



BULLETIN

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This Bulletin is published monthly and circulated to around 400 members of the International Bridge Press Association comprising the world's leading journalists, authors and editors of news, books and articles about contract bridge, with an estimated readership of some 200 million people who enjoy the most widely played of all card games.

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Editorial

From a distance, it is sometimes difficult to understand the reasoning behind legislation and/or regulations. Such is the case with the following from the WBF website:

"Participation in the Bermuda Bowl and Venice Cup

Only NBOs participating in the World Bridge Games (incorporated in the 2nd World Mind Sport Games) are eligible to qualify to participate in the Bermuda Bowl and Venice Cup Championships held in either of the two subsequent odd-numbered years; in each case, an Open Team must participate in the Games in order to be eligible for the Bermuda Bowl and a Women's team must participate to be eligible for the Venice Cup. Thus if an Open Team from an NBO did not participate in the 2012 Bridge Games then that NBO would not be eligible to participate in the Bermuda Bowl in either 2013 or 2015."

The regulation then goes on to state that eligibility may be restored for 2015 (for example) by the NBO's participation in the 2014 Rosenblum Cup/McConnell Cup/Open Pairs at the World Bridge Series.

One can understand the desire of the WBF to have as many countries as possible compete in the World Bridge Games (formerly the Olympiad). However, questions arise: (i) Is the regulation designed to encourage participation or to punish recalcitrance? (ii) Why should participation in the WBG be tied to eligibility for the BB/VC anyway? (iii) Is the ill will created by this regulation worth the cost? (iv) Does the regulation accomplish its avowed goal? (v) Is there a better way to encourage participation?

If punishment is the goal, it is a goal uncharacteristic of the new WBF administration. In the recent Zone 5 (CACBF) Trials, Jamaica defeated Guadeloupe in the Women's National Teams, but was declared ineligible for Bali for failing to send a team to the WBG in Lille last year. Thus, the more financially-secure Guadeloupe will benefit from Jamaica's ineligibility. Furthermore, this is not the first time this has happened to a team from Zone 5 (it also happened once each in Zone 3, South America and Zone 8, Africa), so the penalty has not apparently acted as encouragement to compete. In the case of the Jamaican women, a potential once-in-a-lifetime experience has been derailed.

As for the other questions, the answers seem to be: (ii) It is (dubiously) believed to encourage participation, (iii) The WBF seems not to be concerned about ill will, (iv) It does not accomplish its goal. As for (v), wouldn't it be better to (a) get rid of this unfair regulation and (b) help teams from the poorer Zones to attend the World Bridge Games rather than punish them for financial distress, which is certainly the main reason (perhaps the only reason) for non-attendance? This could best be done by subsidizing the NBO or the players directly to the extent of lower entry fees, lower hotel rates and so on, or even by helping them acquire sponsors. Have someone from the WBF Executive speak to the administrators in the non-attending NBOs to offer encouragement and find out why they are not attending.

Looking at participation numbers (by number of countries attending) in the Olympiad/WBG, from 1960 to 2008, participation by nation rose steadily, in the Open Teams from 25 to 71 and in the Women's Teams from 14 to 43. The Seniors began in 2000 and attendance has increased each time, from 24 to 32. Two thousand and twelve witnessed the first significant dip in participation in the 52 intervening years. In Zone 5, only Guadeloupe regularly sends teams to the Olympiad/WBG in all three categories. It is a similar picture in Zones 3 (SA), 4 (BFAME), 7 (Oceania) and 8 (Africa) where only Argentina, Brasil, Pakistan, India, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa and Egypt regularly send teams in all three categories. It's only a matter of time before another similar situation occurs there.

Instead of preventing nations from participating in the World Bridge Championships, let's work on more effective ways of expanding the roster so all may attend.

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IBPA Master Point Press Book of the Year Shortlist

We have five strong candidates for the IBPA's Master Point Press Book of the Year. Here they are, with either publisher/author blurbs or book reviews (McKinnon, from Jeff Rubens of *The Bridge World*).

Winning Suit Contract Leads - David Bird & Taf Anthias

The authors' previous work, *Winning Notrump Leads*, was a ground-breaking and very well-received book that used the power of computers to determine which opening leads work best against a variety of auctions at notrump. Using enhanced software, the authors now turn their attention to suit contracts. They generate millions of random deals, retaining those that match the chosen auction, for example one spade-two spades-four spades. By playing these deals automatically against each of the 13 possible opening leads from a given hand, they are able to discover which lead is most likely to beat the contract (also the best lead at matchpoint pairs). The authors provide insightful commentary to each result, answering timeless questions such as: When should I lead a trump? When is a doubleton a good opening lead? Should I lead differently against a partscore? Should I make an aggressive or a passive lead? Should I lead an ace against a small slam? Which leads work best against a grand slam? By using the number-crunching computer power available nowadays, there is no longer any need to rely on general opening-lead guidelines passed down by our ancestors. We think you will be surprised by many of the discoveries made during this investigation!

David Bird and Taf Anthias were contemporaries at Cambridge University, both reading mathematics. They carried out research and development on software systems for over 30 years at IBM's UK Laboratories. In the 1970s they formed a successful bridge partnership, winning a number of national events. David is now one of the world's top bridge writers with 116 books to his name. Taf moved on to the USA, where he became a vice president of Cisco Systems. They have again joined forces on this ground-breaking book.

Fantunes Revealed - Bill Jacobs

Not since the introduction of Precision has a new bidding system created such an immediate impact as Fantunes, the unique methods of Fulvio Fantoni and Claudio Nunes, the world's number-one-ranked pair. The Italians have several world championship wins to their name, and their system has played a major role in that success. This book delves into the system, explaining how it works and just as importantly, why it works. Two words best describe Fantunes: natural and fun. It is the definitive text for those who would like to try an innovative and proven new bidding system.

Bill Jacobs has won many Australian national championships, the most recent three playing Fantunes, and has twice represented his country at the Open level. He regularly provides astute vugraph commentary on Bridge Base Online. For the last ten years, he has been editor of the monthly bulletin of the Victorian Bridge Association.

Bridge Philosopher 3 - James S. Kauder

He's back! That old curmudgeon, the Bridge Philosopher, is back for a third try at explaining the art of dummy play. He claims that he is losing his memory, but he hasn't lost his ability to reason or to analyze a bridge hand in an instant. And, as usual, he has cogent (often biting) comments to make about the sad state of affairs in the world at large: the rising cost of living; unfunded Social Security liabilities; dysfunctional political parties. He unashamedly (in fact, somewhat proudly) admits to personal weaknesses of one sort or another: diet; neatness; relationship issues; and all around dissatisfaction with the world. Learn a little; laugh a lot. He isn't the only one who isn't getting any younger. James S. Kauder is an expert bridge player and humorous author who explains his reasoning for adopting one line of play over another to improve the reader's skills. This book contains 60 new bridge hands, new stories, and a serious dose of his unique humor. If you're an avid bridge player and enjoy a great read, this is a great book for you.

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For the first time, Zone 5 combined an Open Transnational tournament with their National Team Trials (for Bali). This year the event was in Panama.

In the Trials portion of the tournament, the winners were:

Open Teams: Guadeloupe - René Aragoñes, Dominique Guérin, Alain Kempzenski, Dimitri Lasserre, Philippe Mathieu, Jean-Claude Pelletier

Women's Teams: Jamaica - Carol Coore, Rose Marie Mahfood, Felicity Moore, Elizabeth Williams

Senior Teams: Guadeloupe - Michele Aragoñes, Christine Baert, Nicole Gire, Annie Tracol

In the Transnational tournament, the winners of the Open Pairs were Connie and Jim McAvoy, from Victoria, BC, Canada; the Open Teams was won by Mike Levine, Dennis and Linda McGarry, Russ Ekeblad (all of the USA) and Louk Verhees of The Netherlands.

There were interesting twists along the way. In the Open Team Trails, Guadeloupe beat Costa Rica by 4 IMPs in the final - their carryover was 12 IMPs. In the Women's Trials, Jamaica beat Guadeloupe in the final, but because they did not send a team to Lille, they were disqualified and Guadeloupe will represent the zone. The Senior Trails was uneventful.

Dealer East. NS Vul.

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

♠ A 4
 ♥ 6 4 2
 ♦ A K 9 7 5
 ♣ A Q 10

♠ 10 9
 ♥ A Q 8 7
 ♦ J 3 2
 ♣ 7 5 4 3

♠ K J 5 2
 ♥ 9
 ♦ Q 10 8 6 4
 ♣ 9 8 2

West	North	East	South
Saiz Rojas	Guérin	Pellegrini	Mathieu
—	—	Pass	Pass
INT	2♣ ¹	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♠	Pass	Pass
Double	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. Both majors

Against four spades doubled, West led a top diamond, ruffed in dummy. Declarer led a spade to the jack and ace and West fired back the two of hearts, low from dummy. East won with the queen and instantly returned a low heart.

With the favourable club layout, declarer has no problem, but he doesn't know that. Carlos Pellegrini's heart return was devilish and the best he could do. Who had the ace of hearts? Philippe Mathieu was at the crossroads. He finally pitched a club, winning the heart in dummy, played a spade to his king and played a club. West won the ace of clubs, but declarer had plain sailing for ten tricks.

When Peter Fredin pays credit to another player, you can be sure that some exceptional play was demonstrated. It was about board 22, last session, A finals Open Pairs, with Felicity 'Felix' Moore (Jamaica) declaring three notrump.

Dealer West. EW Vul.

♠ 10 2
 ♥ 9 2
 ♦ Q J 9 8
 ♣ A J 7 4 2

♠ K 6 3
 ♥ Q J 5
 ♦ K 7 5
 ♣ Q 10 6 5

♠ J 8 7 5
 ♥ 10 8 7 6 4
 ♦ 3 2
 ♣ K 3

♠ A Q 9 4
 ♥ A K 3
 ♦ A 10 6 4
 ♣ 9 8

West	North	East	South
Fredin	Mahfood	Gottlieb	Moore
Pass	Pass	Pass	INT
Pass	2♣ ¹	Pass	2♠
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. Doesn't guarantee a major

Fredin as West kicked off with the queen of hearts to which East contributed the eight, encouraging. Declarer ducked, took the jack of hearts with the ace at the next trick and then advanced the nine of clubs. West thought for a while and then produced the queen, ducked(!) by Moore. Fredin persisted in hearts. Moore's king won the trick; she discarded the eight of diamonds from dummy.

Declarer continued by playing a club to the ... ace(!) and was not surprised to see the drop of the king from East. Moore ran the queen of diamonds (unblocking the ten) to West's king, won the diamond return with dummy's jack and cashed the nine of diamonds. East followed twice in diamonds and pitched a spade on the third round. This position had been reached:

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

The rest was merely technique for Moore. Obviously West had no hearts left. So declarer finished her masterpiece by playing the jack of clubs and another club. Fredin was endplayed. A brilliant nine tricks for Felicity Moore.

There were other declarers who made three notrump, but on a softer defence.

The Guadeloupe Open team had won all seven of its matches when, in the match against Bermuda, Jean-Claude Pelletier grabbed the opportunity to shine in a delicate three notrump. But he had to work hard for it, even after the board was over.

Guadeloupe v. Bermuda. Round 7. Board 3. Dealer West. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Hoskins</i>	<i>Guérin</i>	<i>Way</i>	<i>Pelletier</i>
1♦	Double	Pass	INT
Pass	3NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

West led the queen of spades, won with the ace. Declarer had seven certain tricks and led the nine of hearts, covered by the ten, to the ace. Next came a heart to West's queen, and that player cashed the king of hearts as well, then exited with the fourth heart to dummy's Jack. That was the eighth trick for declarer.

Declarer cashed his clubs and West had no good discard on the fourth. If he got rid of a spade declarer would have played the king of spades and another spade and West would have been endplayed to lead away from the ace of diamonds. In real life, West bared

his ace of diamonds, so declarer continued with the spade three to the ten. West won with the jack of spades and cashed his ace of diamonds, but then had to lead from his eight-five of spades into dummy's king-seven.

As soon as the board was over, East called for the Tournament Director. She had only twelve cards. Upon investigation, the six of spades was discovered to be missing and was found at the next table. The TD ruled that the missing card had no relevance to the play and the result therefore remained unchanged.

From the Transnational Teams, Gonzalo Goded spotted an interesting textbook play necessary to land a slam. This was his problem:

Dealer South. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
—	<i>Carrera</i>	—	<i>Goded</i>
—	—	—	1♣
3♦	Double	Pass	3♥
Pass	4♦ ¹	Pass	4♥
Pass	4NT ²	Pass	5♣ ³
Pass	5♦ ⁴	Pass	6♦ ⁵
Pass	6♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			
	1. Cue bid		
	2. RKCB 1430		
	3. 1 or 4 key cards		
	4. ♥Q ask		
	5. ♥Q and ♦K		

When North, Jaime Carrera, asked for the trump queen, he hoped to hear six clubs rather than six diamonds, showing the king of clubs and the trump queen. Then there would be room for a six-diamond grand slam try.

Against six hearts, West led the diamond queen which Goded won in hand with the king. Declarer drew four rounds of trumps; they were divided 4-1, East having four and West pitching diamonds. Declarer then played the queen of spades, a spade to the ace and a club to the nine, won by West's king (East followed with the five). West exited with a diamond to dummy's ace, East pitching a spade. This position had been reached:

♠ K
 ♥ —
 ♦ —
 ♣ 10 7 4

♠ J
 ♥ —
 ♦ J 8 7
 ♣ —

♠ 9 5
 ♥ —
 ♦ —
 ♣ Q 8

♠ —
 ♥ —
 ♦ —
 ♣ A J 6 3

The question is whether to finesse again in clubs or play West for the king-queen bare. Gonzalo Goded rightfully cashed first king of spades to which West contributed the jack.

Declarer then knew West's exact distribution: one heart, eight diamonds and three spades. That left room for only one club. Therefore Goded confidently took another club finesse, claiming twelve tricks.



The 50th United Jewish Appeal-Federation of New York's Women's Philanthropy bridge Pro-Am was played on May 21 at the Harmonie Club in Manhattan. Honouring Tubby Stayman and chaired by Marci Miron and Nancy Brown, it raised over \$150,000. The Pro-Am is the world's most successful single-session charity bridge game. It was started 49 years ago by Tubby and Sam Stayman and Victor Mitchell.

Dealer East. Neither Vul.

♠ A J 5 3
 ♥ K J
 ♦ K 10 8
 ♣ J 9 3 2

♠ 9
 ♥ 9 8 5 4 3
 ♦ J 7 5 3
 ♣ A Q 7

♠ Q 6 4
 ♥ A Q 10 6
 ♦ A 9 2
 ♣ 10 6 4

♠ K 10 8 7 2
 ♥ 7 2
 ♦ Q 6 4
 ♣ K 8 5

West	North	East	South
—	—	1♣	1♠
Double	2♣ ¹	2♥	2♠
3♥	3♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

1. Spade support, at least invitational

The winners this year were Melih Özdil and Sharon Goldman, who finished less than one matchpoint ahead of Kent Mignocchi and Beverly Perry (all of New York City). Third were Steve Becker of Old Greenwich, Conn., and Cordelia Menges of New York City.

The winners did well in the diagrammed deal. West led the heart three, lowest from an odd number. East took dummy's jack with her queen, cashed the heart ace and shifted to the club four. West won with his queen, cashed the ace and played a third round to declarer's king. How did Özdil (South) continue?

When East turned up with only three clubs, declarer knew that she had started with either 3=4=3=3 or 4=4=2=3 distribution. So South led a spade to dummy's ace, then took the marked spade finesse. After drawing East's last trump, declarer conceded a diamond trick. He did not need West to have the jack, because he could discard a diamond from his hand on the club jack, getting to the dummy with a spade to the jack.

Minus 50 was a tied top because East-West made a heart partscore at most of the other tables. Use the bidding and play to build up pictures of the unseen hands.

The next deal was sent to me by Marin Marinov of New York City (West). Judith Breidbart of New York City (South) was in three notrump. West led the diamond queen. How did Breidbart play?

Dealer South. NS Vul.

♠ K J 4
 ♥ Q J 9 7 6 3
 ♦ 10 5
 ♣ 4 3

♠ 10 7 2
 ♥ K 2
 ♦ Q J 9 8 7 4
 ♣ Q 6

♠ 8 5 3
 ♥ 8 5 4
 ♦ 6 3
 ♣ A K J 9 5

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

West	North	East	South
—	—	—	INT
3♦	3♥	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

After South opened one notrump, 15 to 17 points, West traded on the favourable vulnerability to make a wafer-thin three-diamond weak jump overcall. Then

Peter Steinman of New York City (North) responded with a forcing three hearts and passed South's conversion to three no-trump. (Some Norths would have responded four diamonds, a Texas transfer to hearts, or, if not using Texas, jumped to four hearts.)

Four hearts by North would have lost two clubs and one heart for plus 620, East having an easy club-ace opening lead. Four hearts by South could have suffered the same fate, but West might not have found the club shift quickly enough, perhaps permitting South to score plus 680.

Three notrump was in jeopardy. However, Breidbart realized that West surely had the heart king. And so as not to advertise her strength in spades, she won the first trick with the diamond king and led the heart ten from her hand!

Let's move into the West seat. He could see exactly what was going to happen. His partner, Lillian Dulken of New York City, was going to win with her heart ace and return a diamond. Then, when West got in with the heart king, he would run the diamonds for down two. So he played low smoothly.

It did not quite work out as West anticipated. When the heart ten held, South cashed her heart ace to drop West's king and took 12 tricks: four spades, six hearts and two diamonds.

That was a great piece of declarer play and plus 690 was a cold top.

Note that if at trick two South had led a spade to dummy's king (or, worse, the jack) and taken the heart finesse, West would have had no trouble in finding the club shift. South would have been marked with the spade ace, heart ace and diamond ace-king, so could not have had a high club. (If East had the heart ace, she would have won the heart lead from the dummy to return her second diamond, hoping that West had a timely entry once his suit was established.)

An expert declarer tries to anticipate how a defender will play. He also attempts to take advantage of the power of the unseen hand - his.



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After an exciting finish, the Australian National Open Teams title went to Andy Braithwaite-Ian Robinson, Jamie Ebery-Leigh Gold by 121 IMPs to 119 against Julia Hoffman-Chris Quail, Neil Ewart-Michael Smart.

Try this problem from the Qualifying Round 3:

Board 5. Dealer East. EW Vul.

♠ A 7 6 3
 ♥ A J 9 3
 ♦ A J 2
 ♣ K Q

♠ K 10
 ♥ 10
 ♦ K 10 7 5 4
 ♣ 7 6 5 3 2

West	North	East	South
—	—	Pass	2♠!
Pass	4♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

1. Weak two, 5+ spades

West leads the king of hearts: ace, ten, two. Declarer plays the ace of spades: ten, two, nine, followed by the three of spades: king, four, heart four (suit-preference for clubs). What would you play as East at trick four? Here is the full deal:

♠ A 7 6 3
 ♥ A J 9 3
 ♦ A J 2
 ♣ K Q

♠ 9
 ♥ K Q 8 7 4
 ♦ Q 9
 ♣ A J 9 8 4

♠ K 10
 ♥ 10
 ♦ K 10 7 5 4
 ♣ 7 6 5 3 2

♠ Q J 8 5 4 2
 ♥ 6 5 2
 ♦ 8 6 3
 ♣ 10

The popular spot was four spades, which was reached 32 times. The results were plus 420 x 10, minus 50 x 20 and minus 100 x 2. Ten East/West pairs bid to five clubs and were doubled for minus 500, not a good result when the defence can defeat four spades.

In the auction at the start of the column, South has a featherweight two-spade opening, but at favourable vulnerability, players are prepared to shade their openings considerably. West led the king of hearts, won by dummy's ace. After the ace of spades and another to the king, East could have defeated four spades by switching to a low diamond. That wasn't clear, however, as South might easily have had the queen of diamonds.

Given West's request for a club switch, East should certainly play a club, but which one? Since it makes no sense to request a club continuation, East should send a suit-preference message. The two, the lowest club, asks for a diamond switch and that is what East should return. West wins and switches to a diamond and the defence collects a trick in each suit for plus 50.

Do you think West would do anything other than switch to a diamond, no matter which club you return?

From West's perspective, South could have the king of diamonds and only five spades. In that case, after taking the ace of clubs, West can play the king of hearts and give East a heart ruff for one down.

Given that the two-spade opening could be based on a five-card suit, that is a possible layout. If that did exist, East should return the seven of clubs, highest card, asking for a heart continuation rather than simply lack of interest in clubs. The latter is obvious. With no interest in clubs or hearts in some other layout, East should return a middling club.



The England Open Teams Championship for the Crockford's Cup ended in a tie, split in favour of Paul Hackett (Tom Hanlon, Ian Panto, Peter Lester, Hugh McGann) against Nick Irens (Zia Mahmood, David Bakhshi, Tom Townsend, Espen Erichsen). 140 teams entered.

This combined defence by Paul Hackett and Tom Hanlon, a candidate for IBPA's Gidwani Family Trust Defence of the Year, therefore proved crucial.

Board 13. Dealer North. Both Vul.

♠ Q 8			
♥ Q 8 7 6 4			
♦ J 10 9 4			
♣ K 10			
♠ A J 7 6 3		♠ K 10 9 4	
♥ K 3		♥ J 9 5	
♦ A		♦ K 6 5	
♣ A 9 8 3 2		♣ 6 5 4	
♠ 5 2			
♥ A 10 2			
♦ Q 8 7 3 2			
♣ Q J 7			
West	North	East	South
<i>Collin</i>	<i>Hackett</i>	<i>Oliver</i>	<i>Hanlon</i>
—	Pass	Pass	Pass
1♣	Pass	1♠	Pass
4♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

At the tables where West opened one spade, he became declarer and the game could not be beaten. Declarer won the usual diamond lead, drew trumps and ditched a heart on the diamond king.

At this table, East was declarer and, with a clue from West's failure to splinter, Hanlon, South, found the dramatic opening lead of a small heart! Declarer, of

course, played low from dummy. The queen won and a heart was returned to the ace. Now Hanlon stuck declarer in dummy with a diamond.

Envisaging an endplay, declarer next cashed the club ace. Hackett promptly dropped the king under the ace, ending declarer's hopes. If North fails to unblock, declarer succeeds by drawing trumps ending in the East hand, cashing the heart jack, eliminating the diamonds with the king and a ruff, and then exiting with a club to force North into conceding a ruff and discard.



The "German Bridge Trophy" in Bonn is a very good and well-organized event but, unfortunately, a number of the strong teams were missing this year. The Danish Senior Team was participating as a warm-up for Bali, and the four well-known Danish internationals, Peter Schaltz, Steen Møller, H. C. Nielsen and Knud-Åge Boesgård, won convincingly. After 12 Rounds of Swiss team play, Denmark scored 139.75 ahead of BK Praha 130.61 and the German team Ribery 130.

The penultimate round had two spectacular slams. What is your choice, first in hand, non-vulnerable against vulnerable, holding the following hand?

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

While you're thinking about that, here is the other slam deal ...

Two Losers, but 12 Tricks

Board 14. Dealer East. Neither Vul.

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

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IBPA Column Service

Tim Bourke, Canberra

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

665. Dealer West. Both Vul.

<p>♠ K Q ♥ — ♦ A J 10 9 5 ♣ Q 10 8 7 5 2</p> <p>♠ 8 5 4 2 ♥ K Q J 10 9 4 ♦ 7 ♣ 4 3</p> <p>♠ A 3 ♥ A 8 7 6 5 3 ♦ K Q 4 3 ♣ A</p>	<p>♠ J 10 9 7 6 ♥ 2 ♦ 8 6 2 ♣ K J 9 6</p>
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West	North	East	South
2♥	4NT	Pass	7♦
Pass	Pass	Pass	

North's overcall promised length in both minors and South went with the odds that it was his partner rather than East who had the void in hearts.

West led the king of hearts against this enterprising bidding. Dummy was somewhat of a disappointment in the club department but at least it had the trump ace! Nonetheless, declarer saw that he would have to set up the clubs if he were to make his contract. He realised that if clubs were 3-3 or the king of clubs were doubleton then almost any plan would work. Declarer looked to protect against someone having four clubs to the king with trumps 3-1; then, in order to set up the clubs, he would need four entries to the table - in that case, two of them had to be in spades.

So, declarer discarded the queen of spades from dummy at trick one and took the first trick with the ace of hearts. After cashing the ace of clubs, declarer played a low trump to dummy's nine then ruffed a club low, and heaved an inward sigh of relief when neither minor suit broke very badly.

Declarer's second entry to dummy was via a low spade to the king and a second club was ruffed with the queen of trumps. Declarer's third entry to dummy came about by ruffing the ace of spades with dummy's five of trumps and a third club was ruffed with the king of trumps, thereby setting up two good clubs in dummy.

All that remained was to ruff a heart with dummy's ten of trumps, cash both of dummy's remaining high trumps and claim the contract by pointing at the two club winners left in dummy.

666. Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
—	—	—	2NT
Pass	6NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

As one should, West found a passive lead against South's six notrump contract, the nine of diamonds. Declarer counted eleven top tricks and saw that he would need an extra trick from one of the majors. His aim was to combine his chances.

Declarer decided to play on spades first because, if nothing eventuated there, he could still fall back on the finesse in hearts. So, he took the opening lead in dummy with the ace of diamonds and led a low spade towards his hand. The main chance was that East had begun with both the king and queen of spades, when two spade tricks would always be there. When East followed with the six of spades at trick two, declarer played the jack of spades from hand. West took this with the king and exited with a diamond to declarer's queen. Before tackling hearts, declarer cashed the ace of spades in case either of the defenders had a now-singleton queen of spades. His luck was in when it was East who produced the errant honour.

If both players had followed with low cards, declarer's plan was to cash his minor-suit winners before touching hearts.

667. Dealer North. EW Vul.

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

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

North's first rebid promised a good six-card club suit and four-card support for spades. After a couple of cue bids and Roman Key Card Blackwood, South bid the slam in spades once North admitted to one key card.

West decided to lead a passive trump. Declarer saw that he would have to establish the club suit and, to preserve entries, played low from dummy. After winning the trick in hand with his king of trumps, declarer played a club to the ace and ruffed a club. A low trump to dummy's jack revealed the awkward 3-1 break; the contract would have straightforward if they had been 2-2. Declarer drew the last trump with dummy's queen and, then cashed the king of clubs.

When West discarded a heart, prospects for a twelfth trick were decidedly grim. Declarer did not give up, though; he ruffed a club to establish the suit and then led a low heart towards dummy. His luck was in because West started with the queen of hearts and the king of diamonds in addition to his winning ace of hearts. When West exited with the nine of hearts declarer discarded the seven of diamonds from dummy and was pleased to see East follow with a low card. After

winning the trick with the jack of hearts he claimed the rest of the tricks for his contract. East was well-mannered enough not to point out that leading the ace of hearts at trick one followed by a shift to either black suit would have defeated six spades.

668. Dealer East. EW Vul.

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

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

After a simple auction, West led the ten of diamonds. East took this with the jack of diamonds and persisted with the ace of diamonds. Before playing to this trick, declarer had decided that he needed both black suits to be 3-2 as the hand would otherwise be all but unmanageable.

So, after ruffing the second diamond low, declarer played two top trumps, happy that the trump suit had behaved. Then, as he needed a heart trick and to keep trump control of trumps, he led a low heart to the king and ace. After ruffing the king of diamonds with the five of spades, declarer correctly led a low club as a further means of keeping control.

This neutralised the threat of a fourth round of diamonds, which could be ruffed in dummy with the jack of trumps. Then, after crossing back to hand with a club, declarer could draw the last trump and run the club suit for his contract. No other return would hurt declarer as he would be able to draw the last trump and again run the clubs.



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South (Knud-Åge Boesgård) opened one notrump (15-17) and North (H.C. Nielsen) transferred to hearts and went on to six hearts by South.

The lead was the eight of hearts. A spade or a diamond lead dooms the slam, but even on the heart lead Boesgård still had two losers. He won the first trick with the heart queen and followed with the diamond ace and king, pitching a spade from dummy, and the diamond six. West pitched a club, and declarer ruffed in dummy and continued with a club to the ace and another diamond, ruffed in dummy. West discarded a spade, but it would not have helped him to throw a club instead.

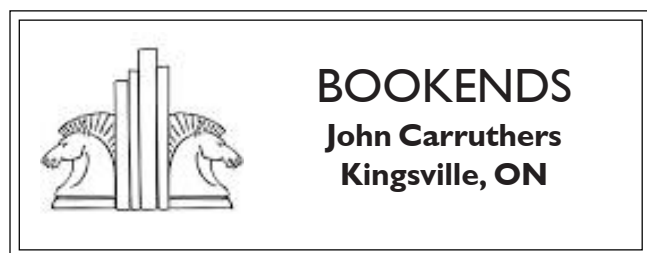
After a heart to the ace and the king and queen of clubs, the nine of clubs was ruffed in hand, leaving this position:

♠ 9 6	♠ A Q	♠ K 10
♥ K	♥ J	♥ —
♦ —	♦ —	♦ Q
♣ —	♣ —	♣ —
	♠ J 3	
	♥ —	
	♦ 9	
	♣ —	

When the nine of diamonds was led, West pitched a spade and declarer ruffed it in the dummy. The ace of spades was cashed and at trick 13 the defence got their 'two' tricks when West ruffed his partner's king of spades! (Earlier spade discards by West would force declarer to cash the spade ace earlier.)

On the hand shown at the beginning of the article, Nielsen opened seven spades! Boesgård could scarcely believe his eyes, looking at:

♠ 8 6 5
♥ Q 2
♦ A Q 10 7 6 3
♣ J 4



After logging in to BBO recently, I was interested to see how Subhash Gupta could be in Chennai and Yokohama simultaneously. Gupta is a very talented guy,

but I didn't think it was possible, even for Guruji. It turned out that he'd booked himself to go to Yokohama on the Indian team before the dates of the Indian Senior Selection Trials (in Chennai) were set. The dates were eventually revealed to be in conflict, so he was off to Chennai instead. The Selection Trials for Bali naturally took precedence.

Gupta's team, India Blues, were down 2 IMPs, 70-68, to the team sponsored by Asgar Paints when they took their seats for the last of three 16-board sets to determine who would advance to the final. This was the opening deal of the third segment:

Board 33. Dealer North. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Ruia</i>	<i>TRK</i>	<i>Sequeira</i>	<i>NRK</i>
—	Pass	1♦	Pass
1♥	Pass	3♦	Pass
6NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

West	North	East	South
<i>Iyengar</i>	<i>JM Shah</i>	<i>Sreekrishnan</i>	<i>Gupta</i>
—	Pass	1♦	Pass
1♥	Pass	2NT ¹	Pass
3NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. A typical three-diamond bid, but with three-card heart support

Ruia's and Iyengar's evaluation of their hand exhibited the widest discrepancy since Henry VIII's and Pope Clement VII's views on divorce. Six notrump is a very good contract that, alas, is doomed to failure due to the unfortunate heart layout. That was a fortunate 11 IMPs to Asgar Paints, now ahead by 13.

Six diamonds is marginally more interesting than six notrump in that it gives declarer a choice. Declarer can run the heart eight and if it loses to the jack, cash the ace and finesse North for the heart king. This play guards against the king-jack doubleton of hearts in North but loses to singleton jack, when the straight double finesse succeeds.

That was one bookend. Before we get to the other, let's examine a delicate play problem faced by JM Shah just a few boards after the failed slam.

Board 37. Dealer North. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Ruia	TRK	Sequeira	NRK
—	2♣ ¹	Pass	2♦ ²
2♠	Pass	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. Natural, 10-15 HCP
2. Relay, asks for range and majors

On the spade lead, declarer won cheaply and led a diamond to the queen and ducked a diamond. That was 11 tricks when West won the ace of diamonds and played the ace and another heart.

West	North	East	South
Iyengar	JM Shah	Sreekrishnan	Gupta
—	1♣	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦ ¹
Pass	3♦	Pass	3♥
Pass	3NT	Pass	Pass
Double	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. Third-suit forcing - in principle natural, but could be contrived

Played from the other side, three notrump was not going to be so easy. It was made more difficult when Iyengar found an enterprising double, resulting in Sree leading the eight of spades.

One possibility, and the one chosen by Shah, is to play the ten of spades. The problem with that is that you know a heart will come through and now, for East to be unable to lead a second spade, you'll need the ace-queen of hearts to be onside. Even if the jack of hearts loses to the ace, another heart or spade will disadvantage you. Suppose you read the heart position and play the king, winning the trick. The problem with that is that as soon as either opponent gains the lead, the defence has three heart tricks, the ace of diamonds and the spade surrendered at trick one.

Another option is to win the ace of spades immediately and play on a red suit. We can see that a diamond to the queen and a diamond ducked on the way back will lead to nine or ten tricks, depending on what West does upon winning the ace of diamonds.

It looks more and more like a choice between the ace-queen of hearts onside or the doubleton ace of diamonds with the doubler. The vigourish may come if West has a singleton ace of diamonds and you can guess hearts. I make rising with the ace of spades and playing on diamonds the favourite.

Those two terrible results cost India Blues dearly, but they had plenty of good results as well. The match score seesawed back and forth for the next 14 boards until, with one board remaining, Asgar Paints had a 1-IMP lead...

Board 48. Dealer North. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Ruia	TRK	Sequeira	NRK
—	1♦	Pass	1♥
Pass	1♠	Pass	INT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

West	North	East	South
Iyengar	JM Shah	Sreekrishnan	Gupta
—	1♦	Pass	1♥
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♣ ¹
Pass	2♦ ²	Pass	2NT ³
Pass	3NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

1. XYZ - puppet to 2♦
2. Forced
3. Invitational

Three notrump isn't much of a contract. However, with four spade tricks (and no misguess possible!), the heart finesse working, and the defence unable to take more than two diamond tricks, perhaps things are not as dire as they appear at first glance.

Iyengar resisted the temptation to lead a club, instead preferring the jack of diamonds. Gupta ducked two diamonds, won the third and went for his best shot, the ace-queen of clubs onside. The jack of clubs lost to the ace and a spade came back - declarer took all the spades, discarding a heart, then took the heart finesse. His last chance came home when the ten of clubs fell under the king, making dummy's nine of clubs his ninth winner.

India Blues had been unlucky to go down in six notrump on board 33, but very lucky to gain a game swing here. I enjoyed the irony, justice, or serendipity (depending upon one's point of view) of it.



The Swedish team for this year's White House Junior Invitational Teams was Mikael² x Simon² or M2S2 if you prefer. The Mikael's were Grönkvist and Rimstedt, whose sisters are rather better-known; the Simons were Hult and Ekengren. Our first opponents were the Czech Republic - this was the first board of the event, a very tough slam.

Board 1. Dealer North. Neither Vul.

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

♠ A Q 5 4
 ♥ K 10 6
 ♦ —
 ♣ A Q 10 7 6 2

Decide how you would play six clubs on the lead of the jack of hearts after the following auction:

West	North	East	South
<i>Boursa</i>	<i>Rimstedt</i>	<i>Kralik</i>	<i>Grönkvist</i>
—	Pass	4♥	Double
Pass	4NT	Pass	6♣
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Over the takeout double, Mikael Rimstedt showed a positive hand with both minors. With weakness he would have passed. That was enough for Mikael Grönkvist to bid the small slam.

Patrik Boursa led his partner's suit, hearts, putting the jack on the table. This turned out to be a Trojan horse. Recognising that he could discard a spade from the table and force Frantisek Kralik to win the first trick with the ace, setting up his king, Mikael Grönkvist could not resist the temptation.

Kralik won the first trick and returned the nine of spades. Grönkvist went up with the ace, drew the trumps with the ace and king, discarded a heart on the ace of diamonds, ruffed a diamond, cashed the king of hearts and discarded the last spade on the table – the card that actually had the chance to save him.

This was the full deal:

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

♠ K 8 6 2
 ♥ J 3
 ♦ Q 10 8 5 2
 ♣ J 5

♠ J 9
 ♥ A Q 9 8 7 5 4 2
 ♦ K 3
 ♣ 9

♠ A Q 5 4
 ♥ K 10 6
 ♦ —
 ♣ A Q 10 7 6 2

Grönkvist ruffed a spade and ruffed a diamond. When no good break appeared in the diamond suit he was one down. He could have made the hand by delaying the pulling of trumps and taking three ruffs in the dummy.

This turned out not to be too expensive as the Swedes at the other table were allowed to play in hearts - 4 IMPs to the Czech Republic. Nevertheless, it was a lost opportunity.

The play is also interesting on a trump lead. Declarer wins the ten in hand and plays on cross-ruff lines. He ruffs a heart on the table, discards a spade on the ace of diamonds and ruffs a diamond, East contributing the king. A heart is ruffed on table, this time West following with the jack, indicating the suit to be distributed 8-2. Another diamond is ruffed, East discarding a heart. When the third heart is played, West discards a spade and dummy ruffs with his last trump. This is the situation and declarer knows that East has one or two spades - if one, he also has the missing trump.

♠ 10 7 3
 ♥ —
 ♦ J 9 7
 ♣ —

♠ K 8 6
 ♥ —
 ♦ Q 10
 ♣ J

♠ J 9
 ♥ A Q 9 8
 ♦ —
 ♣ —

♠ A Q 5
 ♥ —
 ♦ —
 ♣ A Q 7

The contract cannot be made from here if West has both spade honours. East must have one. Then the vital ten in dummy will save declarer. Declarer plays a spade. If an honour appears from East, declarer takes the ace, draws the last trump and establishes a spade. If it is a lower card, declarer can finesse the queen and later drop the jack if necessary.

Two boards later came a curiosity: plus 1000 if the winning lead was found; minus 1000 if it was not. What would you have led from the South hand ...

Board 3. Dealer South. EW Vul.

♠ Q J 7 6 4
 ♥ 5
 ♦ 5 2
 ♣ A Q 10 8 2

...after this auction?

West	North	East	South
<i>Boursa</i>	<i>Rimstedt</i>	<i>Kralik</i>	<i>Grönkvist</i>
—	—	—	Pass
1♥	Pass	1NT	2♥ ¹
Double	2♠	3♦	Pass
3NT	Double ²	Pass	Pass
Redouble	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. Spades and a minor

It was again Mikael Grönkvist who had to find the right move. The full deal:

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

When Grönkvist put the four of spades on the table, declarer soon claimed nine tricks and wrote plus 1000 in his scorecard. Had Mikael found a club or a heart East would have been required to enter minus 1000 instead.

Argentina (Crusizio/da Rosa & Hegge/Stangeland) were the winners, defeating Hungary in the final. Netherlands and France were the other semifinalists.



The Canadian Trials for Bermuda Bowl, Venice Cup and d'Orsi Bowl playoffs were all a little unusual this year. Firstly, the Open Team final was a 120-board match in which GARTAGANIS (Judith Gartaganis, Nick Gartaganis, Daniel Korbel, Jeff Smith, Paul Thurston, Darren Wolpert) leapt off to a huge early lead, never to be headed. The TUCKER team (Roy Dalton, Harmon

Edgar, Ian Findlay, Arno Hobart, Irving Litvack, Vince Oddy) suffered the largest loss in Canadian Trials history, 270-135, and resigned after six of eight sets.

Secondly, the Women's Team final was close for the first seven sets of 15 boards. CIMON (Francine Cimon, Sandra Fraser, Diana Gordon, Samantha Nystrom, Sharyn Reus, Isabelle Smith) led CALEY (Sondra Blank, Sylvia Caley, Karen Cumpstone, Ina Demme, Joan Eaton, Katie Thorpe) by 194-182 IMPs going into the last 15 boards. CALEY scored 12 IMPs to tie the match on Board 106 when Blank tempted Reus into an indiscretion that cost the CIMON team 1100. In the remaining 14 boards, CALEY outscored CIMON 55-14 to win going away, 249-208.

The Senior Team final was close all the way. FERGANI (Boris Baran, Pierre Daigneault, Kamel Fergani, Michael Schoenborn) led LEBI (Jurek Czyzowicz, Dan Jacob, Robert Lebi, David Lindop) 104-90 with 15 of 60 boards remaining. Boards 46-56 produced 26 IMPs apiece, then the next two gave 14 to LEBI to tie the match with two boards to go. LEBI won an overtrick IMP on Board 59 to take the lead. This was the seemingly-innocuous Board 60.

Dealer East. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Baran</i>	<i>Lindop</i>	<i>Schoenborn</i>	<i>Lebi</i>
—	—	Pass	Pass
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Schoenborn led his heart. Lindop won in hand, played the ace of spades and another spade to the nine, then guessed clubs correctly with a low one to the jack. Schoenborn won with the ace of clubs and shifted to a diamond to the queen, king and ace.

There were many roads to 11 tricks from here but, with 10 tricks assured and with no clues from the bidding, Lindop drew the remaining trumps and played a heart to the ace. He had to lose two more tricks for plus 420.

West	North	East	South
Jacob	Daigneault	Czyzowicz	Fergani
—	—	Pass	Pass
2♥ ¹	Double	2NT ²	3♠
Pass	4♥	Pass	4♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. Hearts and a minor, weak
2. Requests minor

East/West made it a bit harder for North/South in the bidding but, as so often happens, a bit easier in the play.

Jacob led the five of diamonds, ducked to declarer Fergani's queen. Declarer tried the king of spades, receiving that bit of unwelcome news and, as had Lindop, led a club to the jack. Czyzowicz won with his ace and, not wanting to open up hearts, led another diamond. Fergani won in dummy, played the king of clubs and ruffed a club, then crossed on a heart. With hearts known to be 5-1, declarer simply ruffed his last club. He could then draw trumps and claim 11 tricks, losing a heart at the end. Plus 450; 1 IMP to Fergani. The match was tied!

There were twists to come. Those of us watching on BBO, which had the final score as 132-131 LEBI, were not all aware that a TD ruling earlier in the match had reduced LEBI's IMP total by one. So the match really was a draw.

LEBI appealed the TD ruling, but to no avail. An eight-board playoff was mandated and this was won convincingly, 10-1, by LEBI. FERGANI had fallen just short. Rumour had it that LEBI would augment the Senior Team for Bali with Baran/Schoenborn, leaving only Fergani/Daigneault out in the cold.

Toward the end of the Round Robin, a lesson hand arose ...

Board 15. Dealer South. NS Vul.

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

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

1. Inverted: limit-raise-plus strength
2. 15-17

West	North	East	South
—	—	—	INT
Pass	3NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

West universally led a high club.

In the first auction, typical of those playing weak notrumps and where East had been allowed entry into the auction with two or three hearts, West then shifted to a heart and declarer had a guess whether to knock out the other high club or take a spade finesse for the queen for his ninth trick. Results were, as one would expect, mixed. Most declarers made it, but a few went down, either by carelessly winning the first heart or by misguessing spades.

In the strong notrump auctions, South had no clues from the bidding but faced similar unpleasant guesses about how to continue.

A couple of declarers found an almost surefire line to success: they dropped the jack of clubs under the ace/king. Their West opponents were completely (and naturally) taken in and took the other high club honour, one good-naturedly remarking to South, "My partner was supposed to have that card," when declarer followed to the second club with the five. "I know," South replied laconically.

Correspondence



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

Dear John,

I have developed a iPhone/Android app based system for scoring duplicates, and I would like to bring it to the wider attention of the world bridge community.

The system is called BriAn and you can find out more at www.brianbridge.com. It is already in regular use in many London clubs, and it has been written up online by Gordon Rainsford, the English Bridge Union's chief TD at this link.

<http://www.ebu.co.uk/newsletters/?id=21&page=11>

Would the IBPA be interested in publishing a piece in its bulletin giving a factual description of the system and how to get started with it?

Yours,

Victor Lesk, London

Developer, BriAn Bridge App

<http://www.brianbridge.net>

Skype: victorlesk; Mobile: +447804953460



Bridge Magazine (U.K.)

Bridge, the world's oldest continuously-published magazine about the game (it pre-dates *The Bridge World* by three years), is going fully online. The combined May/June 2013 number is the last printed issue of the magazine, which began in May 1926.

Our hope is for a revival some time soon and that this retreat to online format is not a harbinger of the fate suffered by other high-quality but now-defunct magazines such as *The Bridge Journal*, *International Popular Bridge Monthly* and *Bridge Today*.

Online Bridge Clubs

The 2012 table counts for the three most popular online bridge clubs have been released. They are:

BBO	747,870
OKBridge	143,498
SWAN Games	14,522

World Open Youth Championships

Players born in 1988 or later are eligible to play in the WOYC in Atlanta during the Summer NABC, Saturday, August 3 to Sunday, August 11. Major events include the Open Pairs, the Swiss/KO Teams and the Board-a-Match Teams. All events are transnational.

The Best Western Hotel is offering a special rate of \$120 per room (maximum two players); this includes lunch and dinner. All details can be found at the ACBL's youth bridge website: www.youth4bridge.org.

Qualifiers for the Bali World Championships

Zone 1 Europe - Open: Monaco, Netherlands, Italy, England, Poland, Germany; Women's: England, France, Turkey, Netherlands, Poland, Israel; Seniors: France, Poland, Scotland, Denmark, Germany, Belgium

Zone 2 North America - USA two teams in all three categories; Open & Women's: Canada or Mexico; Seniors: Canada

Zone 3 South America - Argentina & Brasil in all three categories

Zone 4 Asia & the Middle East - 2 teams TBD

Zone 5 Caribbean & Central America - Guadeloupe in all three categories

Zone 6 Pacific Asia - Indonesia (host) & 3 others TBD

Zone 7 Oceania - Australia & New Zealand in all three categories

Zone 8 Africa - Egypt & RSA in all three categories

MPP Book of the Year Shortlist

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Duplicate Bridge Schedules, History and Mathematics - Ian McKinnon (from Jeff Rubens, *The Bridge World*)

Ian McKinnon has a strong sense of history, and it's a very good thing for the bridge world that he does. His outstanding 1979 book, *Bridge Directing Complete*, presented not only the mechanics of tournament movements but also the motivations behind them. The author both updates the earlier work and considerably expands the scope of the inquiry in this spectacular effort.

McKinnon introduces the challenges of tournament logistics against the lengthy historical background of attempts to meet them. This includes the conflicts over which solutions are "better" and why. If you also happen to enjoy historical anecdotes and tidbits, so much the better; there are plenty. In presenting the sometimes-subtle mathematics involved, the text introduces important ideas but does not elaborate details. The heavy dose of theory is supplemented by an equal portion of practical information and advice for directors and tournament organizers, covering both normal and emergency situations over a vast array of game forms and entry sizes. There are Internet references to other capabilities, such as having useful materials spew out of your home printer. McKinnon has basically spent a lifetime collecting, analyzing and organizing the material in this remarkable volume.

Diamonds Are the Hog's Best Friend - Victor Mollo

Just about every bridge player over forty has read Victor Mollo's *Bridge in the Menagerie*, a book that is on any list of the all-time top ten on the game. Towards the end of his life, Mollo continued to write stories about the same well-loved characters (the Hideous Hog, the Rueful Rabbit, Oscar the Owl, and the rest), but they appeared in various magazines around the world, and if you weren't a subscriber, you didn't get to read them.

This is the second MPP collection of these lost Menagerie gems, collected for the first time in book form (following *The Hog Takes to Precision* in 2011). Victor Mollo is everyone's favorite bridge humorist, and a genuinely new book from him will be greeted as something to be treasured. Illustrations by bridge cartoonist Bill Buttle add to the fun.

World Bridge Calendar

DATES	EVENT	LOCATION	INFORMATION
2013			
May 31-Jun 10	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	WBF World Wide Bridge Contest	Clubs Everywhere	www.ecatsbridge.com
Jun 7-9	26th OECS Tournament	Antigua, W.I.	www.cacbf.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	Danish Bridge Festival	Vingsted, Denmark	www.bridgefestival.dk
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.czechopen.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 3-11	Norwegian Bridge Festival	Fredrikstad, Norway	www.bridge.no
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	WBF 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	Ixia, 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	WBF 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
Nov 14-17	12 th European Champions Cup	Opatija, Croatia	www.eurobridge.org
Nov 16-23	XII International Bridge Festival	Havana & Varadero, Cuba	www.festivalbridgecuba.com
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	WBF Pairs to Support Youth Bridge	Clubs Everywhere	www.worldbridge.org
2014			
Jan 14-26	Summer Festival of Bridge	Canberra, Australia	www.abf.com.au
Jan 20-25	WBF Pairs for UNICEF	Clubs Everywhere	www.worldbridge.org
Jan 25-31	Bermuda Regional	Southampton, Bermuda	www.bermudaregional.com
Feb 22-1	Gold Coast Congress	Surfer's Paradise, Australia	www.qldbriidge.com
Feb 26-Mar 2	International Festival	Cannes, France	www.festivalsdusoleil.com
Mar 20-23	Tasmanian Festival of Bridge	Tainceston, Tasmania	www.abf.com.au
Mar 20-30	Spring NABC	Dallas, TX	www.acbl.org
April 25-30	Jersey Congress	Jersey, Channel Is.	www.ebu.co.uk
Jul 17-27	Summer NABC	Las Vegas, NV	www.acbl.org
Jul 25-Aug 3	20 th Swedish Bridgefestival	Örebro, Sweden	www.svenskbridge.se/festival
Jul 26-31	Chairman's Cup	Örebro, Sweden	www.svenskbridge.se/festival
Aug 1-9	Norwegian Bridge Festival	Fredrikstad, Norway	www.bridge.no
Nov 27-Dec 7	Fall NABC	Providence, RI	www.acbl.org