



BULLETIN

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Editorial

Within recent memory, the European Open Teams Championship was an incredibly-gruelling test of bridge and stamina: the teams played a complete round robin of 32-board matches, two per day. Then the European Bridge League became a bit too big in terms of member nations to accommodate that type of schedule within the Championship, so the matches were reduced to 20 boards in length to allow three matches per day. A couple of years ago, the EBL introduced the current format, dividing the field into two equal groups (this year there were 18 teams in each group) from which the top nine in each group continue against each other in a second round robin, but playing only the teams from the other group, so nine additional matches, making 26 in all. There is full carry-forward from the matches played against other qualifiers and partial carryover from the matches against non-qualifiers. The matches were again reduced in length, this time to 16 boards each, and it was mandated that there were to be no more than three matches per day.

Currently, there are 46 members of the EBL. Should all members send a team in the Open category (it doesn't happen), 45 matches would be required for a complete round robin. That would be 15 days, just possible over a two-week period. In practice, if the same number of teams registers to play as did this year, 35 matches can be played in 12 days. So why the convoluted process which requires some teams to alter travel plans (sometimes at great expense) depending upon whether they qualify or not?

Another issue is the reduction in the number of boards per match, increasing the randomness factor. Sixty boards a day is not a problem for any team these days. Peter Bertheau of Sweden remarked in the Daily Bulletin from Opatija that the European Championship "... used to be the toughest event in the world. Now it becomes more like a holiday tournament." According to later Daily Bulletins, it seemed that most players agreed with Bertheau.

Reduction in board numbers is endemic. The WBF has decreed that no more than 48 boards per day will be played in their World Championships. The USBF has reduced their matches from 64 to 60 boards per day. While it is true that after two weeks, strain and exhaustion can play a part in deciding a championship, that is (or at least it used to be) part of the game.

Things were at least better in the European Women's Team Championship, where the 23 teams played a complete round robin. The Senior Teams, however, could have been improved: 26 teams entered, which would have allowed a leisurely round robin over nine (or more) days, but it was decided to play a Swiss Teams over four days, the top ten teams then continuing for a round robin over three more days. Additionally, the non-qualifying teams continued to play in eight rounds of "B" final matches. Apparently it was thought that the Seniors could not play more than seven days straight.

In contrast, the WBF has got their championships right, with the Open, Women's and Seniors all playing almost the same schedule (the Open Teams finalists play two more segments). The EBL is doing itself a disservice in trimming their flagship Championships.

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寿仙谷第二届亚洲杯桥牌锦标赛

Longevity Valley 2nd Asia Cup Bridge Championships

2nd LONGEVITY VALLEY ASIA CUP

Wei Wang, Shanghai

Uniquely, National Teams from three WBF Zones: Asia & the Middle East (Zone 4), Pacific Asia (Zone 5) and the South Pacific (Zone 7) were invited to play in six categories in the 2nd Longevity Valley Asia Cup. The competition was hosted by the Chinese Contract Bridge Association in Jinhua, Zhejiang, south of Shanghai. Medallists in each category were:

	Gold	Silver	Bronze
Open:	Singapore	Indonesia	Japan
Ladies:	Indonesia	Australia	China
Seniors:	Indonesia	Australia	China
Juniors:	China	Ch. Taipei	Hong Kong
Youngsters:	Singapore	China	Ch. Taipei
Girls:	China	Hong Kong	Ch. Taipei

A Squeeze and Throw-in Play

The confrontation between the sides across the Taiwan Strait was in the second match of Round Robin I. On the following deal, Master Shi Zhengjun made a fantastic squeeze and throw-in play that won the Chinese team a premium. Look what happened:

Board 26. Dealer East. Both Vul.

♠ J 9 4
♥ A K Q J 8 6 5
♦ 8
♣ K J

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

♠ 2
♥ 9
♦ K Q 6 4 2
♣ Q 10 9 8 5 3

West	North	East	South
Shi Z.	Huang S.	Ju C.	Huang J.
—	—	1♣ ¹	Pass
1♦ ²	3♥	Double	Pass
4♠	Pass	Pass	Pass
1. 16+ HCP			
2. 0-8 HCP			

North led two rounds of high hearts. On the defender's second round of hearts, declarer ruffed successfully with dummy's ten of spades while South discarded a diamond. Declarer cashed dummy's ace and king of spades, discovering that North held three trumps. Declarer then began a cross-ruff: first a club ruff, then a heart ruff, and then another club ruff. The end game was as follows:

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

When West drew the last trump with the queen of spades, dummy discarded a club. South also had to throw a club to avoid declarer dropping his diamond honours. West continued with a diamond to dummy's jack, won by South's queen. Temporarily, South was able to exit with a club. However, when dummy won the club exit with the ace and played another club, South was thrown in again. The last two diamond tricks belonged to dummy.

Also in this match, a Chinese Taipei player, Sidney Yang, made a careful and imaginative play, even though he didn't see any gain from it ...

Board 21. Dealer North. NS Vul.

♠ K 8 5
♥ A Q 4 2
♦ Q 10 7 4
♣ 9 5

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

West	North	East	South
Yang S.	Shi H.	Huang P.	Zuang Z.
—	Pass	1♦ ¹	Pass
2♣	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♦	Pass	3♥	Pass
3NT	Pass	Pass	Pass
1. 2+ diamonds 11-15 HCP			

North led the ace of hearts and continued with the two of hearts. It looked like there were nine tricks after the lead, but the declarer noticed that, with the heart king knocked out to remove dummy's entry, the club suit might be blocked if the suit split 3-1. So declarer ducked the second round of hearts, and discarded a club from hand on the heart continuation.

Open Teams, RR1, Match 7 Chinese Taipei v. Thailand

Sometimes, your only hope is to create an illusion ...

Board 10. Dealer East. Both Vul.

	♠ J 10 5 4		
	♥ K 8 5		
	♦ J 8 7 4 3		
	♣ Q		
♠ A 8 6		♠ K Q	
♥ A Q 10 7 4		♥ J 6 3 2	
♦ K 10 5		♦ 9 6 2	
♣ 6 5		♣ 10 9 8 2	
	♠ 9 7 3 2		
	♥ 9		
	♦ A Q		
	♣ A K J 7 4 3		
West	North	East	South
Plengsap	Yang S.	Jitngamkus	Huang P.
—	—	Pass	1♣
Pass	1♠	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

The opening lead was the three of hearts, won by West with the ace. West shifted to a low trump, taken by East's queen. East switched to a diamond. From declarer's viewpoint, there were still two spade losers, so he tried to entice the West defender to ruff with a low spade from a three-card holding. Declarer won the diamond shift with dummy's ace, played a club to his queen, ruffed a heart back to dummy and played the ace and king of clubs. When West ruffed the king of clubs with the eight of spades, declarer over-ruffed and only now cashed the king of hearts to pitch the queen of diamonds. The ten of spades came next, and when the ace and king fell together, Chinese Taipei had plus 620. Nicely done!

In the other room, Thailand did not get to game and made nine tricks for plus 140 and 10 IMPs to Chinese Taipei.

Don't Leave a Trump Outstanding Kirk Shen, NPC Chinese Taipei Junior Team

RR2. Match 2. Board 13. Dealer North. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
—	Pass	1NT	Pass
4♦ ¹	Pass	4♥	Pass
Pass	Pass		
1. Transfer to hearts			

East received a friendly club lead, won with the jack. Declarer cashed the ace, king and queen of hearts, getting the bad news. Now declarer needed two more tricks: if the jack of spades were onside and spades 3-3, then that would have been no problem. If spades were 4-2, then a ruffing finesse for the ace of diamonds would be necessary. Declarer played a spade to the ten in hand, which was won by South's ace. South returned a spade to North's king to get a spade ruff, then played a club, removing the last entry to the East hand. Declarer lost a spade to North's jack at the end for down one.

It isn't any better to cross to the ace of clubs to take the ruffing finesse first because South can still trump the third round of spades, removing the entry for cashing the queen of diamonds. The key is to play the fourth round of hearts. Then the contract can be made.

It is interesting that, in the Junior Teams, seven tables played a heart contract and all made nine tricks, while in the Open Teams, twelve declarers played heart contracts and nine of them made ten tricks.

Giving a Ruff-Sluff

Board 19. Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Guthrie	Bojoh	de Guzman	Tueje
—	—	—	Pass
1♣	3♦	Double	4♦
Pass	Pass	4♥	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Women's Teams, RR2, Match 4 Indonesia v. The Philippines

Indonesia's Julita Grace Tueje found a nice defence on this board. The defence started with two rounds of diamonds. Declarer ruffed the second diamond, crossed to dummy with the ace of spades and played a heart to the king, ducked by South to keep control of the trump suit. Declarer played a second trump and South won the trick with the jack. After deep consideration, South returned a diamond, giving declarer a ruff and sluff! Wherever declarer ruffed, her remaining trumps would be 2-1. When declarer played another heart, South could win with the ace and play a fourth round of diamonds, promoting her fourth trump into the setting trick.

Women's Teams, Semifinal China v. Australia Jianjian Wang

Australia defeated China in their semifinal match, although the following deal favoured the Chinese.

Board 12. Dealer West. NS Vul.

		♠ A 10 8	
		♥ Q 6 5 4 3	
		♦ A	
		♣ A K 9 3	
♠ 7 4 3		♠ K J 6 5 2	
♥ 9 2		♥ J	
♦ 6 5 3 2		♦ Q 9 8 7 4	
♣ Q 10 7 4		♣ 5 2	
		♠ Q 9	
		♥ A K 10 8 7	
		♦ K J 10	
		♣ J 8 6	
West	North	East	South
Wu S.	Li	Zhang Y.	Tucker
Pass	1♥	1♠	2♠
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♦
Pass	4♥	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♣	Pass	6♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	
West	North	East	South
Beale	Lu Y.	Smart	Wang H.
Pass	1♣ ¹	2♦ ²	2♥
Pass	3♦	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♦	Pass	6NT
Pass	7♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			

1. Precision Club: 16+ HCP
2. Spades and diamonds

In the Open Room, the routine six-heart contract was bid and made. In the Closed Room, Lu and Wang had a misunderstanding about the meaning of three diamonds. While Lu intended it as a cuebid with a heart fit, Wang took it as a description of a balanced hand. After six notrump, Lu judged to correct to seven hearts.

The diamond two was led. Wang won with the ace and drew trumps. The club jack came next. Did you notice the fourth club in West and North? The four beats the three! If Beale had covered the jack of clubs with the queen, then covered any future club from declarer's hand, seven hearts would have been doomed. Unfortunately for Australia, Beale followed with the four of clubs. That sent 13 IMPs to China when Wang let the jack ride, instead of 17 IMPs to Australia.

**BRILLIANCE,
TO NO AVAIL**

**GeO Tislevoll,
Auckland, New Zealand
Onno Eskes, Leiden,
The Netherlands**



This deal was reported independently and simultaneously by both authors. Their reports have been amalgamated. - Ed.

When people say bridge is a game where you always see new, different deals, it is both true and false. Bridge is very much about recognition. To have seen situations previously and to recognize patterns and plays are skills where experience is needed, but talent is just as important. The play by the Dutch youth player Bob Donkersloot on this deal must be mostly talent, as he is only 19 years old.

Dealer North. NS Vul.

		♠ A J 7 4	
		♥ K 5	
		♦ K Q 6 5 4	
		♣ A K	
		♠ Q 10 9 8 6	
		♥ 6 2	
		♦ 10 8 7 3 2	
		♣ Q	
West	North	East	South
Zeeberg	Coppens	Cilleborg-Bilde	Donkersloot
—	1♦	Pass	1♠
Pass	4♣ ¹	Pass	4♣

1. Control-bid slam-try

West led the diamond nine. To read the diamond situation is not hard – it is surely a singleton – since West would not have led the nine from a holding of jack-nine, ace-nine or ace-jack-nine. The danger is that East/West will start with the diamond ace and a ruff followed by a heart through dummy's king. That defence will set the contract when East holds the ace of hearts. While most players would automatically ask for the diamond king at trick one, Donkersloot thought for a few seconds. The trump king must be onside to make the contract - is there anything that can be done about the dangerous red-suit situation?

Perhaps there is no chance on best defence, but Bob Donkersloot found a play that at least could trap the opposition. Instead of conceding the ace of diamonds and a ruff to the defence, why not give them two diamond tricks, he thought? Coming to this conclusion, Donkersloot played low from dummy, an unusual and amazing play with such a diamond combination.

Bob's father, Rob Donkersloot, who was kibitzing his son, thought, "What is he doing? Didn't I teach him to take his time at trick one? Now he has blown a diamond trick with careless play."

Donkersloot's play in diamonds made it very difficult for the defence to set the contract in the following dangerous layout:

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

East wins the first trick with the diamond jack and cashes the ace. To set the contract, West must ruff the ace of diamonds and play a heart, a very difficult defence since the highly-unusual diamond play by the declarer has created an illusion. How can declarer have played like that with ten diamonds combined? Alternatively, the defence can set the contract by East winning with the ace of diamonds instead of the jack at trick one and playing back the jack to force West to ruff. But how can East know that the nine is a singleton, especially taking into consideration declarer's play in diamonds?

Alas ... in real life it was not like this. The ace and queen of hearts are swapped in the board's diagram. With the ace of hearts onside, anyone would make four spades, even with the 'normal' play to the first

trick. So the deal did not create any swing when it was played in the 2014 German Bridge Trophy.

East, Dorte Cilleborg-Bilde, remarked after the board had been played, "Now that was a very clever play." She didn't enlighten us about whether, if she'd had the heart ace, she would have played the diamond ace instead of the jack at trick one.

When a number of quite-good players were shown this deal, most of them didn't see the play. Only the most experienced and talented ones did. And getting such a declarer-play problem on a piece of paper is certainly easier than solving it at the table.

This beautiful play tells us that, even though this time it was of no consequence, there will be many IMPs and MPs coming for the young Dutch talent.



The expression in the title is little-used in French, but is appropriate in the following context. You might note that Michel and Thomas Bessis not only arrived in the correct contract at the very last moment, they did so in 11 bids!

West		East	
♠ Q 5		♠ A 4	
♥ A 9 7 6 3 2		♥ K Q 8	
♦ 9 8 5 3		♦ A K Q 10	
♣ 8		♣ A J 7 5	
West	North	East	South
<i>Michel</i>		<i>Thomas</i>	
<i>Bessis</i>		<i>Bessis</i>	
—	—	2♣	Pass
2♦	Pass	2NT ¹	Pass
3♦ ²	Pass	3♥ ³	Pass
3♠ ⁴	Pass	3NT ⁵	Pass
4♣ ⁶	Pass	4♠ ⁷	Pass
5♣ ⁸	Pass	7♦!	Pass
Pass	Pass		
1. 23-24			
2. Hearts			
3. Three-card heart support			
4. Slam try with unspecified singleton			
5. Asks location of singleton			
6. Club singleton			
7. Key card ask			
8. One key card			

Thomas knew his partner didn't have four spades and five hearts as he would have used Stayman, so Michel had to have either six hearts or 3=5=4=1 (or both). So, a grand slam facing even three low diamonds was no worse than 52% and strongly rated to be much better than that. ... and Michel could have bid seven hearts with, for example, ♠KQx ♥AJxxxx ♦xxx ♣x 'knowing' that Thomas had to have the heart king-queen.

A MAGUFFIN

Tim Bourke, Canberra



I hope you enjoy the following deal. A maguffin is the term Don Kersey uses for the pressure card in the ending.

In fiction, a MacGuffin (sometimes McGuffin or maguffin) is a plot device in the form of some goal, desired object, or other motivator that the protagonist pursues, often with little or no narrative explanation. The specific nature of a MacGuffin is typically unimportant to the overall plot. The most common type of MacGuffin is an object, place or person. The director and producer Alfred Hitchcock popularized both the term "MacGuffin" and the technique with his 1935 film, The 39 Steps, an early example of the concept.



AUTOMATIC BIDDING

**Mark Horton,
Sutton Benger, Wilts., UK**

Everyone likes to see a good auction to an excellent contract, but there is also a great deal to admire in defensive bidding that results in the opposition being robbed of their birthright.

In 1994, I wrote a Bols Bridge Tip entitled, 'Don't be afraid to Respond'. Although it didn't win, it has stood the test of time and is still bringing in points for those who apply it correctly. On this deal from the final of the 2014 U.S. Grand National Teams, North/South stole the pot in a big way:

Dealer South. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Barlow	Seamon	Spitalnick	Coren
—	—	—	1♦
Pass	1♠	Pass	INT
Pass	2♣ ¹	Pass	2♦
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. Puppet to two diamonds

Two diamonds made in comfort for plus 90. East might have reopened with double when two diamonds came around to him, but East/West would still have been a long way from bidding four spades.

In the other room, North passed his partner's one diamond opening and East doubled, then raised his partner's two-spade bid to game for a 10-IMP pickup.

Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
—	—	—	2♣
4♠	Pass	Pass	4NT ¹
Pass	5♣	Pass	5♦
Pass	6♦	Pass	Pass
Pass			

1. Two-suited takeout

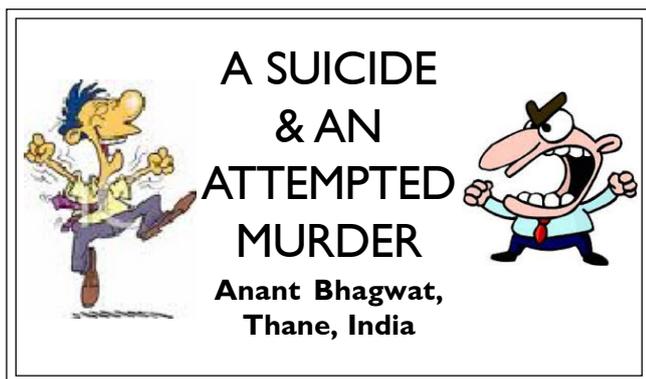
The king of spades is led to the ace. Declarer draws trumps but, when in dummy with the diamond queen, must make the crucial play of ruffing a club. The club ruff does not have an immediate affect, but reduces the defence's later flexibility, as we shall see. This position is reached:

♠ 5 ♥ — ♦ 10 ♣ K 10 ♠ Q J ♥ — ♦ — ♣ A J	♠ — ♥ 10 ♦ — ♣ Q 8 4 ♠ 7 3 ♥ 3 ♦ 7 ♣ —
--	---

On the last heart, if West throws a spade, declarer ruffs in dummy then leads the five of spades to set up the seven with the seven of diamonds as an entry (but not quite a beer card!). If West throws the jack of clubs, the five of spades is discarded and East wins with the ten. East has only clubs remaining, so must return one. Declarer ruffs it and the ace falls. The ten of diamonds serves as the entry to the now-established king of clubs.

West is marked with 7=0=1=5 on the early play. Without the ace of clubs, surely he would have sacrificed. Note also that declarer cannot plan to ruff the losing spade and a heart in dummy - if he draws one round of trumps, a trump trick is developed for East, either through an over-ruff or via a promotion on the third spade; if he draws no trumps at all, East can ruff the spade loser and give West a heart ruff.

We can see now that the early club ruff has two desired outcomes: (i) it reduces declarer's trumps without reducing dummy's, and (ii) it takes away room for West to manoeuvre in the illustrated end game.



I have just published my second book, a collection of my writing over the last 30 years - it includes 50 bridge deals, articles in English on various subjects, a one-act play that I wrote for a BBC Radio play competition, my satirical columns, and my articles in Marathi, my mother tongue.

On both of the following deals, I was East. The first deal features a smother play against dummy - declarer was an 'expert' player from Mumbai. The second deal features Mr. Badhir. The play went as described but the ensuing conversation and the m el e that followed are fictional.

Suicide Is Painful II

Last month, Mark Horton showed a European Championship deal (IBPA Bulletin No. 594, page 7, 'Suicide Is Painful') in which David Gold caused the dummy to commit hara kiri with a suicidal discard. The following innocuous-looking deal surfaced in a Mumbai tournament and produced a rather bizarre ending.

Dealer South. NS Vul.

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

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

1. Asks for better minor (!)

East made a nuisance of himself by bidding three clubs and North fell from grace by bidding on. West led the ten of clubs. South went up with the ace in dummy and led a heart, taking the ace and king.

When declarer played a third heart, West followed suit with the jack and declarer made the technically-correct play of discarding a spade from the dummy. East discarded a club and West shifted to a low spade. East won with the ace, cashed the king of clubs and queen of spades and continued with a another club. South ruffed that with the nine of diamonds, over-ruffed by West's ten.

West led the king of spades, which South ruffed low in dummy as East followed suit. Declarer cashed the ace of diamonds and ruffed dummy's remaining club with the queen of diamonds to arrive at this two-card end position (how often do we see those?):

♠ —	♠ —
♥ —	♥ —
♦ J 3	♦ K
♣ —	♣ 9
♠ —	♠ —
♥ —	♥ —
♦ 8 7	♦ K
♣ —	♣ 9
♠ —	♠ —
♥ 9 8	♥ —
♦ —	♦ —
♣ —	♣ —

When declarer played a heart from hand, he executed a suicide smother play on his dummy! West ruffed with the seven of diamonds and dummy was caught. When declarer overruffed with the jack in dummy, East over-ruffed with the king and West's eight of

diamonds took the last trick. Under-ruffing was guaranteed to lose the last two tricks as well, whoever held the king of diamonds. Declarer was three shy.

Both declarer and the defenders might have done better earlier in the play, but then we'd not have had that great ending.

Trusting Mr. Badhir

One day recently, a second murder on account of bridge very nearly occurred at our club - that of Mr. Badhir (The Numb) at the hands of our club expert! It was indeed fortunate that there were kibitzers at the table. But there usually are when Mr. Badhir is playing - there is no better entertainment than to watch him play bridge. This was the deal that caused all that commotion.

Dealer North. Neither Vul.

♠ A K 10 6 4
 ♥ Q
 ♦ 6
 ♣ A K Q J 10 2

♠ J 9 7 5 2
 ♥ J 9 6 5
 ♦ A K 9 5
 ♣ —

West	North	East	South
Passenger 1	Passenger 2	Mr. Badhir	The Expert
—	1♣	Pass	1♠
Pass	4NT ¹	Pass	5♦ ²
Pass	5♥ ³	Pass	6♦ ⁴
Pass	6♠	Pass	Pass

1. Roman Key Card Blackwood
2. One key card
3. Queen ask
4. Queen of spades and king of diamonds

The Expert decided that his fifth spade warranted promising the queen. West led the ace of hearts. Upon seeing the dummy, The Expert lauded his partner for his bidding and was ready to claim his 12 tricks. He was rudely brought down to earth when Mr. Badhir played the king of hearts under the ace. West continued with a low heart, sending The Expert into a trance.

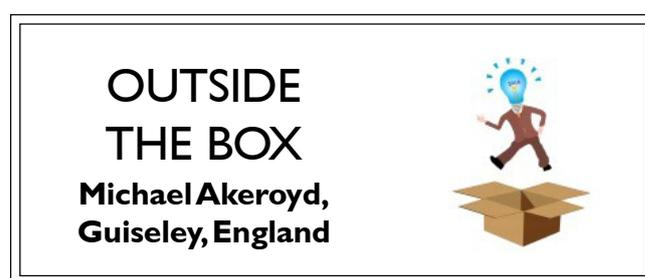
Finally emerging from his reveries, The Expert ruffed the low heart with ace of spades and was startled to see Mr. Badhir produce the four of hearts. He sensed something was amiss. He came to hand with the ace of diamonds and, with an impending sense of doom, ran the spade jack.

Alas! Mr. Badhir won with the queen, which was doubleton, and an ironclad contract went down the drain. The kibitzers clapped and patted Mr. Badhir on the back. The Expert was astonished beyond words by this false-card by the worst player in town.

At that point someone asked Mr. Badhir how he found that deceptive play. Mr. Badhir was incensed. He retorted, "Sarcasm in kibitzers is a trait I abhor. What deception are you talking about? I was just telling my partner that I had a doubleton heart. And I don't understand why The Expert finessed for the spade queen when all he had to do was cash the ace and king of spades."

At this point, a roar ensued from The Expert's throat and he pounced on Mr. Badhir. When the kibitzers separated them, The Expert was foaming at the mouth while Mr. Badhir merely looked bewildered.

The dummy was not too reticent to point out to The Expert that his play was not so expert. If he was going to play West for the spade queen by finessing, why not finesse at trick two by ruffing with the ten?



This deal occurred in the 52nd European Team Championships at Opatija, in Round 15, in Open 'A' group, in the Sweden v. Ireland match.

Board 7. Dealer South. Both Vul.

♠ 9 4 3
 ♥ Q 9 4
 ♦ J 10 4
 ♣ K 7 5 3

♠ A K Q J 10
 ♥ J 8 3 2
 ♦ Q 7 6
 ♣ A

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

♠ 8 6
 ♥ 5
 ♦ K 9 8 5
 ♣ J 9 8 6 4 2

In one room, Ireland bid to six hearts and made it, losing a trick to the queen of trumps. For Sweden in the other room, Sylvan and Wrang bid as follows:

West	North	East	South
Sylvan	Garvey	Wrang	Carroll
—	—	—	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♥	Pass
3♥	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♣	Pass	4♦	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♦	Pass
7♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

Reporting this match in Tournament Bulletin No, 9, page 24, David Bird wrote:

“South, Carroll, led the six of clubs to dummy’s ace. The jack of hearts was led from dummy, North following with the four, and Wrang rose with the ace. He returned to dummy by ruffing the queen of clubs. He then led the three of hearts and ... finessed the ten!”

“You want to know how he read the trump suit so well? Join the club. There was no inference from the lack of a trump lead, since South would be even less likely to lead a trump from queen-five than he would with a singleton.”

Orthodox Vacant Place theory, analysing the heart suit in isolation, considers the queen of hearts to be more likely held by South as he possesses one more vacant place than North for the missing queen to be located.

I think Frederic Wrang deserves credit for reading the club suit so well. The relevant statistics are as follows for a 2:1-declarer:dummy split of the suit. The defenders will have 5-5 32% of the time, 6-4 47%, and 7-3 19%.

If the six of clubs is an honest lead (fourth-highest) and if John Carroll would not lead from jack-to-four or from king-to-four, then the theory of Vacant Places predicts that, with South holding five clubs, it is 10:9 (52%) that the heart queen is with South for a 5-5 break, but 7:6 with North for a 6-4 club break (54%) and 8:5 for a 7-3 club break (65%). The assumption that South has either five, six or seven clubs cuts down on the number of vacant places available for the heart queen to be located. For a 5-5 club split it makes no difference, but for the 6-4 and 7-3 breaks, South possessing length, it reverses the traditional judgement of playing for the drop in the heart suit. Half of 47 plus half of 19 beats 32, but the restriction that North cannot hold more than five clubs and must also possess the club king, pushes the odds up much higher in favour of taking the finesse.

Well done to Frederic Wrang for thinking ‘outside the box’.

LAS VEGAS GLITTER

Barry Rigal, NYC

Brent Manly, Arlington, TN

Mark Horton, Sutton Benger, UK

John Carruthers, Kingsville, ON



The Summer Nationals was an extraordinary tournament. Firstly, in the Wagar Women’s Knockout Teams, three of the four semi-finalists were from China, one of them becoming champions. The starting field was truly international, with French, Swedish, British, Israeli, Dutch, Japanese and Canadian stars dotted throughout the usual batch of formidable Americans. On the downside, only 13 teams entered.

The Spingold was no less extraordinary, with the semifinals sporting exactly one American player, Richie Schwartz. The others were Swiss (1), French (1), Italian (5), Norwegian (4), German (2), Turkish (1), Argentine (2), Pakistani (1), Israeli (2) and Canadian (1). MONACO, with its team of Swiss, French, Norwegian and Italian players (it was the #4 seed), and NICKELL (#2) were the only two of the top seven seeds to survive until the Round of 16, where NICKELL was defeated by ... drum roll, please ... HAMMAN. In a harbinger of things to come, six of the 91 entrants were from the People’s Republic of China; there were two other all-Chinese teams, one from Canada and one from the USA, and two other teams contained Chinese players.

Winners of the major events were:

Spingold Knockout Teams: Richie SCHWARTZ, Allan Graves, Boye Brogeland, Espen Lindqvist, Ron Schwartz, Lotan Fisher

Grand National Teams: DISTRICT 9 - Jeff Meckstroth, Eric Rodwell, Michael Seamon, Richard Coren, Kevin Bathurst, Kevin Dwyer

Roth Open Swiss Teams: Paul FIREMAN, Gavin Wolpert, Vincent Demuy, John Kranyak, Joel Wooldridge, John Hurd

Wagar Women’s Knockout Teams: CHINA RED - Lu Yan, Ran Jingrong, Wu Shao Hong, Wang Wenfei, Zhang Yu, Wang Hongli

Freeman Mixed Board-a-Match Teams: Nader HANNA, Joan Eaton, Karen Cumpstone, Michael Roche

Truscott/USPC Senior Swiss Teams: Stephen MCCONNELL, Jeff Schuett, Kerry Smith, Robert Gardner, Dick Bruno, Warren Cederborg

Collegiate Team Championship: UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA AT BERKELEY - Armin Askari, Rebecca Wernis, Isha Thapa, Raymond Van Mizener

Von Zedtwitz Life Master Pairs: Doug Doub, Frank Merblum

Continued on page 13 ...



IBPA Column Service

Tim Bourke, Canberra

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

721. Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
—	—	—	1♥
Pass	3♥	Pass	6♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

South saw little point in asking for key cards as that would have given East the chance to double North's response.

West led the queen of spades and, when dummy was tabled, declarer saw that it would be easy if trumps were no worse than 3-1. Things became a little more complicated at trick two when East discarded a club on the ace of hearts. After that unpleasant blow, declarer needed West to have begun with at least four spades. Since West had not led a minor-suit card, declarer also presumed that West had begun with at least two cards in each minor.

Declarer abandoned trumps and led a club to the queen to ruff a spade. After cashing the ace of clubs, he played the ace and king of diamonds, then ruffed dummy's third spade. He continued with the king of clubs, which offered West no winning option. At the table, West ruffed in with the nine of trumps to prevent a diamond discard from dummy. Declarer overruffed this with dummy's jack and continued by trumping dummy's last spade and cashing the king of hearts.

West had been reduced to the queen of trumps and a spade and dummy to a trump and a diamond, while declarer had a low card in each of the minors. Now declarer needed only to advance his last club. Nothing could then have prevented dummy's remaining trump from scoring a trick.

Alternatively, declarer could have trumped a spade at trick two and led a heart to the king at trick 11 to achieve a similar *en passant* position.

722. Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
—	—	—	3♠
Double	4♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

While his side had a reasonable save in five clubs, East decided that venturing to the five level, vulnerable, was far too likely to lead to disaster.

West led the king of clubs and declarer paused to form a plan. He had nine top tricks and the danger was that East would have one of the missing heart honours and West the ace of diamonds. In that case, declarer could have lost three diamonds and a heart. Declarer, rightly deciding he had to stop East from gaining the lead, consequently played a low club from dummy on the first trick. When East followed with the ten of clubs to suggest a heart shift, West duly shifted to that suit.

Declarer rose with dummy's ace of hearts, played a trump to his ace and followed with a trump back to dummy's king (in case trumps had been 2-0). Next, declarer discarded his remaining heart on the ace of clubs and then led the jack of hearts, running it when East played low. When West won the trick with his queen of hearts he saw that a club or heart return would have been hopeless and so exited with the ace and another diamond. The king of diamonds was declarer's tenth trick.

723. Dealer South. EW Vul.

♠ Q
♥ 9 3
♦ J 10 9 8 5 3
♣ A K 4 3

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

♠ A K 5
♥ K Q J 10 8
♦ Q 6 2
♣ 5 2

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

West led the ten of spades to dummy's queen. Declarer counted five tricks in the black suits. While four tricks from the heart suit would bring in the game, there was the sticky matter of entries to consider: the danger was that the defenders would take the second heart and lock declarer in dummy with a club shift, perhaps forcing him to lose two club tricks as well as the three obvious ones in the red suits.

As a result of these considerations, declarer led a diamond at trick two. East won with his king of diamonds and exited with the queen of clubs. Declarer took this in dummy with the ace of clubs and played a heart from dummy, catching East in a Morton's Fork. If he had taken his ace of hearts, declarer would have had nine tricks. When East ducked the heart, declarer's king of hearts took the trick. Now declarer needed only one more spade trick, so he cashed the king of spades, throwing a club from the dummy. The queen of diamonds came next, taken by East's ace. Declarer won the club continuation with dummy's king and claimed nine tricks: two spades, one heart, four diamonds and two clubs.

724. Dealer South. Both Vul.

♠ K 7
♥ 7 5 3
♦ A K 7 6
♣ Q J 7 5

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

♠ A J 3
♥ A Q 9 4 2
♦ Q J
♣ A K 8

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

West led the ten of diamonds. Declarer counted eleven sure winners and began to consider his options for making an extra trick. Clearly, a successful finesse in either major suit would do the job but his mind turned to considering whether there was anything better. He noted that the heart suit had promise and proceeded to show that he would make twelve tricks if he could extract all of West's minor-suit cards.

He took the diamond lead in hand with the queen and cashed the jack of diamonds. Next he played the ace, king and queen of clubs, pleased to see that the suit was 3-3. When both defenders followed to king of diamonds, declarer permitted himself a small smile as he continued with the ace of diamonds, throwing a second low heart from hand.

Now declarer led a low heart from table with the intention of covering East's card. When East put up the ten of hearts declarer played the queen and West won the trick with his king. As West had only major-suit cards remaining, he had no winning option. If he chose a spade, declarer would make three spade tricks. When he opted to exit with the six of hearts, hoping his partner had the nine, declarer won the trick with his nine of hearts and had made his slam.



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Look Deeper by Barry Rigal

Dealer East. NS Vul.

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

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

1. Transfer to spades

Even though the field struggled to reach three notrump after West preempted, Glenn Milgrim did reach the notrump game. He won the diamond lead to play a heart to the jack and queen. Back came a second diamond, so Milgrim won and cleared clubs. East took the fourth club and played her low heart. Milgrim won with the ace and cashed his fifth club to reach this ending:

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

On the last club, East pitched a spade and was endplayed with a heart to the king. East played a high spade, but Milgrim ducked and East had to concede the rest to dummy. Had East pitched her heart, Milgrim would have ducked a spade to her and taken the last two tricks.

There was a defence at trick seven in the following position. After winning the fourth round of clubs, East

must play the king of spades instead of exiting with a heart.

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

Declarer must win or East gets out with her top heart. After winning the ace of spades, declarer leads a low heart from dummy. East plays low so declarer must win and cash the fifth club while he can. East discards the king of hearts and West's hand is high.

Playing Against Mr. Magoo by Barry Rigal

Interesting and amusing things happen when you take on Mr. Magoo. To start with, has he made the call he intended to? Has he sorted his hand properly? One never knows. Check out this deal:

Dealer West. NS Vul.

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

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

Sitting South, you seem to have a very good hand in fourth seat, considering the bidding, but you trust partner, not the opponents, and bid what you think you can make. On a low diamond lead you have your first challenge. Surely West would not underlead the ace-king of diamonds? You play low and East plays the king. Back comes a diamond to the ace and a third diamond establishes West's jack.

Now you know the full story – you think. You cash the king and queen of spades, then play a club to your ace and another to dummy's king. If the clubs are not good, you play the king of hearts. West does best to duck, so you lead a heart to the queen, and if West ducks again, throw him in with a diamond to his jack

to give you a heart trick at the end. Nine tricks duly materialize, and Mr. Magoo apologizes shamefacedly to his partner for opening his nine-point hand. "Sorry," he says, "I thought I had three aces, not two!"

Off to the Races by Brent Manley

In winning the Grand National Teams, the District 9 squad captained by Richard Coren got off to a fast start, winning the first set of 16 boards 62-26 against the Richard Spitalnick team, representing District 21. The final score was 174-121. Board 3 was costly for Spitalnick.

Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Bathurst	Kodayam	Dwyer	Bykov
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	1♣	Pass	1♥
Pass	2♦	Pass	3♦
Pass	3♥	Pass	3♠
Pass	5♦	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Kevin Dwyer started with the queen of spades (Rusinow), taken in dummy (South) by Srikanth Kodayam (North). At trick two, declarer played a diamond to his jack. Dwyer won with the trump queen and played the king of spades. Kodayam ruffed that and continued with the king, queen and a third heart. Dwyer ruffed and, with the trump ace still to come, Kodayam was one down.

In the same contract at the other table, Michael Seamon managed 11 tricks in elegant fashion. Spitalnick started with the king of spades, taken by the ace. A trump went to the jack and queen, and a second high spade was ruffed by Seamon. He then played the ten of diamonds from hand. Edward Barlow, West, won with the trump ace and tapped declarer again. Seamon ruffed with the trump king, cashed the ace of clubs and ruffed a club. When he cashed the nine of diamonds to pull the last trump, West was down to his four hearts and the doubleton queen of clubs. No matter what Barlow discarded on the diamond, it would have given up the eleventh trick. In practice, he discarded a club, allowing Seamon to cash the king and jack in that suit for plus 400 and 10 IMPs to his side.

Yet again, the result of a major championship has been decided in the Appeals Committee room. The Wagar Women's Knockout Teams was determined when the committee overturned the Tournament Director's table ruling on a 'misinformation' scenario. Here is the situation - decide for yourself if the TD or the AC was correct. Here are the published details ...

APPEAL CASE 3

Subject: Misinformation

Event: Wagar Women's KO

Session: Third quarterfinal segment

Board 15. Dealer South. NS Vul.

	<i>Irina Levitina</i>	
	♠ J 9 8	
	♥ K Q 3	
	♦ K 8	
	♣ A J 9 3 2	
<i>Ran Jingrong</i>		<i>Wenfei Wang</i>
♠ 5 3		♠ A Q 7 6
♥ A 7 6		♥ J 8 2
♦ A Q J 9 7 5		♦ 3 2
♣ 10 7		♣ K Q 6 4
	<i>Kerri Sanborn</i>	
	♠ K 10 4 2	
	♥ 10 9 5 4	
	♦ 10 6 4	
	♣ 8 5	

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

1. South said to West, "Means nothing."
2. Forcing
3. When the eight of clubs was led, North lowered the screen and told East that her partner (South) would not usually have a four-card major.

Final contract: 3NT by East

Opening lead: ♣8

Table result: Down three, North-South plus 150

Director ruling: Down three, North-South plus 150

Committee ruling: North-South minus 430, East-West minus 150

Facts: The director was summoned at the end of play. East (the declarer) felt that she had been told that South could not have a four-card major and that if the club was a doubleton, South's distribution had to be 3=3=5=2. The director determined that play to the first five tricks proceeded as follows:

Trick 1: ♣8-♣7-♣A-♣4

Trick 2: ♥K-♥2-♥4-♥6

Trick 3: ♥Q-♥8-♥5-♥A

Trick 4: ♣T-♣J-♣Q-♣5

Trick 5: ♦2-♦4-♦5-♦8

The Ruling: The director found that East-West had received an accurate description of their opponents' methods, but did not fully understand what they were told. If that were the case, there was no misinformation, and, therefore, the table result must stand, three notrump by East, down three, North-South plus 150.

The Appeal: East-West appealed the ruling. All four players attended the hearing. East-West stated that East's English is poor and that she didn't understand the meaning of the term "usually." Based on the given information, East expected South to have 3=3=5=2 and she played the deal accordingly.

North-South contended that the second pass by South was explained by South to West as, "Pass means nothing." After the opening lead, North closed the screen window and pointed to the word "usually" on her written explanation in an attempt to emphasize it. (The full written statement was: "Usually she doesn't have 4H or 4S.")

The Decision: The Appeals Committee decided that North, though trying to be helpful, explained an agreement that she and her partner did not explicitly have, and therefore she gave misinformation. East was also culpable; she should have asked for more information, as she didn't understand the word "usually". In addition, her play of a diamond to the five was a "practice finesse" that could never gain.

As per Law 12, the offending side gets the most unfavorable result probable. The declarer gets the benefit of the doubt - and with best play, would emerge with 10 tricks. Accordingly the result was adjusted for North-South to 3NT by East, making four, North-South minus 430.

Also per Law 12, the non-offending side does not receive the benefit of the adjustment if they committed a serious error unrelated to the irregularity. Accordingly, the table result stands for East-West, 3NT by East, down three, East-West minus 150.

Note: No one on the committee knew the state of the match during their deliberations.

The Committee: Adam Wildavsky (Chair), Lou Reich, Michael Huston, Joel Woodridge and Ray Miller

Dissent by Committee Member Michael Huston: This decision has two distinct parts: the determination whether there was misinformation and the determination of the resulting adjustment. I choose to dissent on the former.

Communication between bridge players who do not speak each other's languages must be a two-way street. A non-native speaker cannot be allowed to extract only 70% of the meaning of something said and hold

his or her opponent entirely liable for failure to communicate completely – especially when (s)he has evidence that only part of the meaning has been extracted.

In this case, North wrote a note explaining a partnership tendency that was not an explicit agreement and she did not say or imply that it was an explicit partnership agreement. This was proactive, full disclosure. Further, her written statement was not inaccurate – at that point, East ignored the word "usually." When the screen window came down and North pointed repeatedly at the word "usually", East had considerable evidence that she wasn't understanding the written explanation. With a duty to clear up communication problems, East had much reason to believe she was not processing North's attempt to communicate. In my opinion, when East made no effort to close the communication gap, she should be held to proceed at her own risk.

There may have been a technical irregularity in North's zealous attempt to fully reveal what was going on, but that should not exempt East from her responsibility to close the obvious communication gap so that the game of bridge can determine winners.

THE SPINGOLD

The Spingold and the Vanderbilt are the two premier North American Championships. They are very difficult to win and have become, with the influx of top European players (and some from other Zones as well), even tougher than they ever were. Thirty years ago, the top teams could expect to have an 'easy' match or two before meeting another good team. That is not the case today – every match is tough, and it is common, as in 2014, for some of the top seeds to fall early. This year was even more unusual in that, by the Round of 16 (the fourth day), seed numbers 1, 3, 5, 6, and 7 were gone and #2 went in that round. Imagine Wimbledon with only one of Federer, Nadal, Djokovic and Murray reaching the quarterfinals.

Fata Morgana by Mark Horton

Board 45. Dealer North. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Helgemo	Fredin	Helness	Fallenius
—	INT	Pass	2♥ ¹
Pass	2♠	Pass	3NT
Pass	4♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

1. Transfer to spades

Mirages can be categorized as ‘inferior’ (meaning lower), ‘superior’ (meaning higher) and ‘Fata Morgana’, one kind of superior mirage consisting of a series of unusually elaborate, vertically-stacked images, which form one rapidly-changing mirage.

There was plenty to admire on this deal from the Spingold quarterfinal between Monaco and Silverstein where one defender produced an outstanding defensive effort by creating a mirage in declarer’s mind.

East, with an awkward lead, went for the four of diamonds. Declarer took West’s king with the ace and led the ten of hearts. When East played low, declarer won with dummy’s king and played a heart to the queen and East’s ace.

Back on play, East tried a club, but declarer ran it to his ten (how East must have wished he had gone up with the ace of hearts and exited with a heart), and played the ace of spades, jack of spades and then drew the outstanding trump.

Declarer cashed the ace of clubs and could have made an overtrick by cashing his spades, which would have executed a strip-squeeze against East, but he was more than content with ten tricks and he simply played a diamond to the ten and jack, claiming when East cashed the king of clubs, plus 620.

West	North	East	South
Nyström	Fantoni	Upmark	Nunes
—	1♣ ¹	Pass	1♥ ²
Pass	INT ³	Pass	2♥ ⁴
Pass	2♠	Pass	3NT
Pass	4♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

1. Forcing 14+ with 4+clubs or 15+ balanced
2. 0-11, 4+spades
3. 15-18, not 4 spades
4. Retransfer

With the same problem as his counterpart in the other room, East also went for the four of diamonds. Again, declarer took West’s king with the ace. This time, however, declarer played the seven of spades. East followed with the queen and declarer won with dummy’s king.

If spades were 4-1, declarer was going to need the diamonds to behave but, with time in hand, he first tried a club to the six, queen and king. East returned the seven of clubs and declarer went up with dummy’s ace and played a diamond to the ten. East won with the jack, cashed the jack of clubs, West pitching a

diamond, cashed the ace of hearts and gave West a diamond ruff for two down, minus 200 and a terrific 13 IMPs for Silverstein.

The Norwegian Civil War by John Carruthers

The Norwegian Civil War lasted so long (1130-1240 A.D.) that it is referred to by historians as the Civil War Era. The English historian William of Newburgh, writing c. 1200, says of Norway that: “... for more than a century back, although the succession of kings there had been rapid, yet none of them had ended his days by age or sickness, but all had perished by the sword ...”

The 2014 Spingold final featured MONACO’s Norwegians (Geir Helgemo/Tor Helness) against SCHWARTZ’s Norwegians (Boye Brogeland/Espen Lindqvist). There were other storylines as well: Richie Schwartz was the only American in the final (indeed, he’d also been the only one in the semifinals); there was a David-and-Goliath aspect to the final as Pierre Zimmermann’s Monégasques are considered one of the top two or three teams in the world. Nevertheless, SCHWARTZ’s Israelis (Ron Schwartz/Lotan Fisher) were on a roll, having won the 2012 Cavendish Invitational Pairs and the 2014 European Team Championship, among other successes. The other pairs (Fantoni-Nunes and Zimmermann/Multon for MONACO and Schwartz/Graves for SCHWARTZ) would undoubtedly have a say in the outcome too.

Current evidence suggests that our universe began with a “Big Bang” about 13 billion years ago. So did the 2014 Spingold final at both tables, even if a bit more recently.

Board 1. Dealer North. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Graves	Multon	Richie S.*	Zimmermann
—	1♦	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♥	Pass	3♥
Pass	3NT	Pass	4NT ¹
Pass	5♠ ²	Pass	7♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

* Richie Schwartz

1. RKCB
2. 2 key cards and the queen of hearts

West	North	East	South
<i>Helgemo</i>	<i>Ron S. *</i>	<i>Helness</i>	<i>Fisher</i>
—	1♦	Pass	1♥
Pass	4♥	Pass	4♠ ¹
Pass	5♥ ²	Pass	7♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

* Ron Schwartz

1. Kickback
2. 2 key cards and the queen of hearts

When declared by North, Richie Schwartz was reluctant to lead his stiff heart and thus started with the eight of spades, third from even. Franck Multon won with the ace, unblocked the ace of clubs, travelled to dummy with the ace of diamonds and ruffed a club low. The queen of hearts and another to the ace allowed him to ruff a club with the jack of hearts. A spade ruff in dummy and the king of hearts were followed shortly by a claim. Plus 1510.

Geir Helgemo did lead a trump against Lotan Fisher. Fisher won with dummy's queen, cashed the ace of clubs and led a second heart to hand. He ruffed a club low, came to the ace of diamonds and ruffed a club high. After the ace of spades and a spade ruff, Fisher was also soon claiming his contract. Plus 1510 for a workmanlike push.

Just two boards later, after a minus 300 push in an advanced-save four spades ...

Board 3. Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Graves</i>	<i>Multon</i>	<i>Richie S.</i>	<i>Zimmermann</i>
—	—	—	4♥
4♠	5♥	7♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		

West	North	East	South
<i>Helgemo</i>	<i>Ron S.</i>	<i>Helness</i>	<i>Fisher</i>
—	—	—	3♥
4♠	Pass	7♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		

In days of yore, East would have bid five notrump Josephine. Nowadays, that's pick a slam in most auctions. Could West have been missing the ace of spades when Richie Schwartz and Helness leapt

majestically to seven spades? Unlikely in Helgemo's case, but just possible in Graves'. On a heart lead, both declarers claimed their 13 tricks and plus 2220 with alacrity.

There was more to come - Board 4 completed an exciting four-board stretch with a six-spade slam, bid by both teams for a plus-1430 push. As it happened, seven spades was makeable on this board too ...

Board 4. Dealer West. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Graves</i>	<i>Multon</i>	<i>Richie S.</i>	<i>Zimmermann</i>
Pass	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♦	Pass	2♠	Pass
3NT ¹	Pass	4♣ ²	Pass
4♦ ²	Pass	4NT ³	Pass
5♣ ⁴	Pass	5NT ⁵	Pass
6♣ ⁶	Pass	6♦ ⁷	Pass
6♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. 4-card support, no shortness, some values
2. Control bids
3. RKCB
4. 0 or 3 key cards
5. King-ask
6. Club king
7. Grand slam try

Graves might well have bid seven spades over Schwartz's six-diamond call. Seven spades is pretty good, making any time the diamonds can be brought in for four tricks, or if South has the length, as here. In order to protect the diamonds, South has to give up one of the round suits and after that, a double squeeze operates.

West	North	East	South
<i>Helgemo</i>	<i>Ron S.</i>	<i>Helness</i>	<i>Fisher</i>
Pass	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♦	Pass	2♠	Pass
3♠	Pass	3NT	Pass
4♣ ¹	Pass	4♦ ¹	Pass
5♦ ¹	Pass	5♥ ¹	Pass
6♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. Control bids

Helgemo and Helness were never in the neighbourhood of seven spades. In the event, it was

just as well that neither side bid the grand slam, since both declarers made only 12 tricks, both drawing trumps, testing diamonds and conceding a trick. One assumes they'd have been a bit more careful in seven.

What a start! Three potential grand slams in the first four boards, albeit no swings. Things settled down a bit after that.

Board 15. Dealer South. NS Vul.

<p>♠ K 10 8 4 ♥ 9 5 3 2 ♦ 5 ♣ J 7 3 2</p> <p>♠ 9 6 ♥ — ♦ J 10 9 8 7 6 4 ♣ A K Q 4</p> <p>♠ A 7 3 2 ♥ K 7 6 4 ♦ — ♣ 10 9 8 6 5</p>	<p>♠ Q J 5 ♥ A Q J 10 8 ♦ A K Q 3 2 ♣ —</p>
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West	North	East	South
<i>Graves</i>	<i>Multon</i>	<i>Richie S.</i>	<i>Zimmermann</i>
—	—	—	Pass
1♦	Pass	2♥ ¹	Pass
3♦	Pass	4♣ ²	Pass
4♦	Pass	5♣	Pass
5♦	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. Strong: either (a.) hearts or (b.) hearts and diamonds
2. Control in clubs; heart-diamond two-suiter

With such good diamonds, Schwartz made an old-fashioned strong jump shift to show his two suits. Thereafter, with neither partner having a spade control, and the club duplication being revealed, East/West stopped sensibly in game. That auction telegraphed the spade lead, however, and Multon duly led one, holding declarer to 11 tricks and plus 400.

West	North	East	South
<i>Helgemo</i>	<i>Ron S.</i>	<i>Helness</i>	<i>Fisher</i>
—	—	—	Pass
1♦	Pass	4♣ ¹	Pass
4♥	Pass	4NT ²	Pass
5♣ ³	Pass	6♦	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. Splinter
2. RKCB, excluding clubs
3. 1 key card, including clubs

Helgemo/Helness had a misunderstanding, brought about due to the inappropriate splinter and Blackwood bids. Helness thought that making a splinter, then using Blackwood converted the Blackwood bid to Exclusion. Helgemo thought not and showed his key card. The auction was less-revealing than that at the other table and Schwartz led a heart, resulting in minus 940 and 11 IMPs to MONACO.

An exciting first set ended with Monaco leading 41-7. The swings mostly went the other way in the second set, with SCHWARTZ outscoring MONACO 61-13 to take the lead 68-54 at the half. This was one of the swings to SCHWARTZ:

You, West, hold: ♠10 ♥J1094 ♦A86543 ♣AQ. With both sides vulnerable, you see the following auction:

West	North	East	South
<i>Helgemo</i>	<i>Ron S.</i>	<i>Helness</i>	<i>Fisher</i>
—	Pass	Pass	4♣
Pass	Pass	Double	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♣	Pass
5♦	5♠	Pass	Pass
Double	Pass	Pass	Pass

What would you lead? Helgemo led the jack of hearts and one of declarer's three top losers went bye-bye. A lead in either minor suit would have allowed the defence to cash their three winners.

The third quarter was closely contested, 39-35 to SCHWARTZ, leading 107-89 when the fourth quarter started. MONACO had closed the gap to 4 IMPs, 119-115, with six boards to play, when ...

Board 59. Dealer South. Neither Vul.

<p>♠ 7 4 ♥ K 10 9 ♦ Q 3 2 ♣ K J 6 4 3</p> <p>♠ A J 9 2 ♥ 7 6 4 ♦ J 8 ♣ Q 8 7 2</p>	<p>♠ K Q 10 5 3 ♥ Q J 8 2 ♦ A 10 ♣ A 5</p> <p>♠ 8 6 ♥ A 5 3 ♦ K 9 7 6 5 4 ♣ 10 9</p>
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West	North	East	South
<i>Brogeland</i>	<i>Helness</i>	<i>Lindqvist</i>	<i>Helgemo</i>
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♣ ¹
Double	2♥	Pass	2♠
Pass	4♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			
1. Drury			

West	North	East	South
<i>Nunes</i>	<i>Ron S.</i>	<i>Fantoni</i>	<i>Fisher</i>
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♣ ¹
Pass	4♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			
1. Drury			

One must always weigh the pros and cons of investigation against revealing information to the defenders. Here, the North hand had the values for game after the Drury response. It was possible that

four hearts could have been a better contract than four spades - indeed, if partner had held four cards in hearts, four hearts rated to be better than four spades. Helness investigated, then bid game in spades when Helgemo denied four hearts. Schwartz arrived in four spades as quickly as he could.

Lindqvist led the ten of clubs against Helness: queen, king, ace. Declarer drew trumps ending in the dummy and tried a heart to the queen. That won, so he led a club to East's nine. Lindqvist now knew that Helness was likely 5=4=2=2, with dummy's eight-seven of clubs equals against partner's jack, and the fourth heart soon to be ready for a diamond discard from dummy. Thus he knew that a diamond switch could not cost and shifted to the king of that suit. Helness won and in the vain hope of blockages, returned the suit.. He was soon one off for minus 50.

Fantoni also led the ten of clubs. Schwartz ducked in dummy, played a spade to the ace then a heart to the queen and ace. With less idea about declarer's hand, Fantoni continued hearts, and so did Nunes when he won with his king. Schwartz drew the remaining trumps and discarded dummy's diamond loser on the thirteenth heart for a superlative plus 420 and 10 IMPs. SCHWARTZ led 129-115.

Board 61. Dealer North. Both Vul.

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

♠ 6 5 3
 ♥ Q J 9
 ♦ Q 3 2
 ♣ 9 6 5 3

♠ 9 7 2
 ♥ 7 4 2
 ♦ J 7 4
 ♣ Q J 8 2

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Brogeland</i>	<i>Helness</i>	<i>Lindqvist</i>	<i>Helgemo</i>
<i>Nunes</i>	<i>Ron S.</i>	<i>Fantoni</i>	<i>Fisher</i>
—	1♠	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♥	Pass	2♠
Pass	5♣	Pass	5♥
Pass	7♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

It is extremely unusual nowadays to have two top pairs conduct identical auctions, much less seven-bid auctions, and to a dreadful spot at that. Even a small slam was no bargain, being only a little better than 50%. Despite that South hand's looking like a two-spade preference over two hearts, many pairs play two spades after a two-over-one to show legitimate three-card support. A three-diamond rebid by South might have slowed things down a tad.

Lindqvist and Fantoni both led a trump. Helness won in dummy and immediately took his best play, the double finesse in diamonds for minus 100. The diamond play was marginally better than that in hearts since a doubleton or singleton seven of diamonds in the East hand would have seen declarer home (if a singleton, accompanied by only two spades), as would have a 3-3 break (with both honours outside of course). Schwartz was more round about. He took two heart pitches immediately and cashed dummy's ace of spades, seemingly giving up. He led a diamond to the ace, drew the last trump, cashed the king of diamonds and conceded a diamond. That was also minus 100. It was still 129-115 to SCHWARTZ.

Amazingly, this grand slam could also have been made, by taking the 9% play of the double heart finesse and splitting the suit out 3-3 instead of Helness' 12.5% line.

Board 62. Dealer East. Neither Vul.

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

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

♠ A Q J 9 5 4
 ♥ K
 ♦ 9 7 3
 ♣ J 6 3

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Brogeland</i>	<i>Helness</i>	<i>Lindqvist</i>	<i>Helgemo</i>
—	—	1♠	3♥
4♠	6♣	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Whatever you think of Helgemo's three-heart bid, the rest of the auction was pretty normal. Perhaps Helness might have bid only five clubs. Perhaps. Lindqvist led the ace of spades and made plus 100.

West	North	East	South
<i>Nunes</i>	<i>Ron S.</i>	<i>Fantoni</i>	<i>Fisher</i>
—	—	2♠	3♥
4♠	6♣	Pass	Pass
6♠	Double	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Maybe influenced by the state of the match, or what he thought the state of the match to be, Nunes made an undisciplined six-spade bid on the way out. As so often with bids like this when one has bits and pieces everywhere, it was a phantom sacrifice and sealed MONACO's fate. The Israelis took their four top tricks and were plus 500, winning 11 IMPs. That made the score 140-115. SCHWARTZ won an IMP on each of the last two boards to run out winners 142-115. It had been a very exciting and entertaining match.



WBF Sanction Upheld in Appeal

Ruling of the WBF Appeal Tribunal Lausanne, 16th July, 2014

“On 23 March, 2014, the Disciplinary Commission of the WBF found two German players, Mr. Michael Elinescu and Mr. Entscho Wladow guilty of cheating by exchanging Unauthorized Information, by coughing, during the final of the World Bridge Senior Teams Championship in Bali.

The sentence was: an interdiction for Mr. Michael Elinescu and Mr. Entscho Wladow to play bridge in any WBF organised championship or competition for ten years and a life-long ban on their participation as a partnership.

The decision was appealed by Mr. Michael Elinescu and Mr. Entscho Wladow and the hearing of the appeal was held on Wednesday 16th July at the WBF Headquarters in Lausanne. The appellants did not attend the meeting.

The WBF Appeal Tribunal (Mrs. Françoise Lejuste, Chairman, Mrs. Francesca Carnicelli and Mr. Ata Aydin, Members, Mr. Herman De Wael, Secretary) confirmed that Mr. Michael Elinescu and Mr. Entscho Wladow are guilty of an infraction against Law 73B of the Laws of Duplicate Bridge:

LAW 73 – COMMUNICATION – B. Inappropriate Communication between Partners: 1. Partners shall not communicate by means such as the manner in which calls or plays are made, extraneous remarks or gestures, questions asked or not asked of the opponents or alerts and explanations given or not given to them. 2. The gravest possible offence is for a partnership to exchange information through prearranged methods of communication other than those sanctioned by these Laws.

This constitutes reprehensible conduct as defined in Article 3 of the Disciplinary Code.

The Tribunal, confirming the appealed decision of 23rd March, 2014, of the Disciplinary Commission, confirmed the following sanctions: Michael Elinescu and Entscho Wladow shall be banned from playing together in any WBF organised championship or competition for life; Michael Elinescu and Entscho Wladow shall be each individually banned from playing in a WBF organised championship or competition for a period of 10 years.

According to Article 5 of the WBF Disciplinary Code the decision of the Tribunal is definitive and binding for the WBF and the appealing party.”

Dr. Wladow has announced that he has retained an attorney to pursue this matter through civil courts.

VuGraph from Sanya

The WBF has entered into an agreement with OurGame that grants OurGame the exclusive rights to broadcast the finals of the events in Sanya. WBF officials state that the Vugraph broadcast will be available using a web browser, will not require registration, and will have English commentary.

We journalists await the results with trepidation.

At the moment, if you want to watch Vugraph on OurGame, you must register at their site and download software to your computer. In order to register, you must have a Chinese identity number. The OurGame website is in Chinese. See <<http://bridgewinners.com/article/view/ourgame-for-non-chinese-speakers> for more information on the current state of affairs re: OurGame.

The 2014 Cavendish

After being held in each of New York and Las Vegas for many years, Monaco is home to the Cavendish for the 3rd time - from the 1st to the 5th of September. This is due to the efforts of Jean-Charles Allavena, President of the Monaco Bridge Federation, with financial support from Pierre Zimmermann.

Last year, the team event attracted 24 entrants of high standard and was won by Jan Kamras, Frederic Wrang, Johan Upmark, Fredrik Nyström, all of Sweden, and Marion Michielsen from The Netherlands. Sixty pairs competed in the invitational pairs, won by Rossen Gunev and Igor Naney of Bulgaria. A new event was launched in 2013, the Ladies Pairs, and 16 pairs took part in this first edition, won by Nathalie Frey and Babette Hugon of France.

A strong field and big money are two components of the Cavendish. Last year, the Players' Pool awarded 90% of the registration fees: €18,000 to the winners and €1,500 to the 12th-placed pair.

The Auction Pool, with total bids of €740,000, awarded €185,000 for first place and €15,000 for 12th.

There is still time to register for the 2014 Cavendish. See www.cavendishmonaco.com.

Rona Appointed to ACBL Goodwill Committee

During the Summer Nationals in Las Vegas, ACBL President Phyllis Harlan announced that WBF President Gianarrigo Rona has been appointed to the ACBL Goodwill Committee, charged with promoting friendly behaviour and making the duplicate experience a pleasant one.

Sir John A. Macdonald Tournament

Canada will celebrate the bicentennial of the birth of its first Prime Minister and one its chief fathers of confederation in 2015. Kingston, Ontario was Macdonald's home town and Ed O'Reilly reports that Kingston will organize a Regional Tournament there from July 28 through August 3. Kingston is on the St. Lawrence River, midway between Toronto and Montréal, close to 'The 1000 Islands', and is home to two UNESCO world-heritage sites. There are plenty of great restaurants and other attractions for everyone. As a bonus, the tournament occurs the week before the Summer Nationals in Chicago, only 1000 km away, and would provide a good tuneup for teams planning to win the Spingold. See www.bridgekingston.com for details.

The Ace Is King

Alan 'Ace' Greenberg, former CEO and later Chairman of the Board of Bear Stearns, Wall St. brokerage firm, died on July 25 of this year. He was 86. Greenberg started at Bear Stearns as a clerk earning \$32.50 a week. As CEO, he took Bear Stearns from a private company with \$46M in assets to a public company with assets of \$1.4B.

As a bridge player, Greenberg won the Reisinger Teams in 1977 and the Maccabiah Games Bridge Team event in 1981. As a budding bridge player in 1969, Greenberg hired Jimmy Cayne as a stockbroker. Cayne eventually succeeded Greenberg as CEO.

Chris Larsen 1941-2014

Winner of the first World Senior Bowl in Paris in 2001, Larsen died on June 23 at his home in California. Larsen was the consummate gentleman at the table.

More Problems for Israeli Teams

Issues with Israeli teams continue unabated. Last fall, the Israeli Women's Team withdrew from the Venice Cup due to concerns over security in Indonesia. In this year's European Team Championships, the Lebanese Women's Team declined to sit down to play against Israel.

Now the Israeli Junior teams have withdrawn from the World Junior Team Championships in Turkey due

to security issues similar to, and perhaps even more severe than, those in Indonesia. In Turkey there have been violent anti-Israel incidents as well as inflammatory statements from its President. Israeli security forces must approve any travel for Israeli teams internationally.

One hopes that the Israeli Open Team for Chennai in 2015 will not have issues reminiscent of those in 1985 when India forfeited hosting the Bermuda Bowl because the government refused to promise that they would admit all competitors (read Israel) to compete.

Bridge for Serious Money

Jan van Cleeff reports that 'Playing for Serious Money' is popular in the Dutch bridge scene today. See www.bridgebig.com. Bridge Big made a deal with Simpel Media, a Dutch company which recently began focussing on online gaming. This fall, Simpel Media will broadcast 'Bridge Champion of The Netherlands' (www.bkvn.nl). Pairs or individual players can enter this championship and play round robins to qualify for four regional finals. Alternatively, players can qualify online. It all ends in one single Television Final with a minimum of 25,000 Euro in prize money.

Fallout from the Elinescu-Wladow Affair

A couple of months ago, we commended the German Bridge Federation for their openness in the Elinescu-Wladow Affair. Apparently, a significant number of German bridge players disagreed with that assessment. Laura Camponeschi reports (in *New in Bridge* and in *Neapolian Club*) that the 'Bali Coughing Incident' has caused some side effects within the German Bridge Federation (Deutscher Bridge Verband – DBV).

A political front opposing the current President of the DBV (a teammate of Dr. Wladow and Dr. Elinescu), Ulrich Wenning, and some other DBV members for their way of handling the Elinescu-Wladow case was formed. The front advocated a change of the whole DBV Board of Directors.

If at least a quarter of all German Bridge Clubs applied for it, an election for a new DBV Board would have been held in November. The candidates for a new DBV Board were: Nedju Buchlev (President) and Adam Romoth, Horst Oehle, Monika Fastenau, Christian Lepa, and Karl Junk (members). Current DBV Board members (in addition to Wenning) are Daniel Didt, Horst Herrenkind, Josef Harsanyi, Betty Kuipers and Kareen Schroeder.

Just prior to publication here, Karl Junk announced that he was withdrawing his candidacy. With less than a full slate of officers to present as an alternative to the current Board, the proposed candidates appear to face an uphill battle.