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Controversy Resolved

The bridge world was abuzz with news in late May and early June that the English Women's Team, all world champions, were to be replaced for the upcoming European Championships in Croatia. What could have induced this momentous decision, we all wondered? We did not have to wait long for the answer. The English Bridge Union, acting swiftly, published the following statement on its website on June 6th:

"Our team for the Women's European Championship later this month is Sally Brock, Nicola Smith, Heather Dhondy, Nevena Senior, Fiona Brown and Catherine Draper. Because there has been some public comment about recent discussions between the players and the Selection Committee, it seems appropriate to explain to our members what has happened, why it has happened and why the Selection Committee have acted as they have. The Board is fully supportive of the actions of the Selection Committee.

The selectors originally selected our silver medal winning team from Bali en bloc. One player was unavailable for personal reasons and we picked a different third pair. We took some time to come to this decision, the other players expressed their view and we picked a revised team in April with new reserves.

In mid May one of the players made a request to bring her daughter, who was recovering from illness, along to the championship. Our regulations specifically state that members of the team are not usually permitted to have family members attend with them. The request was considered but denied by the selectors on the grounds that this would be distracting both for her and also the rest of the team. Some of the team when consulted for their view, at that point, had reservations about whether she should attend.

After the decision was made the selection committee was asked by all the players to re-consider.

Those players who had original doubts now said that they wished the player to be permitted to attend with her daughter. The selection committee reconsidered but confirmed their initial decision on June 1st. At this point the player withdrew. She was not deselected.

The reserve pair were now asked to confirm their availability and they accepted.

The remaining four players expressed reservations and suggested alternatives. They suggested a team of four or possibly five. The selectors had already debated these ideas at length but felt a team of four left us open to

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THE AMERICAN TRIALS

Phoenix, AZ, May 9-18, 2014

Suzi Subeck, Chicago

(unless otherwise noted)

Ana Roth, Buenos Aires *(where noted)*

David Bird, Eastleigh, Hants., UK *(where noted)*

The 2014 Trial would produce USA1 for next year's Bermuda Bowl in Chennai. A similar Trial next year will produce USA2.

Seventeen teams entered this year - one dropped out before the Trials started, reducing the field to 16. The favourite, NICKELL (Nickell-Katz; Meckstroth-Rodwell; Stevie Weinstein-Levin), and FLEISHER (Fleisher-Martel-Cohler; Rosenberg-Willenken) were the top two seeds and had received byes to the quarterfinals based on recent performance in big events. GORDON (Gordon-Rajadhyaksha; Sontag-Berkowitz; Seamon-Pszczola) were the third seed and had received a performance-based bye to the Round of 16. The other 13 teams, led by #4 DIAMOND (Diamond-Platnick; Hampson-Greco; Moss-Bathurst) would play a complete round robin, out of which 11 teams would emerge to join GORDON in the Round of 16. All knockout matches would be 120 boards over two days. It was as near-perfect a method as was possible.

The Round Robin ended with DIAMOND in the top spot, almost a full match ahead of second.

After the 11 qualifying teams had been identified, the seeded teams were shuffled in pairs to set the brackets, with #1 NICKELL and #2 FLEISHER keeping their original seed numbers. Thus #3 GORDON and #4 DIAMOND were shuffled, with GORDON emerging as #3 and DIAMOND #4.

A unique feature of USBF Trials is that the winner of a Round Robin can ask for a seeding re-shuffle if it does not like the original bracket it's shuffled into. It must then live with the result of the re-shuffle. But ... there's a wrinkle, viz., no team with a bye is subject to a re-shuffle, and in that case, the RR winner is shuffled with the next two teams. In this case, DIAMOND asked for a re-shuffle to avoid meeting NICKELL prior to the final and emerged with the #6 seed. FIREMAN (Kranjak-Wolpert-Lall; Hurd-Wooldridge) took over the #4 seed and BRAMLEY (Bramley-Lew Stansby; Hamman-Lee; Howie Weinstein-Grabel) became #5. This was to have ramifications later in the event.

THE ROUND OF 16

The Round of 16 comprised the 11 teams qualifying from the round robin, plus GORDON. That made 12; the other four slots were taken up by NICKELL and FLEISHER, with two slots apiece and byes to the next round.

In the Round of 16, each match played different boards for security purposes.

SHERMAN v. KONERU

Board 38. Dealer East. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Passell</i>	<i>Stewart</i>	<i>Jacobus</i>	<i>Woolsey</i>
—	—	1♦ ¹	Pass
1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♥	Pass	2♠	Pass
3♦	Pass	3NT	Pass
4♣	Double	5♦	Pass
6♦	Pass	Pass	Pass
1. 2+ diamonds 11-15 HCP			

West	North	East	South
<i>Krekorian</i>	<i>Kamil</i>	<i>Koneru</i>	<i>Coren</i>
—	—	Pass	Pass
1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass
3♣	Pass	3NT	Pass
4♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

After 37 boards, the SHERMAN/KONERU match was tied at 77. On board 38, Passell and Jacobus had an excellent auction to reach six diamonds in the Closed Room. Woolsey led the spade king, which Jacobus trumped in dummy. Declarer cashed the king-queen of diamonds and played the heart ace and trumped a heart high in his hand. When both defenders followed to two hearts, Jacobus drew the last trump and claimed, surrendering a club.

Notice that had hearts been 5-1, the slam could still have been made with a favourable club position.

In the Open Room, Koneru passed in first seat and diamonds were never bid. The play in four hearts was routine and Krekorian collected eleven tricks but lost 12 IMPs.

DIAMOND v. HUNG

Board 95. Dealer SOUTH. EW Vul.

♠ 9 8 7
♥ 10 8 7 6 2
♦ 9 5 4
♣ Q 2

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

♠ J 5 2
♥ K 5 4
♦ 10 8
♣ K J 9 8 6

West	North	East	South
Watson	Moss	Feldman	Bathurst
—	—	—	Pass
1♦	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♦	Pass	3♣	Double
Pass	Pass	4♦	Pass
4♠	Pass	5♣	Pass
5♥	Pass	6♦	Pass
Pass	Pass		

West	North	East	South
Diamond	Hung	Platnick	J. Stansby
—	—	—	Pass
1NT	Pass	2♥	Pass
2♠	Pass	4NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		

- 14-16
- Transfer

The latest word on the street is that “all expert players are playing 14-16 notrumps and 13 is okay.” For Diamond and Platnick, it was certainly not okay.

Hung led the heart six to the king and ace against four notrump. Diamond won with his ace, led a diamond to the ace and claimed 13 tricks for plus 720.

At the other table, Watson and Feldman had a good auction to get to six diamonds. Moss led the queen of clubs. Watson won in hand, pulled the trumps, tested spades, and made all the tricks for a 12-IMP gain.

The Round of 16 match results were:

3	GORDON	302	14	BASEGGIO	256
4	FIREMAN	291	13	KOLESNIK	118
5	BRAMLEY	312	12	HARRIS	230
6	DIAMOND	317	11	HUNG	249
7	SHERMAN	344	10	KONERU	198
8	SELIGMAN	237	9	MELTZER	158

THE QUARTERFINALS

Starting with the quarterfinals, each table was situated in a separate room and so played the same boards.

The quarterfinal matchups would be:

NICKELL v. SHERMAN (Coren-Kamil; Ekblad-Dwyer; Jacobus-Passell)

FLEISHER v. SELIGMAN (Seligman-Lair-Gu; Cheek-Bertens*)

* Huub Bertens has moved from The Netherlands to the USA and is living in Bend, Oregon

GORDON v. DIAMOND

FIREMAN v. BRAMLEY

Curiously, and due to the original seed re-shuffle, DIAMOND was drawn to play GORDON, the team it was originally shuffled with for the 3 and 4 slots. DIAMOND got its wish, avoiding a potential semifinal meeting with NICKELL, and would face FLEISHER or SELIGMAN in the semifinal, provided it could get by GORDON. Would it?

GORDON v. DIAMOND

Board 49. Dealer North. Neither Vul.

♠ A Q 10 6 5 4 3
♥ —
♦ A Q 9 8
♣ A 3

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

♠ K 8 7 2
♥ A J 10 4 3
♦ 3
♣ Q 7 4

West	North	East	South
Seamon	Greco	Pepsi*	Hampson
—	1♣ ¹	1♦	1♥ ²
2♣	2♠	Pass	4♦
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♠
Pass	7♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

- Strong, artificial, forcing
- Natural, 9+ HCP

* Jacek Pzszcola is universally known as Pepsi and will be referred to by that nickname in this article. His teammate Pratap Rajadhyakhsha is universally known by his first name and will be referred to as Pratap in this article.

Four tables of the eight in play reached seven spades. Only one declarer made it - Greco. If trumps were one-one, the contract was a claim and there were other chances if they were 2-0.

At three of the four tables, East bid Michaels over the opening one-spade bid. Pepsi did not have that opportunity since his opponents opened a strong club. Here, the opening lead was the ten of clubs to the queen, king, ace. Greco drew trumps in two rounds ending in the dummy. He played the ace of hearts, pitching a club, and ruffed a heart in case the king-queen of hearts were falling.

When that failed, Greco's only hope was for West to hold a doubleton diamond honour. He decided, based on Pepsi's overcall and the favourable 2:1 odds, to play Seamon for either ten-low or jack-low in diamonds. He therefore played the ace of diamonds, followed it up with the queen and held his breath. Pepsi covered; Greco ruffed in dummy; when the ten fell from West, Greco exhaled, trumped a club back to hand and took the ruffing finesse against the jack of diamonds, bringing home the grand slam. Well played indeed.

Since the other table played in six spades making, Greco gained 11 IMPs on this board for DIAMOND.

NICKELL v. SHERMAN

Board 52. Dealer West. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Passell	S. Weinstein	Jacobus	Levin
Pass	1♦	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♥
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♦
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♥ ¹
Pass	4NT ²	Pass	5♥ ³
Pass	6♦ ⁴	Pass	7♦
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. RKC ask
2. 0 or 3
3. King ask
4. None

Weinstein/Levin did well to bid and make the grand slam on board 52. None of the other seven tables reached that level, several playing in three notrump, the others playing in one or the other minor-suit slam.

The opening lead was a heart. Weinstein won in hand and played a spade to the ace. He cashed the king-queen of hearts pitching clubs, then led the four of clubs to the ace and trumped a spade. When declarer led the heart ten, Passell ruffed with the six of diamonds. Weinstein overruffed with the seven. At this point, declarer had 13 tricks on a high crossruff. NICKELL gained 16 IMPs when the other table in the match played in three notrump.

Note that had Levin/Weinstein bid only six diamonds, it would still have been a gain of 12 ... but every IMP matters!

ALL MATCHES

Board 68. Dealer West. Neither Vul.

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

Four pairs reached six diamonds on the North/South cards. Two pairs played in a simple three notrump. The remaining two results were rather offbeat: North/South-seven diamonds doubled; and East/West-four spades doubled.

When trumps didn't break, declarer could only take eleven tricks. Ask yourself, "Is this a reasonable slam?"

If the other table is in three notrump making five, the slam will gain 10 IMPs when it makes and lose 11 IMPs when it fails. So the slam must be a little better than 50% (52.4% to be precise) to bid it. If trumps don't break, the slam will be defeated unless the opponents make a severe defensive error.

Diamonds break 3-2 67.8% of the time. At first glance, it appears that declarer must also guess the heart queen. If that were the case, this would be a poor slam (33.9%).

But, John Morton, the 15th-century Archbishop of Canterbury and Chancellor of the Exchequer for Henry VII, comes to the rescue with a "Morton's Fork" coup. (Morton replenished the Treasury with heavy taxation. He stated that no one was to be exempted from taxes: "If the subject is seen to live frugally, tell him because he is clearly a money-saver of great ability, he can afford to give generously to the King. If, however, the subject lives a life of great extravagance, tell him he, too, can afford to give largely, the proof of his opulence being evident in his expenditure.")

Before playing on hearts or spades, declarer leads a club toward either the king or queen. If the defender who plays second holds the ace, he is "forked". If he plays the ace, declarer will have two club tricks and can discard hearts on the king and queen of spades, thus eliminating the heart guess. If the defender ducks his ace, declarer can discard North's remaining two clubs on the king-queen of spades.

If declarer guesses wrongly in clubs, he can fall back on the heart finesse for his twelfth trick. Guessing right in either hearts or clubs is a 75% of 67.8% play. So, the slam would make 50.9% of the time. In addition, the

opponents might lead a club or a heart and take away any need for declarer to guess correctly. If the opponents are equally likely to lead any suit, a little fewer than one-half of the leads will be good for declarer. This would make the slam about a 59% play, barring a ruff, of course.

We should want to be in slam on these cards with those odds.

ALL MATCHES

Board 70. Dealer East. Both Vul.

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

The declarers in six clubs and six notrump had an easy twelve tricks: four clubs, two diamonds, three spades and three hearts. Two Wests declared six hearts. One received a spade lead. He won with the ace and played the ace of hearts followed by a heart to the king. He picked up trumps and claimed twelve tricks.

Another declarer received a diamond lead and made the reflex play of following suit with the jack! South switched to his singleton club. Declarer played a heart to the king, guarding against a 5-0 trump break. After the king won the trick, he played a heart back to his ace and got the bad news. At this point, the only dummy entry was in clubs. He tried a club to the queen. South ruffed for down one.

This deal is most interesting in six hearts on a club lead. There are two possibilities after winning the opening club lead:

(i.) Win in hand and lead a heart to the king to protect against a 5-0 heart break with South, then lead a heart back to hand. Given declarer's holdings, a singleton club is far more likely than a singleton diamond or spade so declarer should attempt to get to dummy in diamonds rather than in clubs. To do so after the 4-1 break in hearts shows up, declarer leads the king of diamonds and, assuming it is ducked, attempts to take the ace-king of spades.

If the ace of diamonds is with the four clubs and short trumps, he will be down when his opponent wins the diamond and gives his partner a club ruff. In any other case, declarer will be able to reach dummy in one of the side suits. If the ace of diamonds is taken on the first round, declarer will be able to overtake the

diamond jack. If the ace of diamonds is ducked, declarer continues with the high spades and the diamond jack, overtaking it with the queen. When the opponent wins with the diamond ace, he will be forced to give dummy the lead, provided there are no ruffs in a side suit.

(ii.) Ignore the possibility of a 5-0 heart break and cash the ace of hearts first, then cross to the king of hearts. This protects against 4-1 hearts with South, but not against 5-0 hearts with South, but it prevents any possibility of a side-suit ruff.

If South has the ace of diamonds with jack to four hearts, line (i.) is safe except when South can ruff the second round of spades, which is rather unlikely. The problem occurs when North has the ace of diamonds; then, a second-round spade, club or diamond ruff will lead to defeat. All in all, ignoring the possibility of a 5-0 heart break and protecting against the 4-1 while denying the defenders a ruff opportunity seems preferable.

A Redbull Board

Ana Roth

This year in Sanya, China the best bridge players in the world will be participating in the 14th Redbull World Bridge Series. This board is proof of the connection between bridge and its new sponsor, Redbull ...

The GORDON and DIAMOND teams faced each other in the quarterfinals. After the first 5 of 8 sets, the match was virtually tied, with only a small advantage for the GORDON team.

The sixth set started with a 10-IMP swing for the DIAMOND team. Three boards later ...

Board 79. Dealer South. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Gordon</i>	<i>Bathurst</i>	<i>Pratap</i>	<i>Moss</i>
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	1♥	Double	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♥	Pass
2NT	Pass	3NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Bathurst led the ten of hearts. Gordon won the trick with his king to play the five of clubs to the queen. He continued with the ace and another club to Bathurst's king. North got off play with a spade to dummy's ace. Gordon took the three top spades and cashed the ace of diamonds. Not wanting to be on play with the next diamond, and receiving the informative ten from Moss, Bathurst threw the king of diamonds under the ace, then followed with the jack under the queen. This was the four-card end position, declarer having taken eight tricks:

<p>♠ —</p> <p>♥ A J 7 3</p> <p>♦ —</p> <p>♣ —</p> <p>♠ —</p> <p>♥ Q 5 4</p> <p>♦ —</p> <p>♣ J</p>	<p>♠ 10</p> <p>♥ 9</p> <p>♦ 8 5</p> <p>♣ —</p> <p>♠ J</p> <p>♥ 2</p> <p>♦ 9 7</p> <p>♣ —</p>
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Gordon continued with the nine of hearts. Not willing to concede two tricks to declarer, Bathurst let this hold the trick! Then it was Moss' turn - when Gordon exited with the ten of spades, South had to win and surrender the tenth trick to East in diamonds.

Not only does Redbull give you wings ... it gives you some bridge boards too. At the other table ...

West	North	East	South
<i>Greco</i>	<i>Pepsi</i>	<i>Hampson</i>	<i>Seamon</i>
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	1♥	Double	1♠
2♣	Double ¹	Redouble	2♠
3♥	Pass	3NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. 3-card spade support

Hampson covered the six-of-hearts lead with dummy's king. North won with his ace and returned the heart ten, knocking out declarer's stopper in the suit and his entry to the dummy. Declarer continued by testing the club suit, playing one to the queen and then cashing the ace, but when the king did not appear, Hampson could do no better than one down.

Hampson could also have made three notrump by ducking the first heart in dummy. North would have had to duck clubs until the third round and by eliminating North's exit cards in spades, that player could have been endplayed in diamonds. The defence could have taken, at most, two hearts, one club and one diamond.

Alternatively, declarer wins trick two in dummy with a heart honour, finesses diamonds, wins the ace and queen of clubs, then endplays South with diamonds, collecting four spade tricks in the end.

ALL MATCHES

Board 98. Dealer EAST. EW Vul.

<p>♠ A Q 10 4</p> <p>♥ —</p> <p>♦ Q J 8 4 3</p> <p>♣ K Q 10 6</p> <p>♠ J 9</p> <p>♥ J 10 9 8 5 4</p> <p>♦ 7</p> <p>♣ 8 7 5 2</p>	<p>♠ K 3</p> <p>♥ A K Q</p> <p>♦ A K 10 6 5 2</p> <p>♣ J 3</p> <p>♠ 8 7 6 5 2</p> <p>♥ 7 6 3 2</p> <p>♦ 9</p> <p>♣ A 9 4</p>
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West	North	East	South
<i>L. Stansby</i>	<i>Wooldridge</i>	<i>Bramley</i>	<i>Hurd</i>
—	—	1♣ ¹	Pass
1♦ ²	Pass	2NT ³	Pass
4♦ ⁴	Pass	4♥	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. Strong, 16+ HCP
2. 0-8 HCP
3. 20-21
4. Transfer to hearts

West	North	East	South
<i>Kranyak</i>	<i>Gabel</i>	<i>Lall</i>	<i>H. Weinstein</i>
—	—	2♣	Pass
2♦	Pass	2NT	Pass
4♦ ¹	Pass	4♥	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. Transfer to hearts

West	North	East	South
<i>Cheek</i>	<i>Rosenberg</i>	<i>Bertens</i>	<i>Willenken</i>
—	—	2NT	Pass
3♦ ¹	Pass	3NT ²	Pass
4♦ ³	Pass	4♥	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. Transfer to hearts
2. Super-acceptance of hearts
3. Re-transfer

West	North	East	South
<i>Fleisher</i>	<i>Lair</i>	<i>Martel</i>	<i>Gu</i>
—	—	1♦ ¹	Pass
1♥	Double	Redouble ²	1♠
2♥	2♠	3♠	4♠
Double	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. Usually 5+
2. 3-card heart support

West	North	East	South
<i>Seamon</i>	<i>Diamond</i>	<i>Pepsi</i>	<i>Platnick</i>
—	—	2NT	Pass
4♦ ¹	Pass	4♥	Pass
Pass	Double	Pass	4♠
Double	Pass	5♥	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. Transfer to hearts

West	North	East	South
<i>Greco</i>	<i>Berkowitz</i>	<i>Hampson</i>	<i>Sontag</i>
—	—	2NT	Pass
3♦ ¹	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♥	Double	Pass	4♠
5♥	Pass	Pass	Double
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. Transfer to hearts

After a strong two-club or two-notrump opening, it is very difficult for North/South to get into the auction, even though they are cold for four spades on their combined 18 HCP.

In the GORDON-DIAMOND match, both Berkowitz and Diamond balanced with a double and were rewarded when their partners bid the excellent four spades. In both cases East/West took the push to five hearts and were defeated one trick.

In the FLEISHER-SELIGMAN match, Cheek/Bertens were allowed to play in four hearts after a two notrump opening. Four hearts can only be defeated with a trump lead. Five pairs declared hearts and no one led a trump.

At the other table in this match, Martel opened one diamond and North/South bought the hand in four spades doubled. This contract should have been made, but was not.

A diamond was led to East's ace and a heart was returned and trumped in dummy. Now declarer, Gu, led a diamond and trumped it in hand. This was overruffed by West, who returned a club to the ten, jack and ace. Gu now led a low trump. When the jack was played, he simply needed to win with the ace and go about his business. The clubs were good and he could crossruff the remainder, losing only a diamond and two spades. Instead, Gu finessed the spade, losing to Martel's king. Martel returned a trump, defeating the cold contract.

In the FIREMAN-BRAMLEY match, both Easts played in four hearts. The opening lead was a diamond at both tables and both declarers won and trumped a low diamond. Bramley returned to his hand with a trump and couldn't recover. When the opponents gained the lead, they were able to play a second trump. Declarer had to lose either a diamond or a trump trick in addition to the three black-suit losers.

Lall led a club from dummy at trick three and severed the opponents' transportation for trump leads. If North had played low, declarer would have played the jack and South would have had only one entry. If North had played the ten, declarer would have had to duck. As it was, North made the normal play of splitting the king-queen, again limiting South to one entry. With the ace of spades well-placed, East was able to score ten tricks, bringing home his contract on a crossruff.

The scores of the quarterfinal matches were:

NICKELL	260	SHERMAN	142
FLEISHER	238	SELIGMAN	182
DIAMOND	278	GORDON	246
BRAMLEY	260	FIREMAN	251

THE SEMIFINALS

BOTH MATCHES

Board 28. Dealer West. NS Vul.

♠ Q 10 5 3 2

♥ 9 8 7

♦ Q 5 2

♣ J 6

♠ A K 8 6

♥ Q 10 6 4

♦ K J 10

♣ 5 3

♠ J 9

♥ A J 2

♦ A 9 8 7 6 3

♣ A K

♠ 7 4

♥ K 5 3

♦ 4

♣ Q 10 9 8 7 4 2

West	North	East	South
<i>Meckstroth</i>	<i>Lee</i>	<i>Rodwell</i>	<i>Hamman</i>
1NT ¹	Pass	2♠ ²	Pass
2NT ³	Pass	3♥ ⁴	Pass
4♣ ⁵	Pass	4♦ ⁶	Pass
4NT ⁷	Pass	6♦	Pass
Pass	Pass		

- 14-16
- Size ask
- Minimum
- Diamond slam try
- Key-card response of 2 without (3NT would have been regressive)
- What else?
- Spade king, no heart king

West	North	East	South
<i>H. Weinstein</i>	<i>Katz</i>	<i>Grabel</i>	<i>Nickell</i>
1♣	Pass	2♦	Pass
2NT	Pass	3NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		

- 2+ clubs

West	North	East	South
<i>Diamond</i>	<i>Fleisher</i>	<i>Platnick</i>	<i>Cohler</i>
1NT ¹	Pass	3♣ ²	Double
Pass ³	Pass	Redouble ⁴	Pass
3♦ ⁵	Pass	6♦	Pass
Pass	Pass		

- 14-16
- Puppet Stayman
- No club stop
- Re-ask
- No 5-card major

West	North	East	South
<i>Willenken</i>	<i>Greco</i>	<i>Rosenberg</i>	<i>Hampson</i>
1♦	Pass	2♦ ¹	Pass
3NT	Pass	4♣ ²	Pass
4♠ ²	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♥	Pass	6♦	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. Forcing one round
2. Control bids

In the NICKELL/BRAMLEY match, Meckwell played in six diamonds. With no information from the opponents, Rodwell played for the 2-2 break in trumps and went down when the trump queen didn't drop and the heart finesse lost. Weinstein and Grabel disdained the slam and played in three notrump. Weinstein collected eleven tricks for a gain of 11 IMPs to BRAMLEY.

In the FLEISHER/DIAMOND match, Willenken/Rosenberg bid to six diamonds, their opponents passing throughout. Like Rodwell, Willenken played for the drop of the trump queen and went light one trick.

At the other table, Diamond/Platnick also bid to six diamonds. Cohler, South, doubled Puppet Stayman, a tell. Fleisher led the jack of clubs. Diamond realized that Cohler's double had to be based on length since he was missing three of the top four honours. Thus Diamond cashed the king of diamonds and finessed North for the queen. That resulted in 14 IMPs for the DIAMOND squad.

BOTH MATCHES

Board 36. Dealer West. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>L. Stansby</i>	<i>Levin</i>	<i>Bramley</i>	<i>S. Weinstein</i>
Pass	1♣	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♦
Pass	3NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

West	North	East	South
<i>Meckstroth</i>	<i>Lee</i>	<i>Rodwell</i>	<i>Hamman</i>
Pass	1♣	Pass	1♦
Pass	1♥	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

West	North	East	South
<i>Willenken</i>	<i>Greco</i>	<i>Rosenberg</i>	<i>Hampson</i>
Pass	INT	Pass	3♣ ¹
Pass	3♦ ²	Pass	3NT ³
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. Puppet Stayman
2. At least 1 4-card major
3. Interested only in a 5-card major

West	North	East	South
<i>Bathurst</i>	<i>Fleisher</i>	<i>Moss</i>	<i>Martel</i>
Pass	1♣ ¹	Pass	1♠ ²
Pass	INT	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. 2+ clubs
2. Transfer to INT if North has (11)12-14 balanced

Looking at all four hands, you can see that three notrump can always be made. Indeed the contract succeeded in three of the four rooms.

In the FLEISHER/DIAMOND match, Greco treated his hand as a one-notrump opener (14-16) rather than a two-diamond opener (11-15 with short diamonds). Hampson bid three clubs (Puppet Stayman) and settled in three notrump when Greco denied a five-card major. Rosenberg led the queen of spades and declarer was able to take two spades (by finessing for the nine of spades), four hearts, two diamonds and one club to make his contract.

At the other table in this match, Moss led a heart. Fleisher won in dummy and played a spade to the eight, losing to Moss' jack. Another heart was returned. Fleisher won in his hand and played a spade to the king, losing to Bathurst's ace. Not having the benefit of seeing declarer's hand, Bathurst returned the jack of clubs to declarer's king and Moss's ace. Fleisher won the heart return in dummy and played a club to his nine, winning the trick. Now he cashed the king of clubs, ace of diamonds and ace of hearts. He exited with a spade to East's queen and Moss, with only diamonds remaining, was forced to give declarer the diamond finesse for his ninth trick.

In the NICKELL/BRAMLEY match, Hamman/Lee bid naturally to three notrump from the South hand. Meckstroth led a club to dummy's king and Rodwell's ace. The seven of clubs was returned and won in dummy with the queen over West's ten. Now Hamman led a spade to the king. Meckstroth could have won this trick and defeated the contract by cashing a club and two more spades. Not knowing how weak declarer's spade holding was, Meckstroth ducked! Now declarer led a diamond to the ace and conceded a club, taking nine tricks (one spade, four hearts, two diamonds and two clubs). Taking a superficial view, the duck of the spade

ace was an error, but think again! Look what happened at the other table in this match.

Bramley/Stansby were the only pair to defeat three notrump. Stansby led the ten of diamonds. Weinstein won in dummy and played a spade to his king. Stansby also ducked his ace! Now Weinstein played a club to dummy's king and Bramley ducked his ace! Weinstein led a heart to his hand and played a club to the queen. This time Bramley won with his ace and played the queen and jack of spades. Stansby won with the ace of spades and cashed three club tricks, defeating three notrump two tricks for a gain of 13 IMPs. (Not to nitpick great defence, but Stansby should probably have overtaken the queen of spades, just in case Stevie the Poker Player lied a little when he denied a four-card major.) Of course this defence is really just 'child's play': DUCK-DUCK-GOOSE..

Board 60. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

♠ 10 6
♥ K 6
♦ 10 9 6 4 3 2
♣ 8 6 2

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

♠ A
♥ A 10
♦ K Q J 8 7
♣ A K Q 10 9

West	North	East	South
<i>L. Stansby</i>	<i>Rodwell</i>	<i>Bramley</i>	<i>Meckstroth</i>
3♠	Pass	4♠	4NT ¹
Pass	5♣	Pass	6♣
Double	Pass	Pass	6♦
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. Two-suited takeout

At the three other tables, East/West saved in six spades going for 800 (down four). Stansby was in a difficult spot - he was pretty sure a diamond ruff was his only chance to defeat six clubs. When Stansby doubled, Meckstroth could read the writing on the wall. Since Stansby had no diamonds, Meckstroth hoped Rodwell had some length and backed his judgment by converting six clubs to six diamonds.

Now it had become even more difficult for Bramley. To save or not to save, that is the question! It was impossible for him to save knowing his only offensive value was the ace of the suit in which his partner was void. Bramley rode it out in six diamonds and it cost him 11 IMPs. It had been a great bid by Meckstroth.

The semifinal scorelines were:

NICKELL	254	BRAMLEY	147
DIAMOND	237	FLEISHER	180

THE FINAL

Board 7. Dealer South. Both Vul.

♠ A 8 4
♥ A
♦ K 10 8 4 3
♣ J 10 5 4

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

♠ K J 10 7 3 2
♥ —
♦ A 9 2
♣ A K 9 6

West	North	East	South
<i>Katz</i>	<i>Greco</i>	<i>Nickell</i>	<i>Hampson</i>
—	—	—	1♣ ¹
2♥	3♦ ²	4♥	Pass ³
Pass	Double	Pass	4♠
Pass	5NT	Pass	6♥
Pass	6♠	Pass	7♦
Pass	7♠	Pass	Pass
Double	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. Strong, artificial, forcing
2. Natural, game-forcing
3. Asks partner to reopen with double

West	North	East	South
<i>Diamond</i>	<i>Levin</i>	<i>Platnick</i>	<i>S. Weinstein</i>
—	—	—	1♠
3♥	4♥	5♥	7♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Seven spades is an aggressive, but reasonable, spot. Both Wests led hearts: Katz led the king and Diamond the jack. Both Souths won with the ace in dummy, discarding a diamond from hand. If spades were 2-2, declarer could draw trumps, cash the ace of clubs, and then play on diamonds. If both opponents followed to two rounds of diamonds, declarer could simply have trumped a diamond and returned to dummy in trumps. If an opponent had failed to follow to the second diamond, declarer could have fallen back on the club finesse.

If spades were 3-1, declarer had to guess the position of the spade queen at trick two. Even if he guessed correctly, he might still have needed the club finesse. Stevie Weinstein, faced with a double jump by Diamond, assumed that West held at least seven hearts. This caused him to play for the spade queen to be in Platnick's hand on his right. Accordingly, he cashed the ace of spades. When the queen fell singleton on his left, he had no choice but to hope for either the queen/jack doubleton of diamonds or the club finesse (no entry to reach diamonds). Since neither of these positions existed, the grand slam failed by a trick.

In the other room, Katz preempted with two hearts, possibly giving Hampson cause to think hearts were 6-6 in his opponents' hands. At trick two, Hampson played a spade his king, felling the singleton queen. He was now able to save the spade ace as a late dummy entry. He still had a decision to make: if RHO had a singleton diamond, he needed to draw trumps and take the club finesse. He chose to play for 3-2 diamonds by cashing the spade jack and testing diamonds. When that worked, he scored up his doubled grand slam.

That was 21 IMPs to DIAMOND.

Board 26. Dealer East. Both Vul.

♠ —
♥ J
♦ A K Q 10 8 7 6 4 2
♣ A Q 6

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

♠ 8 3
♥ A 4
♦ 9 3
♣ J 9 8 7 5 4 2

West	North	East	South
<i>Bathurst</i>	<i>Katz</i>	<i>Moss</i>	<i>Nickell</i>
—	—	1♣ ¹	Pass
1♦ ²	6♦	Pass	Pass
Pass			

West	North	East	South
<i>Meckstroth</i>	<i>Greco</i>	<i>Rodwell</i>	<i>Hampson</i>
—	—	1♣ ¹	Pass
1♦ ²	5♦	Pass	Pass
5♥	6♦	6♥	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Both auctions started with a Strong Club and negative response. Katz took 12 easy tricks for 1370. At the other table, Meckstroth lost the expected three tricks and went quietly down two for minus 200. That resulted in 15 IMPs to NICKELL.

Board 46. Dealer East. Neither Vul.

♠ A 2
♥ J 10 9 7 6 2
♦ K 9 8
♣ 9 3

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

♠ K Q 6 5 4 3
♥ A
♦ 10 6 3
♣ 8 7 6

West	North	East	South
<i>Bathurst</i>	<i>Meckstroth</i>	<i>Moss</i>	<i>Rodwell</i>
—	—	1♦ ¹	1♠
2NT	Pass	3NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		
1. 11-15 HCP, 2+ diamonds			

West	North	East	South
<i>S. Weinstein</i>	<i>Greco</i>	<i>Levin</i>	<i>Hampson</i>
—	—	1♣	1♠
3♦	Pass	3♠	Pass
5♣	Pass	Pass	Pass

Against five clubs, Hampson led his singleton heart ace and followed it with a spade to his partner's ace for a heart ruff. The losing diamond finesse meant the contract failed by two tricks.

At the other table, there was a chance for brilliance. Meckstroth led the heart ten against three notrump. Rodwell won with his ace and found the diamond shift. Bathurst ducked and Meckstroth won with his king. He was at the crossroads. If he had found the spade ace, the contract would have been defeated a trick before declarer ever gained the lead. Alas, he continued with diamonds and Bathurst came to two hearts, three diamonds, and five clubs ... making four! 11 IMPs to DIAMOND.

Board 53. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

♠ K 4 3 2
♥ A J 10 7 5 3
♦ A 8
♣ 10

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

♠ A J 9
♥ Q 8 2
♦ 9 5
♣ A Q 8 6 4

West	North	East	South
<i>S. Weinstein</i>	<i>Greco</i>	<i>Levin</i>	<i>Hampson</i>
—	1♥	2♦	2NT
Pass	3♦	Pass	3♠
Double	4♠	Pass	5♥
Pass	6♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			

West	North	East	South
<i>Bathurst</i>	<i>Meckstroth</i>	<i>Moss</i>	<i>Rodwell</i>
—	1♥	2♦	4♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

At both tables, East led his singleton spade. Meckstroth played safely for his game and made four.

Greco had a lot of work to do to make the slam and he needed some luck. The cards were almost perfectly placed. Greco won the opening spade in hand with

the king. He immediately finessed the club king, and when that won, he pitched a diamond on the club ace. He wasn't out of the woods yet. He still needed the trump finesse and needed the trumps 2-2 to be able to trump a spade in the dummy. When all of that worked he claimed his slam and won 13 IMPs.

A Fine Defence Overcome

David Bird

Board 66. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Katz	Greco	Nickell	Hampson
—	—	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♥	Pass	4♠
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♥
Pass	6NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Geoff Hampson opened a somewhat bent two notrump. Eric Greco's four hearts was a slam try in spades and South signed off on his minimum. Roman Key-Card Blackwood told Greco that an ace and the queen of trumps (spades) were missing. He ruled out six spades, but instead bid six notrump, judging that his diamond suit would give a good play for that slam. (The best contract is six clubs. Declarer can ruff a heart and discard two spades on the diamonds.)

West led the eight of hearts to the jack and king. When declarer played the king of diamonds, Ralph Katz held off the ace. Declarer crossed to the queen of clubs and led the queen of diamonds. Once more Katz declined to take his ace. This was top-class defence. By refusing to win a trick, West prevented declarer from rectifying the count. Had he released the ace of diamonds, a straightforward spade-diamond squeeze would have resulted.

Hampson cashed his clubs, discarding two diamonds and a spade from dummy. When he crossed to the heart ace, West had to reduce to the queen-jack-six of spades and the bare ace of diamonds. Declarer then threw West on lead with a diamond, forcing him to open the spades. When Katz exited with the jack of

spades, declarer played correctly to win with the ace and finesse dummy's nine for twelve tricks.

Hampson knew that Katz could not have afforded the jack of spades from jack-to-three since Nickell could have held the queen-ten and the jack would have presented Hampson with a no-play slam. (Hampson had a complete count and would know that, if East played the queen of spades on the jack, it would have had to have been from a doubleton queen-ten.)

An alternative line was to throw two spades and one diamond from dummy. West would have been forced to bare the ace of diamonds or unguard the spades when declarer crossed to the ace of hearts. Then, either a low diamond to the ace would have then set up the jack of diamonds as the twelfth trick or the spades would all have fallen under the king and ace, whenever West held any three spades.

At the other table, Levin and Weinstein stopped in five spades, losing 11 IMPs.

Board 100. Dealer West. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Meckstroth	Moss	Rodwell	Bathurst
Pass	1♦ ¹	Pass	1♥
Double	Redouble ²	3♣	3♥
Pass	4♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			

1. 11-15 HCP, 2+ diamonds
2. 3-card heart support

Bathurst demonstrated excellent declarer technique to bring home this tough four-heart contract. He took advantage of the bidding to work out all of the right plays. Meckstroth led the club queen (Rusinow); declarer won with his ace and trumped a club. Next he made the key play of a diamond to his king, assuming that if Meckstroth had held the king-queen of clubs, the ace of diamonds and a spade honour or two, he would have opened the bidding on a hand containing nine or ten black cards.

Bathurst continued with three rounds of spades, trumping the third round in his hand. Then he trumped his third club in dummy and trumped

Continued on page 14 ...



IBPA Column Service

Tim Bourke, Canberra

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

713. Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

This deal was played in a team game. The auction at each table was the same and each declarer received a fourth-highest five of hearts lead.

At the first table, declarer played the queen of hearts from dummy and this lost to the king. Noting that the declarer seemed unperturbed by this, East decided to try a spade switch. Declarer's queen lost to West's king and the spade return was won by declarer's ace. As he had only seven top tricks, declarer needed to bring in the diamond suit. As there was no reason to play for East to have begun with all of the missing diamonds, declarer continued by cashing the ace of diamonds. After West discarded a heart, this declarer had to lose a diamond trick and his contract.

The declarer at the other table showed how to make the contract safely. As a spade lead from East could cause difficulties, he called for the ace of hearts at trick one. As long as East did not gain the lead too early, four diamond tricks would give him contract. With that in mind, declarer led a low diamond from dummy and when East followed with the six, he played the eight from hand.

If West had been able to win the first diamond he would have had no winning return: declarer would make four diamond tricks and have time to set up a

second trick in hearts to make his contract. When the eight of diamonds held, declarer was able to play the diamond suit for five tricks and make an overtrick for a useful swing.

714. Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

North's first response was a forcing-to-game heart raise and South's rebid indicated a six-card suit.

West led the jack of clubs. After winning the trick with the ace, declarer's dilemma was that there were finesse positions in three suits. The only finesse he could not avoid was in spades, so his next move was to lead the queen of spades. West covered this with the king, which was taken by dummy's ace of spades. After discarding a spade on the king of clubs, declarer ruffed dummy's remaining club.

Now declarer was in a position to improve upon relying on either a winning trump finesse or finding the queen of diamonds. After cashing the jack of spades, declarer played a trump to dummy's ace, then ruffed dummy's last spade. The elimination was now complete and declarer exited with a trump to East's king. East could see that a ruff-and-discard would give the contract away: instead he exited with the queen

of diamonds. This allowed declarer to claim his contract.

It should be noted that if the spade finesse had lost, declarer would have taken the trump finesse, hoping that the king was onside. If that were successful, the potential diamond loser would have been parked on dummy's king of clubs.

715. Dealer North. EW Vul.

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

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

West led the five of spades, taken by dummy's bare ace. As he had only five top tricks and one more spade stopper, declarer saw that his best hope was to find diamonds 3-2 with the ace onside. When a low diamond was played from dummy East played the eight and declarer's king won the trick.

Next, declarer crossed to dummy's ace of hearts and led a second round of diamonds. East rose with the ace and declarer followed with the five from his hand, leaving him with the bare queen of diamonds in hand. All would have been well if he had received a major suit return but East could tell that the diamond suit was blocked and he attacked dummy's entry by leading the king of clubs. Declarer ducked two rounds of clubs but this led to naught as East persisted with the suit and the contract could no longer be made.

"You should have crossed dummy with the ace of clubs at trick three," said the ever-unsympathetic North. "Using the heart entry for the second diamond left you ripe for an entry killing club shift. As the cards lay, East could do no better than rise with ace of diamonds and cash three club tricks. However, that would be the end of the defence. If East exited with a heart, you would win in hand and cash the king of spades before unblocking the queen of diamonds. You could then cross to dummy with the ace of hearts and enjoy dummy's two good diamonds as your eighth and ninth tricks."

716. Dealer North. EW Vul.

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

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

This deal occurred in a pairs game, which accounts for the declarer trying for ten tricks in hearts rather than eleven in clubs. West, who had been listening to the auction, began with ace, queen and another diamond. Declarer saw that his main chance was trumps breaking 3-3. He then pondered what he could do if trumps were 4-2. After some thought, he saw that he could survive a 4-2 trump break whenever the player with four trumps had both a singleton club and four spades. So, after ruffing the third diamond in dummy while discarding a spade from hand, he cashed the queen of trumps before playing the ace and king of clubs.

Now it was East's turn to pause to consider his options. As the cards lay, if he had ruffed the second club then the rest would have been easy for declarer: the best East could have done was to play another diamond, which declarer would have ruffed on the table, then crossed back to hand with a spade to draw trumps and claim.

There would be a similar outcome if East had thrown a diamond on the second club. Declarer would have continued with the ace, king and another trump to put East on lead with only spades left in his hand. Declarer would have won the forced spade return and run the clubs for his contract.

After some thought East discarded a low spade, and it was then declarer's turn to reconsider his options. Declarer knew East well: he was not the sort of player who would refuse to ruff the second club with only two or three trumps. So declarer decided to play East for four trumps and cashed the ace and king of spades, then ruffed his remaining spade in dummy. When the queen of clubs was played, East could do no better than ruff and play a diamond. As declarer had the ace-king-seven of hearts left, he ruffed this with the seven and took the last two tricks with master trumps for his contract.

dummy's last spade. He exited with a diamond to Meckstroth's queen. This was the position, declarer having lost just one trick:

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

Upon winning with the queen of diamonds, Meckstroth returned the seven of hearts to dummy's ace and declarer led the third round of diamonds to Rodwell's ace. Rodwell exited with a low heart.

Since Meckstroth had already shown 8 HCP in the other suits, Bathurst reasoned that West would have opened the bidding on a 5=2=2=4 eleven count. Consequently, Bathurst played the queen of hearts, spearing the jack, to make four hearts. He won 10 IMPs when the declarer in the other room went down against no adverse bidding.

The final score was NICKELL 270-DIAMOND 262. Having earlier beaten MONACO in the final of the Vanderbilt, NICKELL is on a roll and must be considered early favourites for next year's Bermuda Bowl, not to mention this year's Rosenblum. Indeed, should they win the Rosenblum, Meckwell will become the first pair ever to win all four major WBF Championships: the World Open Pairs, the Olympiad Teams, the Bermuda Bowl and the Rosenblum. They might then lay claim to consideration, along with Belladonna/Garozzo and Hamman/Wolff, as the best pair of all time.



V OPEN SOUTH AMERICAN CHAMPIONSHIPS

Fernando Lema, Buenos Aires

The Vth Festival Sudamericano Transnacional de Bridge 2014 was played in Santiago de Chile from May 17 to 24, 2014. Just before that, from May 14 to 16, the South American Youth Championships and trials for the World Youth Bridge Championships in Istanbul later this year were contested. In the Junior category, seven national teams competed: Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Ecuador, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela. Uruguay was the favourite and defeated Argentina in the final. In the U-21 category Uruguay, again the favourite, also prevailed, this time over Chile. All four teams won the right to play in Istanbul.

In the Championship proper, there were three qualifying sessions and two final sessions in the South American Pairs Championship. In the Open, the Gold was won by the Chilean Pair, Benjamin Robles and Joaquin Pacareu. Silver was taken by Gabino Alujas and Carlos Lucena from Argentina, and Bronze by Miguel Villas-Boas and J.P. Campos from Brazil.

In the Ladies - Gold: Josefina Bello and Marta Tiscornia from Argentina; Silver for Paula Riedel and Adriana Deik (CHI); Bronze for Jacqueline Meirelles and Ana Vidigal (BRZ).

In the Mixed Pairs, the winners were Maria Celia Pailhe and Robert Vigil (ARG); second were Morella Pacheco (VEN) and Adolfo Madala (ARG).

The Teams Championship consisted of a 12-match round robin with 14 boards per match, which was led by the **CHAGAS** Team: Gabriel Chagas and Ernesto Muzzio; Marcelo Castello Branco and Diego Brenner. As they had the right to choose their semifinal opponent, they preferred to play against the **d'ORSI** team: Ernesto d'Orsi/Mauricio Figueredo; J. P. Campos/Miguel Villas Boas and Renato Rodrigues/Guilherme Junqueira. CHAGAS won by 114-70.

In the other semifinal, the **PERULA** team: Juan Carlos Ventin/Frederic Wrang; Marion Michielsen/Mustafa Cem Tokay and Johan Upmark/Fredrik Nyström was always in command of its match against the **LAVAZZA** team: Maria Teresa Lavazza/Norberto Bocchi/Agustin Madala and Giorgio Duboin/Alejandro Bianchedi. The final score was 136-41.

The final was 64 boards in length and the lead changed frequently. Although CHAGAS began the last set 30 IMPs ahead, the PERULA team appeared to reduce the lead to almost nil. Unfortunately, after the final ended, the players found a pair of boards that had been improperly duplicated and they had to be cancelled. After that, the teams played two more boards to replace the cancelled ones. However, the organizers decided to suspend the match and meet with both team captains.

Subsequently, Ernesto d'Orsi issued the following statement: "We had problems with some board duplication. As some players had left the playing room before playing the substitute boards, it was possible they could have been aware of the match status. Since the two boards to be played could have changed the result of the match, it was proposed that both teams share the title and they accepted."

In the Ladies Teams, the CHILE team, Paula Riedel - Adriana Deik - Lisi Covarrubias - Odette Yanine - Monica Yussem - Hilda Bahna, won the final against a Brazilian team, PAULISTANAS: Vera Gama - Lia Tajtelbaum - Lucilia Pereira - Cecilia Malta - Maria T. Falk - Rosa Gorescu; 126 to 86.

A POPURRI

Ana Roth, Buenos Aires

In Spanish, the word *popurri* is a musical composition formed of fragments of various works or themes. Here is a popurri of boards that caught my attention during the Championships.

In the Transnational Teams semifinals, this board opened the accounts of LAVAZZA and CHAGAS:

Board 2. Dealer East. NS Vul.

♠ 10 9 7 6 4 3

♥ A 10 9 2

♦ Q 10 5

♣ —

♠ K 8

♥ Q 8 7 6 4

♦ 7 6

♣ A J 7 4

♠ 5

♥ 5

♦ J 9 8 4 3

♣ K Q 10 9 5 3

♠ A Q J 2

♥ K J 3

♦ A K 2

♣ 8 6 2

West	North	East	South
<i>Upmark</i>	<i>Bianchedi</i>	<i>Nyström</i>	<i>Duboin</i>
—	—	Pass	2♣ ¹
Pass	2♥ ¹	3NT	4♠
5♣	5♥	Pass	6♦
Pass	6♠	Pass	Pass

1. Could be a balanced 17-19 HCP
2. Spades

Duboin had no trouble locating the heart queen and scoring plus 1430.

In the other room:

West	North	East	South
<i>Madala</i>	<i>Tokay</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Michielsen</i>
—	—	3♣	Double
5♣	5♠	Pass	6♠
Pass	Pass	7♣	Double
Pass	Pass	Pass	

It seems that these days, a preemptor takes another bid more often than not. Bocchi took advantage of the favourable vulnerability to bid seven clubs. He went four down, minus 800, and won 12 IMPs.

These were the auctions in the other match, with each East also preempting, then also taking another bid ...

West	North	East	South
<i>Branco</i>	<i>Campos</i>	<i>Brenner</i>	<i>Villas-Boas</i>
—	—	3♣	Double
5♣	5♠	Double ¹	6♠
7♣	Double	Pass	Pass
Pass			

1. Desire to bid more, typically no defence

West	North	East	South
<i>d'Orsi</i>	<i>Chagas</i>	<i>Figueiredo</i>	<i>Muzzio</i>
—	—	3♣	Double
5♣	5♠	6♣	6♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Chagas made six spades. At the other table, Brenner went only three off when the defence failed to take its heart trick, so CHAGAS gained 14 IMPs.

Board 31. Dealer South. NS Vul.

♠ K 7 6 5 2

♥ K J 3 2

♦ K J 2

♣ 9

♠ J 3

♥ A 8 5 4

♦ 10 9 5

♣ J 10 7 3

♠ Q 10 9 4

♥ 10 9

♦ Q 6 4

♣ Q 8 6 4

♠ A 8

♥ Q 7 6

♦ A 8 7 3

♣ A K 5 2

West	North	East	South
<i>Bianchedi</i>	<i>Ventin</i>	<i>Duboin</i>	<i>Wrang</i>
—	—	—	INT
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦
Pass	3♥ ¹	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. Smolen - 5 spades and 4 hearts, game forcing

Bianchedi led a third-best seven of clubs to the nine, queen and ace. Wrang led a heart to the jack, winning the trick. Declarer next played the two of hearts, covering East's ten with the queen. West won the trick with his ace and, having squandered the seven of clubs on the opening lead, was leery of continuing clubs, so returned the eight of hearts. Wrang won with dummy's king and played the two of spades. When Duboin played his queen, Wrang won with the ace and took the diamond finesse. It lost, but declarer had his nine tricks: two spades, two hearts, three diamonds (when the suit proved to be 3-3) and two clubs.

West	North	East	South
Upmark	Bocchi	Nyström	Madala
—	—	—	INT
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦
Pass	2NT ¹	Pass	3♣ ²
Pass	3♦ ³	Pass	3♥ ⁴
Pass	3NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

1. Puppet to 3♣
2. Forced
3. Enquiry
4. Three hearts

Madala won Upmark's lead of the three of clubs (nine, queen) with his ace and led a heart to the jack. A spade to the ace and a heart to the king were declarer's third and fourth tricks. Trying to combine his chances, Madala led a third heart to his queen and Upmark's ace, East discarding a club. West continued with clubs. When the jack held the trick, Upmark cashed the heart five (he had false-carded with the eight on the second round of the suit) and exited with the jack of spades.

Madala ducked the jack of spades to try for 3-3 spades, but Nyström overtook it with his queen and continued the suit. With the black-suit threats badly placed for declarer, Madala was down to his final chance, the diamond finesse. When it failed he was one off, a loss of 12 IMPs.

The final pitted CHAGAS against PERULA. The first quarter ended with a 23-IMP advantage to CHAGAS. Then ...

Board 19. Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Tokay	Chagas	Michielsen	Muzzio
—	—	—	1♥
Pass	2♥	2♠	4♥
4♠	Pass	Pass	5♥
Double	Pass	Pass	Pass

On the spade force, Muzzio could do no better than make five heart tricks, the king of diamonds and two club tricks. That was down four, minus 800. At the other table, North/South played in four hearts, two down ... PERULA gained 12 IMPs and closed the gap.

Some boards later, Marion Michielsen had an opportunity to display her exceptional card-play skills.

Board 28. Dealer West. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Tokay	Chagas	Michielsen	Muzzio
1♣	Pass	1♥	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♥	Pass
3♥	Pass	4♥	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Tokay-Michielsen stretched to the heart game and Michielsen received the ten-of-clubs lead. She won with the club king over Chagas' queen and tried a spade to the king. North won with his ace to return a club (enabling a possible ruff in his hand). Declarer won with dummy's ace of clubs and ran the ten of hearts. Muzzio won with his ace and gave Chagas his club ruff.

Declarer ruffed the ten-of-spades return, played a diamond to the ace and led a heart to draw the remaining trumps. On the jack of hearts everyone let go of a spade. This was the four-card end position:

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

When Michielsen continued with the nine of hearts, Muzzio could release a spade, but on the next heart, he had to surrender ... a club pitch would have given declarer a club trick with the five and a diamond pitch would have given declarer an extra diamond trick with the jack.

At the other table, Diego Brenner also made 10 tricks, but he was playing in only a two-heart contract.

Board 30 deserved a better end ...

Board 30. Dealer East. Neither Vul.

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

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

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

West	North	East	South
Castello B	Nyström	Brenner	Upmark
—	—	1♥	3♦
3♥	7♣	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Nyström had a spade void and knew Upmark had a heart void, so rated to have some clubs. He expected that his ace of diamonds would solidify his partner's suit. The East/West minor-suit distribution buried his grand slam.

At the other table, the bidding began the same way, but Gabriel Chagas competed only with a five-club call. This was enough to buy the contract and Chagas made 12 tricks, which gave his team 10 IMPs. Was this justice?

The set ended 49-15 for PERULA. They led 78-67.

Board 39. Dealer South. Both Vul.

♠ 10 8 6 5 3
 ♥ 7 4
 ♦ A Q 9 5 2
 ♣ 2

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

♠ A
 ♥ A K J 10 2
 ♦ K 8 4
 ♣ K 8 6 4

West	North	East	South
Nyström	Brenner	Upmark	Branco
—	—	—	1♥
Pass	1NT ¹	2♣	Double
Pass	2♦	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♦	Pass	3NT
Pass	4♣	Pass	5♦
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. 5+ spades

Upmark led his ten of diamonds. Brenner won with his ace and led the two of clubs. Upmark rose with the ace and shifted to the seven of spades. Brenner

won with the ace and cashed the king of clubs, pitching a heart from his hand. He continued with the ace and king of hearts, pitching a spade from his hand, then began a club-spade crossruff. He made 11 tricks.

At the other table, the PERULA team played in two notrump, making nine tricks, so CHAGAS won 9 IMPs.

CHAGAS and PERULA shared the title.



This year's final was played in Oslo during the latter days of May and resulted in a massive victory for Heimdal Bridge Club from Trondheim, containing two previous world champions, Geir Helgemo and Glenn Grøtheim. They won all seven of their matches and produced an impressive average score of nearly 15.5 out of 20.

As the entire bridge world knows, Geir Helgemo (now playing internationally for Monaco) is ranked among the absolute best players in the world and, in the last match of the championship, he showed his brilliant bidding judgement against bronze medallists Bergen:

Dealer West. Neither Vul.

♠ Q 10
 ♥ K 7 6
 ♦ K J 8 6
 ♣ A K 7 4

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

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

With Helgemo South and Erik Berg North, the bidding went ...

West	North	East	South
Pass	1NT	2♦	3♥
Pass	4♥	Pass	5♦
Pass	6♥	Pass	7♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Two diamonds from East showed a two-suiter with diamonds and another. Helgemo correctly deduced that

his partner's jump to six hearts had to show solid stoppers in clubs. The play proved no challenge, and Helgemo's judgement brought in 11 IMPs to the winners. Afterwards, Helgemo was asked why he did not start with a cue bid of four spades, and he explained that he could have done so. Then if his partner had declined his invitation by bidding five hearts, he would have continued with five spades to alert partner that club honours would be of paramount value.

The main goal of bridge is to take as many tricks as possible, but you also have to make sure that you take them at the right time. One of our junior internationals, Lars Arthur Johansen, was fully aware of that in this deal against silver medallists Vikersund:

Dealer West. Both Vul.

<p>♠ A J 10 3 2 ♥ 8 5 ♦ K 3 ♣ K J 6 5</p> <p>♠ K Q 7 4 ♥ 7 4 2 ♦ Q 5 2 ♣ Q 10 9</p> <p>♠ 8 5 ♥ A Q 6 3 ♦ A J 10 9 7 ♣ 3 2</p>	<p>♠ 9 6 ♥ K J 10 9 ♦ 8 6 4 ♣ A 8 7 4</p>
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With Johansen East and Glenn Grøtheim West, the bidding went:

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

Grøtheim got off to a good start when he led the two of hearts to the king and ace. Declarer played a diamond to the king and a second diamond to the jack, losing to the queen. Another heart, to the ten, was taken by the queen. Vidar Smith cashed three diamonds and played a club to the knave and ace. Johansen had discarded two clubs on the diamonds, leaving his partner Grøtheim to stop the black suits. East cashed his nine of hearts, coming to this layout:

<p>♠ A J ♥ — ♦ — ♣ K 6</p> <p>♠ K Q ♥ — ♦ — ♣ Q 10</p> <p>♠ 8 5 ♥ 6 ♦ — ♣ 2</p>	<p>♠ 9 6 ♥ J ♦ — ♣ 8</p>
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He corrected his discarding error by refraining from cashing his knave of hearts. Instead he played his club, saving Grøtheim from the squeeze.

Ronny Jørstad from Skien also realized the importance of resisting the temptation to take a trick:

Dealer South. Both Vul.

<p>♠ 8 3 ♥ A Q 10 5 2 ♦ A 7 4 ♣ A 8 4</p> <p>♠ K 4 ♥ K 7 4 3 ♦ Q J 10 6 ♣ K 9 5</p> <p>♠ A 5 2 ♥ 8 6 ♦ K 5 3 ♣ Q J 7 3 2</p>	<p>♠ Q J 10 9 7 6 ♥ J 9 ♦ 9 8 2 ♣ 10 6</p>
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Ronny was West. His father Kai was East.

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

Kai Jørstad started with the queen of spades to the ace and Ronny unblocked his king. A heart was played to the ten and knave. Kai cashed his knave of spades and shifted to a diamond, taken with dummy's king, Ronny playing the queen. A heart to the queen and the ace of hearts revealed that the defence had another trump trick. North played a club to the queen, but Ronny ducked, and declarer ended up a trick short.

Note that had declarer, upon winning the queen of clubs, ruffed a spade to hand, West would have needed to unblock another diamond honour to prevent declarer from endplaying him.

Ole Johnny Tøsse from the other Heimdal team did well on this board against the winners, taking advantage of a small defensive mistake:

Dealer West. EW Vul.

<p>♠ A 8 7 2 ♥ A K 7 ♦ A 9 3 ♣ K 5 2</p> <p>♠ 9 5 ♥ Q 9 6 5 ♦ K Q 10 7 6 4 ♣ 3</p> <p>♠ Q 10 6 ♥ 10 8 3 ♦ J 5 2 ♣ A 9 8 4</p>	<p>♠ K J 4 3 ♥ J 4 2 ♦ 8 ♣ Q J 10 7 6</p>
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Tøsse was South, and the bidding went:

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

Grøtheim led the king of diamonds, which was allowed to hold, and shifted to a heart, taken by the ace. A low spade went to the ten, a club went to the king, and a second spade was won by East's king. East played the knave of hearts, which proved to be a mistake. The king won, followed by a spade to the queen, leaving this situation:

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

Tøsse played the heart ten to Grøtheim's queen. West could cash another trick in that suit, but then had to lead away from his queen of diamonds.

On the following board, North saw no danger looming, but Magne Eide confronted him with the brutal realities:

Dealer North. EW Vul.

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

Eide, from the bronze medallists Bergen, was West, and the bidding went:

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

North led his singleton diamond to dummy's ace. Eide realized that he would probably never get the chance to ruff his diamond in dummy, so he drew three rounds of trumps. When he then led a spade from dummy, South went up with the ace and played a

second diamond to dummy's queen. A club went to the queen and king, and since dummy was without entries, North considered it safe to play the king of spades, which proved to be a fatal mistake.

Eide trumped the spade and played his remaining trumps. Before the last one, this was the position:

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

On the ultimate trump, North could discard a spade, dummy did likewise, but South was in trouble. If he bared his ace of clubs, he would be in with that on the next trick to lead diamonds into declarer's tenace. He consequently discarded the ace of clubs, but then Eide led his club, and North could not prevent dummy from taking two tricks to land the contract.

This was probably the best declarer performance during the championships:

Dealer North. EW Vul.

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

In the open room, Vikersund declared four spades North/South, making ten tricks against the winners Heimdal, but in the closed room, the bidding ended up differently:

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

North started with the ace of spades and shifted to a club, taken by the ace. Considering North's bid of four diamonds, declarer Øyvind Saur had no difficulty in running the nine of trumps. He ruffed a club, felling the king, then ruffed a spade and ran his diamonds. Before the ultimate one, this was the position:

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

On declarer's last diamond, North had to discard a heart, and Saur capped his sterling performance by playing a heart to the queen and ducking the next one.



2014 AUSTRALIAN AUTUMN NATIONALS

Adelaide, May 1-5, 2014
John Carruthers, Kingsville, ON

This year's Australian Autumn Nationals were held in the beautiful Ridley Centre, part of the Adelaide Showground. Most of Australia's top players competed, although some appeared in unfamiliar lineups. The main events were the Swiss Pairs, held over the first two days, and the Open Teams, a three-day event with the top two teams playing the final. Terry Brown was unofficially crowned King of the Autumn Nationals, winning both of these events, each with a different partner.

OPENTEAMS: Terry Brown/Avinash Kanetkar; Ron Klinger/Matthew Mullamphy

OPEN SWISS PAIRS: Terry Brown/Phil Gue

WOMENS SWISS PAIRS: Wendy Hooper/Sue Lusk

SENIOR SWISS PAIRS: Robert Gallus/Stan Klofa

This auction on the following deal from the qualifying rounds of the Open Teams had its entertaining aspects. (See top of next column.)

In a different universe (perhaps in Kansas), North would open one diamond and play in a club partscore. Not, however, in Oz! Andrew Peake's four hearts would not be endorsed by all players, even the Juniors. George Bilski's auction was impeccable. Martin Bloom was



The Ridley Centre, Adelaide Showground

rather aggressive with holes in both of his suits and a doubleton heart. The less said about Ron Cooper's actions the better.

Round 5. Board 5. Dealer North. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Ron Cooper	Martin Bloom	Andrew Peake	George Bilski
—	1♦	4♥	Pass
Pass	4NT ¹	Pass	5♣
5♦	6♣	Pass	Pass
Double	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. Minors, longer diamonds

West led the three of hearts, taken by dummy's ace. South ruffed the nine of hearts with the club three and followed with the ten of diamonds, ducked by West, to dummy's king. Then came the four of diamonds, queen, seven, three. (Bilski obviously knew his customers!)

East switched to the six of spades, king, ace, ten of clubs. South played the five of diamonds from the dummy. East discarded a heart and declarer ruffed it with the four of trumps. Then came the nine of clubs, ducked all around. Declarer drew trumps and dummy was high - plus 1540.

East could/should have ruffed the diamond five with the seven of clubs, but it would have made no difference on the actual layout.

With one qualifying round to go in the teams, BROWN was leading on 122.46 Victory Points from TRAVIS (Barbara Travis/Candice Ginsberg, Russell Harms/Jeff Travis), 118.93 VPs, MILNE (Liam Milne/Nye Griffiths, Ishmael Del'Monte/Peter Hollands), 113.46 and

MELBOURNE (Howard Melbourne/Paul Gosney, Adam Edgtton/Nabil Edgtton), 108.10.

In the last round, TRAVIS beat BROWN narrowly, but MILNE and MELBOURNE lost heavily, leaving BROWN and TRAVIS to contest the final.

Only your side is vulnerable and North opens three hearts in front of you. What would you do as East with ♠A ♥108 ♦AK1064 ♣KI0542? That hand is from the final of the Open teams and features a big gain for the BROWN team.

Board 9. Dealer North. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Ginsberg	Kanetkar	B.Travis	Brown
—	3♥	4♦	Pass
4♠	Pass	5♣	Pass
Pass	Pass		

With both minors breaking favourably despite the preemption by Avi Kanetkar, Barbie Travis had no difficulty chalking up plus 640. At the other table, Matt Mullamphy was rather bolder than Candice Ginsberg had been, but he had a little push in the right direction.

West	North	East	South
Mullamphy	Harms	Klinger	J.Travis
—	3♥	4NT	Pass
5♥	Pass	5♠	Pass
7♣	Pass	Pass	Pass

No action with the East cards is clearcut over three hearts. With a doubleton heart, moderate suits and only one spade, even pass is a consideration. Such reticence is not a part of Australian bridge, however. Whereas Barbie Travis made a rather bold four-diamond overcall, her pair eventually finding the club fit, but settling for game, Ron Klinger was even bolder still, committing his side to 11 tricks in one of the minors. Matt Mullamphy was charmed to bid the grand slam when Klinger made a control-showing bid of five spades over his, Mullamphy's, five hearts.

Mullamphy won the spade lead and played the diamond ace, ruffed a diamond, ruffed a spade, ruffed another diamond, and drew trumps for all the tricks, plus 2140, and 17 IMPs to BROWN.

BROWN won the final by 150-111.

ELEMENTARY, MY DEAR WATSON

**Toine van Hoof,
Utrecht, The Netherlands**



This deal was brought to my attention recently. It was published on Newinbridge and I would like to nominate it for the best bid hand of the year. Jan Jansma's bid was excellent and, contrary to the usual winners of this contest, the deal is very suitable to be presented to a broad audience. The deal was played in Rotterdam's Lombard Bridge Club IMP competition - Jansma and Jan van Cleeff were the protagonists.

Jansma was South and picked up:

♠ A8	♥ AQ872	♦ AK	♣ 8762
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Nobody was vulnerable and righty opened two hearts, weak. Now it was Jansma's turn to bid. He elected to pass, waiting for his partner's balancing double. However, things went slightly differently when lefty passed and partner Jan van Cleeff jumped to three notrump. Righty passed, and Jansma had to find a bid which, according to van Cleeff, took him approximately five seconds. This was the full deal:

IMPs. Dealer East. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Barendregt	van Cleeff	Hop	Jansma
—	—	2♥	Pass
Pass	3NT	Pass	7♣ (!)
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Jansma welcomed dummy with a big smile: "That was exactly the hand I expected. You must have had long, solid clubs; otherwise, three notrump would have made no sense." With the datum of plus 940 to North/South, Jansma/vanCleeff gained 11 IMPs on the board.

Bidding the grand in two rounds of bidding (having passed on the first round!) in serious match play may come close to a record.

NEWS & VIEWS



The German Doctors

The five-person panel empowered by the German Bridge Federation (Deutscher Bridge-Verband) to analyse the evidence presented in Dallas against Michael Elinescu and Entschow Wladow has returned its verdict. A summary of their findings and proceedings to date (May 28, 2014), in the form of a Press Release, appears on the DBV website (in English) at: <http://www.bridge-verband.de/web/news/3028>.

The DBV statement says, in part, "The commission concludes that there was agreement in this regard between Dr. Wladow and Dr. Elinescu, and endorses in this respect the decision reached by the WBF's Disciplinary Commission."

Further, "On the assumption that the statements made by the U.S. players, tournament directors and BBO operators with regard to the non-video-recorded hands are correct, the GBF commission is, after considering all the hands involved, 100% convinced that unauthorized information was exchanged."

Nevertheless, " ... Dr. Wladow and Dr. Elinescu have unequivocally assured the GBF's Executive Committee that the allegations made against them are unfounded."

In the summary, the DBV also states that, "On the basis of the decision reached by the WBF Disciplinary Commission on March 23, 2014, the Disciplinary Attorney of the GBF filed, on March 31, 2014, an application for temporary suspension with the Federation's Arbitration and Disciplinary Panel. The GBF's Arbitration and Disciplinary Panel complied with this application on April 7, 2014 in accordance with § 19, Para. 7, of the GBF Statutes."

"To summarize: the playing ban encompasses:

1. Team competitions organized by the GBF at national and international levels, and
2. Tournaments organized by the GBF in accordance with the definition stated in § 2, Nos. 1 to Nr. 5 of the Federation's Tournament Code at present in force (2008 version)."

"The ban is explicitly for the duration of the appeal proceedings within the WBF and until the appeal committee has come to a decision on the findings of the WBF's Disciplinary Commission dated March 31, 2014. The ban applies to the two players, both individually and as a pair."

Additionally, "At the middle of April, 2014, the attorney engaged by Dr. Wladow and Dr. Elinescu filed an application for the issue of a Temporary Injunction against the GBF. The aim of this injunction was to rescind the decision and the suspension by the GBF. At the end of April, the Cologne County Court decided, after duly considering the various interests, in favor of the GBF"

Finally, and notwithstanding the above, "The GBF's appeal to the WBF is maintained for the time being. It is important for the GBF's Executive Committee to continue to be involved as (an interested) party to the proceedings. In particular, this will facilitate the flow of information and enable GBF representatives to take part in hearings."

2014 Spring Women's Online Bridge Festival

This event drew players from 62 countries and received excellent feedback. The players were able to sign up with a robot in "pairs" tournaments. Robot partners were first allowed in the 2013 Autumn Women's Festival.

The overall winner of the Festival was Virginia Chediak from Norway, and she was invited by the WBF to Sanya, for the World Women's Pairs Championship (accommodation and entry fee) together with a partner of her choice, but already had other arrangements for that period. Robin Taylor, of Maryland, USA, who came 2nd overall, was contacted and is delighted to accept the prize and play in the event.

At the end, there was an extra "Reunion" tournament 3 days after the conclusion of the festival. This reunion event was free, and functioned as an unofficial "prize award" ceremony where all the big winners received their prizes. The next women's festival will be held in the autumn, from 10th-16th of November, 2014.

Anna Maria Torlontano, Chairman of the WBF Women's Committee, would like to thank Vincenzo delle Cave, Diana Eveline, Aurora Rain, our own Anna Gudge, the Directors and all the BBO staff for their collaboration and magnificent job!

Copenhagen Bridge Invitational

The tournament of the Prince, the Poker King and the Bridge Stars is scheduled for 15th-18th of January, 2015. The Danish Bridge Federation will invite 20 top international pairs, handpicked for their bridge skills as well as their sparkling personalities, to compete in the third Copenhagen Bridge Invitational, a three-day IMP-Pair tournament at the Radisson Blu Scandinavia Hotel, home of the Copenhagen Casino. The participating pairs will be revealed as the invitations are accepted.

Additionally, the Radisson Blu Scandinavia IMP Pairs, an open 3-day event, will be played simultaneously with the Copenhagen Bridge Invitational from the 16th-18th of January with a 1st prize of 10,000 DKK.

ACBL Hall of Fame Inductions

The ACBL has announced that Chip Martel and Jill Meyers have been elected to the Hall of Fame. Peggy Sutherlin will join them as recipient of the Blackwood Award (for services to bridge not necessarily at the bridge table), as will Billy Rosen as recipient of the von Zedtwitz Award (given to worthy players long outside the spotlight).

All will be inducted into the Hall at the Summer NABC in Las Vegas. Bob Hamman will be the recipient of the Sidney Lazard Jr. Sportsmanship Award, also awarded in Las Vegas

New ABF President

Bruce Neill, frequent Australian international player, is the new president of the Australian Bridge Federation. Neill takes over from Keith McDonald.

EBL Elections

European Bridge League elections will take place in Opatija, Croatia on June 29, during the European Team Championships. Yves Aubry of France, the incumbent, and Panos Gerontopoulos of Greece are running for president. Seventeen candidates are standing for election to the 12-member Executive Committee.

Controversy Resolved

... *Continued from page 1*

disqualification in the event of illness and to lack of alternative should one pair not be playing well and a team of five left us open to the difficulty of unpractised and unprepared partnerships playing. Shortly after this all four of the remaining players withdrew, stating that they didn't think the selectors had listened to their request and that the selectors had not picked the strongest team. Under these circumstances they declined to play. Again no player was deselected.

After extensive discussions it was possible to reach an agreement on June 5th which the committee found acceptable and which will allow the originally selected team to participate in the championships. We are glad this has been possible but apologise to the reserves who have had their expectations raised and dashed in the last few days and taken the changes with considerable dignity.

We wish the team the best of luck in Croatia."

Well done to the EBU. We commend their selectors and their executive for acting in a timely fashion to resolve what could have become a very embarrassing situation for them and for English bridge.

The EBU press release was, of course, not the full story. Impassioned statements (some of them even accurate) could be found on social media. A petition to reinstate the English women was started and had gathered hundreds of names. Support for the embattled English women poured in from all over the world, including good wishes from some of their prospective opponents in the European Women's Team Championship, notably Sweden and France.

We are equally admiring of the way the German Bridge Federation has handled the Elinescu-Wladow situation. Their quick and decisive action and fully-public proceedings should be a model for all bridge organisations to emulate.



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World Bridge Calendar

DATES	EVENT	LOCATION	INFORMATION
2014			
Jun 5-9	Grazer Bridge Week	Graz, Austria	www.bridgeaustria.at
Jun 5-10	Sharm 2014 Bridge Festival	Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt	www.egypt-bridge.org
Jun 6-8	Midsummer Finlandia Open	Helsinki, Finland	www.midsummerbridge.com
Jun 6-9	Barrier Reef Congress	Townsville, Qld., Australia	www.abf.com.au
Jun 7-13	2014 Calvi Tournament	Calvi, Corsica, France	www.bridgecalvi.com
Jun 12-22	2 nd Asia Cup	Jin Hua City, Zhejiang, China	www.zgqpw.com.cn
Jun 21-Jul 2	52 nd European Teams Championships	Opatija, Croatia	www.eurobridge.org
Jun 26-Jul 6	32 nd International Festival	Albena, Bulgaria	www.bridgealbena.org
Jul 1-13	International Festival	Biarritz, France	www.biarritz-bridge.com
Jul 12-19	12 th European Youth Pairs & Camp	Burghausen, Germany	www.eurobridge.org
Jul 12-24	2014 ANC	Sydney, Australia	www.abf.com.au
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
Jul 30-Aug 3	Hong Kong Inter-City	Hong Kong, China	www.hkcba.org
Aug 1-9	Norwegian Bridge Festival	Fredrikstad, Norway	www.bridge.no
Aug 8-17	Summer Meeting	Brighton, England	www.ebu.co.uk
Aug 13-17	Coffs Gold Coast Congress	Coffs Harbour, Qld., Australia	www.coffsbridge.com.au
Aug 13-17	Riga Invites to Jurmala	Jurmala, Latvia	www.rigainvites.lv
Aug 13-23	15 th World Youth Championships	Istanbul, Turkey	www.worldbridge.org
Aug 16-24	64 th International Bridge Festival	La Baule, France	www.bridge-club-labaule.fr
Aug 18/20	WBF Simultaneous Pairs	Online	www.worldbridge.org
Aug 22-24	Festival de la Côte Basque	Biarritz, France	www.biarritz-bridge.com
Aug 23-31	Festival du Soleil la Grande Motte	La Grande Motte, France	www.festivalsdusoleil.com
Aug 27-31	Territory Gold Bridge Festival	Darwin, NT, Australia	www.ntba.com.au/tgbf14.html
Sep 1-5	Cavendish Invitational Teams & Pairs	Monte Carlo, Monaco	www.cavendishmonaco.com
Sep 5-7	International Teams Tournament	Monte Carlo, Monaco	www.federation-bridge.mc
Sep 5-7	Isle of Man Congress	Douglas, Isle of Man	www.ebu.co.uk
Sep 6-17	International Bridge Festival	Pula, Croatia	www.pulabridgefestival.com
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 19-28	XII International Festival	Havana/Varadero, Cuba	www.festivalbridgecuba.com
Sep 27-Oct 4	31 st NZ National Congress	Hamilton, New Zealand	www.nzcba.co.nz
Sep 30-Oct 3	7 th Small Federations Championship	Jurmala, Latvia	www.eurobridge.org
Oct 10-25	15th World Bridge Series	Sanya, China	www.worldbridge.org
Nov 1-7	FISU World University Championships	Opatija, Croatia	www.worldbridge.org
Nov 6-8	Marbella International	Marbella, Spain	www.marbellabridge.com
Nov 10-16	Women's Bridge Festival	Online	www.worldbridge.org
Nov 13-16	13 th European Champions Cup	Milan, Italy	www.eurobridge.org
Nov 13-23	20 th Red Sea Festival	Eilat, Israel	www.bridgeredsea.com
Nov 17-20	Buffett Cup V	Monte Carlo, Monaco	www.buffettcup.com
Nov 27-Dec 7	Fall NABC	Providence, RI	www.acbl.org
2015			
Jan 13-25	Summer Festival of Bridge	Canberra, Australia	www.abf.com.au
Jan 15-18	Copenhagen Bridge Invitational	Copenhagen, Denmark	www.bridge.dk
Jan 16-18	RadissonBlu IMP Pairs	Copenhagen, Denmark	www.bridge.dk
Jan 24-30	Bermuda Regional	Southampton, Bermuda	www.bermudaregional.com
Feb 21-28	Gold Coast Congress	Surfer's Paradise, Australia	www.qldbridge.com
Mar 12-22	ACBL Spring NABC	New Orleans, LA	www.acbl.org
Mar 31-Apr 1	120 th Canadian Nationals	Toronto, ON	www.unit166.ca
Jun 27-Jul 11	7 th Open European Championships	Tromsø, Norway	www.eurobridge.org
Jul 17-25	European Youth Team Championships	Tromsø, Norway	www.eurobridge.org
Aug 6-16	ACBL Summer NABC	Chicago, IL	www.acbl.org
Sep 26-Oct 10	World Team Championships	Chennai, India	www.bfi.net.in
Nov 26-Dec 5	ACBL Fall NABC	Denver, CO	www.acbl.org