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## THE INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE PRESS ASSOCIATION

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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.*

**Bulletin No. 587**

**December 10, 2013**

### *Editorial*

*The opinions expressed here do not necessarily represent those of the IBPA Executive or its membership.*

The World Bridge Federation announced an exciting prospect in Bali: the Chinese software gaming company Ourgame has made its wish known to purchase the exclusive broadcast rights to all WBF World Championships and is willing to pay a substantial sum to obtain them (the number was not made public - presumably it is open for negotiation).

Currently, Bridge Base Online (BBO) is the chief broadcaster, with most broadcasts in English and occasionally in a local language. BBO broadcasts many events worldwide from World, Zonal and National Championships, to invitational events, Trials and events of local interest. Currently, Ourgame broadcasts bridge only in Chinese.

BBO has taken over as the world's leading online bridge-playing and bridge-viewing site, offering sanctioned games, a meeting place to practice, and bridge lessons, as well as their extensive calendar of VuGraph broadcasts. This is so because BBO has created the markets and performed better than anyone else.

For we bridge journalists and fans of the game, it's currently a pretty good situation. We can log in to BBO at any time night or day and usually find a broadcast from somewhere or, if not, one is coming soon. Now we are in danger of losing some of that facility. The WBF needs to tread very cautiously with Ourgame. Here are some of the things that need to be considered:

- i.) BBO needs to be offered the opportunity to respond and make a counter-proposal.
- ii.) Ourgame must be able to prove that it can do the job fluently in English. For example, their website is currently solely in Chinese.
- iii.) Ourgame must make its plans for broadcast known in detail, especially how it plans to recoup costs. The WBF should make its plans for the revenue public.
- iv.) Historical files need to be kept where they can be easily accessed by system users.

The WBF needs to treat the Ourgame proposal in a professional, businesslike manner, looking at it from the standpoint of:

- i.) Proof of Concept - Just as for any business system.
- ii.) Request for Proposal - Others need to be given the opportunity to bid.
- iii.) Testing - As with any business or computer system, before it can be put into production, detailed module and system testing, as well as user testing by a range of people with varying skill sets and interest needs to be done.
- iv.) Trials - A staged, step-by-step implementation with any software vendor is important: in the case of bridge broadcasting, this would mean allowing one championship at a time.
- v.) Security - The WBF has a responsibility to be certain that the software downloaded to play or view bridge is free from spyware, malware and other nefarious bugs.

This can all be accomplished by the WBF engaging the appropriate business people, systems people, security people, software people and end users for evaluation, building and testing. Engaging a professional project manager would be a start. Fortunately, in the bridge world, there are lots of prominent and successful people who are willing to help.

**Renewing your IBPA membership online - see back cover.**

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# THE PRESIDENT'S CUP

The Lederer Memorial  
Paul Lamford, London



The prestigious Lederer Invitational Tournament had to find a new location this year, as the Young Chelsea Bridge Club could no longer accommodate the event. The RAC came to the rescue by providing a splendid venue in their club in the heart of London's Pall Mall. It was 1997 when the President's Team had the second of their two successes in this invitation team event, and a few of that team are now octogenarians. Tony Priday and John Matheson, recent regulars for the President's side, did not play this year. Younger blood was brought in and some very good players answered the rallying cry at short notice. It certainly worked and the team of Teltscher and Silverstone, Coyle and King, Townsend and di Bello led throughout and were almost certain to win with a match to go. This was Silverstone's seventh win of the Lederer, and he joins Zia and Robson on that magic number, at least for those years where there are records. Who will be the first to get to eight?

## Near Miss

Dealer North. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Holland	Brown	Hallberg	Stockdale
—	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♥ <sup>1</sup>	Pass	2NT <sup>2</sup>	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♦	Pass
3NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. 0-3
2. 22-24

A major-suit lead would have made life easy for Hallberg, but South did well to lead the ten of diamonds. East won with the king and ducked a club. Another

diamond came back and declarer won in his hand, cashed the top clubs and the remaining diamonds, pitching the club from hand. He was pretty sure that South was 4=4=3=2 now (no major-suit lead), so played a heart to the eight. South exited with a heart, and Hallberg won and threw South in with another heart. However, North had the ace of spades, so she could win a spade trick and cash the winning club for one off. Had South held the ace of spades instead of North, Hallberg would have been home. Good play and great defence from the two rising women stars.

## Tribal Calls

Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Justin	Bell	Pszczola	Byrne
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	1♣ <sup>1</sup>	Pass	1♠ <sup>2</sup>
Pass	1NT <sup>3</sup>	Pass	2♦ <sup>4</sup>
Pass	2♥	Pass	3♦
Pass	3♥ <sup>5</sup>	Pass	4♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. Clubs or 17-19 balanced
2. Diamonds
3. 17-19 balanced
4. Artificial game force
5. Good four-card heart suit

The above auction, from the match between the Holders and the European Aces, won the best-bid deal award, even though the contract failed. Byrne/Bell were the only pair to explore the deal fully. Their system, TRI-BAL, is so called as it focuses on three balanced hand ranges. With his good intermediates Mike Bell was going to treat it as a balanced 17-19. After three hearts, it was easy to choose the Moysian fit by bidding four hearts, but with clubs 3-1 and the diamond finesse wrong, the contract went down.

Game is around 65%, so a very good contract at the combined teams and point-a-board scoring system in operation in the Lederer. Zia-Bakhshi, and Hoftaniska-Charlsen, bid 1NT (15-17)-2♣-2♥-3♥-4♥ and that could have been a poor contract opposite spade wastage and much weaker hearts.

### Ruff Justice

Dealer North. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Allerton	Hoftaniska	Jagger	Charlsen
—	Pass	Pass	1♣
Double	Redouble	Pass	Pass
1♥	Pass	Pass	Double
Pass	Pass	1♠	Double
Pass	Pass	Pass	

This was judged to be the best-defended deal because the defenders cooperated to get a big penalty. North did well to redouble rather than bid his six-card diamond suit, and the Premier League winners struggled into one spade, which was not a thing of beauty. It got uglier when South led his diamond and declarer finessed – rising with the ace would have been minus 500. North won and returned the four of diamonds, ruffed, and South played a club to North who gave South a second diamond ruff. Then South cashed his clubs, Hoftaniska pitching a heart, and played a fourth round, conceding a ruff and discard. West pitched a heart, and North ruffed with the spade queen and led a heart to dummy. South could win the next spade and give North a heart ruff for three down and plus 800.

Tom Townsend subsequently pointed out that the defence could have done a trick better! They take only one diamond ruff, and then North plays his second club. South cashes the clubs, North discarding a heart, and plays a heart. Declarer finesses, and leads a spade to the jack, but South wins with the ace and plays the king of hearts covered and ruffed. Only now does North give South his second diamond ruff. South cashes the other high heart and then plays any card to promote the queen of spades for four off. It was only a few days later that this defence was uncovered.

### Slam Swings

On the following deal (see top of next column), South led a heart in response to his partner's lead-directing double of the Key Card response to Blackwood. Declarer won the heart queen with his ace.

### Game All. Dealer North.

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

West	North	East	South
Brekka	Jagger	Sælensminde	Allerton
—	Pass	1♣	Pass
1♥ <sup>1</sup>	Pass	1♠ <sup>2</sup>	Pass
4♠	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♥	Double	5NT	Pass
6♣	Pass	6♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. Transfer to spades
2. 3-card spade support

After much thought, declarer played the ace of diamonds and the ten of diamonds, ducking when South covered with the jack. The eight of spades was returned, won with the nine, and a club to the king was followed by a diamond, ruffed low. Now declarer cashed the ace of clubs and, after more thought, drew trumps. The red menaces were with North and the club guard with South, so declarer had to go down.

South had played the seven, nine in clubs, and North had followed upwards too, playing normal count, so maybe Sælensminde formed the opinion that clubs were 3-3. He therefore just drew trumps in case they were 4-1 - he would still have made the contract if there had been a squeeze. Note the good play of ducking the jack of diamonds. If South had king-jack to four, he would have done very well to play the jack, and even if he had that holding, one might well squeeze him in the minors anyway.



Winners of the 2013 Lederer: President's Team - Victor Silverstone, Willie Coyle, Tom Townsend, Bernard Teltscher, Phil King, Stelio di Bello

Alongside the main event there was a 'Play with the Stars' in which players scored up with their 'teammates' from the Lederer. The East/West winners were Naomi Cohen and Tim Pelling (Wimbledon) with plus 32 IMPs and North/South was won by Madhusinh and Manjari Rawji (Friends Bridge Club, Harrow) with plus 69 IMPs.

The top three teams were:

1. **President's Team** (Bernard Teltscher, Victor Silverstone, Willie Coyle, Phil King, Tom Townsend, Stelio di Bello)
2. **England Women** (Heather Dhondy, Nevena Senior, Sally Brock, Nicola Smith, Fiona Brown, Susan Stockdale. Barry Myers stood in on Saturday)
3. **Holders** (Neil Rosen, Martin Jones, Michael Byrne, Michael Bell, Peter Crouch and Simon Cope)

Negotiations are already underway to stage the event at the RAC for next year.



**Dealer South. Both Vul.**

♠ K 4 2

♥ A 9 7 5

♦ 7 2

♣ A J 6 2

♠ 10 9 6

♥ 10 6

♦ J 9 8

♣ K 10 9 8 4

♠ Q J 8 7 3

♥ 8 3 2

♦ 10 5 4 3

♣ 3

♠ A 5

♥ K Q J 4

♦ A K Q 6

♣ Q 7 5

West	North	East	South
Andrew Robson	David Bakhshi	Alexander Allfrey	Zia Mahmood
—	—	—	2NT
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♥
Pass	3♠	Double	Redouble
Pass	4♣	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♥	Pass	5♠
Pass	5NT	Pass	6♥
Pass	6♠	Pass	6NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

The 2013 Lederer Trophy was impressively staged in the RAC Club in London's Pall Mall. In the last round, England Open faced 'Zia and friends'. Neither team was in contention and at the table where I

was watching a bottle of the club's excellent house champagne had already been opened. This was the penultimate board.

Bakhshi's three spades was a slam-try in hearts. Allfrey took his chance to suggest a lead and Zia redoubled to show the spade ace. South's five spades asked for kings and five notrump showed 'extras' but no minor-suit king to be shown. North's six spades was a seemingly ambitious venture towards a grand slam. Do you think six notrump should be made?

West guards the fourth round of clubs, while East guards the fourth round of diamonds. So, a double squeeze with spades as the pivot suit is possible (after giving up a club), provided a spade is not led. Robson did respect his partner's earlier double, leading the ten of spades, and Zia won in his hand. A finesse of the jack of clubs was successful and Zia returned to the king of hearts before ducking a club to West's ten, East throwing a spade.

At this point, West needs to play another spade to break the double squeeze mentioned already. After long thought, Robson switched to the eight of diamonds. I thought at the time that he had diagnosed four diamonds to the ten in partner's hand and (by showing his own jack-nine-eight) was trying to alert him to the fact that these cards needed to be retained. East has a problem on a spade continuation anyway since declarer could have 3=4=3=3 distribution, in which case East needs to retain a spade, not a diamond.

Allfrey kept his diamond guard by following with the three and Zia won with the king. He then cashed the queen and jack of hearts and led the queen of clubs, covered by the king and ace. This end position had been reached:

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

When the ace of hearts was played, East had no good discard. He actually released a diamond, allowing Zia to score the ace-queen-six of diamonds in the end. Suppose East instead releases a spade honour, though, leaving West to guard that suit. West can only throw a diamond and declarer's last diamond winner will squeeze him in the black suits. At the other table Tony Forrester made six hearts with an overtrick when Espen Erichsen led the ten of clubs, run to the queen.



I RAISE  
YOU ONE  
John Carruthers,  
Kingsville, ON

NEWS FROM  
TURKEY  
Erdal Sidar,  
Istanbul



It may not have won the Lederer's 'Best-Bid Board' award, but this effort by David Bakhshi and Zia would have garnered my vote ... if I'd had one!

Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

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

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

West	North	East	South
Zia	Sælensminde	Bakhshi	Brekka
—	—	—	3♠
Pass	4♠	4NT <sup>1</sup>	Pass
5NT <sup>2</sup>	Pass	6♣	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. Any two suits
2. Pick a slam

Barring a ruff, six clubs is cold, a fine result in the face of the preemption and holding so few high cards.

At the other table, depending on your point of view, only Simon Gillis, East, did not blot his copybook ...

West	North	East	South
Brogeland	Erichsen	Gillis	Irens
—	—	—	3♠
Pass	4♠	4NT <sup>1</sup>	Pass
5♣	Pass	Pass	5♠
6♣	Double	Pass	Pass
Pass			

1. Any two suits

Boye Brogeland saw the result go from a big loss on the board (five clubs) to a tie (six clubs) and finally, to a medium-sized win (double). While settling for game, then bidding slam in front of partner may look odd or undisciplined to the untutored eye, no other player in the world does better than Brogeland at judging the wind direction at the table. He seems to have a sixth sense about these situations.

The Republic Cup tournament was held in the Greenpark Hotel in Istanbul. With 211 tables participating, this was a record. The Cup was won by Citak and Erdem from the city of Kirklareli.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Salvador Assael bridge tournament will be held in Izmir, June 1-8, 2014. Next year, more well-known players from all over the world will be invited to take part. The Calcutta Invitational Pairs will be the flagship event.

A tournament under the name of Necmettin Sunget, an old Turkish Bridge Federation member and bridge teacher, was organized in Istanbul and won by Gokhan Yilmaz (national open team player) and Zeynep Yucer (national women's team player). I would like to report a deal played by Yucer:

Pairs. Dealer North. EW Vul.

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

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

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

West	North	East	South
—	Yilmaz		Yucer
—	3♦	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass

West led the three of spades. Declarer, Zeynep Yucer, took East's jack with her ace! This was declarer's first good move. She next played a diamond to the king and another diamond. When East took his ace on the second round, there was no reason to do anything other than continue spades. Yucer's second good move was to falsecard with the ten of spades, making West think his partner held the queen-jack-nine-eight-(four). So West won the spade with the king and continued with the two of spades. When declarer won with the four of spades, East revealed his exasperation. South still had the queen of hearts entry to reach the good diamonds.

# 12<sup>th</sup> EUROPEAN CHAMPIONS CUP

Opatija, Croatia - November 14-17, 2013

Jos Jacobs, Maarn, Netherlands



The 12 contestants consisted of the national champions of the top 10 finishers in the European Team Championship, the hosts, and the holders. They were seeded into two six-team groups for a round robin within each group. The top two qualifiers from each group would play semifinals (A1-B2 and B1-A2).

**Round 1. Dr Tomljenovic (Croatia) v Ruch Wroclaw (Poland) & Monaco FMB v G.S. Allegra (Italy)**

**Board 2. Dealer East. NS Vul.**

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

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Duboin</i>	<i>Fantoni</i>	<i>Sementa</i>	<i>Nunes</i>
—	—	1♣	1♥
Pass	2♣	5♣	Pass
Pass	Double	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Sementa took what looked like a good save - maybe it was, maybe it was not. Four spades looks cold (East/West can take a diamond ruff or a heart ruff, but not both), but four hearts might go down. Apart from that, it would all depend on what happened at the other table. Here, five clubs went the obvious one down.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Helgemo</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Helness</i>	<i>Madala</i>
—	—	1♣	1♥
1♠ <sup>1</sup>	Double	3♣	Pass
3NT	Double	Pass	Pass
4♣	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. Double would have denied four spades

Helgemo stole Bocchi's suit but got cold feet when Bocchi doubled three notrump. When Helgemo saved

himself (?) in four clubs, everyone passed for plus 130 and 6 IMPs to Monaco.

This is what happened in the Croatia v. Poland match

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Kwiecien</i>	<i>Borevkovic</i>	<i>Gawrys</i>	<i>Kulovic</i>
—	—	1♣	1♥
1♠	4♠	5♣	Pass
Pass	5♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			

In the open room, the Poles took everything that was there for the defence to take and more. The queen of clubs lead was ruffed in dummy and Kulovic played the king of spades. Gawrys took the ace and returned his diamond queen. Kulovic took the king, ruffed a club, discarded his third club on the spade queen and played a heart. Kwiecien took the ace, gave Gawrys a diamond ruff, and the third round of clubs promoted the ten of hearts for two off and plus 200 for East/West.

The play and defence are very complex and varied, but declarer can always manage 10, but not 11, tricks.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Tesla</i>	<i>Klukowski</i>	<i>Stanicic</i>	<i>Tuczynski</i>
—	—	2♣	Pass
3♣	3♠	3NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Stanicic made ten tricks on a spade lead; East/West plus 430 and 6 IMPs for Croatia.

**Board 16. Dealer West. NS Vul.**

<p>♠ 10 8 6 ♥ — ♦ Q J 8 7 2 ♣ A K Q 5 4</p> <p>♠ A J 7 4 ♥ A K Q 10 9 8 7 3 ♦ — ♣ 6</p>	<p>♠ K 5 3 2 ♥ J 5 ♦ K 6 5 3 ♣ 9 7 2</p> <p>♠ Q 9 ♥ 6 4 2 ♦ A 10 9 4 ♣ J 10 8 3</p>
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How do you bid an eight-card suit headed by the ace-king-queen?

West	North	East	South
<i>Kwiecien</i>	<i>Borevkovic</i>	<i>Gawrys</i>	<i>Kulovic</i>
1♥	Double	Pass	2♣
4♥	5♣	Double	Pass
Pass	Pass		

A spade lead beats five clubs if followed by a diamond ruff, but after the ace of hearts lead the curtain was soon down: 11 tricks for plus 550 to North/South.

West	North	East	South
<i>Tesla</i>	<i>Klukowski</i>	<i>Stanicic</i>	<i>Tuczynski</i>
1♣	INT	Double	Pass
2♥	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Tesla decided that he should treat the hand as a two-suiter. Oddly enough, his partner had a better fit for spades than for hearts, so they ended up in four spades making twelve tricks, collecting plus 680 and 15 IMPs for Croatia.

In Allegra versus Monaco ...

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Duboin</i>	<i>Fantoni</i>	<i>Sementa</i>	<i>Nunes</i>
1♥	2NT	Pass	4♦
5♦	Pass	5NT	Pass
6♥	Double	Pass	Pass
Pass			

When the spades behaved, declarer was home for plus 1660 to Allegra. It was an unpleasant surprise for Fantoni that only one club trick survived.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Helgemo</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Helness</i>	<i>Madala</i>
1♥	3♥	Pass	5♦
5♥	Pass	Pass	6♦
Double	Pass	Pass	Pass

At the other table, Helgemo must have felt as unhappy as his teammate in the Open Room when the board was over ... just one down but 17 IMPs back to Allegra.

### Round 3. Club Real v Reggio Emilia

#### Board 8. Dealer West. Neither Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Mina</i>	<i>Krasnosselski</i>	<i>Basile</i>	<i>Gladys</i>
1♦	Pass	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♥	Pass	2♠
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Real Russia had plus 400 as declarer had nine tricks by driving out the ace of clubs after a diamond lead to the queen and ace.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Versace</i>	<i>Sabbatini</i>	<i>Lauria</i>	<i>Comella</i>
1♦	Pass	1♥	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Two diamond made when the defence did not cash three rounds of trumps early on (would you have found this defence?). After ducking a club, Versace could dispose of a club loser on a top spade and ruff a club for his eighth trick. Real Russia plus 90 and 10 IMPs.

### Round 3. G.S. Allegra v Storjöbygden BK (Sweden)

It certainly pays to know your partner's proclivities ...

#### Board 10. Dealer West. Both Vul.

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

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Ferraro</i>	<i>Sandin</i>	<i>Sementa</i>	<i>Sundell</i>
2NT	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♦ <sup>1</sup>	Pass	3♥ <sup>2</sup>	Pass
3♠ <sup>3</sup>	Pass	4♦ <sup>4</sup>	Pass
4NT <sup>5</sup>	Pass	6♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. At least one 4-card major
2. Spades
3. Agrees spades
4. Control
5. General slam try, not RKCB

On a heart lead ducked to South's ace, declarer's problems were soon over; G.S. Allegra plus 1430.



The Maiden and the Seagull - the symbol of Opatija

Declarer would have to do some guesswork in hearts on a more neutral lead, as we shall see from the result at the other table:

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Axne</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Trapp</i>	<i>Madala</i>
1♣ <sup>1</sup>	Pass	1NT <sup>2</sup>	Pass
2♣ <sup>3</sup>	Pass	2NT <sup>4</sup>	Pass
3♣ <sup>5</sup>	Pass	3♦ <sup>6</sup>	Pass
3♠ <sup>7</sup>	Pass	4♦ <sup>8</sup>	Pass
5♣ <sup>9</sup>	Pass	6♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. Strong: (i) 15+ unbalanced (ii) 17+ balanced or 5M/4m
2. 4 spades and (i) 9-11 (ii) 15+
3. Agrees spades
4. 9-11
5. Relay
6. Balanced
7. Denies first- or second-round control in hearts
8. Controls in diamonds and hearts
9. Control-showing cue bid

Bocchi led the fifth-best two of clubs and Axne tried to entice the queen from Madala by playing the jack from dummy. This is where it paid to know your partner's tendencies on opening lead: Madala rejected the idea of playing Bocchi for king-fifth of clubs and ducked the jack!

Axne won with his ace and immediately ran the jack of hearts to Madala's ace. South returned the four of clubs (he'd played the eight at trick one) to declarer's king. West played a heart to the king and a diamond to the ace, then led a low heart. When Bocchi followed low, declarer ruffed the heart high in the dummy, drew trumps and would have been fine had the jack of diamonds fallen or if North had had the length with the known queen of hearts. That was down one, minus 100, and 17 IMPs to Italy.

Bocchi had followed to the hearts with the four, five and three. Unless he'd made a deceptive lead, it was safe to ruff the third round low. Declarer would then have faced the issues of 3-2 or 4-1 trumps, 4-2 or 5-1 diamonds and entries to hand after another heart ruff. Even as it was, after his heart ruff high, Axne could have played a high trump from the dummy, and led

the two to the ace to check on the 3-2 break. Finally, a heart ruff high would have been followed by the decision of how to re-enter West to draw the last trump. Declarer could not have gone wrong.

**Semifinal Set 3. Reggio Emilia v KI**  
**Board 11. Dealer South. Neither Vul.**

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Aronov</i>	<i>Comella</i>	<i>Stefanov</i>	<i>Sabbatini</i>
—	—	—	1♥
Pass	1♠	3♣	4♣
Pass	4♥	Pass	4♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

After Stefanov bid clubs, Sabbatini settled for game in spades. A diamond lead meant a quick 11 tricks for North/South and plus 450 for the Italians.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Basile</i>	<i>Nanev</i>	<i>Mina</i>	<i>Gunev</i>
—	—	—	1♣
1♦	1♠	4♦	Pass
Pass	4♠	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♣	Pass	6♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Gunev gambled that if he bid slam, North would have a singleton diamond or, failing that, that East would find another lead. So it was, and after the king of clubs lead, Bulgaria was plus 980; 11 IMPs for them.

**FINAL Set 1. G.S. Allegra v KI**

**Board 9. Dealer North. EW Vul.**

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Aronov	Bocchi	Stefanov	Madala
—	5♣	Pass	Pass
Double	Pass	5NT	6♣
6♦	7♣	Pass	Pass
Double	Pass	Pass	Pass

Slams and high-level competition were common in the first set of the final.

Bocchi searched his hand for red-suited cards in case some cards were stuck together. After a careful count of his cards, he was ready with five clubs. Once the Bulgarians decided quite reasonably to have a go at six diamonds, Bocchi took out insurance at the seven level; down three, plus 500 to KI.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Ferraro	Nanev	Sementa	Gunev
—	5♣	Pass	Pass
Double	Pass	5♥	6♣
Double	Pass	Pass	Pass

When Sementa contented himself with five hearts, the double of six clubs was inevitable. Down two meant 5 IMPs to Bulgaria.

On the next board, it was slam time again, the slam for East/West being cold this time. As so often, the Italians had little trouble in getting there:

Board 10. Dealer East. Both Vul.

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

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Ferraro	Nanev	Sementa	Gunev
—	—	1♦	1♠
4♦	4♠	4NT <sup>1</sup>	Pass
5♣	Pass	6♦	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. Slam try, not RKCB

When Ferraro showed a good hand for his bidding with a control in clubs, Sementa sensed that a slam might be in the air, so he bid it; Allegra plus 1370.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Aronov	Bocchi	Stefanov	Madala
—	—	1♣ <sup>1</sup>	1♠
2♣ <sup>2</sup>	3♠	4NT <sup>3</sup>	Pass
5♣ <sup>4</sup>	Pass	5♦	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. Strong: 15+ unbalanced/17+ balanced
2. Diamonds, 5-7 HCP
3. Roman Key Card Blackwood
4. 0 or 3 key cards

The tempo of the auction at this table gave no hint that West was void in spades and when he had no key cards, slam was missed. Plus 620 and 13 IMPs to Allegra.

Board 16. Dealer West. EW Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Aronov	Bocchi	Stefanov	Madala
Pass	1NT <sup>1</sup>	Pass	2♥ <sup>2</sup>
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♦ <sup>3</sup>
Pass	4♠ <sup>4</sup>	Pass	5♠ <sup>5</sup>
Pass	6♣ <sup>6</sup>	Pass	Pass
Pass			

1. 9-12
2. Transfer to spades
3. Unspecified game force
4. Minimum notrump, but with spade support
5. Asks for trump quality
6. Offers an alternative trump suit

When the black suits both behaved, that was plus 940 to Allegra.

When North passed the balanced 10-count, the Bulgarians in the closed room came nowhere near bidding a slam despite a strong one-club opening by South. After diamond intervention, clubs were never mentioned as a suit so any chance of getting to a slam was gone. KI scored plus 480 but lost 10 more IMPs to trail 22-57 after the first segment.

The medallists were:

1<sup>st</sup> - G.S. Allegra (Italy): Norberto Bocchi, Giorgio Duboin, Guido Ferraro, Maria Teresa Lavazza, Agustin Madala, Antonio Sementa

Cont. on p. 12 ...



# IBPA Column Service

Tim Bourke, Canberra

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

## 689. Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

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

After a simple Stayman sequence, West led the queen of spades. When dummy was tabled, declarer could count only seven winners. The main chance for the two extra tricks required was in the club suit; five tricks there would be enough to make the game. Declarer had to decide whether to cash the three top honours in clubs or finesse dummy's ten of clubs on the first round of the suit.

Playing the suit from the top requires a 3-3 break (a 36% chance) to make two extra tricks. What are the odds of making five tricks when a low club is played to the ten? Declarer would succeed in half the 3-3 breaks, i.e., when West held the jack of clubs (18%). When West held two clubs, declarer would make five tricks when West had the jack (one-third of 24% is 8%). When West held four clubs, declarer would need West to hold the jack (two thirds of 24% is 16%). These chances add up to 42%, which is a considerably better chance than relying on a 3-3 break.

Thus, declarer decided it was better to finesse the ten of clubs and made his contract.

**690.** After West led the three of spades (see top of next column), declarer could count six top winners in spades and diamonds. Declarer saw that if he could make at least three club tricks while losing the lead only once, he would make an overtrick.

## Dealer East. EW Vul.

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

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

Based on reasoning similar to that on the previous deal, a club to nine would yield three or four club tricks more frequently than one to the king.

However, that plan would be to play clubs in isolation and would not consider the full deal. In this case, East was certain to hold the ace of clubs.

So, after winning the first trick with the king of spades, declarer crossed to dummy with the queen of diamonds and led the nine of clubs towards his hand. This caught East in a Morton's Fork: if he rose with the ace of clubs declarer would make ten tricks, while if East ducked, declarer would make his seventh trick with a club and could then play on hearts to ensure his eighth and ninth tricks.

## 691. Dealer North. EW Vul.

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

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

One of Australian international Bobby Richman's aphorisms was, "More points are lost by not raising partner's major suit on three-card support than by any other action." Here the raise to two spades is the best rebid on the North cards. South could have used a two-notrump rebid to enquire whether the raise was on three- or four-card support, but that wrinkle was unnecessary here.

West began the defence with his three top diamonds. Declarer ruffed and cashed the two top trumps, reducing his chances of landing the game to the heart finesse. When it failed the unlucky result was a one-trick set.

"You should have taken two rounds of clubs before touching trumps," said an ever-unsympathetic dummy. "Then, after playing the ace of trumps, when you lead a second trump towards dummy and West follows low, you should finesse dummy's jack of trumps. As the cards lie, East would show out and you would have ten tricks.

"Suppose instead that East was able to win with the trump queen, having started with a doubleton in the suit; he would have been end-played and would either have had to return a heart into dummy's tenace or to concede a ruff-and-discard on a minor-suit exit.

"Furthermore, suppose West shows out on the second round of trumps. You would then rise with dummy's king and cash a top heart before throwing East on lead with the third round of trumps. Then after ruffing the minor-suit return, you would take the heart finesse."

**692. Dealer South. Both Vul.**

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

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

North's four-club rebid was artificial, agreeing hearts, rather than a cue bid in support of hearts or a natural bid showing the second half of a black two-suiter. South then used Roman Key Card Blackwood to discover that North held three key cards.

West began with the ace and another diamond. Declarer saw that he would have no problems if the trump suit behaved. If West held four trumps to the jack, nothing could be done to bring the contract home. However, if East held the long trumps, declarer saw that a recovery plan would be needed after taking two top trumps.

So, after winning the second diamond, declarer played a spade to the ace and ruffed a spade, shortening his trumps. After cashing the ace and king of trumps and finding that East did indeed hold four trumps, declarer ruffed a second spade and then cashed his minor-suit winners, ending in dummy with the ace of clubs. Luckily, East had begun with 3=4=3=3 shape and was powerless to interrupt the flow of winners. In the two-card ending, declarer called for a spade from dummy and was assured of making two tricks with his queen and ten of trumps, thereby making the slam.

Note that if declarer had failed to take a spade ruff before cashing two top trumps ending in the dummy, there would have been no way to make a twelfth trick on this layout.



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## Euro Champions Cup cont. ...

2<sup>nd</sup> - K1 (Bulgaria): Victor Aronov, Diana Damianova, Rossen Gunev, Ivan Nanev, Julian Stefanov

3<sup>rd</sup> - Ruch SA AZS PWR Wroclaw (Poland): Cezary Balicki, Piotr Gawrys, Michal Klukowski, Michal Kwiecien, Wlodzimierz Starkowski, Adam Zmudzinski, Stanislaw Gobrebiowski (npc)

## WONDERFUL WIETSKE Carla Arnolds, Tilburg, Netherlands

Two thousand and thirteen has proven to be a brilliant year for women's bridge. Sabine Auken won two top open events: the European Pairs Championships and the Vanderbilt Knockout Teams, and Marion Michielsen took first place in the Cavendish Teams in Monaco. Another fine example, that in bridge it is more and more dubious to refer to women as the weaker sex, is the following wonderful deal played by Wietske van Zwol, former World Champion from The Netherlands.

In the Venice Cup in Bali, Van Zwol managed to make a complicated spade game that went down at the other table. Moreover, Norwegian superstar Geir Helgemo also went down in the same contract when he played it in the Bermuda Bowl.

### Venice Cup Semifinals, Segment 3: USA2 v The Netherlands

Board 11. Dealer East. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Eythorsdottir</i>	<i>Arnolds</i>	<i>Seamon-Molson</i>	<i>Van Zwol</i>
—	—	Pass	1♠
Pass	2NT <sup>1</sup>	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

1. 3+-card spade support, invitational or better

West led the six of spades: two, ten, king. On a heart to the queen and a spade from dummy, East took the ace and switched to the ten of clubs. Van Zwol correctly reasoned that East was not likely to have the queen of clubs, because she would not be inclined

to lead through a possible king-jack bare with South. Therefore, declarer won with dummy's ace, drew the last trump (West discarded a heart), played a diamond to the queen, cashed the ace of hearts and ruffed a heart, to leave:

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

Needing three more tricks, declarer played her last trump and West was helpless. If she had pitched her king of hearts, she would have been endplayed by the king and jack of clubs. If she had bared the ace of diamonds, declarer would have exited with a low diamond. West would have been allowed to make her king of hearts, but declarer would then have made the minor-suit kings.

Thus Hjördís Eythórsdóttir pitched a club. However, Wietske van Zwol knew exactly what was going on. She cashed the king of clubs and her jack of clubs proved to be the tenth trick.

Jill Levin (at the other table) and Geir Helgemo (in the Bermuda Bowl) didn't survive in four spades because, at some point, both finessed in clubs. This will surely be a contender for the Best Played Deal of the Year.

## CAVENDISH REDUX Marek Wójcicki, Przemysl, Poland

One of the Bridge24.pl players came to me during the finals of the Cavendish Invitational Pairs and told me this story from the C final (2<sup>nd</sup> Session, Board 11).

At love all, you hold:

♠ 10 6 3 2
♥ 6 4
♦ 8 6 2
♣ 8 7 6 4

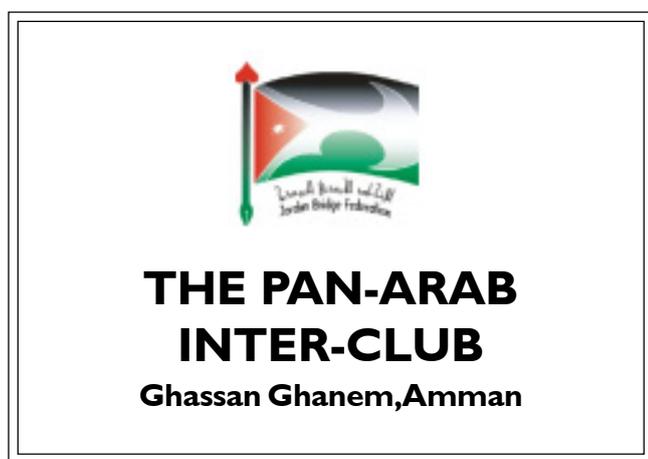
Your partner opens three clubs and your RHO bids three hearts. What do you bid?

I saw three spades bid twice in the A final, once leading to seven spades doubled down 12! Chmurski simply doubled. LHO was so surprised that he passed, and the bidding ended there. All 13 tricks were taken for the score of 930.

This was the full deal:

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

Plus 930 was not enough to compensate for the 1520 available for the thirteen certain notrump tricks.



The Fifth Pan-Arab Inter-Club was played in Amman, Jordan, November 7-11 at the Bristol Hotel. Ten clubs from Jordan, Egypt, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia and Palestine participated. The clubs' teams were divided into two groups, each playing its own Round Robin to qualify the top two teams to the semifinals. The top team in each group played the second-placed team from the other group and the winners contested the final. The first semifinal match was the Jordan Bridge Association Club and the Amman Orthodox Club, both of Jordan, while the other semifinal was El-rabwa Club versus Shooting Club, both of Egypt (teams from the same country were originally separated into different groups).

**Board 9. Dealer North. EW Vul.**

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

West	North	East	South
—	Pass	Pass	3♦
3♠	Pass	4♦	Pass
4♥ <sup>1</sup>	Pass	4NT <sup>2</sup>	Pass
5♦ <sup>3</sup>	Pass	5♥ <sup>4</sup>	Pass
5♠ <sup>5</sup>	Pass	6♠ <sup>6</sup>	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. Last Train
2. RKCB
3. 0 or 3 key cards
4. Trump queen ask
5. No spade queen
6. We need a positive swing

This was the penultimate board of the Jordanian semifinal. Before starting this session, the score was flat, but here, the East/West pair thought they needed a swing and pushed their hands to a difficult slam.

North led the diamond five and declarer went carefully through the defenders' convention card, which indicated minor-suit preempts with six or more cards in third seat. The lead went to the queen, king and three. South, with little thought, quickly played the heart king, taken by the ace. West collected trumps, eliminated clubs and went on to squeeze South in the red suits to make the slam. To add insult to injury, West informed South that he could have broken up the squeeze if he had played back the diamond jack or ten at trick two to remove the entry. South, who had realized that earlier, answered: "And what could I have done if you had played the nine instead of the queen on the opening lead?"

**Board 10. Dealer East. Both Vul.**

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

West	North	East	South
—	—	Pass	Pass
2♦ <sup>1</sup>	Double	2♥ <sup>2</sup>	Double
Pass	3♣	3♥	3♠
Pass	4♣	Pass	6♣
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. Multi
2. Pass or correct

Before bidding the slam, South congratulated both his opponents and said to the VuGraph operator, "We are losing anyhow," referring to the previous deal. The play of the deal is not worth mentioning, but, in fact, the lead changed hands on this board since slam was not bid at the other table.

Jordan Bridge Association Club advanced to the final to defeat Shooting Club heavily.

**Jordan Bridge Association Club (Jordan):**

Ghassan Ghanem - Bahjat Majali, Zafer Jarrar – Mohamed Haikal, Sakher Malkawi – Samer Rawashdeh.

**Shooting Club (Egypt):**

Baher Ahmad – Mohamed Dewidar, Mohamed El Ashry - Mohamed Hammam.

**Orthodox Club (Jordan):** Marwan Ghanem – Sireen Barakat, Yousef Batshoun – Ramzi Qusoos, Joan Halasa – Fadi Sweleh.

**El-rabwa Club (Egypt):**

Mohamed Hishmat, Ahmad Samir – Karim Nabil, Amr Farag – Ahmed Nayer.

**LORDS v COMMONS**  
**Peter Stockdale, Aylesbury, Bucks., UK**

Every year, the British Houses of Parliament battle each other over legislation and other more important pastimes such as swimming, boating, Tug-of-War and bridge.



Sally Brock presents the Jack Perry Trophy to vice-captain Michael Mates of the victorious House of Commons team.

On Wednesday, November sixth, the 39<sup>th</sup> match between the House of Lords and the House of Commons was held for the Jack Perry Trophy. Despite some good play at times from the House of Lords team, the House of Commons led throughout and ultimately won the 24-board match convincingly by 8100 points (aggregate scoring). This was the first victory for the Commons team since 2009 and leaves

the victory totals at 21-18 in favour of the Lords. Irrespective of the result, an enjoyable afternoon was had by everyone.

Each team consisted of four pairs; each pair played six boards against each of the other teams pairs. The teams were ...

**COMMONS:** Bob Blackman/Duncan Brack, Michael Mates/Robin Squire, Evan Harris/Tony McWalter, Bridget Prentice/John Marek

**LORDS:** Lady Henig/Lord May, Earl Of Caithness/Lady Blackstone, Lord Skelmersdale/Lady Billingham, Lord Hamilton/Lord Kalms

The deals played had been selected by Paul Bowyer, who also provided an entertaining analysis of each one. His selection proved to be both popular and unpopular in equal measure as all involved enjoyed the fact that there were no ‘dull’ deals, but also many were playfully cursing Paul for ensuring that they had to be alert on every deal.

The Tony Berry Trophy for the best played deal was judged by Tom Townsend. The trophy was awarded to the Earl of Caithness, seen here being presented the trophy by Townsend. The Earl executed a ‘loser-on-loser play’ on board 9.

**Board 9. Dealer North. EW Vul.**

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

West	North	East	South
Lady Blackstone	Evan Harris	Earl of Caithness	Tony McWalter
—	Pass	1♠	2♦
3♠ <sup>1</sup>	Pass	4♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. Invitational

Not every pair was able to reach game and not every declarer in game made his contract. McWalter led the king of diamonds and followed with the ace and queen upon receiving a peter from Harris. A low ruff in dummy would have allowed North to overruff and a high ruff would have created a trump trick for the defence, either play leading to one off. The Earl unerringly discarded a low club on the third diamond, ensuring his contract. His club loser could then be ruffed in the dummy after trumps were drawn.



The World Computer Bridge Championship is held annually at a major human championship. It has been held variously at the WBF World Championships, the ACBL North American Bridge Championships, and at the EBL European Open Championships. This year, the event was held at the 41<sup>st</sup> World Team Championships in Bali, Indonesia. See the complete results and analysis at: [www.computerbridge.com](http://www.computerbridge.com).

Six of the best computer programs were entered in this year's championship, comprising: the two past winners, defending champion Jack (The Netherlands) and WBridge5 (France); past champions Shark Bridge (Denmark) and Bridge Baron (USA); and many-time runners-up Q-Plus Bridge (Germany) and Micro Bridge (Japan).

The format was a 48-board round robin with the two top finishers playing for the gold medal in a 64-board KO match, with possible carryover\* from the round robin stage. The Conditions of Contest call for a semifinal stage when there are seven or more entries. Twice before, in 2001 and 2005, were there as few as six robot teams entered. The greatest number of entries was ten, in 2009.

The contestants all used the same computers: 2.9 GHz Intel Core i5 desktop PCs under the Windows 7 operating system.

The Round Robin results were:

WBridge5	69.45
Jack	60.11
Q-Plus Bridge	54.81
MicroBridge	48.03
Shark Bridge	39.13
Bridge Baron	28.47

The scoreline from the final was:

	C.O.*	1	2	3	4	Total
WBridge5	0	46	15	28	42	131
Jack	0	17	58	34	44	153

\*Carryover (C.O.) is only awarded if a team both (i) wins its head-to-head match, and (ii) finishes ahead of its opponent in the round robin. Carryover is the lesser of (i) the difference in VPs in the head-to-head match between

the teams, or (ii) the total VPs in the round robin, converted to IMPs on a one-to-one basis.

Round 14 of the human round robin was used in the third round of the robot round robin.

Dealer West. NS Vul.

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

On board 12, seven hearts was the final contract at three of the six robot tables and six hearts was the contract at the other three tables. Let's look at the robot auctions.

In one match Jack picked up 13 IMPs against Shark Bridge.

West	North	East	South
Shark	Jack	Shark	Jack
2 ♦	Double	4 ♦	4 ♥
5 ♦	7 ♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			
West	North	East	South
Jack	Shark	Jack	Shark
3 ♦	Double	Pass	4 ♥
Pass	5 ♥	Pass	6 ♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

In another match, Bridge Baron picked up 13 IMPs against Micro Bridge.

West	North	East	South
Baron	Micro	Baron	Micro
3 ♦	Double	5 ♦	5 ♥
Pass	6 ♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			
West	North	East	South
Micro	Baron	Micro	Baron
Pass	2 ♣ <sup>1</sup>	Pass	2 ♥
3 ♦	4 ♥	Pass	4 NT
Pass	5 ♥ <sup>2</sup>	Pass	5 NT
Pass	6 ♣ <sup>3</sup>	Pass	7 ♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. 2NT or game force
2. 2 or 5 key cards
3. No kings

In the third match, WBridge5 picked up 13 IMPs against Q-Plus Bridge.

West	North	East	South
<i>Q-Plus</i>	<i>WBridge5</i>	<i>Q-Plus</i>	<i>WBridge5</i>
Pass	2 $\diamond^1$	Pass	2 NT <sup>2</sup>
Pass	3 $\heartsuit$	Pass	4 NT
Pass	5 NT <sup>3</sup>	Pass	7 $\heartsuit$
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. Game force
2. No ace, 7+ hcp
3. 5 key cards

West	North	East	South
<i>WBridge5</i>	<i>Q-Plus</i>	<i>WBridge5</i>	<i>Q-Plus</i>
Pass	2 $\clubsuit^1$	Pass	2 $\heartsuit$
Pass	3 $\heartsuit$	Pass	3 $\spadesuit^2$
Pass	4 NT	Pass	5 $\clubsuit^3$
Pass	6 $\heartsuit$	Pass	Pass

1. 2NT or game force
2. Control
3. 0 or 3 key cards

In human competition, the deal was played at 22 tables in each of the three events. Seven hearts was reached nine times in the Bermuda Bowl, nine times in the Venice Cup (played once in four hearts), and nine times in the d'Orsi Senior Trophy (played once in five hearts). So the robots' success percentage was slightly better than that of the humans.

With the final match well in hand and the last board to play, an interesting play decision arrived. It illustrates an interesting inference that humans sometimes get right and sometimes get wrong but robots always get wrong. The play often depends on declarer's estimate of the level of expertise of an opponent. Robots don't make such a judgment.

#### Board 64. Dealer West. EW Vul.

	$\spadesuit$ K J 7 6 5		
	$\heartsuit$ 2		
	$\diamond$ K Q 4 2		
	$\clubsuit$ A 9 7		
$\spadesuit$ 9 8		$\spadesuit$ 10 4	
$\heartsuit$ A 9 5 3		$\heartsuit$ K Q J 8 7	
$\diamond$ J 8 7 6 5		$\diamond$ 10 3	
$\clubsuit$ K 10		$\clubsuit$ 6 4 3 2	
	$\spadesuit$ A Q 3 2		
	$\heartsuit$ 10 6 4		
	$\diamond$ A 9		
	$\clubsuit$ Q J 8 5		

West	North	East	South
<i>Jack</i>	<i>WBridge5</i>	<i>Jack</i>	<i>WBridge5</i>
Pass	1 $\spadesuit$	Pass	2 NT <sup>1</sup>
Pass	3 $\clubsuit^2$	Pass	3 $\spadesuit^3$
Pass	4 $\spadesuit$	Pass	Pass
Pass			

1. Forcing to game spade raise
2. Unbalanced minimum
3. Balanced minimum

The East Jack led the king of hearts and *WBridge5* ruffed the second heart, drew trumps and misguessed clubs, losing a trick to the ten, for plus 450.

West	North	East	South
<i>WBridge5</i>	<i>Jack</i>	<i>WBridge5</i>	<i>Jack</i>
Pass	1 $\spadesuit$	Pass	2 NT <sup>1</sup>
Pass	3 $\clubsuit^2$	Pass	3 $\diamond^3$
Pass	3 NT <sup>4</sup>	Pass	4 $\clubsuit^5$
Pass	4 $\spadesuit^6$	Pass	4 NT <sup>7</sup>
Pass	5 $\heartsuit^8$	Double	6 $\spadesuit$
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. Forcing to game spade raise
2. Unbalanced minimum
3. Relay
4. Heart shortness
5. Relay
6. Extra values
7. Roman Key Card Blackwood
8. Two key cards, no trump queen

The play comes down to finding the ten of clubs. The holdings that matter to declarer are West holding the king singleton, king-ten doubleton, king doubleton and king fourth. With king third, West will always duck the king when the queen or jack is led, defeating the game. With king fourth, West will never cover with the king as the ten would show up on the next round. With king-ten doubleton, West will always cover.

The question is, with king doubleton, do you cover or not? If it is known that West always covers with that holding, declarer will always get king fourth right (when the king doesn't appear play for the king fourth as opposed to king doubleton) and have a guess for king-ten or king doubleton. When the king does appear, the finesse for the ten is four times as likely as the drop of the ten. If it is known that West never covers with king doubleton, then declarer will always get the king-ten doubleton right (and not the singleton king) and have a guess for king doubleton and king fourth when the king doesn't appear. It is a cat and mouse game ... or game theory.

If a defender assumes, holding king doubleton, that if he covers with the king, the declarer will almost always finesse for the ten, then that defender will never cover from king doubleton. If declarer knows this is defender's thinking, then declarer will always get king-ten right (again, except for the singleton king)! It's a matter of judging the probability of your opponent's play from certain holdings, which the robots don't do! The robots will always finesse for the ten when the king is played and sometimes play the king from king doubleton only if using double dummy techniques, as double dummy, either card loses (it is assumed that declarer will never go wrong).

Here, Jack misguessed the ten of clubs for minus 50 and an 11-IMP loss.



## MADEIRA ENDPLAY

Jan van Cleeff,  
The Hague

From newinbridge.com

Madeira is a splendid place for bridge lovers. The isle offers a perfect opportunity to spend holidays. It is all there, a beautiful climate, friendly people, excellent restaurants and most of all, great bridge. Mark Thiele, a Dutch expert from the city of Leiden, enjoyed his stay during the 16<sup>th</sup> edition of the Madeira Bridge Festival very much. He reported a challenging deal which he and his partner Renee Verdegaal played in the Open Pairs tournament of the festival. At love all, Mark had:

♠ 10 9  
♥ K 10 6 5 3  
♦ A 10 5  
♣ K 9 5

In third position, he opened with one heart ...

West	North	East	South
—	Verdegaal	—	Thiele
—	Pass	Pass	1♥
Double	Redouble	Pass	Pass
2♦	3♦	Pass	3♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	—

Lefty led the king of spades and dummy came down:

♠ A 8 5 3 2  
♥ A 7 2  
♦ Q 7  
♣ 8 7 4

♠ 10 9  
♥ K 10 6 5 3  
♦ A 10 5  
♣ K 9 5

Obviously three hearts was too high. On the other hand, if it had been a piece of cake, we'd have had no story, would we?

When Thiele ducked the opening lead, West switched to the ace of clubs and continued with the queen of clubs. Declarer won with the king, played a spade to the ace and ruffed a spade; East got rid of a diamond. At this point, Thiele was pretty sure that trumps were divided 4-1. He played a trump to the ace and was not surprised that lefty followed with the queen. So West was likely to have a 4=1=5=3 distribution and therefore East would be 2=4=3=4. Declarer shortened himself by ruffing another spade (again a diamond discard by East) and exited with a club to lefty's jack, leaving this position:



Madeira's famous elixir

♠ 8  
♥ 7 2  
♦ Q 7  
♣ —

♠ —  
♥ —  
♦ K J 9 8 3  
♣ —

♠ —  
♥ J 9 8  
♦ 6  
♣ 10

♠ —  
♥ K 10  
♦ A 10 5  
♣ —

West exited with a low diamond. That was a mistake since the king of diamonds would have been the killing defence, denying declarer an entry to the dummy. At the table, declarer was able to win the diamond lead with the queen in dummy. When he next led the fifth spade, East was in a quandary. If he trumped, South would discard his losing diamond and East would then be forced to lead into the trump tenace or to play a club, allowing declarer to discard the ace of diamonds, trump in the dummy and finesse in trumps. If East did not trump, the eight of spades would have been the ninth trick.

Not an everyday play: first West is endplayed, and later East. This was the complete deal:

♠ A 8 5 3 2  
♥ A 7 2  
♦ Q 7  
♣ 8 7 4

♠ K Q J 4  
♥ Q  
♦ K J 9 8 3  
♣ A Q J

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

♠ 10 9  
♥ K 10 6 5 3  
♦ A 10 5  
♣ K 9 5

## NEWS & VIEWS



### Italian Team Changes

Fernando Lema reports in "CSB News" that Alejandro Bianchedi of Argentina, Venezuela and Italy will be joining the Lavazza Team as of early December, beginning with the Città di Milano, December 13-15.

Laura Camponeschi reports in "Neapolitan Club" that Bianchedi will join Giorgio Duboin, Norberto Bocchi and Agustin Madala in all playing the same system, "Big Bang", based on the current Bocchi-Madala methods. It focusses on very aggressive actions when not vulnerable, especially at favourable vulnerability (such as a 10-13 notrump).

Lauria-Versace have left Lavazza and will join Angelini for the 2014 Trials to choose Italy's team for the next European Teams. From now on, the Italian Bridge Federation will use Trials to decide its international teams.

Bianchedi joining the Lavazza team raises the spectre of a Lavazza team playing for Argentina - Madala and Bianchedi are Argentine, as is Bocchi's mother, making him eligible to play for that country as well.

### Ambassadors Fantoni and Wang

Fulvio Fantoni from Italy, currently playing for Monaco, and Wang Wenfei from China have been appointed SportAccord Ambassadors for Bridge. Fantoni is the current world number one and is only the second player (after Bobby Wolff) to win World Championships in five categories. Wang Wenfei has been playing international bridge at the highest level since 1993 when she was a member of the winning Chinese team in the Qualifying Zonal Event. Since then she has won the Venice Cup and has become a Grand Master.

### Future World Championships

The WBF has announced that several future World Championship venues have been determined, while others are under consideration. Here is what we know at the moment:

- 2014 - Sanya, Hainan, China
- 2015 - Goa or Opatija, Croatia
- 2016 - Örebro, Sweden, or Warsaw, or Istanbul
- 2017 - Lyon, France
- 2018 - Orlando, FL

### National Pairs

The WBF will introduce a new National Open Pairs in 2016, to be contested in Olympiad years, details to be determined. Each player in the pair must be from the same country, a throwback to the old conditions for the World Open Pairs, now cross-national.

### Not Your Grandma's Game

A number of correspondents sent along an article or a link to it in the New York Observer about professional bridge: "Million-Dollar Hobby: Inside the World of Big-Money Bridge". The article, by Greg Hanlon, gives an interesting peek into the world of sponsors and professionals in the USA. It begins ..."A 20-something man played bridge with three old ladies this past Columbus Day. They played at the Honors Bridge Club on East 58th Street, where the median player age is well north of 70 and the air smells of coffee and heavily applied makeup. If you didn't know any better, you'd think the young man ..."

Read more at <http://observer.com/tag/not-your-grandmas-game/#ixzz2m7ZSfUxT>

### Oldsters

The Baze Senior Knockout Teams in Phoenix had the toughest field in the event's existence so far. Among the contestants were Rodwell-Meckstroth and Stansby-Bramley (the victors), Hamman-Lev, Balicki-Zmudzinski, Woolsey-Stewart, Boyd-Robinson, Gawrys-Tuszynski, Hallberg-Holland, Romanski-Kowalski, Chambers-Schermer and Bates-Wold.



## Correspondence

The Editor reserves the right to abridge and/or edit correspondence.

Email: [ibpaeditor@sympatico.ca](mailto:ibpaeditor@sympatico.ca)

*Last month's correspondence was dominated by Ron Klinger's cogent arguments against the need for the new Victory Point scale introduced by the WBF.*

*Here, Tim Bourke weighs in on the controversy:*

Hi John,

Why was the old WBF scale replaced? Is it because the argument that "allimps below a maximum win should count in a victory point scale" has won the day? However, if we apply that ruthlessly to VP scales, the next logical step is to apply it to the IMP scale itself: "each of the ten point increments between 500 and 590 counts for nothing but the one between 590 and 600 is unjustly awarded a full IMP", which on the

reasoning used for the new VP scales “is patently unfair”.

The aim of the IMP scale is to lessen the impact of large total point swings, and the current scale has been doing so since the 1960s quite successfully. The aim of a VP should be similar, to reduce the impact of runaway wins and the old WBF scale was doing this well for some time. I do not believe that the new scale for a 16-board match is as fair as the previous one.

To get the discussion going, let’s do some analysis of the results in Bali:

	<u>Average Win</u>	<u>Std Deviation from Avg Win</u>
Bermuda Bowl	23.1	17.8
Venice Cup	23.1	18.3
D’Orsi Seniors	25.5	18.5
All Three Series	23.9	18.3

A team could score the maxim of 20 victory points for wins of 60 or more IMPs, around two standard deviations from the average win for all series. The problem with that is that very few wins achieve a maximum score. Looking over all three series and the winning ranges in 10-point gaps:

<u>IMP Gap</u>	<u>No. of Wins</u>
0 - 9	180
10 - 19	153
20 - 29	130
30 - 39	101
40 - 49	63
50 - 59	34
60+	33

That is, only 4.76% of the results were maximum wins.

The process of deciding what the IMP-winning margin should be to score a maximum VP can be somewhat arbitrary, but becomes less so if the scale setter chooses a percentage (say 90%) of wins that are to be non-maximum ones. In Bali, this would have seen the maximum win set around 48 IMPs, or 18.97 VP on the new scale. On that basis, the WBF scale allowed 33 winners to score an 1.03 extra VP each and 34 to score an average of an extra 0.5 VP each.

At a personal level, I’d choose the maximum win to be around 1.3 standard deviations from the historical average-sized win in a fairly even, strong field. One of the problems in Bali is illustrated by the d’Orsi Seniors where one team scored an average of 1.7VP per match, distorting the results - as did perhaps one match in each round in the other competitions.

As an approximation to a strong, even field, I excluded the largest win in each round in each series (discarding only one if there were two or more equal such scores in that round): this gave an average win of 21 imps

with a standard deviation of 14.1. Using this as a benchmark, and assuming that the scores approximately follow a normal distribution, then 90% of scores will be within 1.3 standard deviations of the average score, which with our adjusted values gives a 39.3-IMP cutoff for maximum VP. This is around that mark in the previous WBF 16-board scale, which I understand was derived using this type of argument. Note that the maximum set at either 39 or the one on the old WBF VP scale would have removed what I suggest is a significant number of so-called “free” VP awarded for big wins in Bali.

If it was decided that it was non-negotiable that every non-maximum winning IMP should make a positive contribution to the VPs awarded to the winner, then why did the WBF not just use the old scale and interpolate between the gaps? For example if a 16-14 win was 3 to 5 IMPs on the old scale, this would award 16 for a 2-IMP win, 16.25 for 3, 16.5 for 4 and 16.75 for 5; what could have been simpler and better?

In my view, the new WBF 16-board VP scale fails to pass the reasonableness test of lessening the impact of relatively large wins on the final result in a VP scored Round Robin or Swiss event. As a result it over-rewards too many winning scores and, consequently, is unfair.

Regards, Tim Bourke, Canberra

Hi JC,

I was very disappointed to receive the November Bulletin and see that it failed to include the photo of you and Miss World. I think the bulletin needs more photos of good-looking, charming, dynamic personalities; and she looked nice as well.

Regards, Simon Cochemé, London

*Ha, ha. Okay, here it is. It has appeared in “Bridge” Magazine and CSB News as well.*





# Renewing Your IBPA Membership Online



## Step 1

- Please go to [www.ibpa.com](http://www.ibpa.com) and select “Renewing” from the menu on the left.
- On the “Renewing your membership” screen, under the 2<sup>nd</sup> option “Paying”, click “paying with credit card”.
- You will now see the screen “Paying”.

## Step 2

- Under “Mandatory membership due”, click the button for the appropriate period (under 26s and over 80s should choose the appropriate button for special rates). Note that it takes a while for PayPal to register your order – Do not click repeatedly while waiting for the PayPal screen to appear.
- You will now see the “Your Shopping Cart” screen.

## Step 3 (optional)

- If you wish to receive the printed bulletin, click on the “Continue Shopping” button at the bottom left; you will be returned to the “Paying by credit card” screen.
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- Review your choices and the quantities.
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- Your order summary will appear on the left, and your billing choices on the right. You may pay by PayPal if you already have an account, or by Credit Card (Choose “Don’t have a Paypal account” if you see that). When you select “Country” it will default to your home language. Complete the details, then click the “Review Order and Continue” button.
- You will get an email receipt, and will be asked if you wish to setup a PayPal account; you may ignore this step.

Screen displays to go along with these instructions can be viewed in the pdf sent with the December 2013 e-Bulletin. Note that minor variations may occur depending on the browser and the browser version you are using. **Dues are unchanged for 2014: US\$42 and an extra US\$45 for a printed copy of the Bulletin.**

## PHOENIX NABC WINNERS

**Reisinger Board-a-Match Teams** - Fulvio Fantoni, Geir Helgemo, Tor Helness, Franck Multon, Claudio Nunes, Pierre Zimmermann. **Open Board-a-Match Teams** - Marc Bompis, Tony Forrester, Jim Mahaffey, Josef Piekarek, Jean-Christophe Quantin, Alexander Smirnov. **Women’s Board-a-Match Teams** - Shannon Capelletti, Bénédicte Cronier, Phyllis Fireman, Marion Michielsen, Sylvie Willard, Meike Wortel. **North American Swiss Teams** - Peter Boyd, Diego Brenner, Rose Meltzer, John Mohan, Carlos Pellegrini, Steve Robinson. **Senior Knockout Teams** - Bart Bramley, Vinita Gupta, Jeff Meckstroth, Billy Miller, Eric Rodwell, Lew Stansby. **Blue Ribbon Pairs** - Agustin Madala, Steve Weinstein. **Open Pairs** - Ishmael Del’Monte, Curtis Cheek. **Women’s Pairs** - Patti Hartley, Barbara Nist. **Senior Mixed Pairs** - Ginny Schuett, Jeff Schuett.

2013 Fall NABC

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