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Editorial

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

Like any organism, a bridge event, in its infancy, goes through growing pains. Examples are the Rosenblum Cup and the Buffett Cup, both of which changed format from their inaugural effort. While the Rosenblum survived and grew, it appears the Buffett Cup will not, expiring after only three editions. In a somewhat similar fashion, the recent Commonwealth Nations Bridge Championship held its fourth quadrennial event in Glasgow this September.

Similarly to the other two, the CNBC has experienced format changes since the first, in Manchester in 2002. Or changes in eligibility, to be more precise. The first edition was a rousing success, with 28 national teams vying for the trophy and medals - teams from Africa, the Caribbean, the Indian sub-continent, the Antipodes, the Channel Islands and Canada battled the Home Nations for supremacy.

Since then, however, tournament enrollment has been more problematic, the organisers admitting multiple teams from any nation and even allowing random, ex-quota teams. In the second (Melbourne), third (New Delhi) and fourth (just completed in Glasgow) editions, there were 11, 15 and 17 national teams respectively, 1, 2 and 7 extra national teams and 8, 7 and 1 'other' teams. However, the organisers quite sensibly decided that the additional national and other ex-quota teams would not be eligible for medals, although they were eligible for the trophy. However, everyone's matches against those teams still counted in the standings. Additionally, no more than two of the 'extra' teams would be eligible for semifinal play. In the two most recent CNBCs, one of the ex-quota teams won the trophy. An even bigger anomaly was South Africa winning a bronze medal from tenth place in the round robin, eight of the other positions being filled by ex-quota teams.

The next CNBC will be in the Gold Coast of Australia in 2018. Despite its being a fabulous location, we can expect, once again, the turnout in Australia to be low. It is simply too far, too expensive and too inconvenient for many countries and their players to participate. Despite the argument about making up the numbers, it feels wrong to do so with random, usually sponsored, teams or allowing as many as nine teams from one nation.

Is there a solution? We have a couple of suggestions which might work.

Firstly, forget about tying the CNBC to the Commonwealth Games location. The CNBC is not an official part of the Games as it is, so hold the CNBC in the UK every time, unless an attractive proposal (including financial assistance for the less well-heeled NBOs) comes along to hold it elsewhere. The UK alone has seven political entities which have competed in previous editions.

Secondly, take a very liberal approach to nation eligibility: many diverse political entities such as Israel, Hong Kong, Jordan, Palestine, Nepal, Ireland and Suriname have been under British control or protection at one time or another and might even be eligible for Commonwealth Games participation. Make them all eligible for the CNBC; indeed makes efforts to invite them and convince them to appear.

Thirdly, if entries are still felt to be too low, allow each member nation two official teams if they so desire, both eligible for medals and the trophy, and allow no wild-card entries.

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THE NORWEGIAN BRIDGE FESTIVAL

August 1-9, 2014

Knut Kjærnsrød, Tore, Norway

Fredrikstad, close to the Swedish border, hosted the Norwegian Bridge Festival for the third time this summer, and the somewhat amended program drew a larger crowd than last year. Next year will be even more exciting, we hope, since the Festival will move to Tromsø along with the Open European Championships. We hope to see a lot of our international friends there.

This year, the Open Teams Championship final proved to be a very close race all the way to the finish line. The final was played between the veteran Stabell team and a team of youngsters captained by Jørn Arild Ringseth and was dead even on IMPs (40-40) after 32 boards. The title was thus decided on total score, where Ringseth and company came out on top.

Ringseth (seated East) played this deal very well to land his three-notrump contract:

Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

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

South did well to avoid a heart lead and started with the spade five, won by dummy's queen. A low club

was won by North's knave, and Ringseth won the heart return with his king. A club was run to North's queen, and the knave of spades won the next trick. A third spade was taken by the ace, the ace of hearts was cashed and the ace of clubs and another club cleared that suit. South's distribution was now an open book, and when North perforce returned a diamond, Ringseth took the queen of diamonds with dummy's ace and ran the ten for his contract.

Peter Marstrander from the Stabell team performed a smart psychological move as declarer (South) on the next deal to make the opponents go astray:

Dealer North. EW Vul.

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

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

1. Denies either major

West led a spade to the ace, and a spade came back to Marstrander's king. Declarer ruffed his third spade in dummy, drew trumps in two rounds and led the knave of diamonds off dummy! East covered, as most of us probably would have done, but that was the end of the defence. East shifted to a heart to the nine and king, but when Marstrander played another diamond, West was endplayed and had to lead away from his queen of heart for plus 110 North/South.

Tommy Sandsmark, President Emeritus of the IBPA, is still going strong and showed good technique on this board from the Teams Championship:

Dealer North. EW Vul.

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

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

1. Spades
2. Puppet to two diamonds
3. Invitational.

Sandsmark was declarer, North. East led a low diamond to the knave and king, and East took the diamond ten with his ace at trick two. The club queen won the next trick and another club was taken by the king. Sandsmark led the heart queen, which held, and a heart to the knave was taken by the ace. East continued with the heart ten to reach this position:

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

Declarer cashed the eight of hearts and the ace of spades and then went to dummy with the ace of clubs. East had to bare his king of spades and was thrown in with it to lead away from his nine of diamonds.

With a little help from the opponents, Marianne Homme (West) managed to overcome an apparently unavoidable trump loser on the following deal:

Dealer North. NS Vul.

	♠ A 10 8 7 3 2		
	♥ —		
	♦ Q 9 8 5 2		
	♣ J 2		
♠ K 9 5		♠ 6 4	
♥ Q J 8 2		♥ A K 7 3	
♦ A J		♦ K 7 6 4	
♣ K 10 8 4		♣ Q 6 5	
	♠ Q J		
	♥ 10 9 6 5 4		
	♦ 10 3		
	♣ A 9 7 3		
West	North	East	South
—	2♠	Double	Pass
4♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

North started with the knave of clubs, taken by South's ace. The queen of spades won the next trick, and the

knave was covered by the king and ace. If North had played a third spade, even Marianne would not have been able to succeed, but a club came back to Marianne's ten. A trump to the ace revealed the distribution, and Marianne continued with a heart to the nine and knave. She then played a club to the queen, the king of diamonds, a diamond to the ace, and the king of clubs. With three cards left, Marianne trumped her losing spade with the king, and South had to under-ruff. The eight and queen of hearts then secured the contract.

Svein Harald Riisnæs from Horten opened a somewhat off-shape two notrump and later on faced the task of bringing home this heart slam:

Dealer East. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Riisnæs</i>	—	2NT	Pass
—	—	3♥	Pass
3♦	Pass	6♦	Pass
4♦	Pass	Pass	Pass
6♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

Riisnæs said that he thought four diamonds meant a genuine suit, but West, of course corrected six diamonds to six hearts.

South led the spade queen to declarer's ace and the ace of hearts was followed by the ace, king of clubs and a club ruff. The king of hearts and jack of hearts cleared the trump suit, South winning the heart queen and declarer pitching diamonds from hand. South continued with the knave of spades. Riisnæs won with his king and ruffed a spade to reveal the distribution in that suit and took his remaining heart. On that last heart, North was squeezed in the minors.

The South defender made a slight error in the play, and declarer made a misguess in discarding. Declarer was on target until he pitched a second diamond on the third round of trumps. Once he did that, South could have switched to a diamond upon winning the queen of hearts, breaking the transportation for the squeeze and leading to down one. That would have been embarrassing if South had held queen-jack-ten of spades alone, however.

An alternative line of play, requiring South to hold the heart queen and North to hold six black cards (and for declarer to guess which six!), including at least two in each suit (or for South to hold the queen-nine-eight of hearts), might be to score the six and seven of trumps on ruffs and endplay the defence to execute a trump coup. For example, win with the ace of spades at trick one, play the ace-king of diamonds and the ace-king and a third club, ruffing with the six of hearts. Then, ace-king of spades and a ... club rather than a spade. The point is that declarer must guess which black suit to ruff with dummy's middle trumps to prevent an overruff by North or, in some situations, an uper-cut by South to promote North's trump spot.

A VIENNA COUP IN THE PALACE CUP Ana Roth, Buenos Aries



**Palac Prymasowski
(The Primate's Palace), Warsaw**

The 2014 Palace Cup tournament was held from August 26-29, 2014 at the Centrum Konferencyjno-Wystawiennicze "Palac Prymasowski" in Warsaw, with the support of Casino Palace and Bridge24.pl. The main event was played from August 27 to 29, and it was a Top 16 invitational tournament featuring many of the most famous stars of the bridge world: Cezary Balicki, Peter Bertheau, Thomas Bessis, Dennis Bilde, Sjoert Brink, Krzysztof Buras, Bas Drijver, Alexander Dubinin, Andrei Gromov, Michal Kwiecien, Bauke Muller, Grzegorz Narkiewicz, Fredrik Nyström, David Gold, David Bakhshi, Jacek Pszczola, Simon de Wijs, Zia Mahmood ... etc.

Jacek Kalita and Michal Nowosadzki won the event and the \$10,000 first prize. In eleventh position were Gawel/Jagniewski. On the last board of the event, they bid to a slam and Rafal Jagniewski, as the declarer, had to execute a Vienna Coup followed by a squeeze to make his twelfth trick.

Vienna Coup: *The Vienna coup is an unblocking technique in contract bridge made in preparation for a squeeze play. It is so named because it was originally published by James Clay (1804-1873) after observing it being executed in the days of whist by "the greatest player in Vienna" – identity unknown. (Wikipedia).*

Board 20. Dealer West. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Mahmood	Jagniewski	Bilde	Gawel
Pass	1♣	Double	3♣
3♦	6♣	Pass	Pass
Pass			

A heart lead and continuation defeats the slam with the king of spades offside. But at the table, Dennis Bilde chose to lead his ace of diamonds after the bidding revealed that North/South were short in diamonds. After winning the first trick and seeing the four played by Zia, Bilde decided to continue with the queen of diamonds. Declarer ruffed, and continued playing the ace and king of clubs to draw trumps.

Since Bilde's double likely showed at least four hearts and the king of spades, Jagniewski unblocked the ace of spades and ran the clubs. The four of hearts became declarer's twelfth trick after East had to keep the king of spades to guard against dummy's ten.

All eight tables declared five or six clubs. No defender led a heart. Both declarers in six clubs made their contract; those in only five clubs were split: three made 11 tricks and three made 12 tricks.

Top Cavendish Auction Prices

<u>Open Pairs:</u>	<u>Euro</u>
Helgemo/Helness	47,000
Fantoni/Nunes	44,000
Robson/Forrester	33,000
<u>Women's Pairs:</u>	
Michielsen/Wortel	17,000
D'Ovidio/Senior	14,000
Cronier/Willard	10,000

MONACO WELCOMES THE CAVENDISH

THE MONACO CAVENDISH

Jean-Paul Meyer, Paris
Patrick Jourdain, Cardiff
Bob Drijver, Rotterdam
John Carruthers, Kingsville, ON
A Most Spectacular Swing (JPM)

This was the last deal on Day 1 of the Cavendish teams. When I entered the playing room, all the other tables had already finished and I saw Jacek Kalita, the young Polish player of the PRI investment team, in a remarkable position: he sat motionless with his head on the table for several minutes. I approached fearing he was sick – no cards, no tray, no bidding cards on the table. Eventually, I understood that as West he was thinking what would be the best lead on the deal ...

I knew Board 20. I was surprised that he had to lead at all. At most other tables, it had been East to lead against a spade contract (usually four spades doomed to go a quiet two down). Kalita's teammates had a fairly good result, stopping in three spades one down. What was going on here?

I soon learned that Sjoert Brink had bid three notrump, had been doubled and, even though vulnerable, had stuck it out there. When you see the four hands, you will understand there was something to think about, as the defence could take eight or nine tricks for 800 or 1100. What happened was something very different.

Round 5. Board 20. Dealer West. Both Vul.

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

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

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

West	North	East	South
Kalita	Drijver	Novosadzki	Brink
1♦	3♠	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Double	Pass
Pass	Pass		

You can see that on a heart lead and a diamond return, the contract would fail by three or four tricks,

depending on declarer's view in spades. After deep thought, Kalita understandably led a club to the king and ace. Next came the jack of spades to the bare king: only a very tall declarer would have done better. East played back the technical card of the jack of diamonds, perhaps on the way to five down. However:

West had control of every suit, so he thought that by shifting to a spade he could find out why his partner had doubled, discard accordingly, and declarer's hand would be squeezed. However, before the last spade was played, the situation was:

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

On the ten of spades, East discarded a diamond and South a heart. West had no defence, caught in a squeeze/throw-in. He tried his luck by throwing a club, but declarer played a club to his ace. The club nine was his game-going trick for plus 13 IMPs.

The Pairs Session I (PDJ)

Looking for something that would not be seen on BBO, I found former world champions Sjoert Brink and Bas Drijver of the Netherlands facing current European champions Dror Padon and Alon Birman of Israel.

Brink gave Birman a defensive problem on the following board:

Round 1. Board 3. Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Brink	Birman	Drijver	Padon
—	—	—	Pass
1♣	Pass	1♦	Pass
1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass
1NT	Pass	2♣	Pass
3♣	Pass	3NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		

For their first six bids, the Dutch selected the lowest legal one in the box. I suppose you could say one club was either natural or...; one diamond was natural or...; one heart was natural or... (but promised more hearts than clubs if balanced); one spade might have been natural but was actually a relay; one notrump was natural (!!) and showed 12-14; and two clubs was checkback. The three-club response to this showed 4-4 in the majors and a maximum.

Birman led the nine of diamonds to the ten and ace. Brink took a heart finesse to the nine and king. Padon switched to the eight of clubs, ducked to North's queen. Birman gave the matter long thought but his continuation of a club was not a success. Declarer now had eight tricks. A ninth was available in diamonds, but Brink chose a more elegant route to his contract. He won the club return, took another heart finesse, unblocked the suit, returned to a top club and cashed the last heart. North ditched a spade, but was thrown in with the fourth diamond to be endplayed into giving declarer the king of spades.

Had North gone passive when on lead with the queen of clubs, it would have been easy for declarer to generate an eighth trick, but not a ninth. Eight East/West pairs reached three notrump and five of them, including the Dutch pair, succeeded, suggesting the stretch was worth the gamble.

Friends and Teammates, but No Mercy Given (JPM)

Far from BBO operators, Helgemo/Helness met Fantoni/Nunes. This two-board match was worth a trip to the playing area – twice we see a technically-correct, but unusual, card being played.

Round 1. Board 19. Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Helgemo	Fantoni	Helness	Nunes
—	—	—	Pass
1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass
1NT	Pass	3NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Fantoni, North, took a very long time to lead (hearts having been bid on his right) and finally decided on the two of spades. Declarer took the ten with the ace and played back a spade to South's queen. Now Nunes accurately found the correct card to beat the contract: the ten of clubs. When the smoke had dissipated the contract was two down. Many pairs made the contract, so across the field HH were minus 119 IMPs on this board. The next one was even worse for them.

Round 1. Board 20. Dealer West. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Helgemo	Fantoni	Helness	Nunes
3♦	Pass	Pass	4♦
Pass	4♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			

As did most players, Helgemo opened three diamonds and Helness passed. Some Easts chose to bid three notrump, with different fates – going one or two down, or making if North switched to a club. At this table, four hearts became the final contract; the ace of clubs was led and was followed by a diamond to the ace and another diamond.

Now declarer needed trumps to break 2-2 or if they were 3-1, with West presumably short, to take his only chance. Yes! That is to play the jack of hearts, hitting the jackpot when West has the ten of hearts bare. When Fantoni found the play, this board cost HH another 132 IMPs and at lunch time the most expensive pair during the auction was near the bottom with a score of minus 495 IMPs.

Sparkling Defence by Sylvie Willard (JPM)

On Board 2 of the second session of the Women's Pairs, three notrump was the standard contract but very few defenders found a way to defeat it. Here, Catherine d'Ovidio was the faultless declarer as North,

but Sylvie Willard (West) and Bénédicte Cronier were too accurate in defence.

Round 2. Board 2. Dealer East. NS Vul.

♠ A Q ♥ A 6 2 ♦ 8 7 ♣ K Q 7 6 5 2 ♠ 7 6 4 ♥ 10 9 7 ♦ A Q 4 2 ♣ A J 10 ♠ J 10 9 5 3 ♥ K J 8 ♦ K J 10 3 ♣ 9	♠ K 8 2 ♥ Q 5 4 3 ♦ 9 6 5 ♣ 8 4 3
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The three of hearts was led to the eight, nine and ace. The ace and queen of spades took the following two tricks. Then a diamond went to the ten and queen. The next heart was won in the dummy by the jack and the nine of spades went to the king. Cronier played a third round of hearts to dummy's king and declarer cashed two rounds of spades.

Willard, with the ace-four-two of diamonds and the ace-jack-ten of clubs, read the situation perfectly, discarding two clubs. She won the next trick with the ace of clubs. This was the position of the diamond suit (East having discarded the six):

♦ 8		♦ 9
♦ A 4 2		
	♦ K J 3	

West played the two of diamonds: eight, nine, jack, and waited for the setting trick with the very wide tenace of ace-four over dummy's king-three.

When Imagination Overcomes Power (JPM)

Round 2. Board 24. Dealer West. Neither Vul.

♠ 10 8 7 5 ♥ 5 3 ♦ A J 4 ♣ K 8 6 5 ♠ A Q 3 2 ♥ K Q 8 6 ♦ K Q 5 ♣ A Q ♠ 6 4 ♥ A J 10 9 ♦ 10 6 3 2 ♣ 9 3 2	♠ K J 9 ♥ 7 4 2 ♦ 9 8 7 ♣ J 10 7 4
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West	North	East	South
Brink	Eidi	Drijver	Vroustis
2NT ¹	Pass	3NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		
1. 21-23 HCP			

I have known Michel Eidi for many years. He is the type of player who is always in good humour, smiling all the time. But this was not the case when he came to see me after winning the Cavendish Teams and I could understand his point of view. "For once I win a big tournament and, in the Daily Bulletin, you only tell about a deal where I lost 1400 points. I am not sure it is fair."

All I could do was to apologize. With a smile, Michel, who has represented Lebanon seven times in European Championships, told me, "I have a gift for you so that you do not think I am angry with you."

"I was sitting North, having to lead against three notrump by West, Dutch world champion Sjoert Brink. I led a low spade, which went to dummy's nine. Declarer played a heart to the jack, queen and five. Next, declarer played the ace and queen of clubs, which I ducked. Brink played a spade to dummy's jack and then a club to my king. I tried a deceptive jack of diamonds. This went to declarer's queen.

"West played a spade to the dummy and cashed the high club, discarding a heart, and led another heart. My partner read the situation perfectly. He took the ace of hearts and led a low diamond. After long thought, declarer played the king. The jack of diamonds had done its work. I could take my ace and play a diamond to my partner's ten and six: one down. West, a great sportsman, congratulated me."

Watching on BBO (BD)

Following the action from a distance, the Cavendish, with its field of great players, is very exciting, even via the Internet. Following the best, we eagerly 'sat down' for the rounds between Fantoni-Nunes, Brink-Drijver and Zia-Bilde. The Italians were struggling when they bumped into Brink/Drijver.

Round 3. Board 16. Dealer West. EW Vul.

♠ 7 2 ♥ Q 8 6 ♦ 8 7 2 ♣ A 10 9 4 3 ♠ K J ♥ K 9 5 4 3 ♦ A 10 6 5 ♣ Q J ♠ 10 6 4 ♥ A 7 ♦ K Q 9 4 3 ♣ K 8 5	♠ A Q 9 8 5 3 ♥ J 10 2 ♦ J ♣ 7 6 2	
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West	North	East	South
Brink	Fantoni	Drijver	Nunes
1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass
1NT	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♦	Pass	2♥	Pass
3♦	Pass	3♥	Pass
Pass	Pass		

To pg. 10 —>>>



IBPA Column Service

Tim Bourke, Canberra

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729. Dealer South. NS Vul.

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

West led the king of spades, which declarer ducked. As it was fairly obvious that declarer had the ace and jack of spades (the king lead had asked East to unblock an honour), West shifted to the ten of hearts. Declarer took this in hand with the queen and played a diamond to dummy's queen and East's king. East exited with a low heart, marking the spades as 6-1. Declarer took the trick on the table with the king of hearts and played a diamond to his jack and West's ace.

West got off play with a third round of hearts, which declarer took in hand with the ace. Declarer now cashed the ten of diamonds. After West discarded a spade, declarer paused to consider his position. He had eight certain tricks and had lost three, so he could afford only one more loser. Furthermore, the ninth trick could only come from an endplay in spades. If that was to happen, West's original distribution would have to have been 6=3=2=2. Declarer's next move was to cash the ace and king of clubs, which confirmed the hoped-for count of West's hand. Declarer was about to play a low spade from his hand when he saw that West could avoid the endplay by allowing dummy's nine of spades to win the trick, leaving East to take the last two club tricks with the queen and nine.

Instead, declarer played the nine of diamonds and threw the nine of spades from dummy. Only then did declarer advance the five of spades. West took the trick with the eight of spades but then had to return a spade into declarer's ace-jack tenace. As a result, declarer had nine

tricks: two spades, three hearts, two diamonds and two clubs.

730. Dealer East. EW Vul.

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

1. Pre-emptive

West led the queen of hearts, which East overtook with the king to play the three of diamonds. Declarer was certain that this was a singleton and that East was expecting to gain the lead with the king of trumps, with the idea of trying to cross to West's jack of hearts to receive a diamond ruff.

The bidding and play to date suggested that East would have both black kings; otherwise East would have opened on a ten count. Declarer did not fancy playing ace and another trump for that would rely on a 2-2 trump break and East beginning with a 2=5=1=5 shape. As it was far more likely that East began with only three or four clubs, declarer took the diamond shift in dummy and ran the queen of clubs. He continued by playing a club to the ace, then returned to dummy's ace of trumps to lead the jack of clubs. When East covered this with the king declarer discarded his remaining heart.

This loser-on-loser manoeuvre removed the possibility of a diamond ruff by killing the entry to West's hand. Seeing no future in hearts, East continued by play a fourth round of clubs. Declarer ruffed high then forced out the king of trumps. All he lost was one trump, one heart and one club.

731. The following deal was played in a teams match – both tables had the same auction and opening lead.

Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

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

The first declarer took the lead of the king of diamonds with the ace as East played the ten of diamonds. Next he cashed the ace and king of trumps, finding that the trumps were 4-1. As he could not afford to draw all of the trumps, declarer played a low heart next. East was on the ball and rose with the ace of hearts to lead a club. West ruffed then led a low diamond to East's advertised nine and received a second ruff in return.

While this declarer bemoaned his luck, the contract was made at the other table. The second declarer let the king of diamonds hold the first trick. After winning the diamond continuation, declarer played the ace and king of trumps. He saw that only East was the danger hand if he held the ace of hearts and five clubs. So, he played a heart next. If East rose with the ace and gave his partner a ruff then declarer would get a heart trick as compensation for the ruff. After East decided to play low declarer's king won the trick. Then South drew West's trumps and ran the clubs for his contract.

732. Dealer West. Both Vul.

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

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

South promised a balanced hand of around 19 points with a spade stopper with his reopening jump to two notrump. His partner used Stayman to investigate the possibility of an eight-card heart fit before settling in the notrump game.

West led the queen of spades and declarer took this in hand. After playing a heart to the ace, South came back to hand with a club to play a heart to the jack. East produced the queen of hearts and the contract could no longer be made. "That was unlucky," was all declarer could say.

North was not so sympathetic. "There was no rush to play a heart to the jack. There was an extra chance in the hearts if you start by not cashing the ace of hearts and instead leading the three of hearts to the seven. If the queen of hearts is onside nothing will be lost: East will win the trick and you can try a heart to the jack on the next round. As the cards lie, the seven of hearts would have forced the queen of hearts since West had started with the ten and eight."

Ever one to flog a dead horse, North continued, "This is equivalent to managing an ace-queen-nine combination opposite low cards. In that case, you finesse the nine first, in case the jack and ten are onside. If that fails, you fall back on a later finesse of the queen."



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Drijver brought his spades and hearts into the picture by using Two-Way Checkback Stayman and showed a mild invitation by bidding two hearts. A four-heart contract looks attractive but isn't really, as it needs more than the finesse for the queen of hearts. Even three hearts is fairly hazardous.

Fantoni kicked off with the eight of diamonds and Brink chose to go for ruffing all his diamonds in dummy, using his spades as entries, instead of playing on hearts (this needs spades and hearts 3-2) and possibly avoiding a forcing defence. Which was an okay plan, though when South had five diamonds, declarer got into trouble after the sixth trick: ...

<p>♠ — ♥ Q 8 6 ♦ — ♣ A 10 9 4</p> <p>♠ — ♥ K 9 5 4 3 ♦ — ♣ Q J</p>	<p>♠ A Q 9 8 ♥ — ♦ — ♣ 7 6 2</p> <p>♠ 10 ♥ A 7 ♦ K ♣ K 8 5</p>
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Brink was in dummy and needed three more tricks. He played the ace of spades, South following, and discarded a losing club for North to ruff. That was just his first loser. Fantoni returned a low club to the king and Nunes played the last diamond. When Brink decided to ruff with the nine, Fantoni happily overruffed, taking the defence's third trick, and left them with two winning hearts.

Brink could/should have recovered from his choice of going for diamond ruffs by ruffing the last diamond low. Fantoni would have overruffed and led a club for declarer to ruff. Declarer could then have played the king of hearts, catching the queen and ace on the same trick. The nine of hearts would have then drawn South's seven.

A Class Act (PDJ)

Round 4. Board 19. Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Dufrat	Wortel	Zmuda	Michielsen
—	—	—	1♥
2♦	Double	Pass	2♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Meike Wortel and Marion Michielsen of the Netherlands had opened a gap at the head of the Women's Pairs that warmed the hearts of the backers who'd made them the favourite in the auction. Your reporter watched one deal they played against Justyna Zmuda of Poland, who has just completed a highly successful junior career (and has already made the Polish women's team), and Katarzyna Dufrat.

This deal showed Michielsen's class.

Two spades by South was a common contract. Dufrat found the best lead of a trump. The key to the deal is establishing the hearts.

First let us see how one declarer in the Open, in the same contract and with the same lead, played on BBO. He crossed to dummy with a diamond and ran the eight of hearts. West won and played two more rounds of trumps. Declarer then misguessed the hearts, playing to the ace. And so the contract went down, with only four trump tricks and the three aces for declarer.

Michielsen did much better. When she won the trump lead in hand she immediately ducked a heart. West won and played two more rounds of trumps. Michielsen now delayed her decision about the king of hearts by ducking a club. This was won by West who continued with the king of clubs. Letting this hold looks strange but costs nothing, as declarer's losing diamond can go on the ace of clubs. The effect, however, was dramatic.

Left on play, West was convinced that declarer held the queen of diamonds and not the queen of hearts and so felt she had to exit with a heart. Michielsen's problem was solved. She won with the queen of hearts and ruffed the hearts high, the losing diamond going on the ace of clubs. Nine tricks were claimed.

The Dilemma (JC)

Board 5. Dealer North. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Townsend	Skrzypczak	Sandqvist	Gierulski
—	Pass	4♥	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Partnership defensive issues have a special appeal. Here is one faced by Boguslaw Gierulski and Jerzy Skrzypczak in the first final session of the Cavendish Pairs.

The Poles were facing Nick Sandqvist and Tom Townsend of England. There's something about crossing the North Sea from Sweden to England that seems to affect one's bidding. Sandqvist represented Sweden as a Junior (some years ago now) and that second-seat four-heart bid is quite something, even for a current Junior. However, when you arrive in England, 'the proof of the pudding is in the eating'. Townsend, a world-champion Junior himself, did not even consider bidding. Most other Easts opened a weak-two in hearts (or a Multi).

Gierulski kicked off with the king of spades, an excellent choice. With the hearts and clubs pretty favourably placed for declarer, four hearts looks makeable on any other lead. Sandqvist won trick one with the ace of spades and Skrzypczak faced the first dilemma for the defence. Was he supposed to give attitude, count or suit preference? It was amusing that he could play the same card, the three of spades, in all three cases. Sandqvist tried a heart to the king and Gierulski's ace. That player faced the second dilemma for the defence. Should he switch to the jack or the four of clubs? The Poles conventionally lead low from a doubleton-ten or lower, but the honour from jack-doubleton or higher. Not wanting North to squander the king from a king-ten holding, then give him a spade ruff, South decided to switch to the jack of clubs.

When declarer played the queen of clubs from the dummy and North won it with his king, he faced the defence's third dilemma. Should he return a spade or a club? With spades solidly controlled and the ace of diamonds as an entry (he thought), Skrzypczak continued clubs, aiming for two heart tricks (which he knew about), one diamond trick and one club trick, playing his partner for some jack-ten-nine combination. That was plus 420 to East/West. Nick Sandqvist enjoyed his pudding very much.

Lest you think that was an easy defence to find, on precisely the same bidding by Michel Abecassis (playing with Paul Chemla), exactly the same cards were played to the first four tricks by Andy Robson (South) and Tony Forrester (North). Abecassis is a year or two older than Sandqvist but is obviously still a Junior at heart.

The top place-getters were:

Teams

1. Michel Eidi/Vassili Vroustis; Michel Bessis/Thomas Bessis
2. Vytautis Vainikonis/Woychec Olanski; Boguslaw Gierulski/Jerzy Skrzypczak; Lotan Fisher/Ron Schwartz
3. Pierre Zimmermann/Franck Multon; Tor Helness/Geir Helgemo; Fulvio Fantoni/Claudio Nunes

Open Pairs

1. Grzegorz Narkiewicz/Krzysztof Buras
2. Andrew Robson/Tony Forrester
3. Piotr Tuczynski/Bartosz Chmurski

Women's Pairs

1. Noga Tal/Dana Tal
2. Cathy Baldysz/Anna Sarniak
3. Meike Wortel/Marion Michielsen



Dealer North. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
—	Dana Tal		Noga Tal
—	2♦	Pass	2♥
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♥
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

The Ladies Pairs at the Cavendish tournament in Monaco attracted an entry of 20. After playing 95 boards, five against each of the other pairs, the field was divided in two, giving an A final and a B final. These also consisted of five boards against each pair.

Marion Michielsen and Meike Wortel from the Netherlands led into the A final from Israeli sisters, Dana and Noga Tal. Third were Catherine d'Ovidio from France and Nevena Senior from England.

Michielsen and Wortel held that advantage into the last session of 18 boards. But then they had seven plus boards, two flat and nine minus to drop to third. The Tal sisters had 14 plus boards, two flat and only two minus to leap into the lead on 310.37 International Match Points. Cathy Baldysz and Anna Sarniak from Poland had 11 plus scores, two flat and five minus to finish 15.79 imps behind in second. D'Ovidio and Senior fell to seventh.

Noga Tal (South) worked out one way to get home in the diagrammed deal from the second final session. Dana (North) opened two diamonds to show a weak two-bid in either major. Noga responded two hearts, pass or correct, confident that her sister had spades. Then, her three-heart rebid was natural and game-forcing. Four clubs was a control-bid showing a suitable hand for hearts.

Against four hearts, West led the diamond ten. East took the trick and returned a diamond to declarer's king. South cashed her spade ace, ruffed a club in the dummy and discarded a club on the spade king. West trumped with her heart ten and led another diamond, East ruffing with the heart seven and South overruffing with her queen.

After another club ruff, declarer led dummy's last diamond. East chose to pitch a spade, so South threw her club queen. Now declarer, with four hearts and the club king left, had to decide where the heart king was lying. She felt that West would not have ruffed dummy's spade king with the heart ten if she could have used a lower trump. And if that ten were a singleton, the contract could not be made.

Correctly concluding that West had started with the king-ten-doubleton of hearts, South had three successful lines. She could have discarded her club on dummy's spade queen because West would have had to ruff with the heart king. Or declarer could have trumped a spade with her heart ace, trumped the club king in the dummy and trumped another spade low. But she chose to play a heart to her ace, dropping West's king.

Plus 620, when scored against the other four results, gained 15 IMPs. (One West went down 1100 in five clubs doubled; two Norths failed in four spades; and one South made three notrump when the defenders lost their way after finding the winning diamond lead.)

The next deal was my favorite from the Cavendish tournament in Monte Carlo. It was declared by Andrea Manno, a young Italian who lives in Palermo.

In the auction, four notrump was a slam-try in hearts and five diamonds was a control-bid (cue-bid).

Dealer East. Neither Vul.

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

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

West led the club four.

Against six hearts, West, confident that his opponents were ready for a diamond lead, selected the club four, low from an odd number or third-highest from an even number. Manno (South) won with dummy's ace and noted the ten from East. Next declarer cashed dummy's spade ace before drawing trumps in four rounds. (West discarded three diamonds.) Then South led a second spade. How did he analyze the deal?

When East turned up with four trumps, Manno was sure that East had an unbalanced hand with 1=4=4=4, 1=4=5=3 or 2=4=5=2 distribution. If East had started with a singleton spade, the contract was now unmakeable. And if East began with 2=4=5=2 shape, he had at most nine points in hearts, diamonds and clubs combined. So he needed the spade queen for his opening bid.

Backing his reading of the layout, South put up dummy's spade king and claimed when the queen dropped. Plus 980, when scored by International Match Points against the other 13 results, gained 132 imps. (Only one other pair in Manno's section, a father-and-son combination from Spain, Federico and Gonzalo Goded, bid and made six hearts. Two declarers went down two in that contract and one failed by a single trick.)

It would have been harder if West had not raised diamonds and had then led a diamond. South might well have placed East with the club king-queen and West with the spade queen. Some players will lead you to believe that making a pre-empt is almost a guarantee of a better result than from passing. Take that advice under advisement.

BRASILEIRAO 2014

Fernando Lema & Ana Roth,
Buenos Aires



The Brazilian Open Teams Championship (the famous “Brasileirão”) was played from 8 to 13 September in the city of Florianopolis, Brazil. Organized by the FBB every year, in this championship you can meet the most successful South American bridge players, including four WBF World Grand Masters.

This year, the final featured the CHAGAS team: Gabriel Chagas, Marcelo Branco, Paulinho Brum, Ernesto Muzzio, Carlos Pellegrini and Alejandro Bianchedi versus the d’ORSI team: Ernesto d’Orsi, Agustin Madala, Mauricio Figueiredo, João Paulo Campos, Miguel Villas Boas. CHAGAS won, 113 to 83.

In the last set of the final, Board 23 was a clear example of the genius of the WGM Marcelo Castello Branco.

Board 23. Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

After a one-notrump opening bid by South, both tables arrived in a four-heart contract by South. At both tables, West led the two of clubs.

At one table, North/South were Madala/Figueiredo and East/West were Bianchedi and Muzzio. Bianchedi won the opening lead with his ace of clubs and returned a diamond, leaving declarer with no hope on the lie of the cards. Figueiredo had to lose one trick in each suit for one down.

At the other table, playing East/West for the d’ORSI team were Campos and Villas Boas. North was Chagas and the declarer sitting South was Branco. Villas Boas won the lead with his ace of clubs and shifted to the king of spades. South won with the ace. Declarer continued with the trump finesse, Miguel winning his king of hearts and playing his queen of spades ... South followed with his jack! This had the effect of inducing East to think that

his distribution was different from the one he really had.

Here is how Marcelo Branco described what his thoughts were while playing the hand:

“I played the jack of spades under the queen as an extreme measure, trying to create a false picture about the distribution of my hand. I wanted East to think my hand was 2=4=4=3 and not (as indeed it was) 4=4=2=3.

If my hand had been 2=4=4=3, there would have been no urgency for East to play diamonds because I would not have a way to discard both of dummy’s diamonds. Villas Boas certainly knew that I had exactly three cards in clubs, as they play third and fifth leads against suit contracts.

On the first spade trick, West had followed with the eight, discouraging. It was clear to me that he didn’t have the nine of spades, since he would have played that nine to reinforce his discouraging attitude.

Thus, assuming that West did not have the nine of spades, playing the jack under the queen wouldn’t cost because I’d still have the ten-seven tenace over East’s nine.”

East fell into the trap and, after playing his queen of spades, he continued with a club to South’s king.

The queen of hearts eliminated the remaining trump, and the queen of clubs provided one diamond discard from dummy. A trump to dummy, a finesse of the seven of spades and the ten of spades provided the other.

Obrigado, Mestre!

ERRATA



Polish Family Corrections

It seems we were incorrect in assuming some of the Polish family connections in the Junior ranks in Istanbul last month. Marek Wojcicki straightened us out, as follows:

Pawel Jassem is indeed the son of Krzysztof (the younger son, there is also another – Piotr Jassem – who is older).

Michal Klukowski is not related to Julian Klukowski, world senior No.1.

Piotr Tuczyński is not related to Piotr Tuszyński – even the name differs by one letter.



4th COMMONWEALTH NATIONS BRIDGE CHAMPIONSHIP

Glasgow, Scotland, September 8-14, 2014
Mark Horton, Sutton Bengier, Wilts., UK
Patrick Jourdain, Cardiff

The CNBC is unique in allowing not only multiple teams from each country to compete but also at-large teams. Nevertheless, only one national team from each country is eligible for the medals. This year there were 17 national teams and 11 ex-quota teams divided into two sections of 14 each. The top four in each group qualified for crossover knockout play.

Round 9. ENG v RSA.

Board 9. Dealer North. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Holland	Narunsky	Green	Kaprey
—	1♥	2♣	2♦
3♣	4♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			

East made the dramatic lead of the seven of clubs. When you do this type of thing you either end up smelling of roses or in the mire. If declarer had put up dummy's jack of clubs the mire would have been very deep indeed, but a low club allowed West to win with

the ten. The nine of diamonds was ruffed by East and the ten of spades was covered by the king and ace. Another diamond ruff was followed by a second spade and West won and tried to cash a third spade, so declarer was just two down, minus 100. You might think that an overcall of two clubs would not be everyone's choice. On the actual layout, East/West easily make four spades (although even if East starts with a two-suited overcall they are not certain to reach it) but give West four spades and you'd certainly want to be in game.

Unluckily for East/West, a bid of two hearts would have shown spades and diamonds, so to show this two-suiter, East would have had to bid two notrump – not ideal. A simple one spade is a possibility, but you can see the attraction of two clubs.

At the other table ...

West	North	East	South
Balkin	King	Holroyd	Small
—	1♥	Pass	1♠*
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♣*
Pass	2♠*	Pass	3♦
Pass	4♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			

East led the ace of clubs for the two, six and three. The king of clubs took the next trick, West following with the four. When East continued with a third club a grateful declarer took the rest, plus 450 and 11 extraordinary IMPs for England.

QF. SCO v IND. Board 4. Dealer West. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Duncan	Holland	Gordon	Green
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♣ ¹
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♠
Pass	4♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

1. Game forcing

East led the two of hearts and declarer won with dummy's ace, played a club to the ace and a diamond to the king and ace. West continued with the jack of diamonds (essential) and, when it was allowed to hold (fatal), he continued with a club to the queen and king.

At this point, declarer could have ruffed a club, finessed in hearts and played two more rounds of hearts, pitching a diamond on the third and ruffing the fourth before exiting with a diamond. West, down to trumps, would have had to ruff and surrender three trump tricks.

However, when declarer played the jack of spades after winning the king of clubs, the jack was covered by the king and ace. Then it was impossible to survive the 5-0 trump break for, with the trump length unreduced, as soon as West came in with a trump he would always have an exit card, either a trump or the ten of clubs. Thus West had to score another trump trick for one down, minus 100.

To be sure of defeating four spades, East must overtake the jack of diamonds with the queen and give West a ruff. Given that declarer was known to hold four diamonds, this is a difficult, but perhaps not impossible, play to find.

West	North	East	South
King	Peterkin	Small	Sanders
Pass	1♠	Pass	3NT ¹
Pass	4♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

1. Balanced game raise

Here, East led the four of clubs and declarer won with the jack and cashed the ace of spades, East discarding the nine of clubs. Declarer unblocked the ace of clubs and continued with a spade to the jack and king. On the club return, declarer pitched a diamond, then played the six of spades for the five and seven, followed by a diamond to the king. West won with the ace and played the jack of diamonds. When it held, he exited with a heart (a trump into the tenace sees East get squeezed in the red suits) and declarer played four rounds of the suit, catching West's trumps for plus 620 and 12 IMPs.

At the point where West played the jack of diamonds, it should have been clear for East to overtake and play another diamond. West's ruff would have been the setting trick.

India's Malhotra played the deal to perfection on a club lead. He won with the jack, played a heart to the ace, a spade to the queen, unblocked the ace of clubs, took a heart finesse, cashed the king of clubs pitching a diamond, took the ace of hearts, ruffed a heart and exited with a diamond, not caring who had the ace.

The Duellists (PDJ)

As the Chairman's Team (ineligible for the medals) had defeated England in one semifinal match, that meant our semifinal against India would be for the gold medal.

The following board from the first half of the match, at the table where Tim Rees and Gary Jones were

sitting East/West for Wales, proved to be a fascinating battle between declarer and the defence. Rees coped successfully with the challenge set.

SF.WAL v IND. Board 15. Dealer South. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Jones	Bendre	Rees	Thakral
—	—	—	1♦
Double	Pass	4♥	Pass
Pass	Pass		
West	North	East	South
Jalan	Ratcliff	Malhotra	Jourdain
—	—	—	1♦
Double	1♥	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♠	Pass	4♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

The Indian team has a reputation for aggressive bidding but, on this occasion, it was Wales bidding game at both tables.

Where I was declarer, the defence was quick and effective. West led the ace of clubs (three-six-four) and, with his partner playing the lowest in sight (encouraging), continued the suit. East ruffed and returned a diamond. When West proved to hold two trump tricks, I was disappointed to have to accept one off. The good news was, with East having two black singletons, four hearts must stand a chance.

Rees reached that game in quick time. South led the king of clubs to dummy's ace, North giving count, and a diamond went to the nine and ten. South returned a low diamond and, when Rees ruffed, the king fell. Next came the ace of spades and a spade ruff, then a third diamond. Expecting North to be out, Rees carefully ruffed with the ace of trumps, North discarding a club. A further spade ruff was followed by a diamond, ruffed with dummy's remaining trump. North overruffed with the ten. After a moment's thought, North exited with a low trump. That was good play. Had North exited with a black card, declarer would have trumped low, cashed one high trump and exited with a diamond to leave the defence endplayed. Rees thought it through and came up with the winning play of putting in the eight of hearts. When that held, he drew trumps

and conceded a diamond. This was ten tricks and 8 IMPs to Wales.

The medal winners were:

Gold: WALES - M Tedd; J Salisbury; P Jourdain; T Ratcliff; G Jones; T Rees

Silver: ENGLAND - B Green; J Holland; P King; C Small

Bronze: INDIA - HK Jalan; A Malhotra; K Bendre; K Nandi; S Datta; S Thakral

The President's Trophy was won by one of the at-large teams, the Chairman's Team, comprising Paul Hackett/David Mossop; Justin Hackett/Jason Hackett; David Bakhshi/Andrew McIntosh, who defeated Wales in the final.



My bridge club is lucky enough to have as one of its regulars Nevena Senior, originally from Bulgaria and now a mainstay on the English Women's Team that has done so well for many years. Watch her make six spades on the following deal after receiving the ten of diamonds lead.

Matchpointed Pairs. Dealer North. Neither Vul.

♠ 10 5 3
♥ A J 9
♦ A K 3
♣ A Q 6 4

♠ 7 4 2
♥ K 10 6 4
♦ 10 9 7 6
♣ 10 2

♠ 6
♥ 8 7 5 3 2
♦ Q 8 5 4
♣ K J 7

♠ A K Q J 9 8
♥ Q
♦ J 2
♣ 9 8 5 3

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

- 18-19 balanced HCP in the modern style. (A one notrump rebid would have been 15-17 and three notrump would have been a good hand based on clubs, with potential stops in the unbid suits.)
- Should have good chances given the fabulous spade quality and "6-4, bid one more" shape.

Declarer won the opening lead with dummy's king of diamonds, crossed to a top spade and led the queen of hearts. I'm guessing she'd have risen with the ace,

and then relied on the clubs – if West had played low smoothly. Understandably, West covered the queen with the king.

Winning with dummy's ace of hearts, declarer cashed the jack, throwing a club, and ruffed the nine. She cashed a second high trump (East discarding), then crossed to the ace of diamonds and ruffed the third diamond. Here is the ending with South (the declarer) on lead:

♠ 10
♥ —
♦ —
♣ A Q 6 4

♠ 7
♥ 10
♦ 9
♣ 10 2

♠ —
♥ 8
♦ Q
♣ K J 7

♠ K 9
♥ —
♦ —

♣ 9 8 5

Declarer led and passed the eight of clubs (if West had played the ten, declarer would have covered with dummy's queen to bring about the analogous endplay). East won with the jack but was stuck. A second club would have promoted declarer's nine, whilst a red card would have enabled declarer to throw a club from hand and ruff in dummy. That resulted in twelve tricks and slam made, via a lovely partial elimination and throw-in (partial in the sense that West still held a trump, which didn't matter as it was East who was about to be endplayed).

Six spades can also be made on the seemingly fatal ten of clubs lead. Trick one goes ten of clubs, queen, king, three. Declarer wins East's safe spade return. After cashing a second top trump, she leads the queen of hearts, covered by king and ace. She cashes the jack of hearts and ace of clubs, then runs all of her spades.

West must keep the ten of hearts (to prevent dummy's nine from promoting); East must keep the jack of clubs (to prevent declarer's nine from promoting). Thus neither defender can keep three diamonds, and the last three tricks will be won by dummy's ace-king-three of diamonds. A classic simultaneous double squeeze.

ALERT !!

To find out how to access OurGame to watch online VuGraph during the World Championships in Sanya, there are instructions provided by Bridgewinners at (copy and paste; this is not a link):

<http://bridgewinners.com/article/view/guide-login-vugraph-on-ourgame-during-sanya/>