasonable to hope to find partner with one or two more winners.

Round 9. Board 29. Dealer North. Both Vul.

<p>♠ A 10 9 8 5 4 2 ♥ 10 6 5 ♦ 7 6 ♣ A</p> <p>♠ 3 ♥ Q J 4 3 ♦ Q J 9 5 4 ♣ K 9 4</p> <p>♠ 6 ♥ A K 9 2 ♦ A K 10 2 ♣ 10 8 6 2</p>		<p>♠ K Q J 7 ♥ 8 7 ♦ 8 3 ♣ Q J 7 5 3</p>
--	--	--

When dummy came down declarer should surely have seen that the double had been based on trump tricks. Nevertheless, our declarer went down in what, after the double, should have been a completely cold contract. The successful line was to win the opening lead and, if necessary, unblock the ace of clubs and use dummy's entries to take three club ruffs. You would have won eight tricks and would have been down to the ace-ten-nine-eight of spades and a losing heart and could not be prevented from taking two more tricks and ten in all.

It would have been an expensive double then, as declarer would probably have gone off by playing ace and another spade without the double. After that, careful defence would have held him to nine tricks.

It is possible for East to let the contract home if he simply wins the second spade and cashes his remaining spade winners. Declarer could then come down to a position where he has three hearts and a spade in hand and ace-king doubleton of hearts and two low diamonds in the dummy. What is West to keep for his last four cards? If two diamonds, then declarer cashes the ace-king of hearts and ruffs a diamond to hand to cash the heart ten. If one diamond plus a heart guard, declarer ruffs a diamond and has three winners in the dummy.

So East must not cash the winning trumps. Say that he returns a diamond. Declarer wins and has to ruff a club to get back to hand to play a third trump. East wins and plays a second diamond. Again declarer wins and ruffs a club back to hand. When he plays the next trump, he is down to three hearts and a spade facing ace-king of hearts and two low diamonds – just as in the squeeze position already mentioned – but East, simply plays a club, forcing South to ruff while the hearts are blocked, so West, who has already been squeezed down to one diamond, can give up his heart stopper to keep a diamond for the last trick.

Round 11. Board 19. Dealer South. EW Vul.

♠ Q 10 8 7 6 5 4 3
 ♥ Q 10 6
 ♦ 8 6
 ♣ —

♠ A 2 ♠ J
 ♥ A 5 2 ♥ K J 4
 ♦ A J 7 ♦ K 10 4 3 2
 ♣ Q J 9 8 5 ♣ 6 4 3 2

♠ K 9
 ♥ 9 8 7 3
 ♦ Q 9 5
 ♣ A K 10 7

West	North	East	South
Otsuka	Li	Miwa	Wang
—	—	—	1♦
INT	4♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

West	North	East	South
Dong	Yamada	Shi	Yamada
—	—	—	1♣
INT	2♠	3♠	Pass
4♣	Pass	5♣	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Miwa led a low diamond and Otsuka won with the ace and returned the suit. Miwa's heart switch now collected three tricks in that suit and there was the spade ace to come for down three; minus 150.

At the other table, South must have had high hopes of defeating five clubs but found that it was unbeatable.

North led a spade to the king and ace. Dong ruffed the other spade and led a club to the queen. Needing dummy entries, a heart to the jack came next followed by a club, South taking the king. The heart return was won in dummy for another club play. South won with the ace and again exited with a heart. Dong won the ace, drew the last trump and, with the auction and play to date marking the queen with South, led a diamond to the king then back to the jack for eleven tricks and plus 600; 10 IMPs to Beijing Trinergy.

Board 4. Dealer West. Both Vul.

♠ A Q J 5 4
 ♥ 8 6 5 4 3
 ♦ —
 ♣ A 9 7

♠ 10 8 ♠ 9 6 2
 ♥ A K Q J ♥ 10 9 7
 ♦ 9 3 2 ♦ Q 6 5 4
 ♣ K 10 6 3 ♣ J 8 4

♠ K 7 3
 ♥ 2
 ♦ A K J 10 8 7
 ♣ Q 5 2

West	North	East	South
Somma	Lim	Parich	Law
1♣	2♥	Pass	4♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

West	North	East	South
Hackett	Kasemsukr	Sælensminde	Chongchana
1♣	1♠	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♥	Pass	4♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Lim showed the majors, and Law thought he had plenty to jump to the spade game, even if most of his values were facing partner's short suits. Somma led the eight of spades, which Law won in dummy with the ace to give up a heart. Somma won that, of course, and led a second spade. Law won with the king and played the ace, king and jack of diamonds, throwing three hearts from dummy. When the jack lost to the queen and Parich had the last trump to return, the contract was doomed and, with the club king over the queen, the end result was down two for minus 200.

Kasemsukr preferred a simple one-spade overcall then showed his hearts. Any sign of life from partner was going to get Chongchana to bid the spade game and that is what he duly bid. Sælensminde led a club to the queen, king and ace. Kasemsukr crossed to the king of spades to pitch his club losers on the top diamonds. Then, seeing that he would be allowed only one heart ruff, and would be a trick short if he now played a heart, he ran the jack of diamonds to the queen. Sælensminde played a trump and Kasemsukr must have thought he was doomed. However, what could he do but give up a heart and now the miracle lie of the cards saw him home. Hackett could not avoid winning the heart but did not have the last defensive trump so just played a club for declarer to ruff. Kasemsukr ruffed a heart in dummy and found that the ten of diamonds was standing up for his tenth trick; plus 620 and 13 not unfortunate IMPs to Pobsit.

The 2nd Bangkok International Bridge Festival will be held in April 2014. Bangkok is well worth a visit, so why not consider going to the festival next year?



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'Curiouser and curiouser!' cried Alice

Brad Coles is the associate editor of 'Australian Bridge' magazine. From time to time he sends me curiosities from the bridge table. These are two of them. The first one comes from a monthly team game in Bathurst:

Dealer North. Both Vul.

♠ Q 9 7 4 2
 ♥ A 7 5
 ♦ J 3 2
 ♣ 7 2
 ♠ —
 ♥ 4 2
 ♦ Q 9 8 7 5 4
 ♣ A K Q J 3
 ♠ A K 10 6 3
 ♥ K J 10 9 8 3
 ♦ K
 ♣ 4

West	North	East	South
—	Pass	Pass	1♥
3♣ ¹	3♥	5♣	5♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. 11-15 points, both minors

West led the three of clubs and trick one went three – two – five – four. The novelty of those cards at trick one appealed to me. East returned the jack of spades, suit preference for diamonds. West ruffed, played a diamond to the ace and received another spade ruff for two down. At the other table South was in four spades, losing only to the minor-suit aces plus 650 and 13 IMPs.

This comes from a BBO session and the winning play is admittedly a bit double dummy:

Dealer West. EW Vul.

♠ Q 10 6
 ♥ —
 ♦ A Q 9 8 5
 ♣ Q 10 9 7 4
 ♠ 9 8 4 2
 ♥ 10 9 7 6 5
 ♦ K J
 ♣ 3 2
 ♠ A J 5 3
 ♥ K J 8 4 2
 ♦ 10 4 2
 ♣ 6
 ♠ K 7
 ♥ A Q 3
 ♦ 7 6 3
 ♣ A K J 8 5

West	North	East	South
Pass	1♦	Pass	2♣
Pass	3♥ ¹	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♦	Pass	6♣
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. Splinter raise: 4+ clubs, 0-1 heart

West leads a trump, often the best defence after a splinter auction. It looks as though declarer is bound to lose a spade and a diamond, but see what happens when South ruffs the three of hearts, comes to hand with a trump, ruffs the queen of hearts and overtakes the next trump in hand. After South cashes the ace of hearts and another trump, these cards are left:

♠ Q 10 6
 ♥ —
 ♦ A Q 9
 ♣ —
 ♠ 9 8 4
 ♥ 10
 ♦ K J
 ♣ —
 ♠ A J 5
 ♥ —
 ♦ 10 4 2
 ♣ —
 ♠ K 7
 ♥ —
 ♦ 7 6 3
 ♣ 5

South plays the five of clubs, West discards the ten of hearts and dummy the nine of diamonds. What is East to do? If East discards a spade, South finesses the queen of diamonds and plays a spade. If East follows with the spade jack, then South wins with the king and returns a spade. If East rises with the ace of spades, South jettisons the king and dummy has the rest of the tricks.

If East discards a diamond on the five of clubs, South finesses the queen of diamonds, cashes the ace and plays a spade. South scores the king of spades and the last diamond. Brad called it a criss-cross squeeze without the count. Perhaps it is an extended one?



Dealer South. EW Vul.

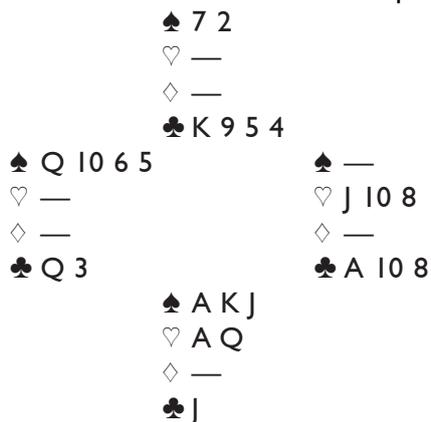
♠ 7 2
 ♥ K
 ♦ J 8 6 5 3 2
 ♣ K 9 5 4
 ♠ Q 10 6 5
 ♥ 9 3 2
 ♦ 10 9 7 4
 ♣ Q 3
 ♠ 8 3
 ♥ J 10 8 6 5 4
 ♦ —
 ♣ A 10 8 7 2
 ♠ A K J 9 4
 ♥ A Q 7
 ♦ A K Q
 ♣ J 6

West	North	East	South
—	—	—	2♣
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♦	Pass	6NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

West led the diamond four.

Alison Wilson, Chris Willenken, Bjorn Fallenius and Andrew Rosenthal of New York City won the Open Swiss Teams on Jan. 17 at the District 3 Winter Regional in Rye Brook, N.Y. In the diagrammed deal, Fallenius and Rosenthal were plus 500 against three hearts doubled by East. (South opened two clubs, North responded two diamonds, East intervened with three hearts, and South's double ended the auction.) This was the best that North-South could do. Six diamonds was unmakeable unless East led a club. And after East's bid, a heart lead would have scuttled six notrump.

There was much more at stake at this table, where South was in six notrump. Willenken (West) led the diamond four. Declarer took his three winners in the suit, crossed to dummy's heart king and cashed the other three diamond tricks. Wilson (East) had to make six discards. She started with one club, two hearts and one spade. But then she had to be careful. West had played his diamonds in ascending order, trying to indicate that he had an honour in clubs. He had also given count in hearts. East, realizing that she needed to keep one more heart than South, threw her second spade and another club. This was the position:



When declarer played a spade to his ace, East accurately pitched another club. Now the contract could not be made. If South had led the club jack, West would have covered with his queen to gain two tricks in the suit for his side. But when declarer cashed his two heart tricks, West discarded a spade and a club. Plus 500 and plus 50 gave the Wilson team 11 international match points en route to victory.

Note that if East had thrown a heart in the diagrammed position, South would have won with his spade ace, cashed his hearts and led the club jack, playing low from the dummy. If West had taken the trick with his queen, he would have had to lead from the queen-ten of spades into declarer's king-jack. And if West unblocked his club queen, East would have had to play from her ten-eight of clubs into dummy's king-nine.

It was an excellent defence by Wilson and Willenken

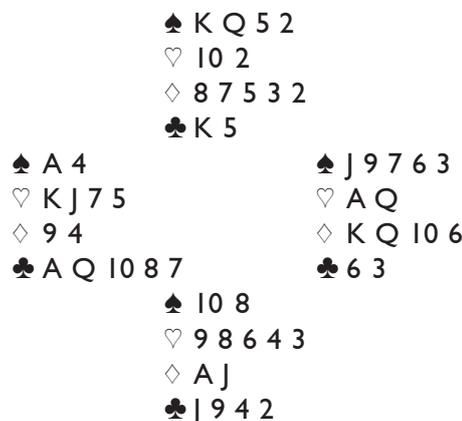


More deals on BBO that attracted my eye...

DUTCHTEAM CHAMPIONSHIP

It's always fun to watch current or former teammates play against each other. So it was in the final of the Dutch National Team Championship when the two Onstein teams battled each other. Onstein 1 (Brink/Drijver, de Wijs/Muller/van der Neut) defeated Onstein 2 (van Prooijen/Verhees, Bakkeren/Bakkeren) 177-96. However, with the match still hanging in the balance...

Board 54. Dealer East. Both Vul.



West	North	East	South
Verhees	Drijver	van Prooijen	Brink
—	—	1♦ ¹	Pass
2♣ ²	Pass	2♥ ³	Pass
2♠ ⁴	Pass	2NT ⁵	Pass
3NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. 0+ diamonds; could be canapé; 12-14 balanced
2. Relay, GF
3. 5+ spades
4. Relay
5. 5=2=4=2

Brink led the eight of hearts to van Prooijen's ace. Needing tricks from clubs, declarer led one to the ten in dummy. Drijver ducked! Declarer crossed back to hand with the heart queen and led his other club. Brink cooperated by playing the jack and declarer, completely taken in, played the queen, this time losing to the king. North shifted to the two of spades, fooling declarer for the second time: nine, ten, ace.

Van Prooijen took dummy's king of hearts and the ace of clubs. When North showed out, he cashed the jack of hearts and led a diamond to the king and ace. South took his heart and club winners and led a spade to North for two off.

Events were rather more mundane at the other table:

West	North	East	South
<i>de Wijs</i>	<i>T.Bakkeren</i>	<i>v.d.Neut</i>	<i>F.Bakkeren</i>
—	—	1♠	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass
2NT	Pass	3NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		

North led the two of diamonds and declarer took a reasonable shot by ducking – South’s jack won. He shifted to the eight of spades, ducked to North’s queen, and the spade continuation was won by declarer’s ace over the nine and ten. DeWijs led the nine of diamonds to South’s ace. With the spade spots so favourable for declarer, Frank Bakkeren needed to shift to clubs now before declarer forced out Ton Bakkeren’s king of spades. Frank Bakkeren could see that North needed the king of clubs to defeat the contract and duly shifted to a club so the defence won two spades, two diamonds and the king of clubs, plus 100.

CAMROSETROPHY

The Camrose is the Home International, held annually among England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland and the recently-admitted Ireland. It is held over two weekends in a double-round-robin format of 32-board matches. Since five is an awkward number of teams to deal with, the host of the second weekend is allowed a second team. Thus, this year, we have both Ireland and CBAI (Contract Bridge Association of Ireland).

Bridge is a game of missed chances and Ireland missed a big one here...

England v. Ireland. Board 18. Dealer East. NS Vul.

		♠ K 7	
		♥ 10 8 7 3	
		♦ 8 6	
		♣ A 10 9 5 3	
♠ Q 10 9		♠ A 6 5 2	
♥ Q J 5 2		♥ A 6	
♦ A J 10 4		♦ K Q 9 7	
♣ J 7		♣ K 8 2	
		♠ J 8 4 3	
		♥ K 9 4	
		♦ 5 3 2	
		♣ Q 6 4	
West	North	East	South
<i>Jagger</i>	<i>Fitzgibbon</i>	<i>Allerton</i>	<i>Mesbur</i>
—	—	1♦	Pass
1♥	Pass	1NT	Pass
3NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

Adam Mesbur looked no further than his four-card unbid spade suit for his opening lead. When the nine brought the king and ace, Jeffrey Allerton crossed to dummy to take a heart finesse. Mesbur won and switched to a low club, but it came too late; Allerton

took three spade tricks (finessing for the jack), two hearts, four diamonds and a club for plus 430.

Events were more interesting at the other table...

West	North	East	South
<i>M.O'Briain</i>	<i>Hinden</i>	<i>P.O'Briain</i>	<i>Osborne</i>
—	—	1NT	Pass
2♠ ¹	Pass	3♣ ²	Pass
3♦ ³	Pass	3♠ ⁴	Pass
3NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. Asks majors and strength
2. Maximum with one or two majors
3. Hearts
4. Spades

With more information at his disposal and such a miserable collection to lead from, Graham Osborne decided to let declarer do his own work and chose the five of diamonds, giving nothing away. Padraig O'Briain made a winning start by taking the diamond lead in the dummy and selecting the queen of spades. This was covered by the king and ace and a second spade went to Osborne's jack. To defeat the contract legitimately, South has to shift to the queen of clubs and North must duck this and the next club to maintain transportation with the South hand.

When South shifted to a low club, declarer was in with a chance – he accurately played the jack from the dummy, denying North the opportunity to put in the nine. North, Frances Hinden, did play the ace and continued the suit. Declarer ducked and South won the queen and, realising the futility of continuing clubs (North could not have an entry), shifted once again, this time to spades, setting up the eight.

To make the contract, declarer needed to cash the king of clubs and at least two diamonds, then exit with a spade to South's eight. South would have been forced to lead away from the king of hearts to surrender the ninth trick. Declarer, however, perhaps bemused by South's not continuing with the club attack and believing the reason for that to be the lack of an entry, won the spade with the ten and played the ace and another heart. Thus the defence took two spades, one heart and two clubs. That was 10 IMPs away.

CBAI v. England. Board 18. Dealer West. NS Vul.

		♠ Q 8 7 6 4	
		♥ Q 7 3	
		♦ J 7	
		♣ K 10 4	
♠ J 10		♠ A 9 5 3	
♥ K J 10 9 4		♥ 8 6 5 2	
♦ 8		♦ A K Q 9	
♣ 8 7 6 3 2		♣ J	
		♠ K 2	
		♥ A	
		♦ 10 6 5 4 3 2	
		♣ A Q 9 5	

West	North	East	South
O'Brien	Hinden	Milne	Osborne
Allerton	Reddan	Jagger	J.Phelan
2♥	Pass	4♥	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Hinden led the four of spades. Declarer won with the ace and took two high diamonds to rid himself of his second spade. Next came the jack of clubs and South rose with the ace to play a third round of diamonds. Declarer ruffed this with the nine of hearts and was overruffed by North's queen. North played back a trump to South's ace and South persisted with a fourth diamond. Here is the position, with the defence and declarer having taken three tricks each and West to play on the diamond continuation:

	♠ Q 8 7 6		
	♥ 7		
	♦ —		
	♣ K 10		
♠		♠ 9 5 3	
♥ K J 10		♥ 8 6 5	
♦ —		♦ Q	
♣ 8 7 6 3		♣ —	
	♠ K		
	♥ —		
	♦ 10 6 5		
	♣ Q 9 5		

Even making all six trumps separately would still leave declarer a trick short. So he played for South to have erred in not continuing trumps and discarded on the diamond. North's seven of hearts was the setting trick.

At the other table, Reddan led a fourth-best six of spades and the first four tricks were the same. However, when in with the ace of clubs, Phelan tried to cash the king of spades, ruffed by declarer. Declarer ruffed a club in the dummy and tried the queen of diamonds, discarding a club. North was able to ruff this low. When North next played the queen of spades, South ruffed it with the ace of hearts and played another diamond to promote the heart queen.

...Correspondence (cont. from p. 18)

John,

With reference to Bill Pencharz's letter in Bulletin 577, did Englishman Jimmy Tait really play for Switzerland in the 1964 Olympiad? I knew Jimmy personally and played in teams with him for a couple of years in the late 1970's.

Richard Fleet, Berkhamsted, UK

The eagle-eyed Mr. Fleet is quite right. The 1964 team referred to by Bill Pencharz comprised Ortiz-Patiño, Besse, Bernasconi, Catzeflis and Durouvenoz. As far as I can determine, Jimmy Tait never played for Switzerland.



€10,000 prize pool for online duplicate tournament

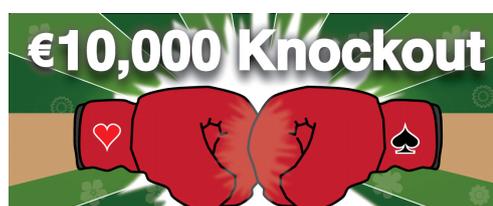
Competitive bridge players can travel to Monaco, China and Japan this year for a chance to win money playing bridge, if they are lucky enough to be invited to one of the industry's few cash-prize tournaments. Or they could grab an iPad and compete for €10,000 without leaving the house.

On March 30, 2013, bridgebig.com will host the €10K Knock-out, an online duplicate bridge tournament with a prize pool of €10,000 (approximately \$13,000), offering all bridge players around the world a chance to compete in money bridge - no invitation required.

The tournament begins on www.bridgebig.com on Saturday, March 30 at 8pm CET (2pm EST), and there are three ways for players to join, starting on March 1:

1. register directly for a buy-in fee of €75 (a little less than \$100).
2. earn a seat in the knock-out by winning a qualifying tournament with a €12 (\$15) buy-in.
3. work their way up from a qualifying tournament with a €3 (\$4) buy-in from which the top two places proceed to the €12 qualifier. Both qualifiers are 8-player tournaments that run around the clock from March 1 until March 30, a fresh tournament beginning as soon as eight players have joined the table.

It is free to create a Bridge Big account and start playing, and tournament entry fees can be paid with credit card or PayPal.





IBPA Column Service

Tim Bourke, Canberra

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653. Dealer West. EW Vul.

<p>♠ 6 4 2 ♥ — ♦ 8 7 6 4 2 ♣ A K J 10 4</p> <p>♠ Q J 5 ♥ A K 8 2 ♦ A Q 10 5 ♣ 9 6</p> <p>♠ A K 10 7 3 ♥ 9 7 6 4 ♦ K J ♣ Q 5</p>	<p>♠ 9 8 ♥ Q J 10 5 3 ♦ 9 3 ♣ 8 7 3 2</p>
---	---

West	North	East	South
1NT	Pass	2♦	2♠
3♥	4♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

East transferred to hearts over the strong notrump and West had an easy three-heart bid after South overcalled.

West led the king of hearts. Declarer saw that there was little to be gained by ruffing the heart and cashing the ace and king of trumps; that would have required either a queen-jack doubleton in trumps or the hand with three trumps to hold four or more clubs. (Here that would see West ruff the third club and cash two hearts before taking two diamond tricks.) If instead, declarer played a third round of trumps, the defenders would make three hearts and two diamond tricks.

Consequently, declarer decided to lose a trump trick early, keeping a trump in dummy to protect against a heart continuation; after ruffing the king of hearts lead, he played a trump to the ten and West's jack. As long as trumps were 3-2 he was home.

In practice, West hoped that East had the queen of clubs and exited with a heart, which was ruffed in dummy. Declarer then crossed back to his hand with the queen of clubs and cashed the ace and king of trumps. When all followed, he claimed eleven tricks - four trumps, two heart ruffs and five clubs.

654. Dealer South. EW Vul. (see next column...)

After this uneventful auction, West led the king of diamonds. Declarer took this with the ace of diamonds, unblocked the king of clubs and then led a diamond,

taken by West with the queen.

<p>♠ J 4 ♥ 7 5 3 ♦ J 5 ♣ A 8 7 6 4 2</p> <p>♠ A Q 2 ♥ — ♦ K Q 10 9 8 6 ♣ Q J 9 3</p> <p>♠ K 9 3 ♥ A K Q J 4 2 ♦ A 4 2 ♣ K</p>	<p>♠ 10 8 7 6 5 ♥ 10 9 8 6 ♦ 7 3 ♣ 10 5</p>
---	---

West	North	East	South
—	—	—	1♥
2♦	2♥	Pass	4♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

At trick four, West played the ten of diamonds. As East had signalled that he had started with a doubleton in the suit, declarer threw the four of spades from the dummy, there being no advantage in ruffing.

After East discarded a club, West exited with the queen of clubs. Declarer called for dummy's ace of clubs. This was ruffed by East and overruffed by declarer who then played the king of spades. West took this with his ace of spades and exited with the nine of clubs. East threw a spade and declarer ruffed low. Next, he ruffed a spade, crossed back to hand with a trump and ruffed his remaining spade. All that remained was to ruff a club back to hand and play trumps from the top. Declarer made six trumps, two spade ruffs, the ace of diamonds and a club for a total of ten tricks.

655. Dealer South. Both Vul.

<p>♠ K 10 9 2 ♥ A Q 8 2 ♦ Q 10 5 3 ♣ 5</p> <p>♠ 7 6 4 3 ♥ 10 9 5 ♦ 8 ♣ J 9 8 7 4</p> <p>♠ A Q J 8 ♥ 4 ♦ A 7 6 4 2 ♣ A K Q</p>	<p>♠ 5 ♥ K J 7 6 3 ♦ K J 9 ♣ 10 6 3 2</p>
---	---

West	North	East	South
—	—	—	1♦
Pass	1♥	Pass	2♠
Pass	4♣	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♥	Pass	6♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

After North used a splinter bid to show a good hand for spades, South checked for key cards and, when North promised two, he bid the slam. West led a low trump.

While it was appealing to draw trumps and rely on a favourable diamond position, declarer decided on a better plan. After winning the trump lead in dummy, he led a low diamond at trick two. (Even if East had ruffed this, there would still have been a fair chance of making twelve tricks.) After the ace of diamonds held, declarer continued with the three top clubs and threw two diamonds from dummy.

Next, he played a diamond to dummy's queen and East's king. Declarer was now in control. Not wanting to lead into the heart tenace, East returned a club, giving a ruff-and-discard. Declarer discarded a diamond from his hand and ruffed with dummy's two of trumps. After cashing the ace of hearts, declarer made the last five tricks on a high crossruff.

Notice that if East had had a second trump to return, declarer would have won in hand, ruffed a diamond, drawn trumps and claimed twelve tricks via four trumps, one heart, three diamonds, one diamond ruff and three clubs.

656. Dealer South. Neither Vul.

	♠ K J 9 8 6 4		
	♥ 3		
	♦ Q 9 3		
	♣ A 7 5		
♠ —		♠ Q 10 7 3	
♥ Q J 10 9 7		♥ K 8 5 4	
♦ 8 7 4 2		♦ 10 5	
♣ 10 6 3 2		♣ J 9 8	
	♠ A 5 2		
	♥ A 6 2		
	♦ A K J 6		
	♣ K Q 4		

West	North	East	South
—	—	—	2NT
Pass	3♥	Pass	3♠
Pass	5♠	Pass	6♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

After transferring the opening bidder into spades, North made a quantitative slam try, which South accepted. West led the queen of hearts, which was taken by declarer with the ace. The next move was careless; declarer played an unthinking ace of spades at trick two and the slam could no longer be made.

East was able to ruff the third round of diamonds low and still have the queen of trumps as the setting trick.

“All you had to do was play a low trump from hand at trick two,” said the ever-unsympathetic dummy. “If West had followed, you would have been able to win with the king of trumps and play a low trump back to the ace. Even if East had showed out at trick two, a third round of trumps would have taken care of the situation. On the actual deal, when West discarded a diamond, there were a number of ways to make five trump tricks. A simple one was to win the king of spades and continue with the jack of spades. No matter how East plays, he is limited to one trump trick.”

Declarer had no rejoinder.



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A Word from a Winner Julian Foster, Sydney

This board from the first session of the Chris Diment Pairs felt a bit unlucky:

Dealer West. EW Vul.

<p>♠ K J 8 2 ♥ Q J 8 3 ♦ 5 ♣ K 7 5 3</p> <p>♠ A 7 4 ♥ 10 5 ♦ A K 4 3 ♣ J 10 9 2</p>	<p>♠ 3 ♥ A K 9 7 6 4 2 ♦ 2 ♣ A Q 6 4</p> <p>♠ Q 10 9 6 5 ♥ — ♦ Q J 10 9 8 7 6 ♣ 8</p>
---	---

West	North	East	South
<i>Foster</i>		<i>Weston</i>	
1NT ¹	Pass	2♦ ²	Pass
2♥	Pass	3♣	Pass
4♣	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♥	Pass	6♣	Pass
Pass	Pass .		
1. 11-14			
2. Transfer to hearts			

The queen of diamonds was led. The jack and ten of clubs both held, but the 4-1 break was revealed. Partner then played a heart to the ace and the 4-0 split there made it just too hard even though it's a great slam and few pairs bid slam at all. Partner thought he should perhaps have tried the ten of hearts from dummy at no cost to declarer, but tempting North into the indiscretion of covering. Then he could have won, crossed back to the ace of spades, finessed a heart, ruffed a heart and lost just a trump.

Of course, had South been a little more enterprising with his 12 pointed-suit cards, perhaps we'd have been a bit more unlucky against four spades doubled. We can just beat that with a club lead and a persistent forcing game provided West wins the first round of spades, but it's a close-run thing.

In session 2 of the final, partner played six spades nicely on board 11, giving himself every possible chance.

Dealer South. Neither Vul.

<p>♠ J ♥ 8 6 4 3 2 ♦ K Q 10 5 ♣ K 10 9</p> <p>♠ A 8 5 4 ♥ A K Q ♦ 8 4 ♣ 5 4 3 2</p>	<p>♠ K Q 9 6 3 2 ♥ J 9 5 ♦ A ♣ A Q 6</p> <p>♠ 10 7 ♥ 10 7 ♦ J 9 7 6 3 2 ♣ J 8 7</p>
---	---

West	North	East	South
<i>Weston</i>		<i>Foster</i>	
—	—	—	Pass
1NT ¹	Pass	2♥ ²	Pass
3♠ ³	Pass	4♣	Pass
4♥	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♥	Pass	6♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		
1. 11-14			
2. Transfer to spades			
3. Four-card spade support and a non-minimum			

Since partner had denied a club or diamond control with his four-heart bid, I did not explore for a grand slam that was just barely conceivable after his three-spade bid.

North led the diamond king and partner, West, won with dummy's ace. He played the king of spades and another to the ace, cashed the hearts and led the eight of diamonds. Had North played low, he was going to discard a club, endplaying South. In the event, an alert North played the ten of diamonds, so he ruffed.

Two lines of play presented themselves: (i.) cash the ace of clubs, cross to hand with a spade and lead a club to the queen; or (ii.) cross to hand and lead a club, ducking the first round and playing the queen the second time.

Line (ii.) is quite a bit superior as it wins almost every time line (i.) does (failing only with the doubleton king of clubs in South) and also when South is forced to win the first club trick. That is the line partner chose. As you can see, the club finesse worked anyway.

Teams Swiss Round 3 Alan Taylor, Auckland

The Thomson team was leading the Leibowitz team narrowly when Leibowitz came to regret what looked like a very good double on the following board from the NOT qualifying...

Dealer North. EW Vul.

♠ A J 10 5 4 ♥ 10 7 5 4 ♦ A 7 6 5 ♣ — ♠ K 9 8 7 2 ♥ K Q 3 ♦ K 10 9 8 ♣ 3 ♠ Q 6 3 ♥ J 2 ♦ Q J ♣ A Q 8 6 4 2	♠ — ♥ A 9 8 6 ♦ 4 3 2 ♣ K J 10 9 7 5
---	---

West	North	East	South
<i>Leibowitz</i>	<i>Melbourne</i>	<i>Smirnov</i>	<i>Del'Monte</i>
—	Pass	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♣	Double	Redouble!
Pass	3♥ ²	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♠	Pass	Pass
Double	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. Clubs, no major
2. 5 spades and 4 hearts

Leibowitz went for the throat. He led the three of clubs, which went to declarer's queen. South led the queen of diamonds, covered by the king and won with the ace. South played a diamond to the jack and tried the ace of clubs. West ruffed with the nine of spades, overruffed by the ten in dummy.

Del'Monte ruffed a diamond back to hand and led the eight of clubs. This time, West discarded a diamond as dummy ruffed. The seven of diamonds was now established, so Del'Monte played it, discarding a heart as West ruffed.

At this point, West needed to lead a trump. If he had done so, declarer would have been left with either heart or club losers, depending in which hand he chose to strand himself. However, Leibowitz tried a heart. Smirnov overtook, and Del'Monte could cross-ruff his way to ten tricks.

**Smart Defence
Ron Klinger, Northbridge, NSW**

Dealer North. Both Vul.

♠ 10 7 4 3 ♥ 10 5 2 ♦ A 10 9 ♣ A 10 4 ♠ K Q 8 ♥ A 6 3 ♦ 6 4 ♣ Q 9 8 7 6 ♠ 6 5 ♥ Q 8 7 4 ♦ Q J 7 3 2 ♣ J 3	♠ A J 9 2 ♥ K J 9 ♦ K 8 5 ♣ K 5 2
--	--

West	North	East	South
<i>Kalmin</i>	<i>Beale</i>	<i>Ichilcik</i>	<i>Smart</i>
—	Pass	1♣	Pass
2NT	Pass	3NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		

At the other table:

West	North	East	South
<i>Bourke</i>	<i>McLeish</i>	<i>Lusk</i>	<i>Kaplan</i>
—	Pass	1♣	Pass
2♣	Pass	2NT	Pass
3NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

Ian McCance spotted this nice defence by Felicity Beale – Diana Smart on Board 29 of the National Women's Teams semi-final:

North led the three of spades, won by the king. A low club went to the king and the two of clubs came next: jack, seven, ten. Diana Smart switched to the three of diamonds: four, nine, king. Declarer cashed the spades, played a heart to the king and finessed the jack of hearts for two down, minus 200.

South led the three of diamonds, taken by the ace, and Sue Lusk, East, ducked the next diamond. She won the third diamond and played a spade to dummy and the seven of clubs to the king. Then came two more spades, South discarding the jack of clubs. Declarer continued with a club to the queen and ace. Back came a spade, East winning. She gave up a club and had nine tricks, plus 600 and 13 IMPs.

**The Play's the Thing
Alan Taylor, Auckland**

International players, David Appleton and Peter Reynolds were the defenders on the following deal and they were impressed by the line taken by their opponent...

Dealer East. Both Vul.

♠ K 8 6 2 ♥ K ♦ A 8 4 3 ♣ K Q 4 2 ♠ Q J 7 4 ♥ Q 10 8 5 3 ♦ Q 7 ♣ 8 7 ♠ A 10 5 ♥ A J 9 7 ♦ K 2 ♣ A 6 5 3	♠ 9 3 ♥ 6 4 2 ♦ J 10 9 6 5 ♣ J 10 9
--	--

Stephen Fisher was in six clubs from the North seat and received a diamond lead which he took with dummy's king. He drew two rounds of trumps with the king and queen and then played a spade to the ten and West's jack. West returned a diamond, taken by the ace. Stephen took the king of hearts, drew the last

trump and cashed the ace of hearts, discarding a diamond, before ruffing a heart. The position was:

```

      ♠ K 8 6
      ♥ —
      ♦ 8
      ♣ —

♠ Q 7 4      ♠ 9
♥ Q          ♥ —
♦ —         ♦ 10 9
♣ —         ♣ J

      ♠ A 5
      ♥ J
      ♦ —
      ♣ 6
  
```

When Fisher led and ruffed the diamond, West was gone.

From the second stanza of the NOT semifinals:

Dealer North. EW Vul.

```

      ♠ A 9 6 5 4 2
      ♥ J 7 5
      ♦ A 10 3
      ♣ 3

♠ —          ♠ K J 10 8
♥ A K Q 10 9 6 4 2  ♥ 8
♦ 6          ♦ K Q 9 7 4
♣ A K 7 6   ♣ 10 4 2

      ♠ Q 7 3
      ♥ 3
      ♦ J 8 5 2
      ♣ Q J 9 8 5
  
```

West	North <i>Del'Monte</i>	East	South <i>Melbourne</i>
—	2♦ ¹	Pass	2♥ ²
Double	2♠	Pass	3♠
6♥	6♠	Double	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. Multi - weak 2 in either major
2. Pass or correct

East led a heart, taken by West with the king. West took the defence's second trick with the ace of clubs and switched to a diamond. North ducked this and East's queen scored (defence third trick). East led the trump king, taken by declarer with the ace.

Declarer led a heart and East ruffed with the eight of spades while dummy discarded a diamond (defence fourth trick). West exited with the jack of spades, taken by dummy's queen and declarer led the queen of clubs, covered by the king and ruffed by declarer to leave the cards diagrammed at the top of the next column.

Declarer now gave East his spade trick (defence fifth trick) and was able to take the last five tricks for "only" four off and minus 800.

```

      ♠ 9 6 5
      ♥ J
      ♦ A 10
      ♣ —

♠ —          ♠ 10
♥ A Q 10 9   ♥ —
♦ —         ♦ Q 9 7 4
♣ 7 6       ♣ 10

      ♠ 7
      ♥ —
      ♦ J 8
      ♣ J 9 8
  
```

I say "only" four off because, in the other room...

Matthew Thomson declared six hearts and received the lead of the ace of spades. He ruffed this and peddled a large number of trumps before cashing the two top clubs. Thomson then led a diamond and North could only take his ace and then give Thomson access to dummy's winners – making 12 tricks for 1430. The endplay for four off at the other table was worth 4 IMPs. Of course, had North chosen any one of his other twelve cards on opening lead...

Major Event Winners

Open Teams: M. Thomson, P. Newman, I. Del'Monte, H. Melbourne

Women's Teams: B. Travis, C. Ginsberg, E. Havas, N. Djurovic

Senior Teams: P. Buchen, H. Christie, C. Hughes, B. Waters, T. Antoff, A. Simpson

Open Pairs: I. Del'Monte, H. Melbourne

Chris Diment Pairs: J. Foster, D. Weston

WHAT COULD I BID?

The Further
Adventures
of Mr. Badhir

Anant Bhagwat, Mumbai



Our club was participating in the Inter-Club tournament. Unfortunately, we could not field two good teams, thus the second team had to include Mr. Badhir as no other player was available. When I entered the tournament hall I found that the No.1 table had no kibitzers, but there was a crowd at another table. The moment I drew near, I knew the reason. The table was occupied by Mr. Badhir, the worst player in the town, bar none. His gaffes and ludicrous comments were legendary and kibitzers always thronged to his table in anticipation of amusement. They did not have long to wait.

♠ 10 8 3
 ♥ 10 9 7 3 2
 ♦ A K J 2
 ♣ A
 ♠ A J 9 4 2
 ♥ A J 4
 ♦ 8 6 5
 ♣ 7 5
 ♠ K Q 6 5
 ♥ K Q 6
 ♦ 10 9 7 4
 ♣ 4 3
 ♠ 7
 ♥ 8 5
 ♦ Q 3
 ♣ K Q J 10 9 8 6 2

This deal provided enough entertainment for them all. Mr. Badhir (South) was the dealer. He stared at his cards for a couple of seconds and then passed. His LHO passed and his partner opened one heart. RHO passed and Mr. Badhir went into a trance. Finally he emerged, shocking players and kibitzers alike by bidding six clubs. His LHO indignantly doubled. The double was not a surprise - everyone doubled as a matter of principle when Mr. Badhir was declarer. He managed to go down in cold contracts with monotonous regularity. West did not want to lead either of his aces, so he led a trump. In the blink of an eye, Mr. Badhir wrapped up 12 tricks.

Only North declined to participate in the post-mortem as he serenely entered the score. West was beside himself. He raged at Mr. Badhir, "Why in heaven's name did you pass as dealer?"

Mr. Badhir meekly replied, "What could I have opened? I couldn't open one club because I had only eight points. I couldn't open two clubs because that shows a strong hand. I couldn't open three clubs because that would promise only seven cards. I couldn't open four clubs because that would have been Namyats. I couldn't open five clubs because we might miss a slam with my playing strength."

East did not miss his chance. He thundered at West, "What about you, partner? Even a diamond lead beats it. Who leads a trump against a Mr. Badhir slam?"

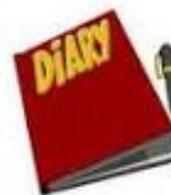
There was no defence against that accusation, so West, still foaming at the mouth, continued his attack on Mr. Badhir. "Then why did you bid six clubs as a passed hand?"

Mr. Badhir timidly replied, "What could I respond? Two clubs would have been Drury, three clubs would have been Bergen, four clubs would have been a splinter, five clubs would have been Exclusion Key Card Blackwood. So the only bid available was six clubs."

The kibitzers erupted into such violent and sustained laughter that the Tournament Director had a difficult time restoring order.

DIARY OF A CONTROL FREAK

Michael Courtney,
Sydney



In most disciplines there is a central question. Physicists ask "What is the smallest unit of matter?" Chess players seek to determine: "With perfect play will white win or will the game be drawn?" In bridge, we ask, "Should a player seek ruffs or play to establish suits?"

There is little point in playing a game where one strategy is an overriding factor. It is a better game if the player must choose among competing strategies. The resolution of the question of whether to seek ruffs at trump contracts without prior knowledge of the other players' holdings is a great achievement.

Nevertheless, most bridge players pay far too little attention to the vital matter of trump control. Several deals in match nine of the National Open Teams Swiss qualification in Canberra were relevant to my theme.

Dealer South. Both Vul.

♠ K 9 6 3
 ♥ K 10
 ♦ 9 7 6 3
 ♣ 8 4 2
 ♠ A Q 10 4
 ♥ A 9 6 2
 ♦ Q 10 8 4
 ♣ Q
 ♠ J 8 7 5
 ♥ 8 3
 ♦ K J 5 2
 ♣ 10 9 6
 ♠ 2
 ♥ Q J 7 5 4
 ♦ A
 ♣ A K J 7 5 3

West	North	East	South
Liz Adams	Sue Ingham	Peter Fordham	Michael Courtney
—	—	—	1 ♣
Double	1 ♠	Pass	2 ♥
Pass	3 ♣	Pass	4 ♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

The first issue of control lies in North's preference over four hearts. Five clubs might look safer, but a West who has heard the auction might just lead an admittedly-unlikely low heart and beat you three tricks if you slipped up by taking a club finesse.

Against four hearts West rightly led a diamond to commence the forcing game. All, especially Deep Finesse, can see that a player who smells club queens will take eleven easy tricks in either contract. In four

hearts, declarer can win the diamond and play trumps. West may duck twice but declarer will cross to the club ace and continue trumps. However, West had doubled one club and East, who already has shown up with the diamond king, could not even offer two diamonds over one spade. For East, a doubleton club is a better reason to bid than queen to three.

In four hearts, I had more interest in trump control than an eleventh trick. I won the diamond lead that threatened my trump length, vital on this deal exactly because my side suit has so many winners. Remember, if you lose trump control you lose your side suit with it. So I cashed the club ace at trick two. Had the doubler followed with a low card I would have played a trump to dummy and finessed the jack of clubs. Had West won the doubleton queen, at least 3-3 hearts would have grown more likely.

When the club queen fell, I played a heart to the king, then the heart ten. Liz Adams found a fine duck, leaving this position, with dummy on play:

<p>♠ K 9 6 3 ♥ — ♦ 9 7 6 ♣ 8 4</p> <p>♠ A Q 10 4 ♥ A 9 ♦ Q 10 8 ♣ —</p>	<p>♠ J 8 7 5 ♥ — ♦ J 5 2 ♣ 10 9</p>
<p>♠ 2 ♥ Q J 7 ♦ — ♣ K J 7 5 3</p>	

Clearly, if West had won the previous trick, I could claim the balance. Now were I to play a spade or a diamond, the defence would play diamonds and the contract would fail. Therefore, I played a club so West's duck had only saved the overtrick.

Note how dangerous it is for South not to have the issue of trump control central to his thinking, especially on deals where the side suit contains many tricks.

Dealer North. EW Vul.

<p>♠ 7 ♥ A 5 4 ♦ K 7 5 ♣ J 10 7 6 5 2</p> <p>♠ K Q J 10 3 ♥ 8 7 ♦ Q 10 6 ♣ A 9 4</p>	<p>♠ 9 4 2 ♥ Q 10 3 ♦ A J 9 8 4 ♣ 8 3</p>
<p>♠ A 8 6 5 ♥ K J 9 6 2 ♦ 3 2 ♣ K Q</p>	

West	North	East	South
Courtney	Adams	Ingham	Fordham
—	Pass	Pass	1♥
2♠	3♥	3♠	4♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Sometimes it is the short trump hand that must be forced. This is less familiar, but when the short trump hand has the big suit, that hand's entries must be removed. This was an intriguing deal on which a guileful declarer set a cunning trap...

I led the spade king. Fordham won and immediately set about the long side suit. He began with the queen so I ducked - winning would at least have kept the clubs blocked. He continued with the club king. I won the club and shifted to the diamond queen. When that held, I continued diamonds. Fordham ruffed the third round to leave:

<p>♠ — ♥ A 5 4 ♦ — ♣ J 10 7 6</p> <p>♠ Q J 10 3 ♥ 8 7 ♦ — ♣ 9</p>	<p>♠ 9 4 ♥ Q 10 3 ♦ 8 4 ♣ —</p> <p>♠ 8 6 5 ♥ K J 9 6 ♦ — ♣ —</p>
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Declarer was in hand and couldn't trap the heart queen and save the club suit. Declarer could play me for a doubleton heart queen as follows: heart king, then heart to the ace, then run clubs, over-ruffing at some point. At that point, dummy would have had a trump left as an entry while the defenders had none.

However, Brer Fordham didn't like the odds of my holding the heart queen in my weak jump overcall as well as the twelve points I'd already shown, so he devised a devilish plan. What could be more automatic than to ruff dummy's winner when declarer was about to discard and partner must impotently follow?

He crossed to the heart ace and played the club jack. Ingham did not leap at the routine ruff. She considered: I had one more trump and Fordham three. Okay, if she ruffed, he would overruff, draw the heart king and dummy would have a trump entry, the defenders then being out of trumps. Therefore, she discarded a spade. Peter discarded a spade, then played another high club. A player who was sick of this might have ruffed and suffered the familiar fate, but again Sue discarded a spade. I ruffed and a spade overruff was down two for plus 100.

"That'll teach me," said Brer Fordham, "Good on ya, Sue."

THE SAND PIT

Brian Senior, Nottingham

The inmates of the Daily Bulletin Ward are only allowed out of the Hôpital Psychiatrique de l'Europe very late at night. Last night, as I was being let out by the guard, there was a heated discussion going on in the gardens opposite the main door. As this was the first evening and there should not have been anyone at all about at the end of my day, I thought I should investigate.

In the gardens, I found three inmates from another ward arguing about a three notrump contract. Not wishing to disturb them further, but ever on the lookout for material, I stood quietly to one side and tried to identify which hand they were talking about. Suddenly they were silent.

As one, they raised their wild eyes to me, and the largest of the three hissed, "Get off the dummy!", pointing at my feet. I glanced down and could just see some scratchings in the sand. He leant across towards me, a dagger glistening from his nearer hand. "On your knees...now." I did not like how quietly he spoke. "Move back and a little to your left," he demanded.

Now I could see three bridge hands etched into the sand, and an indecipherable mess where I had been standing. The large one handed me his knife, and then a high-pitched voice from one of the others began to dictate the missing hand. As I was scribbling with the knife, I recognised the hand from Brian Senior's match report on Norway v. France in yesterday's Bulletin (DB#10, 1993 European Championships, Menton) - Ed.:

Dealer South. Neither Vul.

♠ 9	♥ A Q 3 2	♦ K J 9 7 3	♣ K 7 3	♠ J 10 8 6	♥ K 5	♦ A 8 6 5 2	♣ 8 6
♥ A Q 3 2	♦ K J 9 7 3	♣ K 7 3	♠ A Q 3	♥ 6 4	♦ Q 10 4	♣ A 9 5 4 2	
♠ K 7 5 4 2	♥ J 10 9 8 7	♦ —	♣ Q J 10				

I was of two minds about returning the knife after I stood up, but the large one wasn't. The man in the middle was about my size. He spoke normally but his English bore an accent I could not quite identify. "East plays in three notrump after South has shown both majors," he declared. "The lead is the jack of hearts, which should be his highest card, according to their convention card."

"On best defence, it goes down," the big one intoned.

"If declarer reads it properly, he makes it," the little one squeaked.

The man in the middle got us past the first trick, "Declarer has to win the ace of hearts at once.

Otherwise, North wins with his king and switches to the jack of spades."

"I lead diamonds at trick two and continue them if you duck."

"I win the third diamond and play the jack of spades now."

"I take the ace, cross with the king of clubs and run diamonds."

The big one considered this carefully, "I come down to the doubleton king of spades and two clubs. You can set up the queen of hearts, but now you can't reach it, so we must end up with the ace of diamonds, two spade tricks, the king of hearts and a club."

The little one looked quite sad. No one spoke for a few minutes.

"Shall I pay...?" the middle man began.

"No!" the little one suddenly shouted. "If you let me have two diamonds, I don't play another one. I duck a club in both hands. Since South has precisely the queen-jack-ten, he must win. He can only get to North by setting up my ninth trick in hearts. See!"

The big one began to pace, intermittent growls coming from his lips. No one else dared move. For the first time, he seemed unsure. "OK, I win the diamond, the first or the second it doesn't matter, and lead the jack of spades. You have only one heart trick, one spade, four diamonds and two clubs before I get five tricks. You must pay." His voice returned to its lower register for that last sentence.

The little one slumped so pathetically that I felt sorry for him. "May I have the knife, please?" I asked. Moving away from the main diagram, I scratched the ending in the sand:

♠ —	♥ Q 3 2	♦ —	♣ K 7 3	♠ 10 8 6	♥ K	♦ —	♣ 8 6
♥ Q 3 2	♦ —	♣ K 7 3	♠ Q 3	♥ 6	♦ —	♣ A 9 5	
♠ K 7 5	♥ 10	♦ —	♣ Q J 10				

I called to the others, "South still has to discard. A club gives nine tricks immediately. If South discards his heart, three rounds of clubs endplay him. And if South throws a spade, dummy exits with a small heart. When North plays a spade through, East just ducks."

Pride goeth before the fall. As the little one jumped up and down excitedly, he caught my eye. All of a sudden, I felt pain at the back of my skull and everything went blank.

"Bonjour, Monsieur! Voici votre petit déjeuner!"



Correspondence

The Editor reserves the right to abridge and/or edit correspondence
Email: ibpaeditor@sympatico.ca

Dear John,

I was slightly bemused with the reference in this month's Bulletin (577) that "even popes are no longer infallible." Whether or not it was tongue in cheek or not, I was uncertain.

Could I draw your attention to the doctrine of infallibility officially defined at the First Vatican Council of 1870 that there are three requirements for infallibility to be invoked

1. The pronouncement must be made by the official successor to Peter
2. The subject matter must be in the area of faith and morals
3. He must be speaking 'ex cathedra' (from the chair) of Peter, and must be intending to proclaim a doctrine that binds the entire church to assent.

If any one of the above three requirements is missing, the papal declaration is not considered to be an infallible document. Not everything, then, the Pope says is infallible!

Hope I haven't taken a sledgehammer to crack a nut!

Still enjoying the Bulletins after 30 long years.

Yours sincerely, Martin Gordon, Renfrewshire, UK

And I am rather less infallible! - Ed.

John,

You talk a lot of sense in your editorials - most of the time - but you must have just lost it to suggest alternating forms of scoring for the BB. Let's change the US Open Golf to matchplay every odd-numbered year as well! World Series can be a one-match final every alternate year. I wonder what we could do with Wimbledon? Maybe first to 100 points instead of all those complicated games and sets - but, obviously, only alternate years.

I am all for having a Point-a-Board world championship, but it has to be a separate event. Any given event has to have the same scoring system every year.

Brian Senior, Nottingham, UK

I replied to Brian...

Thanks, I see your point. However, the WC's have undergone scoring changes in the past - from total points to early IMPs to modern IMPs, so I don't see a problem making another change. The BB has also vacillated in its frequency.

Only recently has it settled into the every-2-years cycle in the odd-numbered years. In other years (1976), we have actually had a BB and an Olympiad in the same year, same venue, back to back.

If we are to have a PAB WC, it need not be called the BB if you value the 'purity' (if that's what it is) of the BB name. My call is really for a PAB WC (a real one, not a side game) and the placing of it in the 4-year cycle would be most sensible in one of the BB slots.

I suggested the scheme outlined in this month's editorial. Brian replied...

John,

That would resolve my problem with the idea, of course. Simply, one event should have one format. If the world wished to change the BB to PAB permanently, that would be a legitimate change - it's the alternate editions being different that sounds wrong.

Outside North America, PAB is a much less common format, for which reason I think that to replace half the BBs with the Rona Cup (*as I originally called it - Ed.*) might be a tough sell. In the UK, we don't even have one proper PAB event a year. And even in North America, nobody has ever seen a PAB event of the sort of length we associate with the main championship in the four-year cycle.

I would think that the best hope to get a PAB world championship would be to, initially, have it as another event in the Rosenblum tournament or, perhaps better (the Rosenblum tournament is pretty congested already), instead of one of the other three Transnational Teams in the cycle. In other words, where in Lille the PAB was a tertiary event, for those out of both the main event and the transnationals, make it the secondary event.

That last might be a battle that, as a long-term project, is winnable. I would be very surprised if replacing half the BBs would be. But if the top players, who couldn't take part because they were still in the BB or Olympiad, were unhappy at missing out, they might then add their voices to the call for a bigger future change. Of course, that doesn't give you a PAB championship with the stature of the BB or Olympiad, but it may be the initial step that one day produces such a championship.

Brian Senior, Nottingham, UK

Continued on page 9...

NEWS & VIEWS



Andrew Michael Robson, OBE



Andrew Robson is invested as an Officer of the Order of the British Empire by Queen Elizabeth II on February 13, 2013

Petra Mansell

We have only now discovered that longtime IBPA member Petra Mansell died last year. Her obituary appears on page 20.

Online Cash Tournament

Bridge Big announces a March 30 online duplicate tournament with a prize pool of €10,000 (\$13,000), the largest prize pool ever available online.

Dates: March 1-30, 2013

Event: €10k Knockout Duplicate Tournament

Location: bridgebig.com, online

Information: www.bridgebig.com/#10k-knockout

Youth Bridge

The World Bridge Federation is committed to the promotion of Youth Bridge, which it strongly believes represents the future of bridge. Because of this, a new series of Simultaneous Pairs events will be introduced,

the money from which will be used specifically to assist the development of Youth Bridge.

The dates for WBF Simultaneous Pairs to support Youth Bridge are:

- Monday, 18th March
- Wednesday, 20th March
- Monday, 19th August
- Wednesday, 21st August
- Monday, 21st October
- Wednesday, 23rd October
- Monday, 16th December
- Wednesday, 18th December

Women's Online Festival

The World Bridge Federation and BBO will hold the 6th WORLD BRIDGE WOMEN'S FESTIVAL ONLINE.

The details:

Dates: 15-21 April 2013 (from Monday to Sunday)

Events: 2 individuals & 2 pairs tournaments every day

Time schedule: 11.00; 16.10; 20.00; 00.40 CET (Paris)
05.00; 10.10; 14.00; 18.40 EST (NYC)
21.00; 02.10; 06.00; 10.40 – EDT (Sydney)

Format: 10 boards for each tournament

Master Points: WBF Online Masterpoints, as specified at www.wbfmasterpoints.org; BBO Masterpoints; Certificates to the first three in the individual, pairs and overall

Prizes: As well as \$BBO, The European Bridge League has offered free entry to the European Women's Pairs Championship to be held in Ostend as part of the European Open Championships in June for the winner of the overall classification and a partner of her choice.

2013 Youth NABC & World Open Youth Bridge Championships

The ACBL will host the 2013 North American Youth Bridge Championships and the World Youth Open Bridge Championships in Atlanta, concurrent with the Summer NABC from August 1-11, 2013.

ACBL Members 19 and younger are eligible to compete in the three-day Youth NABC, Aug. 1-3. Players born in 1988 or later are eligible to participate in the 9-day Youth World Championship event, Aug. 3-11. Events include pairs, Swiss teams and board-a-match teams.

Additional information can be found at www.youth4bridge.org and www.acbl.org.



6th EUROPEAN OPEN BRIDGE CHAMPIONSHIPS

Ostend, Belgium 15th June – 29th June 2013

Organised by the European Bridge League

In cooperation with the Royal Belgian Bridge Federation

Dates

June 15-18

June 19-21

June 22-24

June 22-25

June 25-29

June 27-29

Medal Events

Mixed Pairs

Mixed Swiss Teams

Women's Teams / Senior Teams

Open Teams

Open Pairs

Women's Pairs / Senior Pairs

Additionally, one- and two-day non-medal pair and team events will be held each day.

All entries to the various competitions must be submitted electronically by 31st May 2013 via the EBL Website (not by email). The registration process will be open in March.

Bridge players from all WBF zones are entitled to participate in the Championships provided they are members in good standing of a National Bridge Federation (NBO). To be eligible for participation in the 2013 European Open Championships a player must comply with the EBL Rules & Regulations and the EBL Eligibility Code under the control of the EBL Credentials Committee.

The main hotel is Thermae Palace Hotel (www.thermaepalace.be), but you can also book your hotel using the online reservation system:

https://secure.cubilis.eu/portal/belgie/oostende/view_packages.aspx?pid=103&lang=en
(The code is Bridge2013).

Contacts:

For further information: www.eurobridge.org

For technical information, email: ostend2013@europeanbridge.org

For logistical information (hotel, travel, etc.), email: Catherine Vitry - EBL Secretariat at secretariat@europeanbridge.org

PETRA MANSELL 23 March 1921 - 22 August 2012

It was with great sadness that we received the news of Petra Mansell's death last night. Kwa Zulu Natal Bridge Union players along with all players across the country will mourn her passing.

Petra was born in Hamburg, Germany and at the age of eight, she was introduced to bridge as her parents' 'fill-in fourth'. They were competitive and by all accounts she could hold her own, even at that tender age.

In 1936, the Bachman family immigrated to Durban. In spite of the fact that she could not speak English, she matriculated a year later with six distinctions.

Petra's bridge accomplishments were many. Winner of Club, Provincial and National Championships, she reached the highest level with partner Alma Schneider, representing her country in the 1960's and 1970's at three World Olympiads, South Africa winning silver medals on two occasions. After isolation was over in 1994, she played international bridge with partner Merle Modlin, participating in the Venice Cup and the Olympiads, retiring from representative bridge in 2008. One of Petra's last triumphs was winning the 2004 World Bridge Federation's Worldwide Pairs, comprising 6075 pairs from 41 countries. Her winning score was 76.18%.

Di Adrain, Kwa Zulu Natal, RSA