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Editor: John Carruthers

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President:

PATRICK D JOURDAIN
8 Felin Wen, Rhiwbina
Cardiff CF14 6NW, WALES, UK
(44) 29 2062 8839
president.ibpa@gmail.com

Chairman:

PER E JANNERSTEN
Banergatan 15
SE-752 37 Uppsala, SWEDEN
(46) 18 52 13 00
ibpa@jannersten.se

Executive Vice-President:

JAN TOBIAS van CLEEFF
Prinsegracht 28a
2512 GA The Hague, NETHERLANDS
(31) 70 360 5902
jvcleeff@xs4all.nl

**Organizational Vice-President &
Bulletin Production Manager:**

DILIP GIDWANI
401 Mariden, 16th Road Bandra West
Mumbai 400 050, INDIA
(91) 22 98205 47150 Fax: 22 26002241
dilipgidwani@hotmail.com

Secretary:

HERMAN DE WAEL
Michel Willemslaan 40
B-2610 Wilrijk, BELGIUM
(32) 3 827 64 45 Fax: (32) 3 825 29 19
hermandw@skynet.be

Treasurer:

RICHARD SOLOMON
308 Kauri Road, RD2
Tuakau 2697, NEW ZEALAND
(64) 9 232 8494
rsolomon@xtra.co.nz

Membership Secretary:

JEREMY DHONDY
Cedar Lodge, Knapps, Shillingstone
Dorset DT11 0RA, ENGLAND
(44) 7967 475925
jdhondy@gmail.com

Honorary General Counsel:

WILLIAM J. PENCHARZ
Lacourarie, Barthelemy de Bussière
24360 Piegut Pluvier, FRANCE
+33(0)5 53 60 30 60
billpencharz@hotmail.co.uk

Awards Secretary:

BARRY J. RIGAL
Apt 8E, 22 West 26th Street,
New York NY 10010, USA
(1) 212 366 4799
barryrigal@mindspring.com

Presidents Emeritii:

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Editorial

There has been a lot of hysteria over the Israeli teams bound (or not) for Bali and even more over the ongoing efforts of Migry Zur-Campanile, who holds an Israeli passport but has been added to the USA2 squad for the Venice Cup, to obtain a visa to travel to Indonesia.

Recapping briefly, here is what has happened to date:

(i.) The Israeli women's team qualified through European trials for the Venice Cup and was given the runaround by Indonesia regarding visas and security; the Israeli Bridge Federation subsequently withdrew the team.

(ii.) The Argentine senior team withdrew from the d'Orsi Bowl, opening the door to a further European team to play. The Israeli seniors (next in line in the European Championships) declined (for, presumably, the same reasons their women's team withdrew) and the Netherlands (second in line) accepted.

(iii.) The Westheimer team, playing four-handed, won their Trials to become USA2 in the Venice Cup and augmented with two Americans and an Israeli (living in the US). (Westheimer developed health problems after the Trials and is unable to go to Bali, so the team needed three extra players instead of two.) Campanile is still trying to get her visa. (*Update: By mid-August, she had obtained her visa.*)

Much undeserved scorn has been heaped upon Indonesia and the World Bridge Federation for these actions. Indonesia does not recognise Israel as a sovereign state, so the visa situation is not unexpected. GABSI, the Indonesian Bridge Federation, is at the mercy of their government in this circumstance. The situation would undoubtedly have been different had General Wiranto (former Commander-in-Chief of the Indonesian army, Aide-de-Camp of President Suharto and previously a vice-president, then chairman of GABSI) and Amran Zamzami (president of GABSI) still been in charge, but GABSI's influence has waned with Wiranto's retirement from the military and GABSI and with Zamzami's death. These days, Wiranto is too busy with his candidacy for president of Indonesia to be concerned about such lesser matters.

The WBF has come under fire for agreeing to hold their World Championships in a nation that does not guarantee entry to all competitors, but the WBF's hands are tied as well since countries are not exactly lining up to host their events (but that's another story). The Israelis have been excellent sports about the whole affair - it has been left to others to display hysteria, some calling for a change of venue, others for a boycott. The WBF can take heart from the fact that they are not alone in sustaining criticism from their choice of venue - the IOC has come under fire for choosing Sochi, Russia for the 2014 Winter Olympics because of the Russian government's stand on gay rights and FIFA has been excoriated for their choice of Qatar, partly based on the organisers' promise of air-conditioned stadia for the fans and players. That promise has been dismissed by the stadium architects as "notoriously unsustainable".

The hysterians, especially the Americans among them, should note that in 2010, for the Philadelphia World Bridge Series, the US government denied visas to 32 bridge players who desired to attend. This is according to Jason Feldman on BridgeWinners.com, who is, incidentally, an immigration attorney. Some, but by no means all, of these players were later admitted to the US with the help of lawyers such as Feldman, the USBF, the ACBL and the WBF. Perhaps the Indonesian, Israeli and WBF bridge authorities needed to make a call to General Wiranto.

Address all IBPA Bulletin correspondence to: JOHN CARRUTHERS
1322 Patricia Blvd., Kingsville, Ontario, N9Y 2R4, CANADA
Tel: +1 519-733-9247
email: ibpaeditor@sympatico.ca



Frank Stewart, Fayette, Alabama
Barry Rigal, New York City
Brent Manley, Memphis, Tennessee
Mark Horton, Sutton Benger, Wiltshire
Arnie Malasky, Lenox, Massachusetts
Ana Roth, Buenos Aires
John Carruthers, Kingsville, Ontario

At Sixes and Sevens (FS)

For many players, the contemporary approach to competitive auctions is, "Bid when it's your turn." Players who embrace that style may gently question the decisions by East in this deal.

In the Grand National Teams Championship, the Alabama-Tennessee team (Jim Foster, Allen Hawkins, Jim Munday, Larry Sealy) romped to a Round-of-16 win over Texas. Romps are not difficult if you achieve a few double-game swings.

Dealer West. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
2♥	Double	Redouble	4♠
Pass	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♣	Double	Pass	Pass
Pass			

When North for Texas doubled West's two-heart opening, East's redouble said, "I have my own suit." North found to his chagrin that six clubs was unbeatable. Tennessee-Alabama scored plus 650.

At the other table, East apparently didn't think he had enough shape to act.

West	North	East	South
2♥	Pass	Pass(!)	2♠
Pass	3♥	Double(!)	4♠
Pass	Pass	Pass(!)	

West led the two of hearts and Foster, the declarer for District 10, played low from dummy. He was stunned when East discarded a diamond. Foster won the heart lead and cashed the ace of trumps. East showed out as expected, but Foster saw a way home.

Declarer led a club to dummy's nine, and East won and returned a low diamond to the queen and ace. Foster ruffed a club and led a heart to the king and ace. He ruffed dummy's last club and led another heart. West took his king and exited with a heart, postponing the evil moment, but Foster had a complete count. He took the king of trumps and led a third trump, and West, who was marked with 3=6=1=3 distribution, had to concede a ruff-and-discard and the contract. Making four, plus 420 and 14 IMPs to the District 10 squad.

Pros and Cons? (BR)

The bridge world, as a cynic once said, is made up of pros and cons. Some people are both, of course, and you certainly wouldn't want to bet that Gunnar Hallberg couldn't get into a revolving door behind you but get out of it in front of you. Witness the following exhibit:

Dealer South. Neither Vul.

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

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

1. May be lead-directional with diamond fit.

What would you lead as West?

Anyone could lead a diamond: Our hero fished out the three of clubs. The club went to the queen, king and ace. Declarer led a spade to the king (East following) and a heart to the jack and king. West triumphantly returned a club!

Hallberg was declarer. Note his five-diamond gall. Doubling five clubs for plus 100 would have been almost as big a zero as minus 50. Plus 450 for North-South was worth all the matchpoints.

LM Pairs Champs (BM)

Mark Itabashi and Ross Grabel won the von Zedtwitz Life Master Pairs and shared the following deals.

Board 9. Dealer North. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
—	<i>Grabel</i>		<i>Itabashi</i>
	Pass	2♣ ¹	Pass
2♦ ²	Pass	2♠	Pass
4♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. Natural, 11-15 HCP
2. Inquiry

Itabashi, South, led the ten of diamonds to the ace. Declarer thought it would be smooth sailing until an unexpected surprise occurred mid-deal. After two rounds of trumps revealed the mildly annoying 4-1 split, declarer played a club to the ten, which held(!).

Believing that there were an easy 11 tricks at this point, declarer crossed to another trump in dummy and played a club to the nine. Itabashi won with the queen and played another diamond, essentially killing declarer's hand. Whether he drew the last trump or knocked out the ace of clubs first, there was no way to avoid an eventual down two.

Board 22. Dealer East. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
—	<i>Grabel</i>		<i>Itabashi</i>
1♦	1♥	Pass	Pass
Pass	Pass	Double	INT
		Pass	

West led the jack of clubs to the queen and ace and the four of clubs return went to the seven and dummy's king. Taking stock, declarer noted the very revealing spot cards in clubs. It looked very much as if West started with the jack-ten-seven, so the suit was likely blocked. That meant the only important matter was how to play hearts, but wanting to get more information first, declarer ducked a low spade to West's jack.

The ten of clubs was cashed; a diamond was pitched from dummy. West then exited with the eight of hearts, and declarer had to guess West's pattern. West had opened one diamond, but had led a club, and that suit seemed to be 5-3. East's negative double suggested that he held four spades, meaning that West had two.

Conclusion: West's original pattern was likely to have been 2=4=4=3, so Itabashi called for dummy's ten of hearts. When the finesse proved to be successful, declarer ran the hearts to reach this ending:

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

A low spade was played from dummy, and Itabashi ducked to West's king. West was forced to give declarer a diamond trick, and Itabashi soon scored plus 120.

Throw That Textbook Away (BR)

Bobby Levin gave me the following deal to see if I knew my textbook plays. See what you think.

Dealer West. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Pass	1♥	1♠	INT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

You (West) lead the seven of spades: king, ace, two. East plays the ten of spades: jack, three, five. Declarer leads the two of hearts: three, seven, ten. Partner now plays the eight of spades to declarer's queen. What do you discard?

Bobby knows his technical plays: partner has the queen-jack-ten of hearts, and to create an entry to his hand, the right play is to jettison the ace.

Right play, wrong deal. This was the full story:

```

♠ K 5
♥ K 8 7 5 4
♦ A 6 4
♣ K 7 4

♠ 7 3
♥ A 9 3
♦ J 10 9 3
♣ A 10 5 2

♠ A 10 9 8 6
♥ Q 10
♦ K 8 7 5
♣ J 8

♠ Q J 4 2
♥ J 6 2
♦ Q 2
♣ Q 9 6 3

```

After Bobby's discard, declarer ran hearts for plus 120 and all the matchpoints. Still, at least Levin could be consoled that it got him into the newspaper – and thanks, Bobby, for being such a good sport to report it!

Keeping Destiny at Bay (MH)

Most players are aware of the principle of playing the card they are known to hold. However, not quite so many are alive to the possibility of playing it in advance of being known to hold it.

On this deal from the final session of the Master Mixed Board-a-Match Teams, Valentin Kovachev found a brilliant falsecard that deflected his world-class opponent from the winning line:

Dealer East. EW Vul

```

♠ Q 10 8
♥ 10 8 5
♦ K 6 3
♣ 10 4 3 2

♠ A 3
♥ A K 9 2
♦ A Q 5 4
♣ Q 6 5

♠ K J 9 6 2
♥ Q J 3
♦ J 9
♣ A J 7

♠ 7 5 4
♥ 7 6 4
♦ 10 8 7 2
♣ K 9 8

```

West	North	East	South
Kolesnik	Kovachev	Picus	Rosenbaum
—	—	1♠	Pass
2♦	Pass	2NT	Pass
6NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

South led the six of hearts. Declarer won in hand and cashed three more hearts, discarding a club, followed by the ace of spades. The situation in the spade suit meant that destiny had decreed that West's aggressive bidding would pay off, but Kovachev had other ideas and contributed the queen of spades.

Completely taken in, declarer continued with a club to the jack. South won with the king and returned the two of diamonds. If the spades had really been misbehaving, declarer would have needed three diamond tricks, so she played low from dummy and North took the setting trick with the king of diamonds. Alas, there was no cameraman on hand to record declarer's expression when North exited with the ten of spades.

Early-Morning Musings (AM)

After waking up before 5:00 a.m. on the morning after the final day of the Senior Swiss Teams, I started thinking about some of our boards. This was one:

Dealer South. Neither Vul.

```

♠ A Q
♥ A Q 10 9 8 3
♦ A J 10 8 4
♣ —

♠ 5 3
♥ K 7 5
♦ 6 3
♣ J 10 9 8 5 2

♠ K 10 8 6
♥ 6 4 2
♦ Q 5
♣ Q 6 4 3

♠ J 9 7 4 2
♥ J
♦ K 9 7 2
♣ A K 7

```

West	North	East	South
—	—	—	1♠
Pass	2♥	Pass	3♦
Pass	5♣	Pass	5♥
Pass	7♦	Pass	Pass
Pass			

I was South and, as you can imagine, I was sick when my partner, Bob Cappelli, bid five clubs Exclusion Key Card Blackwood. My whole opening bid was down the drain. I did show my one key card and my partner took a reasonable shot trying for a big win that would get us into the top ten.

The opening lead by Jim Looby, playing with Ed Ulman, was the seven of hearts. I knew that Jim was capable of underleading the king of hearts on this auction. Because of the strength of the heart suit, I fixated on that suit and drew two rounds of trumps, ending in dummy and was still alive when they broke. I then ruffed a heart, cashed the ace of clubs, discarding the queen of spades, and went to dummy with the ace of spades.

I then led the queen of hearts. I ignored East's signals because I did not think he would try to help me. I took what I thought was the percentage play of the ruffing finesse and went down one. The same contract was played at the other table and went down on the same line of play.

At 5:00 a.m. today, I realized that the spade suit offered almost as good a chance as the heart suit. A much better line of play gives you chances to set up both majors if diamonds break 2-2.

You start by playing the five key cards on the first five tricks. Win with the ace of hearts, then cash the ace of diamonds and the ace of spades. If the spade king is singleton, all you need is 2-2 trumps. Your 13 tricks would be three spades, one heart, two clubs, two top diamonds and five more trump tricks on a crossruff. If the king of spades is not singleton, you come to hand with the king of diamonds and play the king of clubs, discarding the queen of spades. Then ruff a spade and ruff a heart. If the king of hearts was doubleton, you can claim; if the king of spades was doubleton, you can ruff out the fourth spade and get back to your hand with your last trump to cash the fifth spade and ruff your low club.

Otherwise, ruff one more spade. If they are 3-3, you can claim. If not, you can choose between a ruffing finesse in hearts or playing for them to be 3-3, using the spade distribution to help that decision. With East showing up with four spades, it would have been preferable to play to drop the king of hearts. West has two more spaces open than East based on known information. I would never have an idea about the club distribution. No one mentioned this alternate line of play when our team discussed the board. Our conversation centered on whether to play the opening leader for king-third of hearts and the psychological issues involved. This even got down to the level of Looby's suggestion that early in a long match it might be right to take a finesse at trick one! Although I would rather write about a deal I played really well, this one came close. I played it well after the fact.

Tricks of the Trade (BR)

Dealer South. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Nilssen		Leong	
—	—	—	Pass
1♠	Double	Pass	2♣
Pass	Pass	2♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Deep Finesse suggests that West can make nine tricks, but he had better guess the play well.

Ulf Nilssen, West, playing with Eric Leong, declared two spades on the king of hearts lead, South encouraging with the six. Nilssen tried the effect of dropping the nine of hearts – and it worked! North innocently continued with the heart five, letting Nilssen win with the ten and finesse the queen of spades, then draw a second trump. Even better for Nilssen, North won the first club with the ace when declarer played on the suit (ducking would have broken up the ensuing squeeze), then returned the suit.

Nilssen won with the king of clubs and played a third spade. South won that trick with his king and shifted to a diamond, but Nilssen won with the king in hand, cashed the ace of hearts and played his last two trumps. North could discard one diamond on the first trump but was squeezed in the red suits on the second for plus 170 to East-West.

Por una Cabeza (AR)

“Por una Cabeza” is an Argentine tango written in 1935, with music and lyrics by Carlos Gardel and Alfredo Le Pera respectively. The first lines are:

*To lose by just a head to a noble thoroughbred
who on the final lap comes faltering
down the stretch,
turns back, sees your regrets, and
appears to say ...*

And this was exactly what happened in the round of 32 match played by team Zagorin (seed #7), against Bridge24 (seed #39), a top Polish team comprising Jacek Kalita/Michal Nowosadzki and Rafal Jagniewski/Wojciech Gawel. The Zagorin team's players were: Daniel Zagorin and Kevin Bathurst (USA), Ricco Van Prooijen, and Louk Verhees, Jr. (NED); Bas Drijver and Sjoert Brink (NED); all world champions or runners-up. They started the last 16-board set with a lead of 19 IMPs (115 to 96), and played their Netherlands world-champion pairs, leaving no doubt about their intention to stay in the Spingold.

The first five boards of the set were pushes, but on boards 54-63, Bridge24 had scored enough IMPs to tie the match at 119-119. When Drijver-Brink got to board 64, they undoubtedly knew that the match was desperately close since they had failed to bid a slam on board 56 and had paid 300 in a four-heart game they'd stretched to reach on board 57. Let's see what happened ...

Board 64. Dealer West. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Nowosadzki</i>	<i>Drijver</i>	<i>Kalita</i>	<i>Brink</i>
Pass	1♣	1♠	2♥
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

The only lead to beat the contract (with good defence of course) is a diamond, but North received the queen of hearts lead (the king would have meant unblock or give count). Declarer won with the ace and when the eight appeared from West, Drijver continued with the five of hearts, losing to West's jack. Nowosadzki shifted to the queen of spades, covered by the king and ducked by Kalita to maintain communications.

Declarer ran the clubs, East pitching two diamonds, a heart and a spade and West a diamond. The position was:

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

East's shape was known by declarer to be 5=4=3=1, so Kalita had one diamond left. The question was, after two diamond pitches, had he retained the king or a lower diamond?

Drijver had taken seven tricks and needed two more. When he came off dummy with the nine of diamonds, West played the five and declarer paused for thought. The card chosen meant either a ticket to the Spingold Round of 16 or a ticket home to The Netherlands. As the tango said – this thoroughbred, who in the final lap comes faltering down the stretch – declarer played his ace (going against the 5-3 odds), and saw the horse next to him stretching his neck to win the race by a head. Kalita followed with the jack of diamonds and

Dutch dreams were shattered, while in Poland, all were singing the Polonaise.

In the other room the Polish players were less ambitious, playing only two clubs making three: 4 IMPs for Bridge24 and their ticket for the Spingold Round of 16 was punched.

Spingold Standout (JC)

As usual, the Spingold Knockout Teams produced some outstanding and entertaining bridge. In their quarterfinal match against Nickell, the Polish team Bridge24 produced a terrific auction to a cold slam missed by Meckwell.

Board 50. Dealer East. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Nowosadzki</i>	<i>Meckstroth</i>	<i>Kalita</i>	<i>Rodwell</i>
—	—	Pass	Pass
1♥	3NT	Pass	Pass
Double	Pass	4♥	Pass
Pass	Double	Pass	Pass
Pass			

West	North	East	South
<i>Weinstein</i>	<i>Jagniewski</i>	<i>Levin</i>	<i>Gawel</i>
—	—	Pass	Pass
2♦ ¹	Double	2♥	Pass
Pass	3♦	Pass	4♥ ²
Pass	4♠	Pass	5♦
Pass	6♦	Pass	Pass
Pass			

1. Flannery: 10-15 HCP, 4 spades and 5/6 hearts
2. Splinter bid in support of diamonds

The one-heart opening constrained Meckstroth to take the practical approach of bidding three notrump. Since North might have had less for his auction than he actually held, Rodwell was disinclined to take action. Who was to blame? Should Meckstroth have taken further aggressive action given his extra values? Should Rodwell have envisioned something similar to their actual holdings? Perhaps, but the dreadful result may well have been a product of Meckwell's "bid'em-up" style where neither can ever play the other for extra values.

Kalita was quite right to pull the double as Meckstroth was going to make 10 or 12 tricks depending upon the lead. Nowosadzki played a heart to the king early and was held to four heart and three spade tricks for minus 500.

Weinstein and Levin love their Flannery, but here it allowed the Poles to make a takeout double, a splinter bid and a cue bid, none of which was available to Meckwell at the other table. Jagniewski and Gawel had a good auction to the cold slam, winning 13 IMPs when North made all 13 tricks on a heart lead.

Rixi on Defence (MH)

Rixi Markus maintained that many contracts could be defeated if the defenders could put declarer under maximum pressure. This deal from early in the Spingold final illustrates what she had in mind:

Dealer South. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Nowosadzki</i>	<i>Bessis</i>	<i>Kalita</i>	<i>Bertheau</i>
—	—	—	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♥	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

North led the five of diamonds and declarer guessed wrongly, putting up the queen, covered by the king and ace. The queen of clubs lost to the king and South returned the nine of diamonds to North's jack. Declarer won the club switch with the jack, played a heart to the king and ran the jack of hearts to North's queen. That was the last trick for the defence; plus 420.

Suppose South ducks the queen of clubs? Now if declarer plays a heart to the king followed by the jack of hearts, North wins, cashes the jack of diamonds and plays a club (or a spade or even a trump). Declarer cannot arrive at more than nine tricks. Even if declarer plays a low heart, rather than the jack, he must still go right in clubs, putting up the ace, then ruffing a club high with the ace of hearts, crossing to dummy with a spade and ruffing another club.

At the other table in the match, West cue bid in diamonds (described as a non-serious slam-try) and East launched the Blackwood rocket:

West	North	East	South
<i>Amoils</i>	<i>Jagniewski</i>	<i>Morgan</i>	<i>Gawel</i>
—	—	—	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♥	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♦	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♥	Pass	6♥	Pass
Pass	Pass		

North led the same five of diamonds and declarer played dummy's two, winning with the ten. The queen of clubs lost to the king and declarer won the diamond return, cashed the ace of hearts and played a heart to the jack. When South discarded he conceded one down, minus 50 and 10 IMPs to Bridge24. You will observe that declarer could only pick up a 4-1 trump break if North was the one with the singleton.

Amoils' disappointment at going down in six hearts might have been eased if his teammates had managed to defeat four hearts - and he'd have been the one holding the trophy.

A Last Gasp (JC)

The Spingold final between Bridge 24 and Grue was one of the most dramatic ever, with each team leading at some point, but with neither being able to build a commanding margin. With one board to play, Grue led by 10 IMPs, 112-102.

Board 64. Dealer West. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Nowosadzki</i>	<i>Grue</i>	<i>Kalita</i>	<i>Moss</i>
Pass	2♥	Pass	4♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Kalita led out his two high clubs, then dealt Nowosadzki a ruff. West cashed the diamond ace and Grue was one off at trick four.

West	North	East	South
<i>Bertheau</i>	<i>Jagniewski</i>	<i>Bessis</i>	<i>Gawel</i>
Pass	2♦ ¹	Pass	4♦ ²
Double	Pass	Pass	4♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. Multi
2. Bid your suit

With no lead value, Gawel chose to direct the declaration to North's hand. He had the option of bidding four clubs to make North bid the suit under his own if he preferred the lead to come up to his own hand. When Bertheau doubled four diamonds, North was understandably anxious for South to declare and this time he accepted. Redouble would have directed the declaration back to North's hand.

Bertheau found the killing jack of clubs lead and declarer covered this with the queen. Bessis won it with his king and cashed the ace, declarer following with the three and nine. At this juncture, Bessis went into deep thought.

Seconds elapsed. Minutes elapsed. Bessis emerged from his trance with ... the six of diamonds. Gawel had only the detail of taking the percentage play in trumps for plus 420, 10 IMPs, and a playoff.

Why had Bessis played a diamond? Did it not seem that Bertheau would have followed to the second club with the ten had he held jack-ten-two. Well, yes and no. From Bessis' point of view, Bertheau, if he'd held jack-ten-two, could have believed the clubs to be distributed:

♣ J 10 2	♣ Q 6 4	♣ A K 7 5
	♣ 9 8 3	

or similar, in which case following suit with the ten at trick two would have presented declarer with an embarrassing and undeserved trick in the suit. In that imagined scenario, however, the suit would really have been:

♣ J 10 2	♣ Q 6 4	♣ A K 8 7 5
	♣ 9 3	

and a diamond switch could have been necessary, especially considering Bertheau's double of four diamonds.

That may well be, but had clubs been four-triple-three around the table, Bessis would likely have shifted to a diamond at trick two. Bertheau would have known this and would have played the club ten at trick two from jack-ten-two, especially if he'd held the ace-queen of diamonds for his double. It was the kind of inference easily missed after seven intense days of play.

The eight-board playoff (and the title) was won decisively by Bridge 24, 22-1.

Major Event Winners

Spingold Knockout Teams - Michal Nowosadzki/Jacek Kalita, Rafal Jagniewski/Wojciech Gawel

Grand National Teams - David Berkowitz/Gary Cohler, Eric Rodwell/Jeff Meckstroth, Michael Becker/Warren Spector

North American Swiss Teams - Carolyn Lynch/Mike Passell, Lew Stansby/Bart Bramley, Adam Zmudzinski/Cezary Balicki

Women's Knockout Teams - Sylvia Moss/Joann Glasson, Catherine D'Ovidio/Janice Seamon/Molson, Lynn Deas/Beth Palmer.

Master Mixed Board-a-Match Teams - Judith Bianco/Winthrop Allegaert, Petra Hamman/David Grainger

Senior Swiss Teams - Fred Hamilton/Mark Itabashi, Dan Morse/John Sutherlin, Al Stone/Dee Adams

Life Master Pairs - Mark Itabashi/Ross Gabel

Open Pairs - Valentin Kovachev/Lynne Rosenbaum

Fast Pairs - Larry Sealy/Jim Munday

U.S. Collegiate Team Championship - University of Washington: Ben Bomber, Lee Holstein, Daniel Poore and Greg Herman



Phillip Alder, Hobe Sound, Florida

The Championships were held from August 3-11, concurrently with the Summer North American Bridge Championships in Atlanta.

Back to the Past in the Pairs

There were several interesting boards in the three youth pair events. This one resulted in surely the biggest plus score we will see at this tournament - if not this year. It occurred on Board 10 of the first final session in the junior event. First, though, let's set the scene. On the previous deal, against the normal contract of four hearts by North, East had made the abnormal lead of a low spade from ace-fourth. This had conceded an overtrick, partner having queen-jack-fourth and declarer king-third. A second overtrick had been surrendered with inaccurate discarding. Minus 480 was a bottom for East-West. Sylvia Shi admitted that she was "on tilt," determined to get the matchpoints back.



IBPA Column Service

Tim Bourke, Canberra

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

677. Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

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

After North's splinter-raise of four hearts, South checked for aces with Roman Key Card Blackwood and bid the small slam. West led the queen of diamonds. Declarer saw that his only problem was to avoid two club losers, and he found a neat way to circumvent that outcome.

After winning the opening lead in his hand, he drew two rounds of trumps and then cashed the ace of hearts. Declarer then ruffed the eight of hearts, cashed the ace of diamonds and then ruffed dummy's last diamond. Next he led the four of clubs. After West followed with the two of clubs, declarer called for dummy's seven!

On the diagrammed deal, East had to win this with an honour and, if he did not wish to concede a ruff-and-discard, had to return a club. A low club would just be giving up, so he tried a crafty jack of clubs. Declarer played low from hand and took the trick with dummy's ace; all that remained to do was to finesse against East's remaining club honour on the third round of the suit. Declarer made five trumps, the ace of hearts, a heart ruff, two diamonds and three clubs for a total of twelve tricks.

If West had followed to the second round of clubs, then the suit would have broken 3-2, giving declarer a routine three club tricks. Finally, if East had begun with

a singleton club honour, he would have taken the seven of clubs with it, only to find himself endplayed and forced to concede a ruff-and-discard.

678. Dealer North. EW Vul.

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

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

North's second bid of four clubs was a splinter bid agreeing diamonds. His continuation of four hearts was a cuebid promising a heart control and it was then easy for South to leap to the small slam in diamonds.

After West led the eight of trumps, declarer paused to make a plan. He saw little future in trying to ruff clubs in dummy; surely the defenders would be highly likely to play a second trump when in with the ace of spades. Instead, declarer decided that the best chance was to establish a long trick in dummy's spade suit.

So, declarer won the opening lead in hand with the nine of trumps and led the two of spades to dummy's king and East's ace. As declarer feared in his initial planning, East exited with a trump, won in dummy with the ten. Next, declarer cashed the queen of spades and ruffed a spade, noting with relief that the suit was 4-3. Next came a heart to the ace and a second spade ruff, thereby establishing the seven of spades as a winner.

After cashing the ace of clubs, declarer crossed to dummy with the king of hearts and ruffed dummy's remaining heart. Declarer then ruffed a club in dummy

with the jack of trumps and drew East's last trump with the queen at trick twelve. The last trick was made by the good seven of spades in dummy. Declarer had scored two spades, two hearts, three trump tricks, three ruffs in hand and the ace of clubs, for a total of twelve tricks.

679. Dealer South. Neither Vul.

♠ A 8 6 3
♥ A 7 4 2
♦ Q 5
♣ 7 5 3

♠ 10 9
♥ Q 9 8 3
♦ K 9 7 4 3
♣ J 8

♠ Q J 5
♥ K 10 5
♦ 8 6 2
♣ Q 10 9 6

♠ K 7 4 2
♥ J 6
♦ A J 10
♣ A K 4 2

West	North	East	South
—	—	—	INT
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♠
Pass	4♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

This was played in a teams match. The auction and the opening lead were the same at both tables. The first declarer played quickly; he took West's ten of spades in dummy with the ace and ran the queen of diamonds. West won and played a second trump, taken by declarer's king.

Declarer was able to discard a club on a diamond winner before cashing the ace-king of clubs and ruffing a club in dummy. However, there was no way back to his hand without East gaining the lead and drawing dummy's last trump. Consequently, declarer lost a trick in each suit to finish down one.

The second declarer ducked the opening trump lead in dummy and took the trick in hand with the king. Once East followed with the five of trumps, this declarer was fairly sure that the queen and jack of spades were on his right too. As he placed West with only two trumps, he ducked a heart at trick two. When a second trump came back, declarer won it with the ace in dummy. Only now did declarer pass the queen of diamonds to West's king.

As suspected, West had no trump to play and he exited with a heart. Declarer took this in dummy with the ace and cashed the ace-jack of diamonds to discard a club from dummy. After cashing the ace-king of clubs and ruffing a club in dummy, declarer returned to his hand with a heart ruff and ruffed his last club in dummy. East took the last trick with the jack of trumps but that was only the third defensive trick.

680. Dealer West. EW Vul.

♠ A J 7
♥ 10 5 2
♦ A Q 10 6 3
♣ K 7

♠ 8 4 2
♥ K 8 4
♦ 8 4
♣ 10 9 6 4 2

♠ 6 3
♥ Q 9 7 6 3
♦ K 7 2
♣ A Q J

♠ K Q 10 9 5
♥ A J
♦ J 9 5
♣ 8 5 3

West	North	East	South
Pass	1♦	1♥	1♠
Pass	2♠	Pass	4♣
Pass	Pass	Pass	

West led the four of hearts. Dummy played low and East inserted the queen. Without displaying any great thought, declarer took the first trick with his ace of hearts and drew trumps, ending in hand. Next, he ran the nine of diamonds. East won with the king and crossed to the West hand with a heart to the king. A club switch through dummy's king then allowed the defenders to score three club tricks for down one.

Dummy was not sympathetic to the declarer's complaints of bad luck.

"Your mistake came at trick one," he replied. "You should have allowed East's queen of hearts to win the trick. You could win the likely heart continuation, draw trumps in the way you did in practice and run the nine of diamonds, as before. The difference would be that East could not cross to West's hand. You would ruff the heart return and then run the diamonds, making five trumps, a heart and four diamonds. A return in either minor suit would have a similar result: you would always make ten tricks."



(1.) Tim Bourke converts many BBO LIN files to text. He will send the zipped RTF files to any IBPA member who so desires. Contact Tim at: timbourke@grapevine.com.au to be put on the mailing list.

(2.) Deals played at European and World Championships can be downloaded from <http://www.duplimate.com/DuplimateClub/Library/>. A free copy of the BOS package (that can be used for analysis, editing, printing, etc.) can also be requested.

West	North	East	South
<i>Uslupehlivan</i>	<i>Travis</i>	<i>Ozgur</i>	<i>Moskovsky</i>
—	—	Pass	1♥
1♠	1NT	Pass	3♣
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♦
Pass	4♠	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♦	Pass	6♣
Pass	Pass	Pass	

At the other table, the Turkish West, Sarper Uslupehlivan, found the stronger defense of shifting to a spade at trick two, cutting declarer's side-suit communication with the dummy. Now it seemed as if the Australian declarer, Ellena Moskovsky, would go down by leading a club to her ace. But when she called for a trump, East, Muhammet Osgur, shocked everyone by playing his nine.

South won, took her top hearts, ruffed a heart with the club queen, picked up trumps and claimed. Plus 100 and plus 920 gave Australia 14 IMPs on the board and the match by four.

Why did East play his club nine? He pictured a deal in which declarer had solid hearts and her only problem was drawing trumps safely with a holding of ace-king-ten-fourth in her hand. Then he had a textbook falsecard, playing the nine on the first round to leave South thinking that West had started with jack-fourth. Here, of course, the play was a disaster, and would also have been bad if his partner had had a singleton club ten.

It was the right medicine, but not for this deal.

BAM Slam

It's always exciting in a team match when one side bids a small slam and the other a grand slam, especially when the grand may or may not come home. In the Board-a-Match Teams, where grand slams were a common occurrence, Argentina faced Italy and Venezuela battled the California Aces.

Board 5. Dealer North. NS Vul.

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

Here are the four BBO auctions on this board:

For Argentina:

West	North	East	South
<i>Etchepare-borda</i>	<i>Botta</i>	<i>Rueda</i>	<i>Chavarria</i>
—	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♥	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♣ ¹	Pass
4♦ ¹	Pass	4♥ ¹	Pass
4NT ²	Pass	5♥ ³	Pass
6♣	Pass	6♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. Control bids
2. Roman Key Card Blackwood
3. Two key cards but no spade queen

For Italy:

West	North	East	South
<i>di Franco</i>	<i>Montes de Oca</i>	<i>Zanasi</i>	<i>Ferro</i>
—	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♥	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♥	Pass
3♠	Pass	3NT ¹	Pass
4♣ ²	Pass	4♥ ²	Pass
4NT ³	Pass	5♥	Pass
5NT	Pass	6♥ ⁴	Pass
7♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. Mild slam interest
2. Control bids
3. RKCB
4. Heart king, no minor-suit king

For Venezuela:

West	North	East	South
<i>de Jesus</i>	<i>Rosenberg</i>	<i>Suarez</i>	<i>Lin</i>
—	Pass	1♠	Pass
4♣ ¹	Pass	4♥	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♥	Pass
5NT	Pass	6♥	Pass
6♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. Three spades and 16-18 points

For California Aces:

West	North	East	South
<i>Wessels</i>	<i>Perez</i>	<i>Lee</i>	<i>Rodriguez</i>
—	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♥	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♥	Pass
3♠	Pass	3NT ¹	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♥	Pass
5NT	Pass	6♥	Pass
7♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. Mild slam interest

Against Juan Cruz Etchepareborda (Argentina), South led a trump. Declarer drew trumps immediately, cashed his club ace, played a diamond to dummy's ace, discarded his remaining diamond on the club king, ran

the club ten (throwing a heart), and continued with the club jack, which was covered and ruffed. East played a heart to the ace and pitched another heart on the long club, but had to lose the last trick. He took five spades, two hearts, one diamond and four clubs.

Gabriele Zanasi (Italy) received a diamond lead. Not surprisingly, he took a long time before commencing play. Finally, he won with dummy's ace, played a club to his ace, returned to dummy with a trump, and discarded his second diamond on the club king. Then he ran the club jack, throwing a heart from his hand. When that worked, Zanasi ruffed a diamond in his hand, played a heart to the ace, ruffed another diamond, cashed the heart king, discarding a club from the dummy, ruffed a heart, and claimed on a high-trump crossruff. That won the board for Italy.

Adriana Suarez (Venezuela) received the club-five lead, ducked around to her ace. She played a heart to dummy's ace, cashed the spade king-queen, diamond ace and club king (throwing a diamond), ran the club jack (pitching a heart), ruffed a club, ruffed a heart, ruffed a diamond, cashed the spade ace and heart king, and claimed because her heart nine was high.

Antony Lee (California Aces) had it easy. South led the club nine and North unwisely put up the queen. So California Aces gained the point.

The Champions

Junior Pairs

Italy: Massimiliano Di Franco/Gabriele Zanasi

Girls Pairs

Italy: Giorgia Botta/Margherita Chavarria

Youngsters Pairs

USA: Allison Hunt/Asya Ladyzhensky

Junior Teams

USA: Marius Agica, Kevin Dwyer, Adam Grossack, Zachary Grossack, Adam Kaplan, Owen Lien

Youngsters Teams

USA: Anrew Jeng, Richard Jeng, Oren Kriegel, Burke Snowden

Junior BAM Teams

Turkey: Erkmén Aydogdu, Berk Gokce, Altug Gobekli, Sarper Uslupehlivan, Akin Koclar, Muhammet Ozgur



This festival was first organized in 1996 with a table count of 1,129. Since then it has grown each year and this year the table count was 4,140.

The final of the main event, the Chairman's Cup, was played between BRENO (Romain Zaleski/Andrea Manno, Italy, Boguslaw Gierulski/Jerzy Skrzypczak, Poland) and **Vi i Femman** (Anders Morath/Tommy Gullberg/Sven-Åke Bjerregård, Johnny Östberg/Christer Bjäring, Sweden).

("Vi i femman" translates to "we in fifth grade" from the Swedish. As best I can determine, it refers to the film by that name of ABBA's first performance as a group on Swedish television in 1972; the team name may more simply refer to "we five from S:t Erik Bridgeclub in Stockholm. Breno is a small Italian commune in Brescia. - Ed.)

BRENO jumped out to a big lead after the first segment of 16 boards, 57-15 due to four big swings. This was one of them.

Dealer South. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Manno	Östberg	Zaleski	Bjäring
—	—	—	3♣
Pass	Pass	4♥	Pass
Pass	Double	Pass	

South's choice of opening bid was not a success when North did not know what a monster hand partner held for a diamond contract. North ruffed the king of clubs and played the ace of spades and another to the jack for 690 to East-West.

At the other table North did not have to contend with the off-putting three-club opening.

West	North	East	South
Morath	Gierulski	Gullberg	Skrzypczak
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	1♦	4♥	5♦
Pass	6♦	6♥	Double
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Gullberg judged the deal very well when North raised himself to six diamonds. Here North didn't ruff the club king, so Gullberg won and played a trump to dummy and a spade toward the king. North won with the ace and tried the ace of diamonds. East ruffed and got to dummy in trumps again to lead the jack of spades, thus going just one down.

That was a very good save, but still 13 IMPs away. After 32 boards BRENO led 92-37 and after three segments the lead was 121-76, but it's not over until the fat lady sings and **Vi i Femman** outscored their opponents 74-1 over the final 16 boards to win the match 150-122!

The story of the Swedes' comeback is told by Tommy Gullberg in the article following this one. - Ed.

The final of the Swedish Pairs Championship was won by Leif Trapp and Gunnar Elmroth. Trapp adroitly saved himself by using a mistake by the defender on this board, where he got too high.

Dealer East. NS Vul.

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

After the strong club and a relay sequence, North revealed 9-11 HCP with a five-card spade suit and a singleton heart, a series of control bids followed, and when North-South stopped in five spades, West rightly decided that they were too high and doubled.

The club lead went to the queen and South cashed the ace as well to give his opponent enough rope to hang himself. Declarer continued with a spade to the ten and ran the heart ten to the queen. Now West duly made his mistake, returning a third club, ruffed by South. He ruffed out the ace of hearts, returned to his hand with the king of diamonds, cashed a heart and ruffed the last one. Two rounds of diamonds forced West to ruff and he was end-played for the contract.

That was worth 48 out of 50 points, while one down would have given just two.

In the Pairs semifinal, Per-Ola Cullin handled a four-spade contract very beautifully.

Dealer West. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Pass	Ahlesved		Cullin
Pass	1♣	2♣	2♠
Pass	4♠	Pass	Pass

The three-of-clubs lead was won by the ace and the play followed the natural line of unblocking the king of diamonds, a heart ruff, the ace of diamonds, a diamond ruff, another heart ruff and the fourth diamond. East ruffed in with the seven of spades and declarer over-ruffed with the eight. The next heart ruff brought down the second heart honour. Cullin now had a detailed picture of the whole deal. He cashed the king of spades in this ending:

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

He ruffed a club with the ace of spades and West was the victim of a nice Backwash Squeeze. Whichever card he played would give declarer twelve tricks. He ditched his diamond, and was endplayed on the jack of spades to lead a heart into the queen-ten.

East's ruff with the seven of spades was totally pointless, since it hardly could produce a spade trick for partner. Here, it gave declarer total control of the deal, since he knew that West had jack-five of spades. Making 12 tricks was worth 158 out of 168.

THE COMEBACK

Tommy Gullberg, Nacka, Sweden

The IBPA editor has asked me to tell the story of our comeback from 45 IMPs down after 48 of 64 boards in the Chairman's Cup final match. There were five double-digit swings in the last quarter, all in our favour. Here they are.

The first board of the quarter was a potential slam ...

Board 49. Dealer North. Neither Vul.

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

♠ 9 8
♥ J 8 7
♦ J 6
♣ 10 9 8 4 3 2

West	North	East	South
Morath	Gierulski	Bjerregård	Skrzypczak
—	Pass	1♣ ¹	Pass
1♠ ²	Pass	2♣ ³	Pass
2♠ ⁴	Pass	3♠	Pass
3NT ⁵	Pass	4♣ ⁶	Pass
4♥ ⁶	Pass	4NT ⁷	Pass
5♥ ⁸	Pass	6♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. 11-13/17+
2. 4+ spades, positive
3. 17+ with ♣ or balanced
4. 5+ spades
5. Strong, balanced
6. Cue bids
7. RKCB
8. 2 key cards, no spade queen

Morath made all 13 tricks; Team BRENO stopped in four spades: 11 IMPs to us. Four boards later ...

Board 53. Dealer North. NS Vul.

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

♠ J 10 4 3
♥ K 10 8 7
♦ J
♣ Q 9 8 2

Johnny Östberg and Christer Bjäring bid three notrump and had no trouble making it with the heart ace and queen onside. The Poles stopped in two notrump for another 10 IMPs to Sweden.

We'd gained back 40 IMPs when board 61 appeared.

Board 61. Dealer North. Both Vul.

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

Morath overcalled three spades as West after South's one-heart opening bid and was left there. He made ten tricks with the fortunate black-suit layout.

Manno, for Team BRENO bid two spades only. That allowed Östberg, North, to bid three diamonds and Bjäring, South, three notrump.

A spade was led. Declarer needs to set up two heart tricks or win one heart trick and one club trick. However, following the age-old advice of running your long suit, South ran diamonds after winning the spade lead at trick one. East could have shut declarer out of his hand by discarding hearts but discarded clubs instead, not sure of the heart and club layouts. Bjäring made two club tricks for nine in all and a 53-0 score in these 13 boards! We had taken the lead.

Board 63. Dealer South. Neither Vul.

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

The shutout had ended at board 62 with a single overtrick IMP to BRENO. Then ...

Both Wests opened with a two-bid, Morath with two hearts and Manno with two diamonds, Multi. Both Easts closed the auction with four spades.

Both South players led the king of clubs, ducked, and shifted to a trump. Both Norths won with the ace.

Against Bjerregård, North shifted to the king of diamonds to declarer's ace. Bjerregård immediately played a heart and South took his ace, fearing a singleton and hoping for diamond or club tricks. That was plus 420 to the Swedes.

At the other table, North played back a club after winning his ace of trumps. Declarer, Zaleski, won with his ace and played off six trumps, then a heart. When South ducked, declarer misguessed, losing to North's queen. Another heart trick later meant minus 50 to the Italians and another 10 IMPs to **Vi i Femman**.

Board 64. Dealer West. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Manno	Östberg	Zaleski	Bjåring
1♠	3♣	Double	5♣
Pass	Pass	Pass	

With no extra values and silence from his partner, East passed out five clubs. Bjåring lost a spade, a heart and two diamond tricks for down two, minus 100.

West	North	East	South
Morath	Gierulski	Bjerregård	Skrzypczak
1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♠	3♣	3♠	3NT
4♦	Pass	4♠	Pass
Pass	5♣	5♦	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Here, North declined to come in over one spade, allowing East-West the time to describe their hands to each other. Then he unwisely led a spade against five diamonds and his club trick disappeared. That was 11 tricks to East-West, plus 600, and another 11 IMPs, making the score on the set 74-1 and in the match, 150-122. We had IMPs to spare!



**NORWEGIAN
PRIZES**

**Knut Kjærnsrød
Tored, Norway**

Every year in Norway we have nominations for the best-played or -defended hand by a Norwegian player, sponsored by Ernst & Young. This year, the award was won by Laila Elefskaas, a woman from the south of Norway. Laila executed a spectacular defence when she created a smokescreen for a declarer who went astray, and nine certain tricks in notrump were suddenly converted into eight:

Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
—	—	—	1♣
Pass	1♦	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♦ ¹	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			
	1. Forcing		

Laila was West and led the four of hearts to East's king. East continued with the five of hearts to West's ace and a third heart was taken by dummy's knave. Declarer led a diamond to the ace and another diamond. Laila followed, in tempo, without the slightest hesitation, with the nine and the queen! Declarer cashed three top clubs to discover four cards with East, Laila discarding a heart on the third club.

Declarer, Eyvind Lorentzen, a very competent player, now thought he had a complete count and felt quite sure of ten tricks (it was a pairs tournament). East had to possess:

♠ xx
♥ Kxx
♦ 10xxx
♣ J10xx

He cashed the ace and king of spades (yes, East had a doubleton) gave up a club to East, and imagine his surprise when East took the rest with a heart and the queen of spades!

Second place was won by Norwegian international Thor Erik Hoftaniska for his defence against three notrump from a First Division match:

Dealer North. NS Vul.

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

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

Thor Erik was North, and the bidding went:

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

Hoftaniska led the heart four, which rode around to the knave. Declarer led a spade to the queen and a spade back to the knave. Thor Erik now performed a Merrimac Coup by shifting to the king of clubs! Declarer was cut off from his spades and the contract had to go one down.

Both boards were reported to the committee by Snorre Aalberg.

We also have a special prize for Juniors and Jon Sveindal reported this deal, played by Christian Bakke, a junior international and son of Tor Bakke, a many-times international for Norway:

Dealer West. Neither Vul.

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

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Christian B.</i>		<i>Tor B.</i>	
1♥	Pass	2♠ ¹	Double
3♦	4♠	Double	Pass
6♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. Game-forcing, four-card heart support, no relation to spades

A spade lead from North would have made life easy for young Christian, but the opening lead of the club king required a more sophisticated plan.

The ace of clubs was followed by the diamond ace, king and a diamond ruff with the trump knave. When diamonds proved to be 4-2 it created a problem, but Christian solved that elegantly by playing a trump to his nine!

Now he could ruff the fourth diamond high and return to his hand via his trump ace, discard dummy's club on the fifth diamond and ruff a club to land his slam.

During the Norwegian Bridge Festival in August, we also have a prize, for the Best-Played Hand. This year, Jo Arne Ovesen's declarer play in three notrump won the award. It was reported to the daily bulletin by Andre Hagen.

Dealer East. Both Vul.

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

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

West	North	East	South
—	<i>Ovesen</i>		<i>Hagen</i>
—	—	2♦ ¹	Pass
2♥ ²	Double	Pass	2♠
Pass	3NT	Pass	Pass

1. Multi
2. Pass or correct

East led the two of diamonds. Declarer won and led a spade to the knave, revealing the bad distribution. West took his king and returned a heart to the king. The spade eight and queen took the next two tricks and East discarded a heart and two diamonds on the spades.

Jo Arne cashed his remaining diamond honours and the ace of clubs, and East could choose between pest and cholera. If he did not unblock his queen of clubs, he would be endplayed to lead into the heart tenace, and if he did unblock it, Jo Arne would endplay West in spades and would get his ninth trick from the knave of clubs.



Jack Zhao put in a spectacular candidate for the best-played hand of the year on this deal from a tournament in China in July:

♠ K
♥ K Q J 10 4
♦ A 7 3
♣ K 10 5 4

♠ Q J 9 6 4
♥ —
♦ K 8 2
♣ Q 9 6 3 2

West	North	East	South
1♦	Double	1♠	2♣
Pass	2♥	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♦
Pass	4♣	Pass	5♣
Pass	Pass	Pass	

West led the queen of diamonds. Zhao worked out that the missing hearts were likely 4-4. East was therefore 5-4 in the majors, and thus he had to be 5=4=2=2 or the diamond ruff was inevitable. The layout he envisioned had West holding a 2=4=5=2 pattern with all the high cards except the ace of spades. Something like this (East/West spots approximate):

♠ K
♥ K Q J 10 4
♦ A 7 3
♣ K 10 5 4

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

♠ Q J 9 6 4
♥ —
♦ K 8 2
♣ Q 9 6 3 2

The natural move is to play the king of spades next, but if the defenders win and play the trump ace and another trump, declarer has ten tricks and no more.

The key is to win the queen of diamonds lead with the ace, ruff a heart at trick two, and only then play a spade. If the defenders win with the ace of spades and play two rounds of trumps, you win in dummy and ruff a heart, cash the queen and jack of spades, ruff a

spade, ruff a heart and finally ruff a spade. On this trick, West will be squeezed out of his diamond guard to protect his ace of hearts.

At the table, East won with the ace of spades and continued with diamonds. Declarer won with the diamond king, cashed one top spade and ruffed a spade, West being forced to discard a diamond or the hearts would have ruffed out.

Zhao then ruffed a heart, led the jack of spades (ruffed and overruffed), ruffed a heart, and had a crossruff whatever the defenders did.

Can the defenders foil declarer's line of play? Yes, but it's not obvious. After the queen of diamonds lead goes to dummy's ace, declarer must ruff a heart and play a spade to the king and ace. East must shift to a trump. When West wins the ace, however, he must resist the temptation to play a second trump and, instead, continue diamonds. Declarer can win and cash the queen of spades, but he cannot afford to draw another round of trumps, and West's jack of clubs serves as a sentinel ready to ruff the jack of spades whenever declarer chooses to play it.

With the king of diamonds out of the way, the jack of clubs is an effective idle card in the West hand. The squeeze position required for declarer to succeed is destroyed by the second diamond play.

NEWS & VIEWS



Family Affairs Updates

It has come to our attention that IBPA Executive member GeO Tislevoll, formerly of Norway and now a resident of New Zealand, will represent his adopted nation in the Bermuda Bowl; Tislevoll's wife Faith will represent her birth-nation, the Philippines, in the Venice Cup.

Women's Cavendish?

A women's Cavendish is a possibility, says Jean-Charles Allavena, president of the Monaco Bridge Federation, responding to a series of questions about the Cavendish, which will be played in Monaco this fall for the second year in a row. Interested women players may contact Allavena at jcaconseil@libello.com.



IBPA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Monday morning, 23rd Sep 2013 – Bali
Proposed Agenda

1. **Remembrance** of members deceased since last AGM.
2. **Minutes** of the EGM and AGM held on 16th August, 2012 in Lille (see Bulletin 573, page 10 and 11) and matters arising.
3. **Officers' Reports:** President, Chairman, Secretary
4. **Appointees' Reports:** Editor, Liaison Officer, Membership Secretary.
5. **Treasurer:** Accounts for the year ending 31st December, 2012, budget and proposal regarding subscriptions for the year 2014.
Auditor's report for 2012 (Richard Fleet).
6. **Elections:** Officers already elected to the 2014 AGM are:
President: Patrick Jourdain (Wales);
Chairman: Per Jannersten (Sweden);
Exec Vice-President: Jan van Cleeff (Netherlands);
Organisational Vice-President: Dilip Gidwani (India);
Secretary: Herman de Wael (Belgium);
Treasurer: Richard Solomon (New Zealand).
Proposed for annual election are:
Honorary General Counsel: Bill Pencharz (England);
Honorary Auditor:
Automatically continuing without election are the Presidents Emeritii: Tommy Sandsmark (Norway); Henry Francis (USA).
7. **Election of Executive Members:**
Proposed for a 3-year election to 2016: David Stern (Australia); Brent Manley (USA); Todashi Yoshida (Japan).
Already elected to 2015: Geo Tislevoll (Norway); Nikolas Bausback (Germany); Ron Tacchi (France).
Already elected to 2014: John Carruthers (Canada); Barry Rigal (USA); Gavin Wolpert (USA).
Note: Appointees in post:
Awards Chairman: Barry Rigal (USA);
Editor: John Carruthers (Canada);
Membership Secretary: Jeremy Dhondy (England).
8. **The IBPA Annual Awards**
9. **Any other competent business.**

Patrick Jourdain (President)



Correspondence

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

Dear John,

Andy Hung is an up-and-coming 27-year-old writer, is one of the best BBO operators we have in Australia and he puts out a high-quality youth magazine published about three or four times a year. Perhaps some mention of it in the IBPA Bulletin would be appropriate as he will soon be a member.

Andy can be reached at youthbridge.au@gmail.com.

Yours truly, David Stern, Sydney



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Personal Details Changes:

Whenever your contact details change, please amend them as appropriate in the database found at: www.jannersten.org or inform the Membership Secretary, Jeremy Dhondy: jdondy@gmail.com

World Bridge Calendar

DATES	EVENT	LOCATION	INFORMATION
2013			
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 25-30	International Festival	Azore Is., Portugal	www.fpbridge.com
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 11-13	International Teams Tournament	Rome, Italy	www.federbridge.it
Oct. 12-13	Selangor Congress	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	ruthrandhawa@hotmail.com
Oct 13-18	Beijing Hua Cup	Beijing, China	www.worldbridge.org
Oct 18-20	25 th International Teams Tournament	Monte Carlo, Monaco	www.cavendishmonaco.com
Oct 21 & 23	WBF Pairs to Support Youth Bridge	Clubs Worldwide	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 4-10	16 th Madeira Bridge Open	Madeira, Portugal	www.bridge-madeira.com
Nov 14-17	12 th European Champions Cup	Opatija, Croatia	www.eurobridge.org
Nov 14-24	19 th Red Sea International Festival	Eilat, Israel	www.bridgeredsea.com
Nov 16-23	XII International Bridge Festival	Havana & Varadero, Cuba	www.festivalbridgecuba.com
Nov 27-Dec 1	35 th ASEAN Bridge Club Championship	Makati City, Philippines	www.asean@bridge.org.ph
Nov 28-Dec 8	Fall NABC	Phoenix, AZ	www.acbl.org
Dec 8-16	SportAccord World Mind Games	Beijing, China	www.worldbridge.org
Dec 13-15	Città di Milano Internazionale Squadre	Milan, Italy	www.federbridge.it
Dec 16 & 18	WBF Pairs to Support Youth Bridge	Clubs Worldwide	www.worldbridge.org
Dec 17-23	55 th Indian Winter Nationals	Ahmedabad, India	www.bfi.net.in
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 23-16	Reykjavik Bridge Festival 2014	Reykjavik, Iceland	bridge@bridge.is
Jan 24-31	XXXVII International Festival	Budapest, Hungary	www.bridzs.hu/ibbf2014
Jan 25-31	Bermuda Regional	Southampton, Bermuda	www.bermudaregional.com
Feb 4-10	EBU Overseas Malta Congress	Sliema, Malta	www.ebu.co.uk
Feb 11-16	19 th NEC Festival	Yokohama, Japan	www.jcbl.or.jp
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 9-16	Dead Sea Festival	Dead Sea, Israel	birman@inter.net.il
Mar 20-23	Tasmanian Festival of Bridge	Tainceston, Tasmania	www.abf.com.au
Mar 20-30	Spring NABC	Dallas, TX	www.acbl.org
Mar 23-29	XXVII International Festival	Tenerife, Canary Is., Spain	www.aebridge.com
Mar 24-30	11 th Meeting of Bridge Morocco	Agadir, Morocco	www.bridgeagadir.com
Mar 30-Apr 4	White House Junior International Teams	Amsterdam, Netherlands	keestammens@gmail.com
Apr 5-9	Bangkok Bridge Festival	Bangkok, Thailand	chodchoy7@gmail.com
Apr 15-20	119 th Canadian Nationals	Toronto, ON	www.unit166.ca
Apr 25-May 4	Jersey Congress	Jersey, Channel Is.	www.ebu.co.uk
May 17-24	5 th Open S. American Championships	Santiago, Chile	http://santiago2014.csbnews.org
May 18-25	German Bridge Festival	Wyk-auf-Föhr, Germany	www.bridge-verband.de
Jul 12-19	12 th European Youth Pairs & Camp	Burghausen, Germany	www.eurobridge.org
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
Aug 8-17	Summer Meeting	Brighton, England	www.ebu.co.uk
Aug 13-24	15 th World Youth Championships	Istanbul, Turkey	www.worldbridge.org
Sep 8-13	4 th Commonwealth Bridge Championship	Glasgow, Scotland	www.commonwealthbridge-scotland.com
Sep 12-21	Confiance Congress	Guernsey, Channel Is.	www.ebu.co.uk
Sep 27-Oct 4	31 st NZ National Congress	Hamilton, New Zealand	www.nzcba.co.nz
Oct 10-25	15th World Bridge Series	Sanya, China	www.worldbridge.org
Nov 27-Dec 7	Fall NABC	Providence, RI	www.acbl.org