



BULLETIN

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Editorial

The April issue of *The Bridge World* presents a view of 'dumping' that is slightly at odds with its usual editorial opinion. The opinion stated, by Howard Weinstein in a guest editorial, is essentially that dumping is detrimental to the game and should be made impermissible by regulation as well as by tournament design. That is the view to which we subscribe.

How can tournament organisers eliminate dumping by design?

Dumping is possible in a format where there are multiple qualifiers for further competition, such as the Bermuda Bowl, where 22 teams play a round robin to qualify eight for knockout play. Bridge organisers have conflicting goals, especially in world championships (the Bermuda Bowl particularly). They desire to guarantee a minimum number of days' play (six or seven usually) to all competitors, which has meant, to date, a round-robin format. There are other alternative formats in which organisers could guarantee six or more days' play:

- (i.) a triple knockout with two-day matches, rather impractical with the current 22 teams in the Bermuda Bowl (16 and 32 are the best numbers for a triple knockout and even those are not without problems in the latter stages - shorter matches and/or three-way matches, for example)
- (ii.) a round robin in which only one team advances - this would entail multiple small groups
- (iii.) a single knockout of, say 24 teams, to produce three semifinalists after six days with the knockout losers entering some sort of repêchage to produce a fourth semifinalist.

The WBF has done a good job reducing the probability of dumping, with the top teams in the round robin being able to choose their opponents, but the procedure is not perfect. A team with a 'lock' on first place, or one out of the running, still has the opportunity to affect potential qualifiers adversely by dumping to a lesser team, or beating a superior team by using unusual tactics. Some form of seeding the qualifying teams other than round-robin finish might partially solve that problem but at the cost of eliminating the incentive to already-qualified teams.

The Bermuda Bowl has had many different formats over the years - perhaps it is time for another change.

For the larger-field events such as the World Mind Sports Games (ex-Olympiad) and the Rosenblum Teams, it is possible to organise the field so that the teams one plays in the round robin are not potential opponents (or at the very least, are not known to be opponents) early in the knockout stage, thus lessening the incentive to dump.

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NEC Bridge Festival

**Rich Colker,Wheaton, MD
Barry Rigal, NYC**

Some bridge tournaments are constants in the annual cycle. One of them used to be the NEC Cup in February. But not this year - to coordinate it with the Yeh Bros Cup, the tournament made a one-time move to April and the bulletin editors saw the sun, not to mention the cherry blossoms, for the first time in 17 years at the NEC.

Board 3. Dealer South. EW Vul.

♠ 10 9 5 4

♥ J 3

♦ 10 9 8 2

♣ 7 5 2

♠ A K J 8 7 3

♠ 6

♥ A K 4

♥ Q 9 7 6 2

♦ A 5 3

♦ Q J 7 4

♣ 10

♣ A 9 8

♠ Q 2

♥ 10 8 5

♦ K 6

♣ K Q J 6 4 3

West	North	East	South
Nunn	Kodaira	Hans	Otsuka
—	—	—	—

West	North	East	South
Double	Pass	4♥	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♣	Pass
5♦ ¹	Pass	5NT ²	Pass
7♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. Queen of hearts ask
2. Yes, but nothing else

West	North	East	South
Miwa	Newell	Nomura	Reid
—	—	—	—

West	North	East	South
Double	Pass	4♥	Pass
4♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

The three-club opening put the cat amongst the pigeons in the Closed Room. West doubled and converted four hearts to four spades, but that didn't really do justice to the hand and Nomura couldn't find another bid. Hans' expansive leap to four hearts (probably not an overbid by more than a trick or two) left Nunn well placed to use keycard then ask for the trump queen and drive to the grand slam when he found it. Hans won the club lead and cashed the ace-king of hearts, the ace of spades, and then ruffed a spade. Had the queen not fallen he would have ruffed a club and ruffed a spade. When the queen of spades

appeared on the second round, he drew the last trump, took the diamond finesse, and claimed 13 tricks for a 17 IMP pick-up.

When Bakhshi-Gold were defending against six hearts (a far tougher contract to play since there are so many more options) Bakhshi led a top club. Declarer won and drew two rounds of trumps then took the ace of spades under which Bakhshi dropped the queen! Declarer fell for the bait and drew a third trump then went to the diamond ace to cash two spades to pitch his clubs, and now needed diamonds 3-3 or an impossible guess. Down one and 17 IMPs for NEDUK.

For the record, five East/West pairs managed to reach the poor grand slam.

Nunn-sense

Thanks to Peter Gill for reporting this deal – it features nice card reading by Tony Nunn.

Board 28. Dealer West. NS Vul.

♠ A K J 9

♥ Q 8 7 5

♦ 8 5 4

♣ 7 4

♠ 3

♠ Q 10 7 6 5 2

♥ A 4 2

♥ J 9 3

♦ K 10 9 3

♦ Q 2

♣ A K 10 5 2

♣ J 6

♠ 8 4

♥ K 10 6

♦ A J 7 6

♣ Q 9 8 3

West	North	East	South
Nunn	Madala	Hans	Ferraro
—	—	—	—
2♣	Pass	—	Pass
—	Pass	Pass	Pass

North led a top spade and shifted to a trump to the six, eight and ten. Declarer led a diamond to the queen, won the return of the club queen in hand and played two more rounds of clubs to South. Back came a spade to the king as Nunn pitched a heart, and now North gave declarer a chance by exiting with the diamond eight. Nunn won cheaply in hand and had reached this ending:

♠ J

♥ Q 8 7

♦ 4

♣ —

♠ —

♠ Q 10

♥ A 4

♥ J 9 3

♦ K 9

♦ —

♣ 2

♠ —

♥ K 10 6

♦ J 7

♣ —

When the last trump was led, North and East discarded spades, and South was forced to let go a heart. Then Nunn cashed the ace of hearts and South was damned if he did unblock the king of hearts (Nunn would cash the master king of diamonds and exit in hearts to force North to give dummy two tricks) and damned if he didn't (South would be endplayed with the king of hearts to lead diamonds).

Board 17. Dealer North. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
------	-------	------	-------

Ayako M	Bocchi	Kenji M	Madala
—	Pass	2♦ ¹	Pass
2NT ²	Pass	3♣ ³	Pass
3♦ ⁴	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. Multi
2. Forcing, asks for description
3. Minimum, suit unspecified
4. Bid the suit that is not your major

West	North	East	South
Duboin	Tanaka	Sementa	Naito
—	Pass	2♥	Pass
4♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

In the Open Room, Kenji Miyakuni's three-club bid appears to have shown a minimum and the subsequent relays led inexorably to four hearts. The Italian pair in the Closed Room prefers to reserve their two-diamond opening for a strong, balanced hand in the 18-19 HCP range, so Sementa opened a natural weak two-bid and Duboin went directly to game. (He did not pass go and did not collect his \$200 - maybe.) There appear to be four losers (two trumps and two aces) but that was not a problem at either table. Naito led the ace of diamonds and continued the suit when her partner played the three; Bocchi led a club. In both cases the spade losers quickly disappeared on the top clubs and first board was a push at plus 420.

Were those developments forced on the defence? No! David Bakhshi led the ace of diamonds against four hearts (two diamonds-two notrump-three hearts-four hearts) and David Gold played a high diamond (intended and interpreted as suit preference).

Bakhshi continued with a diamond and declarer pitched his spade losers on the clubs, ruffed a spade to hand and led a low heart. Bakhshi took his ace of hearts, led a club for his partner to ruff with the queen of hearts, and took the setting trick with a diamond ruff.

Wasn't that elegant?

The Knock-Out Phase

Board 3. Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Jansma	B Senior	v. Prooijen	Penfold
Trendafilov	Gold	N. Senior	Bakhshi
—	—	—	Pass
1♦	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♦	Pass	2NT	Pass
3NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

Both Souths led a club, Bakhshi the five, Penfold the seven. North won the queen over the ten and continued with the two. Declarer won in dummy (Bakhshi playing the eight, Penfold the three) and led a low diamond to the jack and a diamond back to North. Brian (we shall refer to the Seniors by their first names) shifted immediately to a heart (playing partner for the ace of spades and the king of hearts. Declarer claimed 600.

At the other table, Gold first cashed the king of clubs (as Bakhshi played the highest missing spot) and shifted to spades for three down.

I think Gold's defence was right – since even in Brian's scenario, he could shift to hearts after winning the club king and seeing partner's suit preference signal. But certainly Bakhshi's earlier signal (at trick two) had also made Gold's life far easier.

It was a lot easier in one of our other matches – where West opened a 'strong' notrump and right-sided the game, but in Mixed v. Down Under, Newell-Reid reached two spades by East, down a trick while Lall played three notrump from East, making after a top spade lead. Pharon picked up a 10 IMP swing by playing three notrump in one room and defending two diamonds in the other.

Board 5. Dealer North. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Cheek	Pszczola	Del'Monte	Kwiecien
—	1♣	1♥	Pass
Pass	Double	Pass	INT
Pass	3NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

West	North	East	South
Milner	Grue	H. Lall	J. Lall
—	1♣ ¹	2♥	Pass ²
Pass	Double	Pass	3♣
Pass	4♥	Pass	4♠
Pass	6♣	Pass	Pass
Pass			
1. 16+ HCP			
2. 0-7 HCP			

In three notrump, after a heart lead and spade shift, Kwiecien guessed clubs and set up a heart trick for plus 630. No drama there. But Grue found a way to reach six clubs.

Hemant Lall led a top heart, then shifted to a low spade from his doubleton jack, won by declarer in hand. The slam needs considerably more than the clubs to come in; if you play for clubs 2-2, you can head for home by taking the diamond finesse. If, as Grue did, you cash the ace of clubs, then go to dummy to take a club finesse, West might cover from queen-nine-third and beat you by force. Better may be to win the king of spades in dummy at trick two and take an immediate first-round club finesse before West realises the power of the nine of clubs. Nevertheless, on Grue's line of play, when the nine of clubs did not drop on the first round of the suit, it appears that declarer should have reverted to playing for clubs 2-2 rather than for an opponent's error.

Grue's line swung 12 IMPs out instead of 12 in.

On the following board (see *top of next column*), both pairs played five clubs doubled from West, and North led three rounds of spades, South overruffing dummy to play a heart back. Declarer crossed to the king of diamonds to finesse in trumps, ruffed a diamond to hand, then eventually drew trumps to claim down one. Not exactly a triumph, but not a disaster either.

Board 23. Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Krasnosselskiv.	Prooijen	Brink	Jansma
—	—	—	2♦ ¹
Pass	4♣ ²	4NT	Pass
5♣	Double	Pass	Pass
Pass			

1. Weak two in either major
2. Bid the suit below your major

West	North	East	South
Bakhshi	Gromov	Gold	Dubinin
—	—	—	2♦ ¹
Pass	2NT ²	4NT	Pass
5♣	Double	Pass	Pass
Pass			

1. Weak two in either major
2. Relay

By contrast, when Auken/Welland were North/South, defending against five clubs doubled, Auken led three rounds of spades and declarer ruffed the third with the nine of clubs. Welland pitched a diamond! Declarer crossed on a diamond and led a club to the eight. Now Welland won and played back a club, leaving declarer with a diamond loser. That was the hardest earned 7 IMPs of the event so far, in my opinion.

The Final

The Russians have come close to winning the NEC Cup before (Andrey Gromov and Alexander Dubinin lost narrowly in 2005 and 2007) but the long wait for revenge is over. They more than made up for past defeats in one of the most comprehensive victories ever in the NEC. After 48 boards Gromov and Dubinin, playing with Sjoert Brink, Mikhail Krasnosselski and Evgeny Gladyshev, annihilated Team Mixed (Reese Milner, Hemant Lall, Sabine Auken, Roy Welland, Jacek Pszczola, Michael Kwiecien) who themselves had been playing like champions to this point in the event. The finals went only 48 boards, Mixed withdrawing after trailing 153-53. In the last two days of the KO, the Russians had conceded less than 1.5 IMPs per board. Curiously, the match was level towards the end of the first quarter (at 34-34), when the Russians went on a tear. If they can maintain this sort of form, we

expect to see them going on to even greater things at the world level, and very soon.

On our next deal, which red suit would you lead as West against three notrump after South opens one notrump and North's Stayman enquiry comes up empty?

Board 14. Dealer East. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Milner	Gromov	Lall	Dubinin
—	—	Pass	1♣ ¹
Pass	INT	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

I. 16+ HCP

West	North	East	South
Brink	Pszczola	Gladysch	Kwiecien
—	—	Pass	INT
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦
Pass	3NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Brink led a diamond and scored the queen after Gladysch had won with the ace and returned one. Now Brink helpfully shifted to hearts; Gladysch won with the ace and went back to diamonds, disadvantaging dummy. Kwiecien guessed to pitch a club from dummy and then tested hearts, discovering the bad news. Since it was no longer possible to establish the fourth club, Kwiecien needed to drop the queen of clubs or endplay one of his opponents to lead away from the queen – and as the cards lay, this did not work.

To my mind, pitching a club from dummy has to be wrong; West's heart shift was far more likely to have been from jack-fourth than from jack-third, meaning that a heart discard rates to be right. But in any event, declarer could have preserved all his options by pitching a spade from dummy and then trying to duck a club to East – which would have worked as the cards lay – to prevent the long diamond from coming into play. Even if East won the club and returned a spade, you could still have got home if either rounded suit broke 3-3.

In the Open Room, Gromov was in even worse shape on a spade lead. He rose with the king and ingeniously led a diamond to his jack, holding the trick. Then he played a heart up, came back to hand in clubs, and led a second heart up. When Lall won to play a second spade, Gromov won in dummy and ducked a club, and had nine tricks. An extremely well-earned 10 IMPs.

Board 24. Dealer West. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Kwiecien	Gromov	Pszczola	Dubinin
Pass	Pass	1♣ ¹	1♠
Pass	2♦	Pass	Pass
Pass			

I. Clubs or minimum balanced

West	North	East	South
Brink	Auken	Gladysch	Welland
Pass	Pass	1♣	Double
1♠	3♦	Pass	Pass
Pass			

In the Closed Room, Gladysch was not unhappy to hear his best suit bid on his right at the three level and to get to defend there. He started with the ace of spades and continued with a second spade, Auken pitching a club, then leading a trump to the king and ace. Gladysch switched to a heart and Auken won and played four rounds of the suit to pitch a club before playing any more trumps. That allowed Brink to ruff in with the short trump hand and now the contract was down three, minus 150.

In the Open Room, Gromov played a level lower and two tricks better. Pepsi led a heart and Gromov won and led a spade to the queen and ace. Pepsi now switched to a club to the ace and Kwiecien returned a club. Gromov won the king, crossed to a top heart, pitched his last club on the king of spades, ruffed a spade, led his third heart to dummy, happy to see the suit break evenly, ruffed a club and got out with a low diamond. Kwiecien overtook the eight of diamonds with the jack and returned a diamond, but Pepsi was now endplayed to concede a diamond to Gromov's king; plus 90. Very nicely done, Gospodin Gromov. That was 6 IMPs to Russia.

Board 37. Dealer North. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Milner	Gromov	Lall	Dubinin
—	1♦	2♣	2♠
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♣
Pass	Pass	Pass	
West	North	East	South
Brink	Auken	Krasnosselski Welland	
—	1♦	2♣	2♠
3♣	4♠	5♣	Double
Pass	Pass	Pass	

After the lead of the heart king, Krassnosselski knew that diamonds rated to be 7-0; instead of taking two clubs and cashing the ace of spades (which works today, but not if South is 6=4=0=3), he won the ace of hearts and ran five trumps, then led a diamond to the queen and ace. That forced North to win and return a diamond or spade to dummy, letting declarer take the heart discard and the diamond finesse. Very well played.

In the other room, four spades lost the obvious four top tricks but Russia had 10 IMPs. Credit Brink with some of those IMPs for the three-club bid. It might not always work, but raising two-level overcalls encourages partner when he has bid with a good suit (and will encourage him to have a good suit next time if he has come in with insufficient excuse this time).

Board 41. Dealer North. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Milner	Gromov	Lall	Dubinin
—	4♣	4♥	Pass
Pass	Pass		

West	North	East	South
Brink	Auken	Krasnosselski Welland	
—	4♣	Double	5♣
5NT	Pass	6♥	Pass
6♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

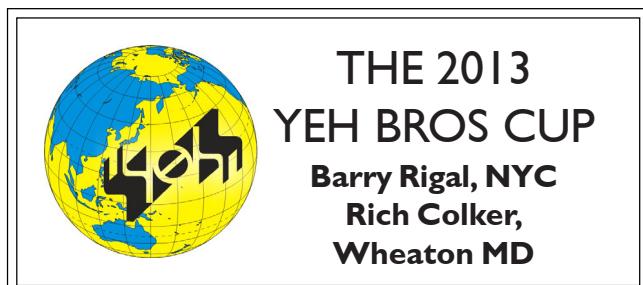
In the closed room, East/West located the spade fit - where slam could be made, but only on a heart lead, since either minor lead takes the entry out of dummy prematurely. Auken did lead her singleton heart and declarer won, tested trumps with the ace and king, took the heart queen, went to the ace of clubs, played the ace of hearts and ruffed the hearts good, cashed the last top trump then ruffed a club to dummy.

South could overruff the club, but then had to lead diamonds back into dummy's tenace. As Henry Higgins said: "How simply frightful! How humiliating! How delightful!"

All of this meant that Milner's somewhat pessimistic decision to pass four hearts only served to hold the loss on the board to 13 IMPs.

Russia was never headed and ran out easy winners, being up 100 IMPs after 48 boards, at which point Mixed decided on an early dinner and a good bottle (or two) of wine.

Russia were: Sjoert Brink, Mikhail Krassnosselski, Evgeny Gladyshev, Alexander Dubinin, Andrey Gromov. **Mixed** were: Sabine Auken, Roy Welland, Michal Kwiecien, Jacek Pszczola, Hemant Lall, Reese Milner. **NEDUK** (David Bakhshi, David Gold, Ricco van Prooijen, Louk Verhees) and **USA** (Curtis Cheek, Joel Wooldridge, John Hurd, Justin Lall, Joe Grue, Ishamel Del/Monte) finished joint third.



The Yeh Bros Cup has a unique format. Twenty-four teams play a 10-round, 10-board Swiss Teams to qualify 16 teams for a partial double knockout. The first eight teams from the Swiss form the Top Bracket, where they are allowed one loss until the final. The teams ranked 9th to 16th form the Lower Bracket, where a single loss eliminates them. The winner of the top bracket plays the winner of the lower bracket for the championship, with the Top Bracket-winning team having a 6½-IMP carryforward. There is a kicker - Chen Yeh's team is designated the top seed in the Top Bracket.

The Round Robin

Board 8. Dealer West. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Fukuyoshi	van Prooijen	Yanagisawa	Verhees
Pass	Pass	2♥	Pass
3♥	Double	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♣	Pass	Pass
Pass			

West	North	East	South
Wijs	Shimamura	Muller	Sato
Pass	Pass	2♥	Pass
3♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

North's four clubs in the Open Room appears to have four losers, but Ricco van Prooijen proved he was not just here for his good looks. Yanagisawa led the ace of hearts and switched to a low spade. Van Prooijen won with the ace of spades, ruffed a heart, cashed two top trumps, then played the king and another spade.

Fukuyoshi was in and had a problem. A heart would give declarer a ruff-and-discard, while a diamond would allow him to insert the nine and hold his diamond losers to one. She opted to lead the seven of diamonds, but van Prooijen put in the nine, took the queen with the ace, led a diamond up and claimed ten tricks for plus 130.

Even had the diamond nine produced the ten, winning the ace and leading another diamond would endplay the defence provided diamonds were 4-2 with the top honours split.

In the other room, Muller could not avoid his five top losers and went down one in three hearts, minus 50, 2 IMPs to the Dutch.

If you think the Japanese Women were unlucky here, consider what happened to the English Women. Peter Newell, North, opened one spade (9-13 HCP; diamonds, possibly with longer clubs) and Heather Dhondy (East) bid three hearts, doubled by South, Martin Reid. Nevena Senior, West, raised to four hearts, Newell bid four spades, promising only three, and there the matter rested.

After a heart lead, followed by a second round of the suit, declarer ruffed, ducked a spade, and won the club return to draw trumps and claim his ten tricks. Adam Meredith might have flattened this board (he too never saw a one-spade opening he didn't like) but most of the rest of us have to step back in awe...9 IMPs to New Zealand.

Board 23. Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
De Wijs	Sylvan	Muller	Wrang
—	—	—	Pass
1♣ ¹	Pass	INT ²	Pass
3♣ ³	Pass	3♦ ⁴	Pass
3NT ⁵	Pass	4♣ ⁶	Pass
4♦ ⁶	Pass	6♠	Pass

1. 15+ HCP
2. 12+ HCP balanced
3. Both majors
4. Relay
5. Balanced minimum
6. Cue bid

West	North	East	South
Pettersson	van Prooijen	Ahlesved	Verhees
—	—	—	Pass
INT ¹	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♥	Pass	2♠ ²	Pass
3♥ ³	Pass	4♣ ⁴	Pass
4♥ ⁵	Pass	4♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. 14-16 HCP
2. Relay
3. 4-4 in the majors
4. Potential sign-off intention
5. Prepared to play game only

Ahlesved relayed for shape then made a non-specific end-signal with four clubs. Pettersson could have made a final try with four diamonds. When he rejected with a call of four hearts, over four spades he had to pass, even if tempted, since he might have been facing a hand with no slam interest at all.

Muller played six spades on the lead of the four of clubs. He won and drew trumps, ending in hand, then took a diamond finesse. When the defenders

continued the attack on clubs, South followed with the two – confirming an original even number in the suit.

Declarer ruffed a heart, ruffed a club, and in the three-card ending, he knew that North had begun with three spades, two hearts and presumably four clubs, so could finesse the diamond. Had South concealed the club two the count would have been harder to confirm. Thirteen IMPs for Netherlands.

Paul Hackett also played slam here, from the West seat, on a trump lead. He won in hand and went to the club ace to take a losing diamond finesse. Back came a trump (yes, a club is better) so Hackett won and played three rounds of hearts ruffing in dummy, played the last trump, then the jack of diamonds and a diamond to the ace. Now the last trump executed a double squeeze around the club suit with North guarding diamonds and South guarding hearts.

Board 25. Dealer North. EW Vul.

♠ J 6 5

♥ 8 7 3

♦ K Q 10 7

♣ 10 7 2

♠ K 8 3

♥ A 5 4 2

♦ J 9 8

♣ A Q 6

♠ A Q 7 2

♥ J 10 6

♦ A 3 2

♣ J 8 4

♠ 10 9 4

♥ K Q 9

♦ 6 5 4

♣ K 9 5 3

There were two suits to lead in order to trouble three notrump by East; our intrepid Souths tried the other two suits, Wrang leading a heart honour, Verhees a club. Both declarers wrapped up 630. So let's look at declarers who had a greater challenge.

Tony Nunn, South, led the ten of spades against Hiroki Kaku's three notrump. Declarer won in dummy to lead a heart to the jack and queen. Nunn shifted to a diamond to the nine and ten, ducked by declarer, who also ducked the next diamond. Now a spade came back, so declarer ran the spade and diamond winners and strip-squeezed South into discarding a club, whereupon he was endplayed with clubs to lead hearts into the tenace, or he could unblock his club king and set up declarer's jack. (At this table, had Hans put the queen of diamonds on the first round of the suit, declarer might have won the trick – and been sunk without trace).

At another table, Peter Newell led the queen of diamonds from the North seat, ducked all round. After a spade shift, declarer finessed in clubs and led a heart to the ten and queen. Shen Jiaxing won the next diamond, cashed all the spades, (North discarding a

heart – not that it mattered) and exited with a third diamond to North to produce this extremely unusual but oddly-symmetrical ending:

♠ —
♥ 8
♦ 7
♣ 10 7

♠ —
♥ A 5
♦ —
♣ A 6

♠ —
♥ J 6
♦ —
♣ J 8

♠ —
♥ K 9
♦ —
♣ K 9

As William Bendix would have said, "What a revolting development this is!" If Newell had cashed his last diamond declarer would have discarded a heart from dummy and Reid would become the victim of a simple squeeze. If Newell had exited with either a heart or a club Reid would have been thrown in with that suit to broach the other one.

The Knockout Stage

In The Netherlands v. Australia Youth match...

Board 17. Dealer North. Neither Vul.

♠ A 9 8 6 4

♥ K 8 4

♦ 9 7 4

♣ K 10

♠ Q J 10 3

♥ A J 6

♦ A J 8

♣ Q 8 6

♠ K 7 5

♥ I 0 9 3

♦ K Q 2

♣ A 5 4 2

♠ 2

♥ Q 7 5 2

♦ I 0 6 5 3

♣ J 9 7 3

West	North	East	South
Milne	van Prooijen	Whibley	Verhees
—	Pass	1♣	Pass
2♦ ¹	Pass	2♠ ²	Pass
2NT	Pass	3NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		
1. 13-16 balanced, GF			
2. Puppet to 2NT			

This was the first board of the second half of the knockout match between The Netherlands and Australia Youth. Ricco van Prooijen, North, led the six of spades against Liam Milne's three-notrump contract, the seven winning in dummy.

Milne led a club to the queen and king (setting up spade and/or heart tricks might have been better) and van Prooijen switched to...the king of hearts! What,

you may ask, was he thinking? Well, just you wait and see.

Milne won with the ace of hearts (we know you would have ducked, dear reader, for the very reason made evident later) and led a spade, won by North with the ace. Van Prooijen then switched to the ten of clubs, Louk Verhees overtaking with the jack when Milne ducked the ace. Verhees continued with the nine of clubs to the ace and now the brilliance of the king of hearts shift revealed itself. Verhees had a club to cash and, because of van Prooijen's foresight, had the queen of hearts as an entry to cash it. And now you can see why (double dummy) Milne should have ducked the king of hearts and taken the finesse for the queen later.

Sweden met Italy in the top bracket semifinals...

Board 3. Dealer South. EW Vul.

♠ K 9 5 4 3

♡ J 9 8 3

♦ 10 9

♣ 3 2

♠ J 6 2

♡ Q 6

♦ K J 7 4

♣ A K 9 8

♠ A

♡ A 10 7 5 4

♦ Q 8 6 5

♣ J 6 5

♠ Q 10 8 7

♡ K 2

♦ A 3 2

♣ Q 10 7 4

West

North

East

South

Duboin

Upmark

Sementa

Nyström

—

—

—

—

Pass

1♡²

Double

2♠³

Double

3♠

Pass

Pass

4NT

Pass

5♦

Pass

Pass

1. 2+ clubs, balanced, or natural

2. Spades

3. 4 spades and 11-13

Sementa had to play five diamonds on a spade lead. He won with the ace and took an uncharacteristically long time to play to trick two, eventually leading a trump to dummy to run the queen of hearts. Nyström won with the king and also took his time before playing the ace and another diamond. Declarer won in hand, led the jack of clubs, covered all 'round, finessed in hearts, set up the hearts, ruffed a spade back to hand, and finally took the second club finesse for 11 tricks. Even the ranks of Tuscany could scarcely forbear to cheer.

West

North

East

South

Sylvan

Bocchi

Wrang

Madala

—

—

—

INT

Pass

2♡

Double

3♠

4♡

Pass

Pass

Pass

Four hearts isn't the worst spot you've ever seen, but repeated spade leads when in with the king of hearts and ace of diamonds meant declarer could take four hearts, one spade, and three tricks in the minors, but then had to surrender control. Two down meant 13 IMPs Italy.

In Denmark/China Blue, Morten Bilde also reached five diamonds – but as West - and he had been doubled by South. He was happy to receive the lead of a doubleton club from North and a club continuation from South when in with the trump ace, so he simply drew trumps and brought the club suit in for four tricks. That gave him one spade, two hearts, four trumps and four clubs for a painless 750.

East/West had also found their diamond fit in the other room, but it would appear that Ju passed what Shi thought was a forcing bid, and China Blue's plus 170 cost them 11 IMPs.

In the same match...

Board 32. Dealer West. EW Vul.

♠ 8

♡ Q 8 4 3 2

♦ K 10 4

♣ I 0 9 8 6

♠ K J 10 9 5 4 3 2

♠ A 7

♡ 7

♡ A K J 10 9 6 5

♦ J 7

♦ 9 5

♣ 4 2

♠ Q 6

♡ —

♦ A Q 8 6 3 2

♣ Q J 7 5 3

West

North

East

South

Zhengjun

Auken

Ju

Welland

3♠

Pass

4♣

4NT

5♣

5NT

6♠

Double

Pass

Pass

Pass

West

North

East

South

M. Bilde

Lian

D. Bilde

Haojun

3♠

Pass

4♣

4◊

4♡

5◊

5♡

Pass

5♠

Pass

Pass

Double

Pass

Pass

Pass

Both our North/South pairs intervened in their opponents' slam bidding, then doubled for the heart lead. Auken led the eight of hearts, suit preference and Welland ruffed, then underled in diamonds, Auken knew not to play a second heart and tried another diamond, so the defence had 500.

Lian led the king of diamonds against five spades doubled and when Haojun dropped the queen, he led the two of hearts to his partner to prevent any further underleads. Down one, and a 7-IMP win for Denmark.

It would have been a lot more had West had two hearts and one diamond instead of the other way around.

In Sweden-Italy, Pettersson-Ahlesved duplicated the Chinese plus 200. By contrast, after a four-spade opening from Nyström, Upmark asked about diamonds with a five-club call. Madala bid five diamonds, Bocchi raised to six diamonds and Nyström doubled in the passout seat for 300 and 11 IMPs.

In China Red-Russia, the Chinese East/West pair did extremely well, doubling six clubs and collecting 300. Any plus score from the other room would at least tie the match. In fact, Brink-Drijver reached six spades, doubled by South after he had shown the minors. Wang Rui led...a club; plus 1860 meant 17 IMPs and the match for Russia.

For the record Furuta-Chen also made six spades doubled for Yeh Bros I, who would make it through to the three-way match to determine semi-finalists – thereby pleasing all the spectators, who were happy to see Chen Yeh advance in his own tournament.

Denmark met Italy in the final of the undefeated bracket. The winner would play for the championship (with 6½-IMPs carryover); the loser would drop into a three-way match against Yeh Bros I and The Netherlands in the once-defeated bracket to determine the other finalist.

Board 12. Dealer West. NS Vul.

♠ K 6
♡ 9 4 2
♦ K Q 9 7 4 3
♣ A 3

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

West	North	East	South
Duboin	Auken	Sementa	Welland
Pass	1♦	1♠	2♣ ¹
2♠	3♡	Pass	3♠
Pass	3NT	Pass	4♦
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♦
Pass	6♦	Pass	6♡
Pass	Pass	Pass	
1. Hearts			

West	North	East	South
M. Bilde	Bocchi	D. Bilde	Madala
3♣	3♦	4♣	4NT
Pass	5♣	Pass	6♦
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Dennis Bilde's opening lead would be quite a tester in a panel forum; switch a heart from North with a spade from West and the lead of the heart ace would fail. Also, East knows his partnership style of preempting is entirely consistent with a six-card suit. After a club lead declarer cashed the king of diamonds and (if the record is to be believed) claimed six – a contract that requires just a little care. (*He did indeed claim immediately and the claim was accepted by the defence - it took no longer than a few seconds on BBO. - Ed.*)

After the king of diamonds and another to the ace, declarer must play three rounds of spades, pitching the club, then draw the last trump and lead a heart to dummy, ruff a club and play a heart up again. If he draws all the trumps before taking the discard on the spades he runs out of entries to hand to play hearts up.

In the other room East would have known to give his partner the heart ruff against six diamonds, so one could argue that Welland's decision was a reasonable one (and had partner held, e.g., the jack-nine-eight of hearts or better, it would have been a winning one). Nonetheless, I'm not sure Welland was correct to overrule his partner here with such bad trumps himself. Italy had 16 IMPs.

The Netherlands survived its three-way match to make it to the final against Italy. The losers in that match, Denmark and Yeh Bros I, met in the playoff for third.

Board 38. Dealer East. EW Vul.

♠ Q
♡ 9 6 3 2
♦ Q 10 9 8 5 4 2
♣ 6

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

West	North	East	South
De Wijs	Bocchi	Muller	Madala
—	—	1♣	INT ¹
2♡ ²	3♦	3♠	Pass
4♣	Pass	4♦	Pass
4♠	Pass	5♦	Pass
6♣	Pass	Pass	Pass
1. 4 of a major and 5+ of a minor			
2. Spades			

West	North	East	South
Duboin	v Prooijen	Sementa	Verhees
—	—	INT	Pass
2♡	4♦	Pass	Pass
Double	Pass	4♣	Pass
Pass	Pass		

We think Muller showed a minimum with his three-spade call, hence de Wijs was only worth one slam try. But Muller, despite being minimum, had such great controls, and well-placed diamonds that he went on over the non-cooperating call, and promised a heart control at the same time. That was enough for de Wijs to bid the slam.

Following Garozzo's Rule ("If you have a singleton, lead it."), Madala led his singleton diamond – which speeded up play a little. Muller decided sensibly that North was more likely to have the four spades than South. Thus, he led a spade to the ace and claimed 13 tricks a moment later and 13 IMPs in the comparison.

Board 44. Dealer West. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
De Wijs	Bocchi	Muller	Madala
Pass	1♣	5♦	Double
Pass	Pass	Pass	

I. Natural or balanced with 2+ clubs

West	North	East	South
Duboin	v Prooijen	Sementa	Verhees
Pass	1♦	5♦	Double
Pass	Pass	Pass	

I. 2+ diamonds

This board had huge swing potential – North/South can make six spades from North, but go down on the Lightner Double for the club ruff if South is declarer.

The weakness and strength of the short minor came to the fore here. Both Norths could open and both Souths doubled five diamonds, expecting there was a chance they could buy a hand, not a foot, opposite. And they were right in a sense. Five diamonds doubled went quietly two down in both rooms; no swing.

The Danes scored a somewhat fortuitous goal. They were leading 104-103 at this point. After one club- (five diamonds), Morten Bilde offered a choice of slams with five notrump, and Dennis Bilde bid six spades – BINGO! That was 15 IMPs and the match, since five diamonds doubled down 300 was the result from the other room. They finished up winning 126-103 so had slam gone down it would have swung 24 imps; and you can see what the margin would have been then!



JAPAN CONTRACT BRIDGE LEAGUE

The Netherlands defeated Italy for first place and Denmark beat Yeh Bros I for third. The teams in the money were:

1st - **Netherlands**: Ricco van Prooijen/Louk Verhees, Simon de Wijs/Bauke Muller

2nd - **Italy**: Antonio Sementa/Giorgio Duboin, Agustin Madala/Norberto Bocchi, Guido Ferraro/Maria Teresa Lavazza

3rd - **Denmark**: Morten Bilde/Dennis Bilde, Sabine Auken/Roy Welland

4th - **Yeh Bros I**: Chen Yeh/Juei Yu Shih, Chen Dawei/Kazuo Furuta, Yalan Zhang/Wang Ping

Doing More with Less

Bob Scott and John Wignall defended four hearts well on this deal from the Pairs.

Board 21. Dealer North. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
—	Wignall	—	Scott
Redouble	Pass	1♥	Double
Pass	2♣	4♦	Pass

Scott led a top diamond and, as Wignall discouraged, observed that, with only 16 HCP missing, it would be too much to ask Wignall to have a natural trick on the deal. What was the least he could find partner with to beat the game?

He found the answer when he continued with two more rounds of diamonds, then won the ace of hearts at his first opportunity and played the fourth diamond. Wignall ruffed in with the precious ten of hearts and promoted the nine into the setting trick. Nevertheless, the event was won by Krzysztof Buras and Grzegorz Narkiewicz.



IBPA Column Service

Tim Bourke, Canberra

Members may use these deals as they wish, without attributing the author or IBPA.

661. Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
—	—	—	1♣
3♥	3♠	Pass	4♦
Pass	4♠	Pass	6♣
Pass	Pass	Pass	

The leap to six clubs was made more in the hope that dummy would have something useful than anything else. West began by leading the king of hearts. Declarer took this with his ace and drew two rounds of trumps with the ace and king. Declarer now led the two of clubs, hoping that East began with three trumps, one heart and the king of diamonds.

East looked at his winning nine of clubs with some unease and said to declarer, "You must be void in spades." The only hope that East could see for the defence was that his partner had an unlikely jack of diamonds. Consequently, he exited with a low diamond. Declarer ran this to dummy's ten and cashed top spades, discarding two hearts and the jack of diamonds from hand. After finessing the queen of diamonds, declarer claimed twelve tricks.

If East had exited with a spade, declarer planned to throw two hearts and the jack of diamonds on the spades and then lead the ten of diamonds, intending to follow with the nine if East played low. After that, a second diamond finesse would again see declarer make twelve tricks. (Discarding the nine of diamonds on the third spade would, of course, see the slam fail because then the declarer would then be reduced to being able to take only one diamond finesse.)

662. Dealer North. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
—	1♣	Pass	1♠
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

This deal was played in a teams match. At the first table, West cashed the ace and king of hearts then, after muttering, "It's a guess," he shifted to the jack of diamonds. Declarer took this in hand with the king and drew three rounds of trumps. When East turned up with a trump trick, declarer cashed dummy's two diamond winners, discarding a club from hand.

Next, declarer ruffed dummy's last diamond and cashed the queen of hearts before pausing to think. In the end, he decided, correctly, that a 3-3 division in East's heart and club was holdings more likely than a winning club finesse and so exited with his last trump. East was not a happy camper because, after winning the trick with his jack of trumps, he had to lead away from the king of clubs into dummy's by-then bare ace-queen.

The defence began the same way at the other table, with the ace and king of hearts, but this West was more observant. He noted that his partner followed to the first heart with a discouraging three and to the second trick with the five of hearts. This suggested that East's remaining heart was the eight, to justify the discouraging card and declarer's play. He correctly read this as suggesting a shift to the lower suit, clubs, and that switch did indeed defeat the contract.

663. Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
—	—	—	INT
2♣ ¹	3NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

1. At least 5-4 in the majors

West led the four of spades against this contract. Declarer saw that he could make four tricks in spades, two in diamonds and one in clubs. So, he had to make two tricks in hearts. As he expected West to have all of the missing high honours, declarer saw that the best chance of success would come from relying on East having started with at least one of the jack, ten or nine of hearts.

Consequently, after dummy's queen of spades held the first trick, declarer led a low heart at trick two. When East followed with the six, declarer covered with the seven. West won this with the nine of hearts and exited with the seven of diamonds. Declarer took the nine of diamonds with the king and played the queen of hearts, ducking when West played the king and noting that East followed with ten.

West exited with a spade for want of anything better. Declarer won this with the nine and then played the ace of spades followed by the jack. West took this with the king of spades and, still reluctant to broach clubs, exited with yet another spade. Declarer won this in hand with the ten and then took the marked finesse in hearts, playing the two of hearts to the three and eight. After cashing the ace of hearts, declarer then led a low club to the queen and ace before claiming nine tricks: four spades, two hearts, two diamonds and a club.

You should note that if East had played the jack, ten or nine on the first round of hearts declarer would have covered that card with the queen. Then, on the next round of hearts he would have led the seven of hearts, intending to duck in dummy and thereby ensuring a second trick in hearts no matter how that suit lay, because West's overall guaranteed that he held at least four hearts.

664. Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
—	—	—	INT
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♥
Pass	3♦	Pass	3♥
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♦
Pass	5NT	Pass	7♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass

The bidding had a small point of interest as North's five notrump call was a grand slam try that confirmed that the partnership held all four aces and the trump king-queen. South inferred that his four good trumps and his doubleton ace in partner's second suit were enough to bid the grand slam in hearts.

After West led the queen of spades, declarer saw that he needed to develop the diamond suit and that if that suit broke no worse than 4-2, then the grand slam would be quite easily made. The question declarer then asked himself was, "What could be done if diamonds are 5-1?"

The answer he found was that he would then need the defender with five diamonds to have at least two trumps plus at least two cards in spades and one in clubs.

So, after winning trick one with the ace of spades in hand, declarer cashed the king of hearts (to keep the high trumps in the dummy and minimize East's potential to overruff), then the ace and king of diamonds. His luck was in when West discarded on the second diamond! Declarer continued with a diamond ruff and the two black aces. Then after ruffing a spade low, he ruffed a diamond, followed by a spade ruff (with only high trumps remaining) so that he could ruff dummy's last diamond.

All that remained for declarer was to ruff a black card, draw the last trump and claim. He made four tricks in the side suits, six trumps in dummy and three ruffs in hand.



GEMS FROM THE GATEWAY TO THE WEST

THROUGH THE ARCH

Phillip Alder, Hobe Sound, FL

Some North American Bridge Championships, like the one in St. Louis recently, yield many interesting deals. First, try this declarer-play problem:

Dealer North. Both Vul.

♠ A J 8 7 5
♥ J 6 4
♦ J 7 3
♣ 7 2

♠ Q
♥ A K 9 8 5
♦ K 8 4
♣ A 10 6 4

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

1. Constructive three-card heart raise
2. In principle, natural and forcing
3. A minimum, but promising a ruffing value somewhere

West leads the queen of clubs. What would be your plan? We shall return to that in a moment.

The winners of the Norman Kay Platinum Pairs were Martin Fleisher and Michael Kamil. They defended perfectly on Board 23 from the first final session.

Dealer South. Both Vul.

♠ 8 4 3 2
♥ 10 6 4
♦ 8 7 3
♣ 10 6 5

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

West	North	East	South
Kamil	—	—	Fleisher
—	—	—	INT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Kamil led the three of hearts. Fleisher did well when he won with his ace and shifted to a low spade. West took this trick and returned the spade nine.

South won, cashed his ace of diamonds, and played another diamond to West's king. On the spade to East's ten, South correctly discarded a diamond. But on the last spade, declarer erred by throwing a low club. (If he had pitched another diamond, he could have 'escaped' for down four.)

Now East led the jack of clubs, a deceptive play, but one that did not fool his partner. When declarer covered with his king, West won with his ace and continued with the nine of clubs to pin South's eight. East took dummy's ten with his queen, cashed the queen of diamonds (on which West discarded his last low heart), and West took the last three tricks with the king of hearts, seven of clubs and four of clubs.

The defenders had taken three spades, two hearts, two diamonds and four clubs for down five. Plus 500 was a top, gaining all 13 matchpoints. (Plus 400 would have been worth 'only' 11.5.)

The initial declarer-play problem came from the first session of the second and last day of the Lebar IMP Pairs, won by Kent Mignocchi and Joel Wooldridge. This was Board 7:

Dealer North. Both Vul.

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

In four hearts, Wooldridge ducked the queen-of-clubs lead at the first trick, took West's club continuation with his ace, and led the queen of spades, which was covered by the king and won with the ace.

Declarer discarded a diamond on the jack of spades, ruffed a spade in his hand, ruffed a club in the dummy, ruffed another spade (on which East threw a diamond) and cashed the ace of hearts (South's seventh trick) to give this position (see *top of next page*):

♠ 8	♠ —
♡ J	♡ 10 7
♢ J 7 3	♢ Q 10 6
♣ —	♣ —
♠ —	♠ —
♡ Q	♡ K 9
♢ A 9 2	♢ K 8
♣ J	♣ 10

Declarer ruffed the ten of clubs with dummy's jack of hearts and led the last spade. If East had ruffed, South would have discarded his eight of diamonds and taken two more tricks in trumps.

When East pitched a diamond, declarer did also. West ruffed with his queen of hearts and cashed the diamond ace, but now, at trick 12, South had the king-nine of hearts over East's ten-seven, a trump coup. That brilliant piece of declarer play won 9.31 IMPs.

The next deal occurred during the quarterfinals of the Vanderbilt Knockout Teams.

Dealer South. Neither Vul.

♠ Q 6 4
♡ A K Q J 5
♢ K 8
♣ 9 8 5

♠ 5 3	♠ J 8 2
♡ 9 8 7 2	♡ 10 4
♢ A 10 6	♢ Q 9 7 5 4 2
♣ Q 10 7 2	♣ J 3
♠ A K 10 9 7	
♡ 6 3	
♢ J 3	
♣ A K 6 4	

West	North	East	South
Auken	Amoils	Welland	Gitelman
—	—	—	1♠
Pass	2♡	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♣ ¹
Pass	4♢	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♣ ²	Pass	5♦ ²
Pass	6♠ ³	Pass	Pass
Pass			

1. Club control, mild slam interest
2. 1 or 4 key cards
3. Asks for spade queen
4. Spade queen, no further interest

In the other room, Dennis Bilde (South) rebid three clubs over two hearts, but when his father continued with three spades, South signed off in four spades. What did West (Sabine Auken) lead?

The opening lead was the same at both tables: the

diamond six! Dennis Bilde played low from the dummy, so lost two diamond tricks.

The spectators watching online on BBO expected Auken's lead to give her team 11 IMPs. However, after a short pause, Fred Gitelman called for dummy's diamond king!

Now he made an overtrick and gained 11 IMPs for the Amoils team. How did Gitelman find the winning play?

There were two reasons. First, Welland (East) had not doubled North's four-diamond control-bid. Second, West knew from South's failure to use Blackwood until after North had made his diamond control-bid that this was probably the suit South was worried about. If West had the diamond ace, she could be confident that dummy held the king, making the lead more attractive than if she had only the diamond queen.

It is great when everyone plays brilliantly.

The 64-board final of the Vanderbilt Knockout Teams was between the original #6 seed (Ricco van Prooijen/Louk Verhees, Sjoert Brink/Bas Drijver, Kevin Bathurst/Daniel Zagorin) and the #45 seed (Sabine Auken/Roy Welland and father and son Morten and Dennis Bilde).

It was an exciting match that was close throughout. In the last set, van Prooijen led by 1 IMP with two boards to go. The diagrammed deal was Board 63.

Dealer North. NS Vul.

♠ 7	♠ A
♡ A Q 9 3	♡ 10 8 5 2
♢ Q 5 2	♢ A K 10 8 6 4
♣ A K 10 7 2	♣ J 5
♠ K 10 9 6 5 4 3	♠ Q J 8 2
♡ 7 6	♡ K J 4
♢ 9 3	♢ J 7
♣ Q 8	♣ 9 6 4 3

West	North	East	South
van Prooijen	Auken	Verhees	Welland
—	—	INT ¹	Double ²
2♠	Double	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

1. A four-card major, five or more diamonds and 8-plus points
2. Values

West led the diamond nine and the defenders began with three rounds of diamonds. However, with the clubs breaking 2-2, Auken took ten tricks.

At the other table...

West	North	East	South
D.Bilde	Brink	M.Bilde	Drijver
—	1♣	1♦	1♥1
Pass	2♣ ²	Double ³	3♣
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. Spades
2. Denies as many as three spades
3. Hearts, but longer diamonds

The defence was perfect. East led the diamond ace, West signalling with the three, upside-down. East cashed the spade ace (West discouraging with the ten) and diamond king, then led the diamond ten. Declarer (North) ruffed with dummy's club nine, but West overruffed with his queen. Then a spade lead promoted East's club jack as the setting trick.

Plus 630 and plus 100 gave the Auken team 12 IMPs on the board and the lead by 11.

On the final board, the dealer, vulnerable against non-vulnerable, had 3=1=1=8 with the heart king and club king-jack. Verhees opened three clubs. After two passes, Welland balanced with a takeout double, Auken advanced with three spades, and Welland bid four spades. Van Prooijen led his singleton club queen, which allowed Auken to take 12 tricks. (If van Prooijen had led his heart ace, squashing his partner's king, he could have given his partner a heart ruff to hold the contract to 11 tricks.)

So, if Brink and Drijver bid and made six spades, the match would be a tie, requiring extra boards. Morten Bilde opened four clubs. After two passes, Brink doubled.

Drijver held ♠ A652 ♥ Q7 ♦ J96 ♣ A652. He reasonably passed. However, the contract went down only one (down two was possible). Plus 480 and minus 200 gave Auken another 7 IMPs and the match by 135 IMP to 117.

DEFENSIVE HARMONY

Sven-Olov Flodqvist, Lund, Sweden

The most beautiful defensive plays are those with complete understanding between the two players, both going in the same direction. Björn Fallenius and Peter Fredin produced just such a perfect defence in an early Vanderbilt match in St Louis.

Dealer East. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Fallenius	—	Fredin	
—	—	1♥	Pass
2♣	2NT ¹	3♣ ²	4♣
Double	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. At least 6-5/5-6 in the unbid suits
2. Splinter bid with club support

West led the queen of hearts, East played an encouraging two, and South won with the ace to play the six of diamonds to the nine, king and ace (upside down signals).

East noted that North-South would have beaten five clubs if North had led his heart to get a ruff. Four spades was surely going at least one down, since partner must have a trump trick to go with two diamonds and one club, but how about two down? How would you have planned the defence?

If you can't spot the defence to secure two down, maybe it will be easier if you see the whole deal...

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

East/West need two trump tricks, but how can they achieve that goal?

If you still think that that is a difficult task, you may take some comfort in the fact that many players failed to discover how to do it with open cards. Fallenius and Fredin took five tricks at the table!

The task at hand was to deny declarer any further re-entry to his hand to attack West's trumps. How did East/West accomplish that? East reasoned that West must have had close to his actual hand, or possibly king-queen-to-three spades.

Fredin played back the two of clubs to West's king, and Fallenius returned his remaining heart, which declarer ruffed in the dummy. Declarer then played a diamond from dummy, won by Fredin's jack. Fredin played the heart king to force the dummy to ruff once again, and Fallenius pitched his queen of diamonds! When declarer then tried a diamond from dummy; Fredin ruffed and it was overruffed all around. Fallenius still had his club exit left.

Surely that is a candidate for the Defence of the Year.

A VANDERBILT MIRACLE

Ib Lundby, Åså, Denmark

Last year, Morten and Dennis Bilde, father and son, Sabine Auken and Roy Welland agreed to play in a big team event and they chose this year's Vanderbilt Knockout Teams, one of the world's most prestigious tournaments.

Maybe you followed Team AUKEN's success on BBO. If not, you can find lots of deals in the archives; but not surprisingly, none from the last session of the quarterfinal, as BBO chose to leave the match after 32 boards with Zimmerman ahead 93-11.

That is why I have written this article with some of the most exciting boards from the last session.

Auken v. Zimmermann - The Last 16 Boards

On Board 49, Welland made 11 tricks in three notrump, with only 10 made at the other table; 1 IMP to AUKEN. That didn't tell us what was coming - at 127-61, it still looked like Mission Impossible!

But 37 IMPs were waiting in the three following boards. Let's have a look at Board 50:

Dealer East. NS Vul.

♠ A K 7 6 2

♥ K 10 6 4

♦ A 2

♣ Q 8

♠ Q J 10 5 4 3

♥ Q 5 3 2

♦ 3

♣ 6 3

♠ 8

♥ 9 7

♦ 10 9 8 6 4

♣ A J 9 7 2

♠ 9

♥ A J 8

♦ K Q J 7 5

♣ K 10 5 4

West North East South

Welland Fantoni Auken Nunes

— — 3♣! Pass

3♠ Double Pass 4♣

Pass 4♥ Pass 6♦

Pass Pass Pass

Lead: ♣ 6.

Normally, Sabine Auken is a conservative bidder - compared to Roy - but trailing by 68 IMPs, something had to be done. Here she tried an offbeat three-club opening with great success. The Italians went overboard and the result was one down as declarer lost the ace of clubs and an unexpected trump trick to East rather than a club ruff to West.

At the other table, the Norwegians didn't get a prize for their result either:

West	North	East	South
Helgemo	Morten B	Helness	Dennis B
—	—	Pass	1♦
3♠	Pass	Pass	Double
Pass	Pass	Pass	

The ace of diamonds was led; declarer was held to three trump tricks and the ace of clubs for minus 1100; 15 IMPs for AUKEN, now trailing 127-76.

AUKEN was looking for more blood on the next deal, Board 51:

Dealer South. EW Vul.

♠ A Q 10 6 5

♥ K J 4 3

♦ K Q J 9

♣ —

♠ K 7

♥ 7 5

♦ A 8 7 4 3

♣ A K 8 2

♠ 9 8

♥ A Q 10 9 6

♦ —

♣ 10 9 7 6 4 3

♠ J 4 3 2

♥ 8 2

♦ 10 6 5 2

♣ Q J 5

West North East South

Welland Fantoni Auken Nunes

— — — Pass

INT¹ Double 2♣²

Pass Double 2♥

Pass Pass Pass

1. 14-16

2. Clubs and hearts

The heart lead went to the king and ace and the ten of clubs was covered by the queen and king, Fantoni ruffing and playing the king of diamonds. Auken discarded a spade and won with the ace of diamonds, finessed the ten of hearts and claimed after drawing the last trump: 11 tricks, plus 1270!

West North East South

Helgemo Morten B Helness Dennis B

— — — Pass

1♦ 1♠ Double 3♠

Pass 4♣ Pass Pass

Pass

East led the ten of clubs and there were only nine tricks for the offence. Still, that was 15 IMPs for Auken, now 127-91.

AUKEN won 7 more IMPs on Board 52 when a normal three-spade preempt by Fantoni jockeyed Auken/Welland into four clubs, down two for 200. At the other table, however, the same three-spade preempt resulted in the same four-club contract, but the Bildes doubled for plus 500. Now 127-98.

On Board 53, Welland went one down in two spades, but it was made in the other room, thus Zimmermann gained 4 IMPs; 131-98.

The results at both tables on boards 54, 55 and 56 were duplicated - no score. However, on Board 57, I think that most would open the North hand. Remarkably, not Fantoni:

Dealer North EW Vul.

♠ A K 9 8 7

♥ 8 7 2

♦ 9 3

♣ K J 5

♠ 10 2

♥ K Q J 9

♦ K Q 10 7 5 4

♣ 8

♠ Q 4

♥ 10 6 5 3

♦ J 8

♣ A 10 6 4 2

♠ J 6 5 3

♥ A 4

♦ A 6 2

♣ Q 9 7 3

West	North	East	South
Welland	Fantoni	Auken	Nunes
—	Pass	Pass	INT ¹
2♦ ²	Double	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♣	Pass	Pass

Pass

1. (11)12-14

2. Diamonds + a major

That was ten easy tricks, but a loss of 6 IMPs for MONACO as the Bildes bid the game:

West	North	East	South
Helgemo	Morten B	Helness	Dennis B
—	1♠	Pass	2NT ¹
Pass	3♣ ²	Pass	4♦
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. Spade support, at least invitational

2. Minimum

That was also ten tricks; 131-104.

Dennis and Morten bid several three notrump contracts on limited values, and a surprisingly large number of them met with success. Board 58 was one:

Dealer East. Both Vul.

♠ K Q 5 2

♥ K J 5

♦ Q 9 8 6

♣ J 3

♠ A J 4

♥ 8 6 2

♦ J 5 3

♣ A K 8 6

♠ 10 9 7 6

♥ Q 9 7

♦ 10 4 2

♣ Q 9 7

♠ 8 3

♥ A 10 4 3

♦ A K 7

♣ 10 5 4 2

West	North	East	South
Helgemo	Morten B	Helness	Dennis B
—	—	Pass	1♣
Pass	1♠	Pass	INT
Pass	3NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

The friendly heart lead went to the nine and ten and a spade to the king won. West could have defeated three notrump by rising with the ace of spades, cashing a top club, upon which East had to unblock the nine, and playing a low club to the queen to get a club back. But that defence proved impossible to find at the table.

After the king of spades won, Dennis could have taken nine tricks, but instead, not thinking hearts and diamonds were both 3-3, he tried the jack of clubs from the dummy, won by East with the queen. East could in turn have defeated the contract with another club.

However, East played back the queen of hearts, and now Dennis Bilde decided to hope for the best and made nine tricks due to the friendly red-suit layout.

This was worth 10 IMPs as the Italians made eight tricks in two notrump at the other table; 131-114.

On Board 59, Welland/Auken were a little too aggressive, bidding four spades and going two down - 2 IMPs to Zimmermann as Helness/Helgemo stopped in three diamonds on a 4-3-fit, going only one down. The score was now 133-114.

On Board 60, both teams bid four spades and made 10 tricks, but Board 61 brought more good news to AUKEN:

Dealer North. Both Vul.

♠ Q

♥ A 10 7 2

♦ 10 9 4 3

♣ A Q 10 5

♠ A K 10 9 8 5 3

♠ 7 4 2

♥ Q

♥ K 9 6 4 3

♦ Q 5

♦ K J 8 2

♣ 7 3 2

♣ 4

♠ J 6

♥ J 8 5

♦ A 7 6

♣ K J 9 8 6

West	North	East	South
Welland	Fantoni	Auken	Nunes
—	Pass	Pass	Pass
1♠	Double	2♥ ¹	3♣
4♦	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. Invitational, spade support

Welland had no problems in making this game, but the bidding at the other table was surprising:

West	North	East	South
Helgemo	Morten B	Helness	Dennis B
—	1♣	Pass	2NT ¹
Pass	Pass	Pass	
I. Balanced, limit			

After the ace of spades lead, Dennis Bilde tabled his hand and declared, "One down!", but had to accept Helgemo's request for seven tricks. That was 9 IMPs for AUKEN, now trailing 133-123.

On board 30, the AUKEN team bid and played in partials at both tables. Welland made 10 tricks in three diamonds for plus 130 while Morten Bilde escaped with one off in three spades for minus 62, but 2 IMPs for AUKEN. That made the score 133-125 for MONACO.

On Board 63, the AUKEN team tried to copy this success, but without luck. They went one down at both tables, Welland in three diamonds (minus 50) and Dennis in two spades (minus 100). That was 4 IMPs to MONACO and 137-125.

Now for the last deal of this match, Board 64. Could AUKEN get a big enough score to win the match?

Dealer West. EW Vul.

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

Sitting North-South, the Italians stopped in one notrump, making 10 tricks. At the other table Dennis had some fun: natural bidding, yes...

West	North	East	South
Helgemo	Morten B	Helness	Dennis B
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♣!
Pass	1♥	Pass	2NT!
Pass	3NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

The opening lead was the five of diamonds; taking nine tricks was no problem - three spades, three clubs, two diamonds and the ace of hearts; 6 IMPs for AUKEN, but it was not enough. AUKEN lost the match 137-131. Over and out!

But there was an appeal from the first half (*reportd last month - Ed.*). The Appeals Committee changed everything with their decision! 131-126 AUKEN.

A Vanderbilt miracle!



KITZBÜHEL 2013

Fritz Babsch, Vienna

Participation at our annual Kitzbühel tournament was lower than usual this year but the weather and the snow were beautiful – this is always very important for this tournament.

Some of the deals provoked a lot of discussion amongst the players. This one is from the Opening Tournament:

West (D)	East
♠ A 6 5	♠ 2
♥ Q 10 9	♥ A K J 8 7
♦ A K 9 7 3 2	♦ Q J 5
♣ 5	♣ A K J 6

Seven notrump is cold on any lie of the cards but to bid it you need a little foresight. The most important cards are the red queens! This is a 'book' bidding sequence:

West	East
1♦	1♥
2♦	3♣
3♥	4NT ¹
5♠ ²	5NT ³
6♦ ⁴	7NT
1. RKCB	
2. Two key cards + the heart queen	
3. Asking for specific kings	
4. Diamond king	

However, apparently it was not so easy for the average player. The grand slam was reached only three times (out of 16), twice in hearts and once in diamonds.

If you start the East hand by responding with two hearts, you may have trouble. Either your partner bids three diamonds and you will have a problem finding out that he has the queen of hearts, or he bids three hearts and you will not know that he has six diamonds. Maybe East should stick to the modern advice: Stay low when you are strong!

The 'small' events were won by Bieder/Illner (Opening) and Hansen/Babsch (Mixed). The Teams was taken by Burg/Leitner/Daemen/Pol (Aut-Ned) and the Pairs by Fucik/Lindermann.

The next international events in Austria are Salzkammergut (July 10-14 in Gmunden) and Mautern, replacing Loiben (August 4-9). Mautern is only 3 km from Loiben on the other side of the Danube River.

HIGH ON END PLAYS

Dunga Liu, Beijing



This deal occurred in the Men's Individual of the 2nd SportAccord World Mind Sports Games held in Beijing last year. It was Board 23 of segment 4, in the evening of December 18th. All the players were great stars and I was a kibitzer at the table.

Dealer North. Both Vul.

♠ K Q J 8 6
♥ 10 6 4 2
♦ 10 3
♣ J 4

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

♠ 7
♥ A K 7 5
♦ K Q 8 5
♣ A Q 9 7

West	North	East	South
Fu	Grue	Brink	van Prooijen
—	Pass	Pass	1♣
Pass	1♠	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♦	Pass	3♥
Pass	4♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			

West led the ace of diamonds and switched to a low club to the four, ten and queen. Declarer cashed his ace of trumps and Fu played his jack smoothly. Then declarer tried a spade - Fu put up his ace immediately and played a spade back. After deep thought, van Prooijen believed Fu to have the singleton jack of hearts, and he found a 'perfect' line to deal with the following (imagined) distribution:

♠ K Q J 8 6
♥ 10 6 4 2
♦ 10 3
♣ J 4

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

♠ 7
♥ A K 7 5
♦ K Q 8 5
♣ A Q 9 7

After winning the spade return, van Prooijen cashed the queen of spades, discarding one card from each minor. Then a club to the ace, the king and queen of diamonds, and a third club, ruffed in the dummy.

Declarer had arrived at this situation (he thought):

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

Van Prooijen played the spade jack from dummy and Brink ruffed with eight of hearts, Van Prooijen underruffing with the five. He enjoyed his endplay until Brink played another club, overruffed by Fu!

The true situation had been:

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

An unbelievable four hearts down one in the end. Very nice defence by Fu - Brink applauded his partner even though it was his national teammate who had been tricked.

This cool defence works best on expert declarers, since it would be difficult for an amateur to find the winning line when trumps really were 4-1, and also because experts are always high on end plays.

NEWS & VIEWS



IBPA in Bali

The WBF will host a dinner for IBPA members in Bali on Monday, 23rd September. The IBPA AGM and annual Awards ceremonies will be held either that morning or the following morning. A formal notice regarding the AGM and Awards will appear later.

WBF President Emeritus

José Damiani was elected President Emeritus of the World Bridge Federation at a recent meeting of the WBF Management Committee held in Milan, with the unanimous ratification of the Executive Council.

The New WBF IMPs-to-VPs Scale

Ron Klinger, Northbridge, NSW

Under the new Victory Point scale adopted by the World Bridge Federation, every IMP counts (very good), but the IMPs vary in ever-decreasing fractions the more one scores. For the 14-board scale used in the NEC Cup, IMPs 1 and 2 were worth 0.33 VPs each, IMPs 3 and 4 were worth 0.31 VPs each, IMP 5 = 0.30 VPs, IMPs 6 and 7 = 0.29 VPs and so on. Unless you memorize the scale, you have no way of checking your Victory Point score without consulting the relevant scale.

Another feature of the new scale is that it tilts the scores heavily in favour of small wins (making overtricks significantly more valuable). Under the former WBF scale, 0-2 IMPs was a draw for 14-board or 16-board matches. On the new scale 2 IMPs = 10.66–9.34 or a difference of 1.32 VPs compared to the draw previously. For 16-board matches, 3-7 IMPs used to be 16-14 in VPs, a difference of 2 VPs. On the new scale 7 IMPs = 12.16–7.84 VPs, a difference of 4.32 VPs, more than double the previous 2-VP difference.

It is very attractive to have every IMP count, but the scale could be greatly simplified and achieve virtually the same result with slightly less emphasis on small wins.

Suppose you want to cut the scale out at a maximum win of, say, 60 IMPs (16-board to 20-board matches). The first 20 IMPs could be scored at 0.25 VP each. Thus a 10-IMP win would be 12.5–7.5 (12.97–7.03 on the current scale) and a 20-IMP win would be 15.0–5.0 (15.26–4.74 on the current scale). It would also lessen the impact slightly for small wins: 2 IMPs = 10.5–9.5 (vs 10.66–9.34), 7 IMPs = 11.75–8.25 (vs 12.16–7.84).

IMPs 2-40 could be at 0.20 VPs each. Thus a 30-IMP win would be 17.0–3.0 (17.04–2.96) and a 40-IMP win = 19.0–1.0 (18.41 –1.59)

IMPs 41-60 could be at 0.05 each.

Or, a slightly more even gradation could be:

IMPs 1-20 at 0.25 VPs each. 10-IMP win = 12.5 – 7.5; 20-IMP win = 15-5

IMPs 21-40 at 0.15 VPs each. 30-IMP win = 16.5 – 3.5; 40-IMP win = 18-2

IMPs 41-60 at 0.10 VPs each. 50-IMP win = 19.1; 60-IMP win = 20-0

If you wanted to cut out at 50 IMPs for a maximum win (12-15 board matches):

IMPs 1-20 at 0.25 VPs each. 20-IMP win = 15-5

IMPs 21-40 at 0.20 VPs each. 40-IMP win = 19-1

IMPs 41-50 at 0.10 VPs each. 50-IMP win = 20-0

If you want to make 40 IMPs a maximum win (8-11 board matches):

IMPs 1-20 at 0.30 VPs each. 20-IMP win = 16-4

IMPs 21-40 at 0.20 VPs each. 30-IMP win = 18-2, 40 IMPs win 20-0.

For 30 IMPs as a maximum win: 3-7 board matches:

IMPs 1-20 at 0.40 VPs each. 20-IMP win = 18-2

IMPs 21-30 at 0.20 VPs each. 30-IMP win = 20-0

For 1 or 2 board matches: 1 IMP = 1 VP up to a maximum of 20 VPs.

I am no mathematician, and those who produced the new WBF scales are, but it does seem attractive to make the WBF scales simple and comprehensible to the average player. The preceding suggestions achieve the aim of having every IMP count and skew the scale less heavily in favour of the small wins. It also makes the scales easier to follow and allows anyone to work out the VPs using simple arithmetic.

Agreed, simpler is better. However, do we need to accept the premise that “Every IMP counts”? I see no intrinsic merit in it. To illustrate why, consider the scoring at bridge from total points to IMPs. There are no decimal IMPs - every IMP has a range of points. A differential in team scores of 10 points even counts as 0 IMPs. So why is it necessary to make every IMP count? To my mind, having whole Victory Points is a more laudable goal than making every IMP count.

In an era when most jurisdictions are having difficulty attracting new players (especially young ones) to the game, we should be doing all we can to simplify scoring, not complicate it. Moves such as this to decimal scoring reduce the accessibility of the game to the uninitiated. A better move would have been to make every IMP worth one Victory Point or to make every board a point. Decimal Victory Points are an abomination! What is next on this continuum - making every point count for decimal IMPs? - Ed.



Correspondence

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Hi John,

Not surprisingly, I found the topic of the editorial of this month's IBPA bulletin to be my team's appeal against Monaco during the recent Vanderbilt in St. Louis. As you no doubt know, this appeal has been avidly discussed in online forums and in mailing groups. There are always two sides to every story and it is only natural that there are differing views on a case like that. However, what has been upsetting to me is that nobody seems to present the facts correctly. Sadly, your editorial is no exception.

1) "The crux of the matter was misinformation on one side of the screen (from dummy Tor Helness to defender Roy Welland)"

The dummy was Geir Helgemo. It doesn't make a difference for the case, but I mention this to point out that one shouldn't always believe everything one has read or heard somewhere.

2) "The defenders appealed, based on the fact that Welland might have led a different suit given the correct information."

That is not correct. We appealed based on the defensive aspects. The director never made a ruling on those aspects when we brought them up. It is possible that the half time score of 93-11 had something to do with that.

3) "(a.) award an either-or score in a situation that is touch-and-go one way or the other (the committee decision was split 3-2 and reportedly took a very long time)"

I have not seen any official report stating the committee decision was split 3-2. Also it is my understanding that this kind of information is not supposed to be public.

4) "(b.) allow an argument only uncovered after due deliberation and discussion with teammates hours after the appeal had been lodged?"

After the appeal was lodged we had to play 32 more boards. When, after those boards, we had reduced the deficit to an amount that the appeal would matter, we had to go to the screening room and then the appeals room. So there was no time for hours of deliberation. And actually it didn't take any time to present the argument that because of the misinformation Roy's defense was geared to ensure beating the hand that had been explained to him instead of the one that actually existed.

All the best, Sabine Auken, Charlottenlund, Denmark

As I replied to Sabine, the information I presented which provoked her points 1), 2) and 4) came directly from the official Appeals Committee report published in the ACBL's Daily Bulletin a few days after the appeal. It was true, I admitted, that I did have inside information on point 3). - Ed.

Hello John,

I read your editorial and could not find anything to disagree with. Indeed, a weighted score by the Tournament Director would probably not have been appealed, or if it had, only changed a small bit.

However, you have made a mistake in your first paragraph. Although the example of awarding 50% of 3NT made and 50% of 3NT down one is a very good one, you should not express that as plus 225. Instead, both scores need to go through the normal calculating process, whatever that is, and only the results will be averaged according to the weights.

If it were teams, for instance, the plus 400 and the minus 50 would be compared separately to the result at the other table. If that result is plus 120, the two scores would yield plus 7 and minus 5 IMPs respectively. Thus the final result would be the average of those two, or plus 1 IMP.

Regards, Herman De Wael, Wilrijk, Belgium

P.S.: Incidentally, your calculation of plus 225 was wrong as well, it should have been plus 175 (50% of plus 400 and 50% of minus 50).

Oops. Allan Falk also pointed out that error. It was a rather silly mistake. And to think I did so well at maths in school! - Ed.

John,

A couple of comments:

1. You state that, in the WBF, "appeals are discouraged". I do not think it any part of the WBF's remit to discourage players from exercising a right available to them per the Laws of the game. I note from the discussions relating to the Vanderbilt appeal that, per Sabine Auken, there will not be an appeals committee at the European Championships at Ostend. This presumably means that the director in charge will personally hear all appeals (this is the procedure provided in the Laws when there is no appeals committee). He might be a busy man!

2.The heading to Bill Pencharz's letter is "Vice is Nice", presumably implying that the end position shown is a vice squeeze. I do not claim to be an expert on terminological issues, but it looks more like a common or garden-variety double trump squeeze to me.

Best wishes, Richard Fleet, Berkhamsted, UK

While it may not be part of the WBF's remit to discourage appeals, in practice, the TDs do so. On this, I speak from personal experience. - Ed.

Dear John,

The ACBL Laws Commission has been earnestly discussing the ruling in question since it was made with, predictably, some seeing the outcome as well within the Appeals Committee's purview and others feeling that the defense made so many errors, and had such flawed methods, that the table result should have stood. An emerging trend is re-examining ACBL's choice under Law 12C1(e) not to use the weighted method adopted by the EBL under Law 12C1(c). But your editorial is a bit off the mark in describing the ACBL policy as "all or nothing"; Law 12C1(e) provides that the score to be assigned "is the most favorable result that was likely had the irregularity not occurred."

Additionally, because there are no "real world" scores that end in 5, calculating the IMP result can be problematic, so the EBL method is not without its problems and complications; it is only because the EBL method effectively always splits the baby in half, leaving both sides both satisfied and dissatisfied, that gives the appearance its method is somehow superior.

I also must take issue with the complaint that there should not be two different systems between ACBL and the EBL or WBF. One way a sport grows is by experimenting with small rules changes; some changes improve the game, some changes prove improvident and are quickly abandoned. So having the ACBL and the EBL use slightly different methods for adjudicating and resolving disputes should be regarded as experimental, a positive thing in what should be a never-ending effort to improve our game and increase its popularity.

Had I been on the Appeals Committee, I might not have agreed with their evaluation, but it is not facially absurd or beyond the bounds of reasonableness; I note that the Chair of the committee is an international player with multiple North American Championships to his credit, a member of the ACBL Laws Commission, and has served on NABC Appeals Committees for at least two decades. Additionally, the Monaco players could have been more proactive in clarifying their bidding before the opening lead was made to eliminate the possible effect of misinformation.

I'm generally in favor of abolishing appeals committees, because over the years they seem, in the ACBL, to have done less than exemplary work. On the other hand, in the ACBL, our board of directors has been micro-managing everything for many decades, and there are indications that the poohbahs get favorable treatment from the tournament directors, whose jobs and promotions depend on the good graces of the BOD members (and, by extension, their friends and associates).

So while as usual I applaud your editorial for provoking thought and discussion, this is one of the rare occasions when I must suggest that there are other sides to the coin that may have the better of the argument.

Regards, Allan Falk, Okemos, MI



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World Bridge Calendar

DATES	EVENT	LOCATION	INFORMATION
2013			
May 3-16	Festival International d'Antibes	Juan-les-Pins, France	www.festivalsdusoleil.com
May 5-12	African Zonal Championships	Saint-Denis de la Réunion	www.district-bridge-reunion.fr
May 8-10	International German Teams Trophy	Bad Godesberg, Germany	www.bridge-verband.de
May 11	Bonn Cup (Pairs)	Bad Godesberg, Germany	www.bridge-verband.de
May 11-12	Baltic Cup	Riga, Latvia	www.balticbridge.org
May 14-19	Grand Prix of Portugal	Estoril, Portugal	www.fpbridge.com
May 17-26	27 th CACBF & 1st Int'l Open Festival	Playa Blanca, Panama	www.cacbf.com
May 20-26	XXVI Torneo Costa Calida	Murcia, Spain	www.aebridge.com
May 24-26	Kuching Congress	Kuching, E Malaysia, Borneo	www.bridgewebs.com/kuching
May 24-26	34 th Oder River Blue Ribbon Meeting	Wroclaw, Poland	www.dzbs.com.pl
May 25-Jun 1	LXIII South American Championships	Mangaratiba RJ, Brazil	www.confsudbridge.org
May 25-Jun 1	Canadian Trials	Markham, ON	www.cbf.ca
May 30-Jun 2	53 rd Poznan Bridge Congress	Poznan, Poland	www.kongresbrydz.wlkp.pl
May 31-Jun 8	USBF Open Trials	Orlando, FL	www.usbf.org
Jun 4-11	BFAME Trials	Ahmedabad, Gujarat, India	www.bfameindia.webs.com
Jun 6-9	Midsummer Bridge Tournament	Helsinki, Finland	www.bridge.fi
Jun 7 & 8	WBFWORLD Wide Bridge Contest	Clubs Everywhere	www.ecatsbridge.com
Jun 7-16	49 th APBF Championships	Hong Kong, China	www.hkcba.org
Jun 9-16	15 th German Bridge Festival	Wyk / Fohr, Germany	www.bridge-verband.de
Jun 15-29	Open European Championships	Ostend, Belgium	www.eurobridge.org
Jun 28-Jul 10	International Festival of Bridge	Biarritz, France	www.biarritz-bridge.com
Jul 5-14	56 th Slawa Bridge Congress	Slawa, Poland	www.kongres-slawa.pl
Jul 10-14	Salzkammergut Bridge Days	Gmunden, Austria	www.bridgeaustria.at
Jul 11-20	24 th European Youth Teams	Wroclaw, Poland	www.eurobridge.org
Jul 11-28	Czech Open	Pardubice, Czech Republic	www.czopen.net
Jul 12-19	USBF Women's & Senior Trials	Orlando, FL	www.usbf.org
Jul 15-28	Deauville Bridge Festival	Deauville, France	www.deauville-bridge.fr
Jul 17-30	19 th Maccabi Games	Jerusalem, Israel	www.maccabiah.com
Jul 19-27	53 rd Baltic Bridge Congress	Sopot, Poland	www.bridge.gda.pl/mkb
Jul 26-Aug 4	19 th Swedish Bridgefestival	Örebro, Sweden	www.svenskbridge.se/festival
Jul 27-Aug 1	Chairman's Cup	Örebro, Sweden	www.svenskbridge.se/festival
Aug 1-11	Summer NABC	Atlanta, GA	www.acbl.org
Aug 3-11	World Youth Championships	Atlanta, GA	www.worldbridge.org
Aug 4-9	Wachauer Bridge Week	Mautern, Austria	www.bridgeaustria.at
Aug 9-18	Summer Meeting	Brighton, England	www.ebu.co.uk
Aug 9-18	23 rd Solidarity Bridge Festival	Slupsk, Poland	www.bridgefestival.hg.pl
Aug 19 & 21	WBFB Pairs to Support Youth Bridge	Clubs Everywhere	www.worldbridge.org
Aug 23-Sep 1	41 st Grand Prix of Warsaw	Warsaw, Poland	www.warsbrydz.pl
Aug 24-Sep 1	37 th International Festival	La Grande-Motte, France	www.festivalsdusoleil.com
Sep 1-8	8 th Greek Islands Festival	Rhodes, Greece	www.bridgefestival.gr
Sep 6-8	Isle of Man Congress	Douglas, Isle of Man	www.ebu.co.uk
Sep 7-15	52 nd International Festival	Pula, Croatia	tihana@pilar.hr
Sep 16-29	41st World Team Championships	Bali, Indonesia	www.worldbridge.org
Sep 20-29	Guernsey Congress	Guernsey, Channel Islands	www.ebu.co.uk
Sep 23-28	9th Transnational Teams	Bali, Indonesia	www.worldbridge.org
Sep 24-26	6 th European Small Federations Games	Kosice, Slovakia	www.esfg2013.bridgeclub.sk
Sep 28-Oct 5	30 th New Zealand National Congress	Hamilton, New Zealand	www.nzcba.co.nz
Sep 30-Oct 6	3 rd European University Championships	Kraljevica, Croatia	www.bridge2013.uniri.hr
Oct 9-15	EBU Overseas Congress	Lake Garda Italy	www.ebu.co.uk
Oct 17-19	25 th International Teams Tournament	Monte Carlo, Monaco	www.cavendishmonaco.com
Oct 20-25	Beijing Hua Cup	Beijing, China	www.worldbridge.org
Oct 21 & 23	WBFB Pairs to Support Youth Bridge	Clubs Everywhere	www.worldbridge.org
Oct 21-25	Cavendish Invitational	Monte Carlo, Monaco	www.cavendishmonaco.com
Oct 30-Nov 3	Festival de Bridge d'Avignon	Avignon, France	www.festivalsdusoleil.com
Nv 14-17	12 th European Champions Cup	Opatija, Croatia	www.eurobridge.org
Nov 28-Dec 8	Fall NABC	Phoenix, AZ	www.acbl.org
Dec 13-15	Città di Milano Internazionale Squadre	Milan, Italy	www.federbridge.it
Dec 16 & 18	WBFB Pairs to Support Youth Bridge	Clubs Everywhere	www.worldbridge.org
2014			
Jan 20-25	WBFB Pairs for UNICEF	Clubs Everywhere	www.worldbridge.org
Feb 26-Mar 2	International Festival	Cannes, France	www.festivalsdusoleil.com
Mar 20-30	Spring NABC	Dallas, TX	www.acbl.org
Jul 17-27	Summer NABC	Las Vegas, NV	www.acbl.org
Nov 27-Dec 7	Fall NABC	Providence, RI	www.acbl.org