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Message from the President

Jeremy Dhondy, our highly-efficient Membership Secretary, having completed the bulk of recording membership dues received for 2015, has resigned from the post with effect from the end of March. The IBPA is particularly grateful to Jeremy for combining his IBPA role with his ongoing responsibilities as Chairman of the English Bridge Union.

We are seeking someone to take over the role of Membership Secretary. This is appointed by your Executive. Meanwhile, our Secretary, Herman De Wael, has very kindly agreed to fill any gap pending an appointment.

The duties of the Membership Secretary are to:

- collect and register members' subscriptions and/or payments for additional services, such as a printed copy of the Bulletin and personal details such as land address, email address, and membership category
- keep the Membership File containing these details up to date and ensure that members have access to their own record on this file
- produce (a) the annual call in the Bulletin for dues to be paid, and (b) an initial reminder to members who are late paying their dues
- provide lists of members in good standing and ditto lapsed to the President and the Press Room Manager prior to European and World Championships
- keep the Treasurer informed of monies received
- design and distribute the membership form
- prepare a written report to be submitted to the AGM containing:
 - (a) the membership figures for each category of membership at the time of reporting
 - (b) comparative figures at the time of the previous AGM
 - (c) a list of new members and their country, and
 - (d) any report he has received of deceased members.

This report must be sent to the President and Secretary no later than two weeks prior to the AGM.

Skills required of the Membership Secretary are:

- facility with computers and the Internet
- the ability to produce the required reports
- the human relations abilities to keep members paid-up and encourage them to notify IBPA of changes to their personal details.

We have around 300 members to deal with each year. There is currently an annual honorarium of US\$500 to cover expenses incurred.

Patrick Jourdain, IBPA President

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20th NEC CUP

Rich Colker, Wheaton, MD
Barry Rigal, NYC

(With a small assist from John Carruthers, Kingsville, ON)

Representatives from the national teams of twelve countries were scattered throughout the field for the twentieth NEC Cup. Co-favourites were the transnational teams of Russia/Netherlands, England/Netherlands and Hackett (all England, but one each formerly of Sweden and Northern Ireland), all stacked with world champions and current internationals. Sweden, Hinden, Australia, Down Under and ZhiHaoLe were also considered to be in with a chance. Everyone else was a long shot.

Swiss Match 1

The rigours of producing a real-time daily bulletin occasionally lead to some hasty and/or incomplete analyses. At least that's our story...

A bit more than half the field (24 pairs out of 46) played in a small slam on the following deal, either six spades or six diamonds, with 20 of the 24 going down due to the bad splits in both pointed suits.

Board 8. Dealer West. Neither Vul.

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

Against six spades, most declarers received a heart lead and subsequently played spades correctly by cashing the ace-queen in order to finesse North for the jack in case he had started with jack-fourth. We glossed over the play after a club start, simply saying: "After a club lead declarer has 12 tricks." Well, he does, but the fact remains that he is still obligated to take them. We assumed (subject to the old adage that, "When you ass-u-me, you make an ass out of u and me.") that dummy's heart would then be pitched on the third club and declarer would now simply set up

the diamonds for heart pitches. Enter GopalVenkatesh, who stopped by the Secretariat yesterday morning to point out the error of our ways and a fact that had totally escaped us. First, let's deal with the error in our initial analysis.

Recall that the play has gone: club lead won in the West hand, ace of spades, queen of spades, two more clubs, pitching West's losing heart, ace of diamonds, diamond. Several defences work here. Say South ruffs, then exits with a heart. West can ruff but now cannot both draw trumps and get back to run the good diamonds. In fact, there's no line of play that works after West cashes both of his top spades. So the idea of picking up North's trumps when he holds jack-fourth is an illusion—unless the diamonds split three-two.

Can the contract be made if both pointed suits split four-one? Indeed it can, and this is the fact that Gopal explained that had totally escaped us. After a non-heart lead, declarer must cash one high spade in the West hand and then lead low to...the king. Now come two more rounds of clubs, pitching West's losing heart, followed by the ace and a second diamond. South cannot ruff to advantage (if he does, West wins his return, crosses to his remaining trump honour, drawing South's last trump, and runs the now-good diamonds), so South pitches. West wins a top diamond and ruffs a diamond (setting up the suit). What can South do? If he overruffs, West wins his return and finishes as above. If South pitches, West crosses to the other high trump in his hand and begins running diamonds. South can ruff in with his last trump whenever he wants, but the West hand remains with a trump and good diamonds.

Swiss Match 4. Hackett v. Russia/Netherlands

Board 23. Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Dubin	Holland	Gromov	Hallberg
—	—	—	1♦
2♥	2♠	Pass	3♣
Pass	3NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

West	North	East	South
Hackett	Drijver	Senior	Brink
—	—	—	1♦
2♥	2♠	Pass	3♣
Pass	3NT	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♥	Pass	5♣
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Brink avoided the spade lead against five clubs when West led a heart, but he had to take two top hearts at once to pitch the spade loser. When he led the ten of clubs, it was covered by the queen and king and ducked by West. Declarer unblocked diamonds and played a second trump, whereupon Hackett won to play a third trump, leaving declarer with two slow diamond losers for down one.

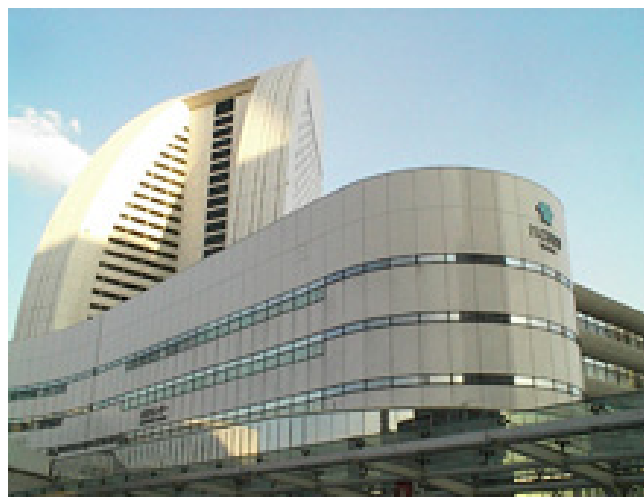
Three notrump looked a more comfortable spot, given the lie of the clubs, but West was going to be able to duck his ace of clubs twice and leave declarer with no entries to dummy. As it was, though, Holland ducked the heart lead and a shift to a spade to the ten and jack for a diamond through left Holland without any tricks at all. He elected to win with the queen of diamonds, take the top hearts, then lead a club to the king. The roof fell in. The defence had the whole heart suit to run plus two tricks in each black suit, and that meant plus 400 for RUS/NED and 7 IMPs.

Just for the record, if declarer wins the heart lead and advances the ten of clubs, East must not cover. If the defenders duck the first two clubs declarer cannot quite do it. However, if East covers the first club declarer wins with the king, crosses back to the eight, cashes his remaining heart winner, then overtakes the queen of diamonds in this mid-game position:

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

Take a moment to plan the double-dummy implications of this position with the lead in North and declarer needing five more tricks. Ready? Go.

Declarer overtakes the queen of diamonds and leads the eight of spades from dummy—under which he must follow with the four. If East wins and plays the ace and another spade, North wins and gets out with the two of spades to endplay East twice to give dummy three diamond tricks. Routine, of course. I'm sure that



Pacifico Yokohama (foreground, the venue) and the Yokohama Grand Intercontinental Hotel (background, the host hotel)

was exactly how no fewer than half the field made three notrump here; something of a shocking statistic, I'd say.

Swiss Match 5. Sweden v. BlueLights

Board 13. Dealer North. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Iemori</i>	<i>Fredin</i>	<i>Toriumi</i>	<i>Gottlieb</i>
—	Pass	Pass	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♣ ¹	Pass
4♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. Drury

West	North	East	South
<i>Andersson</i>	<i>Kobayashi</i>	<i>Probert</i>	<i>Tsukamoto</i>
—	Pass	1♦ ¹	Pass
1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♦ ²	Pass	2♠	Pass
4♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. 2+ diamonds; 11-15 HCP

2. Game-forcing relay

In both rooms, North led his singleton diamond against four spades. Both Souths won and returned a diamond that was consistent with North's having led from a four-card suit. West rose with the king of diamonds and North ruffed, then played back a heart. Declarer won in dummy to finesse a trump.

Where Andersson was declarer, the trump went to the eight, jack and four. It looked natural to cash two hearts to pitch the diamond loser but Andersson realized that, as a passed hand, South had shown the ace-queen of diamonds and the king of spades, so it was safe to play a club at once. After the club ace had been surrendered to North, he could pitch the diamonds from his hand on the clubs and draw all the remaining trumps without inconvenience.

Where Iemori was declarer, the first trump went to the eight, jack and North's ten. (A good try by Fredin, but the fact that the missing spot was the four might have persuaded her that this was a falsecard.) Declarer cashed the hearts to pitch the diamond from dummy, ruffed a diamond in dummy and led a top club. Fredin pounced on this and fired back his last trump, locking declarer in hand to lose a diamond at trick 13. Nicely defended; 12 IMPs to Sweden.

Swiss Match 6. Hackett v. Japan Senior

(Hats Off to Hackett; Jason, That Is)

Board 29. Dealer North. Both Vul.

♠ Q 8 5 4
♥ —
♦ Q 6 5 3 2
♣ A 9 8 2

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

♠ 10
♥ Q 10 9 6 3 2
♦ J 10
♣ Q J 10 4

West	North	East	South
Hackett	Nakamura	Senior	Ino
—	Pass	Pass	2♦ ¹
2NT	Pass	3NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. Multi: weak in either major

Jason Hackett as West played in three notrump here after a Multi Two Diamonds. One can hardly blame Nakamura for failing to lead a heart and, while the logic of leading a diamond is obvious, Nakamura decided, from the lack of a Stayman enquiry, to try a major. He led a low spade.

Hackett guessed extremely well at trick one to put up the jack. Declarer now led a low heart from the dummy. Ino alertly put in the nine, so declarer won with the ace, then led a club to the king and a club back. South won the second club trick and shifted to the jack of diamonds.

Hackett won with his ace and led a club, catching the defenders in a very unusual, but telling, end-position:

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

If North played low on the third club, then he would be known to be winning the fourth club. So declarer would strip off the king of hearts and throw North in with the third diamond to cash his minor-suit winners, but be forced to lead a spade into the split tenace at trick 12. On the other hand, if North flew with the ace of clubs here, then South would be sure to win the fourth club. Declarer could then cash his spade winners, remove South's exit in diamonds and run the eight of hearts, letting South win and cash his master club, but then be forced to lead a heart into that tenace at trick 12.

Swiss Match 10. Australia v. Down Under

Board 21. Dealer North. NS Vul.

♠ Q 5 4
♥ K Q 6
♦ A K 5
♣ Q 8 6 2

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

♠ A J 9 7 6 2
♥ 8
♦ 2
♣ K 10 9 7 5

West	North	East	South
Reid	Ware	Newell	Wilkinson
—	1NT	Pass	2♥ ¹
Pass	2♠	Pass	2NT ²
Pass	3♥ ³	Pass	4♦ ⁴
Pass	4♥ ⁵	Pass	5♣
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. Transfer to spades
2. Transfer to clubs
3. Loves clubs
4. Key-card ask
5. 1 or 4 key cards

West	North	East	South
Kanetkar	Hans	Brown	Gill
—	1NT	Pass	2♥ ¹
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♦	Pass	4♥
Double	4♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

1. Transfer to spades

Both tables sniffed at slam. Ware/Wilkinson climbed to five clubs (we think on a Redwood ace-asking auction with clubs agreed) before bailing out. Meanwhile, Hans/Gill were able to subside in four spades. Neither contract is safe. If the defence to four spades can negotiate one or two club ruffs and cash a heart before letting North/South in, it will be down one or two. Similarly, if the defence to five clubs cashes a heart before giving up the lead, there will be three inescapable losers (one spade, one heart, and one club), plus the jack of clubs must be located to hold it to that much.

Reid led the ace of hearts against five clubs and Wilkinson guessed clubs to hold his losses to down one; minus 100.

Hans received the ten of hearts lead against his four-spade contract. Kanetkar won with the ace and switched to a diamond. Hans won, cashed his other top diamonds and hearts, pitching three clubs from dummy, then took out insurance by refusing the trump finesse and playing the ace and another spade. Now all that was left was to knock out the ace of clubs and claim plus 420. Nicely done. Twelve IMPs to Down Under.

Board 22. Dealer East. EW Vul.

♠ 9 6 5
 ♥ K 8 2
 ♦ Q 8
 ♣ K 10 8 4 3

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

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

West	North	East	South
Reid	Ware	Newell	Wilkinson
—	—	1♦ ¹	1♠
Double	2♠	Pass	Pass
Double	Pass	Pass	Pass
1. Hearts; 9-13 HCP			

West	North	East	South
Kanetkar	Hans	Brown	Gill
—	—	Pass	2♠
3NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

Ware/Wilkinson stepped in it with quite sketchy values and came up smelling, if not of roses, at least not of manure. Reid led the king of spades against two spades doubled and Wilkinson won to play on diamonds. Reid hopped up with the king, switched to a club to Newell's ace, secured a club ruff, then tried a low heart. Wilkinson rose king and got out with the queen of diamonds, but Reid won, cashed two more trumps, then played the ace and jack of hearts. Wilkinson ruffed the third heart and got out with a diamond to Newell's jack. Back came

a club, allowing Reid to score his other low trump while Wilkinson pitched his remaining diamond loser. When the smoke had cleared the defence had eight tricks for down three, minus 500. 'Tis merely a flesh wound.'

Gill and Hans might have suffered the same fate as Ware/Wilkinson, but Kanetkar chose to follow another tack and simply bid what he thought he could make: three notrump. And he was right. Hans got off to a club lead, ducked to the queen, and Gill switched to a diamond. Kanetkar won with the ace, tabled the jack of hearts, which held, then continued with the ace and a third heart to the king. Hans now tried the nine of spades, ducked to the jack, and Kanetkar continued with the king of spades. Gill won and switched back to diamonds and now Kanetkar could duck to guarantee an entry to dummy's good hearts and claim nine tricks for plus 600. That was 3 IMPs to Australia.

In ZhiHaoLe v. Sacrum on the same board...

West	North	East	South
Wu	Li	Matsumoto	Fu
—	—	Pass	Pass
1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass
3♦	Pass	3NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Against three notrump, Fu Zhong started well by deceptively leading a fourth-highest diamond from his four low ones. Declarer, quite reasonably, ducked in dummy and Jerry Li won with his queen and returned the textbook ten of clubs, covered by the jack and queen. Seeing the danger in hearts, Fu played back a diamond to disrupt declarer's transportation. Declarer played the king of spades, ducked, then the ace and jack of hearts, ducked again, and a third heart. Li won and had reached this ending:

♠ 9 5
 ♥ —
 ♦ —
 ♣ K 8 4 3

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

♠ A 10 8 4
 ♥ —
 ♦ 7
 ♣ 5

The defence had taken a spade, a heart and a club. Li played a spade to his partner's ace for a third diamond; declarer could win in dummy and surrender a spade at the end, or win in hand and be left with a club loser.

The defence was basically forced from trick one. Declarer can succeed double-dummy by rising with the ace of clubs at trick two, and Fu could have won with the ace of spades at his first turn and played a club. But that is only because his partner, and not

declarer, had the eight of clubs, and the defence would have gone as it did had those cards been reversed. Fu's defence would have prevailed against either lie of the cards.

Swiss Match 12: Sara v. India

Board 17. Dealer North

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

West	North	East	South
Tanaka	Venkatesh	Niekawa	Anklesaria
—	1♣	Double	1♥
1♠	Pass	Pass	Double
Pass	1NT	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Both East/West pairs did their best to get into their opponents' auctions, but neither North/South pair was biting. If Teramoto had doubled two spades, the defence would have collected at least 300, but as it was, he ended up in a sensible spot, losing just the four top tricks in aces and kings. With three notrump very playable, would this be a small pickup or a small loss?

Niekawa led a top spade and worked out to shift to a heart. Had declarer played for 3-3 hearts he would have won in dummy to keep his entry to hand. Instead, Venkatesh won in hand and played the top clubs. Tanaka ducked twice and now declarer could have run hearts, but this would have squeezed his hand. So he played a third club. Tanaka won and shifted back to spades, letting Niekawa win and get out in hearts, locking declarer in dummy to lead diamonds for down one. Nicely defended. This was the only table where three notrump was defeated; half the field bid and made game.

Swiss Match 12. ZhiHaoLe v. Australia (JC)

There were extraordinary goings-on here:

Board 27. Dealer South. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Wilkinson	Sun	Ware	Zhao
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	1♠	2♦	Pass
3♦	Pass	3NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Ware took a deep breath and placed the three notrump card on the tray. No one had any more to say. When Zhao led a spade Ware was so excited that he claimed—nine tricks! That was plus 400 when plus 430 had been available to most.

West	North	East	South
Li	Kanetkar	Fu	Brown
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	1♠	2♦	Double
3♦	4♥	5♦	Double
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Terry Brown, with a big heart fit for partner, unsuspectingly led a spade: five, six, nine, ace. Fu shrewdly led the queen of diamonds, then the eight of spades. That ran to Kanetkar's jack and he returned...the four of clubs! Fu won with his ace, overtook the jack of diamonds with the ace and ruffed out the king of spades. The three of diamonds was worth its weight in gold now, providing the link to dummy's four for the established spade. Plus 550. Kanetkar had had to neutralize dummy's spade threat by leading a low one back while Brown still had a trump, perhaps after cashing the king of hearts.

That was 4 IMPs to ZHL. That hasty claim by Ware had cost his team an IMP, the differential of 120 being only 3 IMPs, but on the scoreboard, it was 150 for 4 IMPs. The final score in the match: ZhiHaoLe 26 - Australia 25.

NEC Cup Qualifying: Final Standings

Rank	Team	VPs
1	Hackett	169.52
2	Singapore	155.50
3	Sanden	154.13
4	Sara	148.98
5	England Hinden	147.51
6	Sweden	147.24
7	Russia/NED	145.01
8	England/NED	140.03
<hr/>		
9	ZhiHaoLe	139.42
10	Japan Senior	139.26
11	Australia	136.96
12	Down Under	136.02
13	YBM	135.19
14	India	132.48

QUARTERFINALS

For the quarterfinals, the team finishing first chose its opponent from among those finishing fourth through eighth, then second chose from the remainder, then third. The two unpicked teams then were drawn against each other. Each team in the Knockout rounds that finished ahead of its opponent in the Swiss would receive 0.5 VP carry-forward, ensuring no overtime.

Quarterfinal - Hackett v. Sara

Board 8. Dealer West. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Tanaka	Hallberg	Niekawa	Holland
3♦	3♥	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

West	North	East	South
Hackett	Teramoto	Senior	Sasahira
3♦	Pass	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Sasahira won the diamond lead and made the mistake of playing a spade to dummy, then a club to the ace to take a heart finesse. Back came a trump. Declarer won to ruff a diamond. Senior over-ruffed, cashed his last trump, then exited with a low heart. Declarer rejected

the club finesse and lost a club and a diamond at the end; down two.

The good news for Sara was that the hostile lie of the cards made the correct play in four spades very unclear. Holland won the diamond lead and immediately ruffed a diamond with the eight of spades, overruffed by the ten. Endplayed, Niekawa got out with a top spade and Holland followed Andrew Robson's bridge tip: "If they preempt and lead their suit they have a singleton trump." He won in dummy, finessed in spades, and had ten tricks when West showed out.

An alternative line might have been to take the club finesse and then play the ace of spades and the ace-king of clubs before endplaying East with a trump. You can then discard a diamond on the queen of clubs and wait for a heart lead into dummy's tenace. Indeed, on a club lead this was almost exactly what Bell did to come home with ten tricks for Hinden.

Quarterfinal - Hinden v. Singapore

(Second Thoughts Are Best)

Paul Barden of the UK wrote to the Editors pointing out an intriguing variation on the following deal where we had glossed over a key detail.

Board 14. Dealer East. Neither Vul.

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

For Team Hinden, Hydes (North) had played in two hearts, making plus 170, after a Precision one-diamond opening by East had silenced South. In the other room, four hearts was reached after the auction: one club-one diamond-three clubs-four hearts.

Osborne (East) led a club and that put him in with a chance to defeat the game. Declarer ducked the lead, though he could have won and played a diamond to dummy, then gone after hearts (in which case the defenders must rise with ace of diamonds and take the diamond ruff to defeat four hearts).

At trick two, the defenders, again eschewing the diamond ruff to set the game, shifted to a spade, which rode around to the queen. One can hardly blame West for shifting to a spade, since partner might have had the king and not the ace (though, in that case, declarer might have won the first club). Be that as it may, declarer now

drew trump in three rounds and played on diamonds. Osborne ducked twice and now declarer ducked a spade, but East now cashed out for down one.

Let's go back to the ending when both opponents followed three times in hearts. Once West is known to hold three trumps, and since East may not hold five spades for the one-club opening, West's shape is almost surely 3=3=1=6. When declarer cashes two more trumps, this is the position as North leads the last one:

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

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

On the last heart from North, a diamond or spade discard by East would have been fatal, so he discards a club. Declarer now leads a diamond to dummy, a club to the ace, and plays a second diamond. If East wins, he can do no more than cash a spade. If East ducks, he is thrown in with the third diamond to lead spades into the tenace. Well played.

Quarterfinal - Sweden v. Russia/Netherlands

Sweden entered the second half of their semifinal match against Russia with a fragile 11-IMP lead, 35-24.

Board 31. Dealer South. NS Vul.

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

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

West	North	East	South
Andersson	Gromov	Probert	Dubiniv
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	1♦	Pass	INT
Pass	Pass	Pass	
West	North	East	South
Brink	Fredin	Drijver	Gottlieb
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	1♣	Pass	INT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Each North player opened the minor dictated by his system (but with Peter Fredin and Andrey Gromov in the North seats, who knows?) and passed partner's one-notrump response. Spotlight on Messrs. Gottlieb and Dubinin—now, “the play's (really) the thing.”

Andersson led a spade to the king and ace, and back came a spade. Dubinin won in dummy to try a low diamond. Probert rose with the ace, cashed his third spade, got a higher-suit shift signal, and dutifully tabled a heart, Andersson's jack holding. West cashed his spade winners and got out with the jack of clubs. Dubinin won with dummy's king, cashed two diamonds, and when Probert released all of his clubs, claimed the last three tricks with the ace-ten of clubs in hand (only the queen remained out) and the ace of hearts in dummy; plus 90.

At the other table, the first two tricks were the same. Gottlieb, declarer, cashed the king of clubs (jack from Brink), then led a low diamond, ducked to his king. Next came the queen of diamonds to the ace, the ten of spades, then a low heart to the jack and ace. Gottlieb now cashed the jack of diamonds, leaving Brink with two good spades, the king of hearts, the last diamond, and the queen of clubs. So it was all or nothing. If Gottlieb got the clubs right he would add two club tricks to the five he already had. If he got it wrong, Brink would claim. No pressure, this might only mean the match. He called for a low club and the eight appeared on his right. He inserted...the ten: “A-r-r-r-g-g-g-h.” Down two, minus 200, and 7 IMPs to Russia.

Quarterfinal Results

Team	C/O	1-16	17-32	Final
Hackett	0.5	41	53	94
Sara		14	3	17
Singapore	0.5	38	24	62
Hinden		30	35	65
Sanden	0.5	16	29	45
ENG/NED		51	38	89
Sweden	0.5	35	34	69
RUS/NED		24	50	74

SEMIFINALS

Semifinals - Hackett v. England Hinden & ENG/NED v. RUS/NED

Two of the quarterfinal matches were close and two were not. Hackett continued its winning ways from the Swiss by demolishing Sara. The England/

Netherlands team, after squeaking into the eighth qualifying position on the last board of the last qualifying match, thumped Sanden. Russia/Netherlands and England Hinden narrowly beat Sweden and Singapore respectively.

Board 3. Dealer South. EW Vul.

♠ K Q 4
 ♥ K
 ♦ A Q 10 8 4
 ♣ A K 8 2

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

♠ J 9 8 2
♥ A 9 8 5
♦ 5 3 2
♣ 7 6

West	North	East	South
Hinden	Senior	Osborne	Hackett
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦
Pass	2♥ ¹	Pass	2♠ ²
Pass	2NT ³	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♦	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. Hearts or balanced
2. 20-22 allegedly-balanced

West	North	East	South
Hallberg	Hydes	Holland	Bell
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	1♦	Pass	1♥
Pass	3♣	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Whether you like the way Senior handled his hand depends on whether North/South belong in a minor or in three notrump. Today, obfuscation rather than accurate bidding was the order of the day. Senior got the queen-of-hearts lead and won with the king to play the king of spades. East shifted to a diamond upon winning with the ace of spades, so Senior came to ten tricks. With the fall of the nine of diamonds, it is hard to see a way to stop declarer coming to nine winners.

In the other room, Hallberg's low heart lead from West gave the defenders a chance. Holland ducked the king of spades but won the next spade to continue the attack on hearts. Bell ducked the first of these and now a club shift was necessary. But Holland led another heart, so Bell won and drove out the diamond honours to hold his loss to an IMP.

Nine tricks always look there for the taking. In the other match, that was the case for Krasnoselski as Gold won an early spade to give declarer an entry to dummy. However, in the other room, van Prooijen won the heart lead, played the king and queen of spades,

both ducked, then opted for deception over the probability table by advancing the eight of diamonds.

This is a play that might, I suppose, have been right on a different day, but certainly wasn't the correct move today. From his perspective he was trying to drop the doubleton king of diamonds, and was focussing on the 3-2 breaks and not specific 4-1 breaks. West won with the nine of diamonds and shifted to clubs to set up the defenders' fifth winner before declarer had nine.

Board 9. Dealer North. EW Vul.

♠ 7 6 5 2
 ♥ Q J 5
 ♦ Q 10 4
 ♣ Q 6 2

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

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

West	North	East	South
------	-------	------	-------

Bakhshi Krasnoselski Gold Gladys

—	Pass	Pass	1♦
2♦	Pass	4♥	5♣
5♥	Pass	Pass	5NT
Pass	6♣	Double	Pass
Pass	6♦	Pass	Pass
Double	Pass	Pass	Pass

West	North	East	South
------	-------	------	-------

Brink van Prooijen Drijver Verhees

—	Pass	Pass	1♦
2♦	Pass	4♦	4NT
5♦	6♦	Double	Pass
Pass	Pass		

West	North	East	South
------	-------	------	-------

Hinden Senior Osborne Hackett

—	Pass	Pass	2♣
3♠	Pass	4♠	4NT
Pass	5♠	Pass	5NT
Pass	6♦	Pass	Pass
Pass			

West	North	East	South
------	-------	------	-------

Hallberg Hydes Holland Bell

—	Pass	Pass	2♣
3♠	Pass	4♠	4NT
5♠	5NT	Pass	6♣
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Where to begin? Never have the commentators' flabbers been so gasted as by the fact that both Souths in the Hackett/Hinden match opened with two clubs.

Continued on page 12 ...



IBPA Column Service

Tim Bourke, Canberra

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749. Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

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

This deal cropped up in a teams match and the auction was the same at both tables, as was the lead: both West players started with the king of spades.

The first declarer ruffed the opening lead, then cashed the ace and king of trumps, followed by the ace and king of hearts. Next he led a heart from hand and ruffed it in dummy. Alas, East overruffed and this declarer still had to lose a diamond and a heart, finishing down one.

The second declarer was a little more circumspect. He counted nine top tricks and, if the hearts were 3-3, eleven tricks would be certain. Accordingly, he turned his mind to what he could do if hearts were 4-2. So, after ruffing the opening lead, declarer cashed the ace of trumps and then played ace, king and another heart. When West followed to the third round of hearts, instead of ruffing, declarer threw a low diamond from dummy. After winning a surprise heart trick with the seven, West shifted to a diamond. Declarer rose with the ace, returned to hand with a trump and led a fourth round of hearts, on which he discarded dummy's last diamond.

Declarer ruffed the spade continuation then ruffed his remaining diamond in dummy with the ten of trumps. After crossing back to hand with another spade ruff, declarer drew East's last trump and claimed:

he had three hearts, a diamond, a diamond ruff and six trumps for a total of eleven tricks.

750. Dealer North. Both Vul.

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

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

After a forcing rebid of three hearts, promising a six-card suit, and some control-bidding, South, rather optimistically, leapt to a small slam in his long suit.

West led the ten of clubs and, after dummy was tabled, declarer saw that his prospects were rather bleak. As the auction was not a thing worth lamenting, after winning the first trick with the queen of clubs, declarer ran the queen of trumps. When that held and East followed, declarer saw that all would be well if West's trump king was now bare. So he asked himself, "What could be done if West started with king-third of trumps?"

In that case, his only hope was that West had also started with the king of diamonds and could be stripped of his black-suit cards. Accordingly, declarer crossed to dummy with the ace of spades then ruffed a spade. A trump to the ace brought the bad news that West did indeed have a trump trick. Continuing with his plan, declarer ruffed the third spade before cashing the ace-king of clubs and finally exiting with a trump to West's king. As West had started with 3=3=4=3 shape, he had to exit with a diamond and declarer's queen of diamonds proved to be his twelfth

trick. For once, dummy was pleased. "Well done," he exclaimed, rather unexpectedly.

751. Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
—	—	—	2NT
Pass	3♦	Pass	3♥
Pass	4♥	Pass	6♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

As North/South were using a four-diamond response to two notrump as a transfer to four hearts, this sequence suggested that North had a mild interest in a heart slam.

As he held an ace and a king, West deduced that it was almost pointless to lead his singleton and so started with a low trump. Declarer took this in hand with the eight and led the king of clubs. West covered the king with the ace and declarer, instead of ruffing, threw a diamond from dummy.

West exited with a trump, which declarer took in dummy. After crossing to hand with the ace of diamonds to park dummy's two remaining diamonds on the queen and jack of clubs, declarer ruffed a diamond in dummy. Next, he crossed back to hand with the ace of trumps, thereby drawing West's last trump, to ruff a second diamond in dummy. This set up two diamond winners in hand and declarer had the ace of spades as an entry to enjoy them. He made one spade, six trumps, three diamonds and two clubs for a total of twelve tricks.

752. Dealer East. NS Vul.

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

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

North's cue-bid of two hearts promised a sound raise in spades and so the game in spades was reached.

West led the nine of hearts. East took dummy's ten with the jack and, seeing little future in a heart continuation, shifted to the two of diamonds. Declarer rose with the ace of diamonds and, expecting the king of clubs to be on his right, adopted a plan that would avoid his playing on clubs directly. First, declarer crossed to dummy by playing the jack of trumps and overtaking it with the queen. Then he led the queen of hearts from the table and when East played the king of hearts, South threw the jack of diamonds from his hand.

Declarer ruffed the queen of diamonds continuation high then led his two of spades to dummy's four to ruff another heart. Finally he crossed back to dummy for a third time with the king of trumps to lead dummy's last heart. East covered it with the eight and declarer threw a club from hand. East now had the option of leading into dummy's club tenace or conceding a ruff-and-discard if he led a red suit. Either way declarer had ten tricks.



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Doubtless they were worried that it would be passed out in one diamond, given the balanced natures of their hands. Both players then had the joy of describing their hand as an equal two-suiter, but Hackett offered his partner the choice, while Bell picked clubs when offered the choice (he thought his partner might have hearts and clubs). The ten of diamonds pushed Senior in the right direction. Of course, six clubs isn't much worse than six diamonds and, if trumps are 5-0, surely West can double. Not today, apparently, since Hinden didn't double and Osborne tried to cash the ace of spades instead of leading a club. Since six clubs went four down, doomed by the 5-0 break, that was 15 IMPs for Hackett.

In our other match both tables played in six diamonds doubled from the South seat and both Wests tried to put partner in for the club ruff. Bakhshi led the nine of spades, Brink a low heart. That was 15 well-earned IMPs for Russia, almost enough to wipe the taste of the auction in the other match from our mouths.

There was more carnage to come.

Board 11. Dealer South. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Hinden	Senior	Osborne	Hackett
—	—	—	3♣
3♦	4♣	5♥	Pass
6♥	Pass	Pass	Pass
West	North	East	South
Hallberg	Hydes	Holland	Bell
—	—	—	4♣
4♦	5♣	6♥	Pass
Pass	Double	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Where's that Lightner double on Board 9, you might ask. Alas, for Team Hinden it had wandered over to Board 11, at least that is what Mike Bell thought (and who can blame him?). When he led a diamond it let declarer win and pitch his club, and now with spades 3-3, all roads led to plus 1210.

Since the mundane defence of cashing the king of clubs set six hearts a trick, 15 more IMPs flowed into the Hackett coffers; the score was 68-0 after the first 11 boards. Both tables in the England versus Russia match played in the heart game for plus 450. The score there was 31-6 Russia.

Hinden withdrew at the half, down 73 IMPs. England/Netherlands played on, down 'only' 38.

Board 22. Dealer East. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Verhees	Gromov	van Prooijen	Dubiniv
—	—	2♥ ¹	Pass
2NT ²	Pass	3♣ ³	Pass
3♦ ⁴	Pass	3♠ ⁵	Double
5♦	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. 5 + hearts and 4+ clubs, 10-15 HCP
2. Relay: invitational in hearts or any GF
3. Any shortage
4. Where?
5. Singleton spade

West	North	East	South
Brink	Gold	Drijver	Bakhshi
—	—	1♥	3♠
3NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

Van Prooijen showed hearts and clubs, then spade shortage, and Verhees knew to play in five diamonds rather than in three notrump. After a diamond lead, the heart spots were good enough that declarer could ruff one spade in dummy, draw trumps, then simply take a heart finesse to lose just a spade and a heart.

In the other room, Bakhshi's scary preempt endplayed Brink into a three-notrump bid. After a spade lead to the queen and king, ducked, Bakhshi continued with the two of spades. Now Brink took some time. If he ducked the second spade, pitching a diamond from dummy, the defenders would have to shift to clubs to trouble him. (Otherwise he could win the third spade and play ace and another heart with sufficient entries to dummy.) Eventually he rose with the ace of spades, cashed diamonds, then passed the nine of hearts to go two down. I didn't ask him, but perhaps his line of play was based on the utility of the overtricks here

and the slimness of the chance of finding the king of hearts singleton offside. Whatever the case, England gained 13 IMPs.

Russia/Netherlands (Gromov/Dubinina, Gladyshev/Krasnoselski, Brink/Drijver) had been going for an NEC three-peat. They led 46-8 at the half. This was a done deal, right? Wrong! Team England/Netherlands (Bakhshi/Gold, van Prooijen/Verhees) staged a comeback for the ages, outscoring Russia 59-8 in the second half for the right to meet top qualifier Hackett (Hackett/Senior, Holland/Hallberg) in the final.

Team Hackett has been cutting through this year's NEC Cup field like a warm knife through butter. They qualified first in the Swiss more than 14 VP ahead of second, they won their quarter-final match by a score of 94-17, and as if that weren't enough they beat up on their semi-final opponents to the tune of 78-5 (in 16 boards!), provoking a withdrawal.

Semifinal Results

Team	C/O	1-16	17-32	Final
Hackett	0.5	78	—	78
Hinden		5	W/D	5
RUS/NED	0.5	46	8	54
ENG/NED		8	59	67

THE FINAL

Hackett v. England/Netherlands

Board 4. Dealer West. Both Vul.

♠ 8 7

♥ A J 7 4

♦ 8 7 4 3 2

♣ 10 9

♠ Q J 9 2

♥ 8 5

♦ A K 10 9 5

♣ J 6

♠ A 10

♥ Q 9 6 3 2

♦ Q J 6

♣ K 8 3

♠ K 6 5 4 3

♥ K 10

♦ —

♣ A Q 7 5 4 2

West	North	East	South
<i>Bakhshi</i>	<i>Hallberg</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Holland</i>
1♦	Pass	1♥	2♣
Pass	Pass	Double	2♠
Pass	3♣	3♦	Pass
Pass	Pass		
West	North	East	South
<i>Hackett</i>	<i>van Prooijen</i>	<i>Senior</i>	<i>Verhees</i>
1♦	Pass	1♥	2NT
Pass	3♣	Double	Pass
3♦	Pass	3NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Where David Gold held the East cards his combination of doubling then bidding three diamonds showed better than an invitation in that suit. Bakhshi wasn't interested in bidding on, but he found that even three diamonds was too challenging to make against the lie of the black suits and the five-zero trump break. There were two hearts, two clubs and an inevitable spade to lose.

Meanwhile, against three notrump, Verhees led a low club and the jack scored as van Prooijen gave count. Senior led a low spade to the ten and, if Verhees had ducked, he would surely have defeated the game (as the cards lie) since declarer had no legitimate route to a ninth winner without giving up a spade, which would have let North pitch a discouraging diamond or an encouraging heart. Verhees took the king of spades and exited with a spade. This would only be wrong if East had all the soft red-suit honours and no ace of hearts. Step forward with that precise hand, Mr. Senior. Declarer now had nine winners and took no time at all to cash them; 12 IMPs to Hackett, leading 14-6.

After the first quarter, Hackett led 36-13. England/Netherlands dominated the second quarter 42-12 to take a 7-IMP lead, 55-48, into the second half of the match.

Board 38. Dealer East. EW Vul.

♠ J 10 4

♥ J 8 4

♦ 10 8 4 2

♣ 9 5 2

♠ K Q 8 7 2

♥ —

♦ Q 7 6

♣ K J 10 7 6

♠ 9 5 3

♥ K Q 7 6 2

♦ A 5

♣ Q 8 3

♠ A 6

♥ A 10 9 5 3

♦ K J 9 3

♣ A 4

West	North	East	South
<i>Verhees</i>	<i>Hallberg</i>	<i>van Prooijen</i>	<i>Holland</i>
—	—	Pass	1♥
2♥ ¹	Pass	2♠	Double
Pass	3♥	Double	Pass
Pass	Pass		
1. Spades and clubs			

West	North	East	South
<i>Hackett</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Senior</i>	<i>Bakhshi</i>
—	—	Pass	1♥
1♠	Pass	2♥	Pass
4♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

Holland played the inelegant three hearts doubled on the king of spades lead.

Declarer won the king of spades with the ace and returned the suit. West won with the queen of spades

and shifted to a diamond for the ace and a diamond return. Holland finessed the jack and lost the diamond ruff. He won the club return with his ace to exit in clubs, then ruffed the third club.

Declarer led the three of hearts to the eight and queen, the defenders' sixth trick, and East faced this position:

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

East led his spade. This allowed South to pitch his diamond and win in dummy, then lead the jack of hearts, holding the trick, then any card to pick up East's trumps. Alternatively, East could have led a trump and conceded at once. Nicely done by declarer.

Four spades is not laydown by any means, but is probably where you want to play, since it needs little more than the ace of spades being where you expect it to be. It was easy enough to make today, losing a trick each in spades, clubs and diamonds. So Hackett had 8 IMPs to lead 65-58.

Hackett won a closely-fought battle in the third stanza, 34-25, to lead in the match, 82-80.

Board 60. Dealer West. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Hackett</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Senior</i>	<i>Bakhshi</i>
Pass	2♠	2NT	4♠
Double	Pass	Pass	Pass
West	North	East	South
<i>Verhees</i>	<i>Hallberg</i>	<i>van Prooijen</i>	<i>Holland</i>
Pass	2♠	Double	4♠
4NT	Pass	5♣	Pass
Pass	Pass		

I'm not sure how East/West could ever find their way to slam in the Closed Room; they were never reaching one in the Open Room after Senior's entirely reasonable two-notrump bid suggested spade values to Hackett. Mind you, plus 800 was an entirely acceptable alternative from West's perspective. Neither player in the Closed Room could commit beyond the five level and, since six clubs is rather worse than a finesse, that was entirely fine, in the abstract. Still, Hackett had 9 IMPs from the 800 by which four spades doubled failed (club lead, heart shift) against 420 from five clubs. It was 105-102 to Hackett now. Three boards to play.

Board 62. Dealer East. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Hackett</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Senior</i>	<i>Bakhshi</i>
—	—	INT ¹	Pass
2♠ ²	Pass	3♣ ³	Pass
4♣ ⁴	Pass	4♦	Pass
4♠	Double	Pass	Pass
6♣	Pass	Pass	Pass

West	North	East	South
<i>Verhees</i>	<i>Hallberg</i>	<i>van Prooijen</i>	<i>Holland</i>
—	—	INT ¹	Pass
2NT ²	Pass	3♣ ³	Pass
3NT ⁴	Pass	Pass	Pass

Hackett assumed (hoped?) that the spade loser might go on hearts or diamonds. A man can dream, can't he? Well, with trumps two-two, he was absolutely right in his faith; we will forgive him for missing the grand slam.

It was 120-102 Hackett now and there were just two boards to come. Rich Colker was writing the headlines,

the silversmith was designing the medals, but the England/Netherlands Alliance was not yet prepared to hear the fat lady sing.

Board 63. Dealer South. NS Vul.

♠ K 10 8
♥ K Q 10 7 5
♦ K 9
♣ K Q 8

♠ A 6 4 3
♥ J 4 3
♦ J 10 6 3
♣ 6 2

♠ Q 5
♥ A 9 6 2
♦ A 8 4 2
♣ J 7 5

♠ J 9 7 2
♥ 8
♦ Q 7 5
♣ A 10 9 4 3

West	North	East	South
Hackett	Gold	Senior	Bakhshi
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	INT	Pass	2♣ ¹
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♠ ²
Pass	3♥	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. Puppet to 2♦, description to come
2. Invitation in spades

West	North	East	South
Verhees	Hallberg	van Prooijen	Holland
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	INT	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♥	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Real men apparently neither eat quiche nor pass notrump openers with seven-counts. Holland tried to invite showing four spades but it would appear that Hallberg expected five, given his raise. Against three spades, the defenders led and continued clubs at every turn after declarer finessed a spade to East. They took two trumps, two diamonds, a heart and a ruff for down 200.

Three notrump received a diamond lead from Senior—and can you blame him? Gold won in hand and advanced the king of hearts, ducked, then led a diamond to the queen, then a spade. Hackett flew up with the ace and cashed out the diamonds, remaining on lead to play a heart through. Gold finessed the ten and claimed nine tricks a moment later. If we can take the name of a prominent Japanese player in vain: Tada!

It was 120-115 to Hackett. The fat lady had sat down, the silversmiths were searching for another piece of plate, Rich Colker had his finger jammed on the Delete key and the crowd was going wild.

Board 64. Dealer West. EW Vul.

♠ A K Q J
♥ Q 9 7 5 3 2
♦ 5 3
♣ 7

♠ 8
♥ 8
♦ A Q J 10 9 7 4 2
♣ A 10 5

♠ 9 6 4 3 2
♥ A 6 4
♦ —
♣ Q 9 8 3 2

♠ 10 7 5
♥ K J 10
♦ K 8 6
♣ K J 6 4

West	North	East	South
Hackett	Gold	Senior	Bakhshi
1♦	1♥	1♠	2♦
3♦	4♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			

West	North	East	South
Verhees	Hallberg	van Prooijen	Holland
5♦	Pass	Pass	Pass

Five diamonds was never going to make, but after a spade lead and club shift, ducked, declarer was home free with ten tricks.

So the fate of four hearts would determine first place and all the glory that this entailed. Senior led a club, Gold called for the jack, and Hackett won with the ace, then paused for reflection. The defence wasn't hard when looking at all four hands but, surprisingly, Hackett could not do that. If he exited with a spade, declarer would simply draw trumps and use the king of clubs to pitch one diamond loser. Hackett worked that out. He cashed the ace of diamonds, then thoughtfully played the two for Senior to ruff, to make sure Senior didn't play a spade and give up the setting trick. Even a player as tired as Brian wasn't going to lose the trump ace. Down one and 4 IMPs made it 124-115 for Hackett, and a first win for two of the team, Hallberg and Holland. Senior was a winner from a decade ago; Jason won with Papa in 1998 and 2000.

Results from the Final

Team	C/O	1-16	17-32	33-48	49-64	Final
Hackett	0.5	36	12	34	42	124
ENG/NED		13	42	25	35	115

The worthy champions, after a very close and entertaining match, were Jason Hackett, Brian Senior, John Holland and Gunnar Hallberg.



I'll bet no other country has experienced the results we have had in Australia in three successive teams' selection years (2012, 2013 and 2015 . . . 2014 was by pairs selection). In 2012, the 80-board final of the Open Team Playoff was between BROWN (Terry Brown/Avi Kanetkar, Robert Krochmalik/Paul Lavings, David Lilley/Zoli Nagy) and HARPER (Ross Harper /Michael Courtney, Stephen Burgess/Ishmael Del'Monte, Kieran Dyke/Peter Gill). With 16 boards to go, BROWN led 177-107. HARPER won the last set 74-5 to lose by 1 IMP, 181-182.

In 2013, the 80-board final of the Open Team Playoff was between BROWN (Terry Brown/George Bilski, Avi Kanetkar/Matthew Thomson, Robert Krochmalik/Paul Lavings) and BEAUCHAMP (Dave Beauchamp/Ian Thomson, Andy Braithwaite/Ian Robinson, Bill Jacobs/Ben Thompson). With 16 boards to go BEAUCHAMP led 140-128. BROWN won the last set 52-39 to win by 1 IMP, 180-179.

The final of the 2015 Open Team Play over 96 boards was between HANS (Sartaj Hans/Peter Gill, Paul Gosney/Matthew Thomson, Tony Nunn/Michael Whibley) and WILKINSON (Michael Wilkinson/Griff Ware, Michael Courtney/Paul Wyer, Nye Griffiths/Liam Milne). HANS started with a carry-forward of 16 IMPs by virtue of defeating WILKINSON in the qualifying stage. The scores for HANS over the first five sessions were 39-59, 31-34, 30-46, 18-39, 52-28. With 16 boards to go, WILKINSON led 206-186. During the last session the lead blew out to 40 IMPs at one stage. HANS won the last session by 47-28, but WILKINSON had won by 1 IMP, 234-233!

We are definitely in Ripley's Believe-It-Or-Not territory when in three years' running the Australian Open Team Playoff was decided by a single IMP.

Dealer East. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Clark		Wood	
—	—	1♠	Pass
2♦	Pass	2♥	Pass
3♣ ¹	Pass	3♦	Pass
4♦ ²	Pass	4♥ ³	Pass
6♦	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. Fourth-suit forcing to game
2. Key card ask in diamonds
3. 1 or 4 key cards

It never hurts to have luck on your side. This board was fortunate for some:

In the Women's final, Alida Clark/Viv Wood had the best auction. After receiving diamond support, Clark as West simply asked for key cards with diamonds as trumps. Wood showed one key card and Clark jumped to six diamonds. That was an excellent slam, almost a certainty, and needed no luck. At the other table Margaret Bourke/Sue Lusk missed the diamond fit and ended in six spades, needing a little luck.

In the Open final, after the same start, Whibley/Nunn also ended in six spades, plus 1430, while Griffiths/Milne had a mix-up as to the agreed trump suit. They ended in seven diamonds. Since the diamond king was onside, that was plus 2140, and a gain of 12 IMPs. Had the king of diamonds been offside, seven diamonds would have failed and HANS would have been the champions, whatever happened to six spades. That slam might still have been made via a trump coup.

I have since learned that in 2007 the score was 121-120, the first of the four 1-IMP margins. In 2009, the score was 176-102 (conceded) and in 2011, 177-172.



For the thirteenth time, many of the world's top players were in Moscow to honour the memory of the talented Russian player, Slava Grinyuk, who died an untimely death at 29. This year, Organizing Committee Chairman, Pavel Portnoy, secured the participation of the four players who top the World Bridge Federation's Open & Women's Ranking Lists. In the team tournament, a complete round robin qualified four teams to the semifinals. Running alongside this, the pairs tournament, Top 42, included players who had been invited and/or who had qualified to compete.

Here are a few deals from the teams tournament.

Vitas v. Poland Round I

Board 3. Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Gawrys	Schwartz	Tuszynski	Fisher
—	—	—	1♦
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♥
Pass	3♦ ¹	Pass	3♥ ²
Pass	3♠ ²	Pass	4♣ ²
Pass	4NT ³	Pass	5♠ ⁴
Pass	6♦	Pass	Pass

1. Forcing
2. Control bids
3. Roman Key Card Blackwood for diamonds
4. Two key cards and the trump queen

West led the ten of clubs and declarer won with dummy's ace and played a diamond to the queen. When that held, he played three rounds of hearts, ruffing, followed by two rounds of spades to get rid of the last heart and another diamond, plus 920.

If either defender had been able to ruff the third heart with the jack of diamonds, declarer would have been down. Perhaps a better line was available on the lead: put in dummy's jack of clubs. When it holds, it becomes apparent that West will not be ruffing the third club. So...jack of clubs, diamond to the king, king of clubs, spade to the ace, king of spades for a heart discard, ace of clubs. If East does indeed ruff the third club with the jack of diamonds, overruff and try to ruff a heart in the dummy. With six cards in each suit, the odds of 4-3 hearts and 4-3 clubs are the same. If the jack of clubs is covered by the queen at trick one, declarer is no worse off than by playing the ace.

West	North	East	South
Olanski	Kowalski	Vainikonis	Russyan
—	—	—	1♦
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♥
Pass	3♣ ¹	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	—

1. Fourth suit forcing

West led the ten of clubs. Declarer put in dummy's jack and played a diamond to the king and another diamond for plus 490, a loss of 10 IMPs.

Board 6. Dealer East. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Gawrys	Schwartz	Tuszynski	Fisher
—	—	Pass	1♠
2♣	2♠	Double ¹	4♣
4NT ²	Pass	5♦	Double
Pass	Pass	Pass	—

1. Red suits, tolerance for clubs
2. Takeout

South led the king of spades and continued with the two. Declarer ruffed with dummy's eight of diamonds and played a club to the queen and ace. South returned the two of clubs and, when declarer naturally put up dummy's king, North ruffed with the six of diamonds and exited with the three of diamonds. Declarer won with dummy's ten and ruffed a club, North contributing the ace of spades, and continued with a heart. South took the ace and played the queen of spades. Declarer ruffed in hand, pitching a club from dummy, played a heart to the king, ruffed a club and ruffed a heart. The ace of trumps was declarer's eighth and last trick, three down, minus 800.

West	North	East	South
Olanski	Kowalski	Vainikonis	Russyan
—	—	Pass	1♠
2♣	4♣	Pass	Pass
Pass	—	—	—

Declarer lost a heart and a diamond for plus 450, but that represented a loss of 8 IMPs.

Board 8. Dealer West. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Gawrys	Schwartz	Tuszynski	Fisher
Pass	1♣	Double	Redouble
1♠	Pass	3♠	3NT
4♠	Pass	Pass	4NT
Double	Pass	Pass	Pass

With time in hand, one could debate a lot of the bids in this auction – East’s double rather than a direct one spade, West’s one spade as opposed to one heart, and South’s decision to bid four notrump and then stand his ground rather than retreat to five clubs.

Nevertheless, West led the five of hearts. East won with the queen and returned the four of spades. With a mere 1200 points at stake, South considered the matter for some time before deciding that East was not the type to have given him a chance of making the contract and played low. West took the ace and went back to hearts (he played a clear-cut ten) for two down, minus 300.

West	North	East	South
Olanski	Kowalski	Vainikonis	Russyan
Pass	1♣	Double	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

West led the five of hearts. East won with the queen, cashed the ace and continued the suit, West taking his tricks for two down, minus 100 and 5 IMPs to Poland.

Real v. Stoichkov Round 2

There can be no doubt that, in a bridge match, faith, doubt and reason play a significant role. Judge for yourselves if they were on display in this deal from Round 2.

Board 14. Dealer East. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Vorobey	Drijver	Sliva	Brink
—	—	2♦ ¹	2♠
Pass	3NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

1. Multi - weak two in either major

East led the two of clubs. Declarer won with dummy’s nine and played the king of spades. East took the ace

and exited with a club to dummy’s ace. Declarer ran the jack of diamonds to East’s queen and could claim nine tricks, plus 400.

West	North	East	South
Gladysz	Arlovich	Krasnosselski	Vainikonis
—	—	3♠	Pass
Pass	Double	Pass	Pass
Pass			

As the proverb says, ‘He who sows the wind shall reap the whirlwind’, and if by chance East was not aware of it, he will be now.

South started with the ace of clubs and another. North won and cashed the king of diamonds before returning the jack of clubs for South to ruff. A diamond put North in to deliver another club ruff and declarer emerged with five tricks, four down, minus ‘only’ 800 and a loss of 9 IMPs.

Germany v. Sweden Round 3

Board 19. Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Upmark	Auken	Nyström	Welland
—	—	—	4♦
Double	5♦	6NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Don’t you just love those diamond bids? Easy to suggest from here that East might have bid six diamonds and then raised six hearts to seven hearts, but that is the advantage of being a paper tiger, plus 1440.

West	North	East	South
Piekarek	Petersson	Smirnov	Ahlesved
—	—	—	3♦
Double	4♦	Double	Pass
4♥	Pass	4NT	Pass
6♥	Pass	7♥	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Here, East/West were given more room to manoeuvre and used it to good effect, plus 2210, giving Germany 13 IMPs.

Vitas v. Germany Round 4

Board 27. Dealer South. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Welland	Skyzypczak	Auken	Gierulsky
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	1♣ ¹	2♠ ²	3♠
Pass	3NT	Pass	4♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

- Polish Club: (a) 11-14 balanced; (b) 15-18 natural; (c) any 19+
- One minor suit, weak

West led the ten of diamonds. East took dummy's queen with the ace and returned the two of hearts for the six, ten and queen. When declarer continued with dummy's king of clubs, West took the ace and returned the nine of diamonds. Declarer won with dummy's king, pitched a heart on the queen of clubs and played a heart for the jack, king and ace. Declarer won the spade exit in dummy, ruffed a club, ruffed a heart and claimed, plus 420.

West	North	East	South
Fisher	Smirnov	Schwartz	Piekarek
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♥ ¹
Pass	3NT ²	Pass	4♥ ³
Pass	4♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

- Transfer
- Denies three spades
- Retransfer

East led the three of clubs. West took the ace and returned the ten of diamonds for the king and ace. Declarer won the diamond return with the queen and played a heart to the king and ace. He won the heart return with the queen, pitched a heart on the king of clubs and cashed the ace of spades. When declarer played a diamond, ruffing with the six of spades, West overruffed for one down, minus 50 and 10 IMPs.

Vitas v. Monaco Final

Going into the last board of the match, Monaco was ahead 62-52.5 – could they hold on?

Board 28. Dealer West. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Allavena	Schwartz	Multon	Fisher
2♠ ¹	2NT	Pass	3♦ ²
Pass	3♥	Pass	3NT
Pass	4♥	Double	Pass
Pass	Pass		

- Spades and a minor, weak
- Transfer to hearts

East led the ace of spades and switched to a club. Declarer won with the ace, ruffed a club and played a spade to the king, East ruffing and returning the queen of hearts. Declarer won in hand, ruffed a club, cashed the king of hearts and played a spade to the queen. When East discarded a diamond, North ruffed his last club in dummy and ruffed the ten of spades. in hand. East overruffed and cashed the queen of clubs for plus 200.

In the four-card ending, declarer only needed to get the diamonds right to secure ten tricks.

West	North	East	South
Skrzypczak	Fantoni	Gierulski	Nunes
Pass	1♣ ¹	Pass	1♦ ²
1♠	Pass	Pass	Double ³
Pass	1NT ³	Pass	Pass
Pass			

- 14+ (good 12/13) 4+ clubs or 15+ balanced
- 0-11, 4+ hearts
- 6-11, only 4 hearts
- 15-17

East led the three of clubs. Declarer ducked twice, pitching two spades from dummy and played the five of hearts for the eight and king. A spade to the king and ace saw East cash his clubs before exiting with the queen of hearts. Declarer won, cashed the queen of spades, played a diamond to the ace and the ten of diamonds, overtaking with the jack and cashing the king, plus 90 and 7 IMPs to Monaco. Had Schwartz made four hearts doubled for plus 590, Vitas would have gained 11 IMPs, enough to win by 1.5 IMPs.

World Bridge Calendar

DATES	EVENT	LOCATION	INFORMATION
2015			
Mar 12-22	ACBL Spring NABC	New Orleans, LA	www.acbl.org
Mar 21-23	2 nd Pakistan Day International	Karachi, Pakistan	www.pakdaybridge.pk
Mar 22-28	XXVII International Festival	Tenerife, Canary Is., Spain	www.aebridge.com
Mar 23-29	XII International	Casablanca, Morocco	www.bridge-casablanca.com
Mar 24-29	Bridge Days	Kitzbühel, Austria	www.bridgeaustria.at
Mar 29-Apr 3	10 th White House Junior Internationals	Amsterdam, Netherlands	www.jeugdbridge.nl
Mar 31-Apr 1	120 th Canadian Nationals	Toronto, ON	www.unit166.ca
Apr 1-7	APBF Youth Teams Championships	Bangkok, Thailand	www.thailandbridgeleague.com
Apr 8-12	Yeh Bros Cup	Shanghai, China	chihuachen2001@yahoo.com.tw
Apr 16-19	16 th Hotel Senator Bridge Meeting	Starachowice, Poland	www.h-s.pl/brydz-meeting
Apr 18-26	South African National Congress	Durban, South Africa	www.sabf.co.za
Apr 23-30	Seine Bridge Festival	Paris-Honfleur-Paris, France	www.bridge-international.com
Apr 24-May 3	Jersey Festival of Bridge	Jersey, Channel Is.	www.ebu.co.uk
Apr 29-May 3	International Polish Pairs Champ'ships	Warsaw, Poland	www.pzbs.pl
Apr 30-May 4	ABF Autumn Nationals	Adelaide, Australia	www.abf.com.au
May 1-3	German Bridge Team Trophy	Berlin, Germany	www.bridge-verband.de
May 1-5	Schapiro Spring Foursomes	Stratford-upon-Avon, England	www.ebu.co.uk
May 8-13	African Zonal Trials	Egypt	www.sabf.co.za
May 8-21	International Festival d'Antibes	Juan-les-Pins, France	www.festivalsdusoleil.com
May 9-16	LXV Sudamericano	Buenos Aires, Argentina	www.csbnnews.org
May 14	XXXV Bonn Cup	Bad Godesburg, Germany	www.bridge-verband.de
May 15-23	28 th CACBF Zonal Championships	Christ Church, Barbados, W.I.	www.cacbf.com
May 19-24	Grand Prix of Portugal	Estoril, Portugal	www.fpbridge.com
May 21-25	Graz Bridge Days	Graz, Austria	www.bridgeaustria.at
May 21-31	50 th Asia Pacific BF Championships	Bangkok, Thailand	www.thailandbridgeleague.com
May 23-25	6 th Gros Supercup	Hessen, Germany	www.grosssupercup2015.wix.com
May 24-31	XXVIII Golf-Bridge International	Costa Calida, Spain	www.aebridge.com
Jun 3-7	55 th Poznan Bridge Meeting	Poznan, Poland	www.kongres.brydz.wlkp.pl
Jun 6-14	17 th German Bridge Festival	Wyk auf Föhr, Germany	www.bridge-verband.de
Jun 17-21	5 th Tolani Open Summer Nationals	Begaluru, India	www.bfi.net.in
Jun 23-Jul 5	33 rd International Festival	Albena, Bulgaria	www.bridgealbena.org
Jun 27-Jul 11	7 th Open European Championships	Tromsø, Norway	www.tromso2015.no
Jul 1-12	Festival de Biarritz	Biarritz, France	www.biarritz-bridge.com
Jul 3-12	58 th Bridge Congress Slawa	Slawa, Poland	www.kongres-slawa.pl
Jul 11-23	Australian National Championships	Fremantle, WA, Australia	www.abf.com.au
Jul 16-29	Festival de Deauville	Deauville, France	www.deauville-bridge.com
Jul 17-25	European Youth Team Championships	Tromsø, Norway	www.eurobridge.org
Jul 17-25	55 th Baltic Bridge Congress	Sopot, Poland	www.bridge.gda.pl/mkb
Jul 24-Aug 2	21 st Swedish Bridge Festival	Örebro, Sweden	www.svenskbridge.se/eng
Jul 25-31	Chairman's Cup	Örebro, Sweden	www.svenskbridge.se/eng
Aug 6-16	ACBL Summer NABC	Chicago, IL	www.acbl.org
Aug 7-9	Pesta Sukan	Singapore	www.scba.org.sg
Aug 11-18	Coffs Gold Coast Congress	Korora, NSW, Australia	www.abf.com.au
Aug 14-23	Brighton Summer Congress	Brighton, England	www.ebu.co.uk
Aug 15-23	Festival de La Baule	La Baule, France	www.bridge-club-labaule.fr
Aug 19-23	9 th "Riga Invites to Jurmala"	Jurmala, Latvia	www.rigainvites.lv
Aug 21-30	43 rd Grand Prix of Warsaw	Warsaw, Poland	www.warsbrydz.pl
Aug 24-30	Festival du Touquet	Le Touquet, France	www.bridge-club-letouquet.com
Aug 29-Sep 6	International Festival	La Grande Motte, France	www.festivalsdusoleil.com
Sep 11-20	Confiance Guernsey Congress	Guernsey, Channel Is.	www.ebu.co.uk
Sep 26-30	NZ National Congress	Hamilton, NZ	www.nzbridgecongress.co.nz
Sep 26-Oct 10	World Team Championships	Chennai, India	www.bfi.net.in
Sep 30-Oct 4	International Festival	Azores Is., Portugal	www.fpbridge.com
Oct 19-23	Cavendish Invitational	Monte Carlo, Monaco	jcaconseil@libello.com
Oct 21-29	ABF Spring Nationals	Sydney, Australia	www.abf.com.au
Oct 29-Nov 1	International Festival	Avignon, France	www.festivalsdusoleil.com
Nov 2-8	International Festival	Madeira, Portugal	www.fpbridge.com
Nov 5-7	2 nd Marbella International	Marbella, Spain	www.marbellabridge.com
Nov 11-14	14 th European Champions Cup	Little Horwood, Bucks., England	www.ebu.co.uk
Nov 24-29	ASEAN Championships	Bangkok, Thailand	www.scba.org.sg
Nov 26-Dec 5	ACBL Fall NABC	Denver, CO	www.acbl.org
Dec 27-30	Year End Congress	London, England	www.ebu.co.uk