



## BULLETIN

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## THE INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE PRESS ASSOCIATION

Editor: John Carruthers

*This Bulletin is published monthly and circulated to around 400 members of the International Bridge Press Association comprising the world's leading journalists, authors and editors of news, books and articles about contract bridge, with an estimated readership of some 200 million people who enjoy the most widely played of all card games.*

Bulletin No. 604

May 10, 2015

### Editorial

The organisation of the ACBL is very unusual. Its governing body is a 25-member Board of Directors in which resides all power. There is an administrative division headed by a CEO, but the CEO, and everyone else, ultimately takes direction from the Board of Directors. Any decision taken by a tournament director or administrative staff member (unless it's one of law, including bridge law) is done so because the Board of Directors made a policy ruling or voted a particular way.

The ACBL is divided into 25 geographical Districts, each with an elected Director. Twenty-one of the Districts are solely American and one is solely Canadian. The other three are combined American/Canadian, American/Mexican and Canadian/Bermudian. This organisation is similar to the U.S. Senate, which has 100 elected members, two from each state, regardless of size or population. But there the comparison stops. The U.S. Congress also has a House of Representatives, 435 strong, with the number of state representatives being based on each state's population. These two bodies together are called the Legislative Branch of government. There are two other branches as well, the Executive Branch (headed by the President) and the Judicial Branch (headed by the Supreme Court). These three branches of government all have very defined duties and limits of power. The famous 'checks and balances' among the three branches work to ensure no one branch has all the power.

The ACBL Board of Directors essentially micro-manages the League. However, its size makes it too cumbersome to be successful at that task. Too often, regional issues and/or trivia consume time needed for more-important matters of direction and policy. Now a group of prominent ACBL players, led by Bob Hamman, is calling, via petition, for the ACBL Board of Directors to re-organise itself into a more-streamlined body and to confine itself to matters of policy and direction.

Specifically mentioned are three areas of great concern: (i) the size of the existing Board of Directors, (ii) the decreasing membership numbers, and (iii) the increasing age of existing members. The petition calls for the Board to be reduced in size from the 25 current members to a more-manageable 12 members, each elected directly, without reference to geographical locale. That 12-member Board would then confine itself to appointing a CEO to run the organisation. The Board would "set policy for the ACBL, including specific short- and long-term objectives in the areas of human resource management, financial objectives, marketing, technology and operations." The CEO and senior management would then "develop a strategic plan to achieve the agreed objectives and to update this annually." Further, the board "should not involve themselves in day-to-day management of the organization and should have strong bias towards management continuity."

In other words, the group led by Hamman, himself a very successful businessman, suggests that the ACBL reorganise itself as a business and set, achieve and monitor goals for that business, with a management group responsible for carrying out the plans of that business. The Board of Directors would oversee, not manage, the business.

There are two revolutionary ideas in this proposal: (i) that the Board of Directors vote to reduce itself to half its current size, and (ii) that the Board drastically reduce the power it currently wields. These both seem laudable aims, if a bit quixotic.

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## YEH BROS. CUP

Shanghai, April 8-12, 2015

**Barry Rigal, NYC**

**David Stern, Sydney**

*With interjections by*

**John Carruthers, Kingsville, ON**

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

**Swiss Qualifying Round Eight**

**Like Father like Son?**

Barbara Hackett showed us this deal. She could be forgiven for liking all Hacketts since she is married to Justin. On this deal from round eight, we think everyone should like the combination of play and defence.

**Board 11. Dealer South. Neither Vul.**

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

| West        | North           | East   | South    |
|-------------|-----------------|--------|----------|
| Tanaka      | Papa            | Yokoi  | Hanlon   |
| Jason       | Ino             | Justin | Teramoto |
| —           | —               | —      | 1♦       |
| Pass        | 2♦ <sup>1</sup> | Pass   | 2♥       |
| Pass        | 3NT             | Pass   | Pass     |
| Pass        |                 |        |          |
| 1. Inverted |                 |        |          |

Both tables in the match between England Plus and Japan reached three notrump by North on a low spade lead.

As declarer, Paul Hackett won with the queen of spades (seven, two, ten), guessed diamonds and cashed four rounds of the suit, East pitching a heart, West a heart, then a club. Reading the position very accurately, Paul cashed dummy's two top hearts and led a spade from dummy, covering West's five with the six. East was in and could not underlead in spades since Paul still had the jack left (and had West put up the eight, North's six would still have been higher than West's remaining spot, the five). So all East could do was cash out his spades and surrender the last two tricks to declarer in clubs.

In the other room, Justin Hackett also led his fourth-best spade and the first trick went the same way. Declarer also cashed out the diamonds, guessing the queen correctly, but here Justin discarded the club ten as East. Now declarer was never going to play for the drop in clubs, but when he tried to strip out the hearts and endplay East, Justin had a low heart left to reach his partner in the endgame.

Have you noticed the legitimate way to defeat the game on a fourth-highest spade-seven lead? We all know fourth-highest leads are right—but it is time to revisit 'third-hand high'. When partner leads the spade seven you know declarer has two honours in spades. Don't waste a high spade spot at trick one and do not pitch a spade on the run of the diamonds. Then your partner can later arrange to put you in with a spade if North tries to endplay him by leading a spade to him after stripping off the hearts.

### Swiss Qualifying Round Nine Poland vs Pertamina Indonesia

On what might have been the most exciting set of boards on Vugraph in this event, the IMPs changed hands at the speed of summer lightning. The first major swing of the set could easily have gone either way.

Five diamonds (see top of next page) was easy to make on a heart lead to the ace and a spade shift. Taking no chances, Buras rose with the ace, drew trumps and played the ace, king and jack of clubs, discarding his queen of spades. Karwur made his queen of clubs but that was the last trick for the defence.

**Board 22. Dealer East. EW Vul.**

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

| West   | North           | East   | South |
|--------|-----------------|--------|-------|
| Karwur | Narkiewicz      | George | Buras |
| —      | —               | Pass   | INT   |
| Pass   | 3♥ <sup>1</sup> | Pass   | 4♦    |
| Pass   | 5♦              | Pass   | Pass  |

1. Minors, short hearts

| West   | North           | East       | South            |
|--------|-----------------|------------|------------------|
| Kalita | Parasian        | Nowosadski | Asbi             |
| —      | —               | Pass       | 1♦               |
| Pass   | 2♣              | Pass       | 2NT              |
| Pass   | 3♦              | Pass       | 4♥ <sup>1</sup>  |
| Pass   | 4♠ <sup>2</sup> | Pass       | 4NT <sup>3</sup> |
| Pass   | 5♣ <sup>4</sup> | Pass       | 6♦               |
| Pass   | Pass            | Pass       |                  |

1. Key card ask for diamonds
2. One or four key card(s)
3. Diamond queen ask
4. Queen of diamonds and king of clubs

Six diamonds, on the same lead and shift, was more challenging. Asbi won with the ace of spades and drew trumps, then had to measure the likelihood of West having queen-to-four clubs—when the finesse in clubs was necessary—against playing for the drop to pick up queen-doubleton or -third with East. Playing for the drop might be right in theory, but today the finesse was necessary, and when Asbi cashed the ace and king his fate was sealed. Down one, and 10 IMPs to Poland.

**Board 23. Dealer South. Both Vul.**

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



Photo: Chinese Contract Bridge Association

2015 Yeh Bros Cup Winners - China Open  
l. to r.: Chen Gang (Coach), Li Xiao Yi, Kang Meng, Hou Xu, Liu Jing, Sun Shaolin, Hu Linlin

| West            | North  | East            | South  |
|-----------------|--------|-----------------|--------|
| Kalita          | Tobing | Nowosadski      | Asbi   |
| —               | —      | —               | Pass   |
| INT             | Pass   | 2♦ <sup>1</sup> | Double |
| 2♥ <sup>2</sup> | Pass   | 3♦              | Pass   |

|    |      |      |      |
|----|------|------|------|
| 3♥ | Pass | 4♣   | Pass |
| 4♦ | Pass | 4NT  | Pass |
| 5♥ | Pass | 5♠   | Pass |
| 6♣ | Pass | 6♦   | Pass |
| 6♥ | Pass | 6♠   | Pass |
| 7♥ | Pass | Pass | Pass |

| West            | North      | East            | South  |
|-----------------|------------|-----------------|--------|
| Karwur          | Narkiewicz | George          | Buras  |
| —               | —          | —               | Pass   |
| INT             | Pass       | 2♦ <sup>1</sup> | Double |
| 2♥ <sup>2</sup> | Pass       | 3♦              | Pass   |
| 3♠              | Pass       | 4♦              | Pass   |
| 4♦              | Pass       | 4♠              | Pass   |
| 5♦              | Pass       | 5NT             | Pass   |
| 6♣              | Pass       | 6♦              | Pass   |
| 7♥              | Pass       | Pass            | Pass   |

1. Transfer to hearts
2. Three-card heart support

Finding the next black queen was going to be even more important on this deal. It was the two Wests who had that task.

Both tables had lengthy auctions to seven hearts after a strong no-trump followed by a transfer then re-transfer to hearts. At both tables, East used keycard then twisted West's arm till he cooperated and bid the grand slam, thereby effectively transferring any responsibility and blame to West if he couldn't make the contract.

Rather to our surprise, both Norths led a diamond, not a trump. Kalita won with the ace, drew a round of trumps, unblocked the ace of clubs, then crossed to hand with a second heart and cashed two more clubs to pitch the diamond and a spade from dummy. Now, instead of ruffing the club to the board (which would have revealed the club length for him), he ran the trumps, pitching the jack of spades from hand, as South, Asbi, smoothly discarded two spades, reducing his to

a doubleton. Declarer pitched his diamond from hand but, in the three-card ending, didn't know if North had queen-to-three spades left, or two spades and the ten of clubs. He got it wrong and finessed in spades for two down.

Karwur, to our mind, followed a much better line when he ran hearts at once. North pitched diamonds and South clubs. That made declarer's life far easier: He discarded the six of clubs on the last trump and with the jack of diamonds still in his hand in the five-card ending:

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

Karwur crossed to the ace of spades and cashed the two clubs. When South showed, out pitching a spade, West knew that South had the king of diamonds left and North the ten of clubs, so that the queen of spades would be dropping. That was whopping 20 IMPs to Indonesia.

However, had South not discarded any clubs ...

**Board 30. Dealer East. Neither Vul.**

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

| West   | North      | East       | South |
|--------|------------|------------|-------|
| Karwur | Narkiewicz | George     | Buras |
| —      | —          | Pass       | 3♥    |
| Double | 4♥         | 5♦         | Pass  |
| Pass   | Double     | Pass       | Pass  |
| Pass   |            |            |       |
| West   | North      | East       | South |
| Kalita | Parasian   | Nowosadski | Asbi  |
| —      | —          | 1♦         | 3♥    |
| Double | 4♥         | Pass       | Pass  |
| 5♣     | Pass       | Pass       | Pass  |

North/South are due to make only eight tricks in hearts after a trump lead, but Kalita's five-club call was far from unreasonable. He won the heart lead, ruffed out the hearts to strip North of his exit, drew all of the trumps, then played the ace and another diamond. This was the ending:

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

North had won with his king of diamonds and was unable to lead a diamond, of course. But he had enough of a count on the hand to know that if his partner had a low spade he could not beat the contract, so he needed to play him for one of the top three spades not on view. In that case, a shift to the queen of spades, or ace of spades followed by the queen, would have done the trick. When Parasian instead played a low spade, declarer's ten tricks had turned into twelve.

So how many IMPs was making five clubs instead of going down one worth? Precisely two since, in the other room, the five-diamond contract reached by East/West was doubled and set 800. The defenders took the first three tricks in spades, and declarer eventually lost three more trump tricks. That was 15 IMPs to Poland.

**Defend with Your Life**

The USA ISH team may not have been setting the tournament aflame, but Chris Willenken and Dennis Bilde worked some magic here against Japan:

**Board 28. Dealer West. NS Vul.**

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

| West   | North | East  | South     |
|--------|-------|-------|-----------|
| Tanaka | Bilde | Yokoi | Willenken |
| 1♣     | Pass  | 1♠    | Pass      |
| 1NT    | Pass  | 2♦    | Pass      |
| 2♥     | Pass  | 3NT   | Pass      |
| Pass   | Pass  |       |           |

Dennis Bilde's lead of the nine of diamonds went to the queen and ace. Declarer tested clubs to find the bad news, North pitching two hearts then a diamond on three rounds of the suit. In with the queen of clubs, Willenken shifted to a low spade to declarer's ace, then a heart was ducked to the jack and king.

Willenken could see the endplay looming. To get out of his own way, he shifted to ten of spades. Declarer won in dummy with the queen, pitching a heart from hand, and had reached this ending:

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

Declarer led the seven of clubs from dummy, Willenken pitching a diamond, and West had to decide in which hand he wanted to win the fifth club. He chose to win the fourth with the nine in hand (best) and followed with the jack next, so Willenken could pitch the king of spades on the fifth club!

Declarer ducked a heart to South now, but squeezed dummy in the process. When he pitched a diamond from the dummy, Willenken could win and exit in diamonds to the now bare king. North could then take the last two tricks in spades.

### 3-Way Semifinal by John Carruthers

The Yeh Bros. Cup has a unique and very interesting format. The teams (28 this year) play a 12 x 10 round, two-day, Swiss to qualify 16 teams for knockout play. The teams in the top eight are designated as the undefeated bracket while the teams finishing ninth through sixteenth are designated as the once-defeated (repechage) bracket.

The upper bracket plays a double knockout, the losers after each match dropping into the lower bracket repechage. For the teams qualifying ninth through sixteenth, one loss eliminates them from the competition. The surviving teams in the once-defeated bracket are joined by teams from the undefeated

bracket after they lose a match. When there is one team left in each bracket, those two teams play a 48-board final match with the undefeated team having a carryover of 6.5 IMPs.

There are a couple of kickers. Firstly, Chen Yeh's team is designated as the top seed in the undefeated bracket, regardless of its finish in the Swiss Teams qualifying (seventh this year). Since Mr. Yeh puts up northward of half a million dollars to sponsor the event, including \$250,000 in prize money, all competitors welcome this condition. Secondly, in the third and fourth rounds of knockout play, there are six and three teams respectively in the repechage. Those teams play three-way matches to eliminate two teams from each match, so to reach the final, the lower-bracket team has to survive at least one (and possibly two) three-way match(es). It behooves the teams to finish in the top eight in the qualifying rounds and to stay undefeated! That is easier said than done in this field.

In the semifinal match among Poland, Italy and China Open to reach the final against Red Bull, China defeated both European teams and made it an all-China final except for Red Bull's De Wijs-Muller, who nevertheless play regularly in the Chinese League.

On the following deal, the losing semi-finalists fought it out in five spades ...

### Board 27. Dealer East. Both Vul.

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

| West   | North           | East            | South           |
|--------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Kalita | Bocchi          | Nowasadski      | Madala          |
| —      | —               | 2♦ <sup>1</sup> | 4♦ <sup>2</sup> |
| Pass   | 4♠ <sup>3</sup> | Pass            | 5♣              |
| Pass   | 5♠              | Pass            | Pass            |
| Pass   |                 |                 |                 |

1. Weak two in either major
2. Diamonds and a major
3. Pass with spades or correct to diamonds

| West   | North           | East | South      |
|--------|-----------------|------|------------|
| Duboin | Buras           | Zia  | Narkiewicz |
| —      | —               | Pass | 1♠         |
| 2♣     | 3♠ <sup>1</sup> | 4♥   | 4♣         |
| 5♣     | Pass            | Pass | 5♠         |
| Pass   | Pass            | Pass |            |

1. Pre-emptive

Both tables reached the precarious five-spade contract, Madala on his own steam, while Narkiewicz was bullied there by Duboin/Zia. The club force puts five spades in jeopardy, but both declarers handled it smoothly.

Narkiewicz played it simply but effectively: He ruffed the opening club lead, draw all the trumps and played the ace-king and a third diamond. Duboin won the diamond and tapped declarer again with another club. Declarer played the ten and another diamond for a club discard from the dummy, then led a heart. Dummy's fourth spade was insurance against a further club play by the defence. Plus 650.

Madala played it more elegantly, if a touch more dangerously. He ruffed the opening lead, drew one round of trumps, noting the fall of the ten, and played the queen of hearts. Nowasadski won with his ace and tapped declarer again. Madala cashed the ace of diamonds, travelled to the king of hearts and led a diamond through East. Nowasadski could not gain by ruffing, so he discarded a heart. Declarer won with his king of diamonds and played a third round of diamonds to West. Kalita could force out another high trump in declarer's hand, but now Madala could cash his remaining high trump, ruff a heart in the dummy and draw East's last trump with dummy's nine. Plus 650 for a push.

Narkiewicz had outplayed Madala. Had the spades and diamond holdings been reversed in the defenders' hands, Madala would have been down, while Narkiewicz would still have been successful. Of course, that would have required Kalita to have false-carded with the ten of spades from ten-third, or perhaps from ten-doubleton with 2=3=1=7.

### The Final

This was a rematch of the undefeated contest. While honours had been even in that encounter, China Open, though losing, had finished the match on a good run and had then steamrolled both powerful European opponents in the three-way semifinal match. Red Bull would carry forward 6.5 IMPs.

#### Board 7. Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

| West            | North          | East        | South         |
|-----------------|----------------|-------------|---------------|
| <i>Sun</i>      | <i>De Wijs</i> | <i>Kang</i> | <i>Muller</i> |
| —               | —              | —           | Pass          |
| Pass            | Pass           | 1♠          | Pass          |
| 2♣ <sup>1</sup> | Pass           | 4♠          | Pass          |
| Pass            | Pass           |             |               |
| 1. Drury        |                |             |               |

| West                        | North     | East           | South               |
|-----------------------------|-----------|----------------|---------------------|
| <i>Yuewu</i>                | <i>Li</i> | <i>Yuegang</i> | <i>Hu</i>           |
| —                           | —         | —              | 1♦                  |
| Pass                        | 1♥        | 1♠             | Double <sup>1</sup> |
| 2♦                          | 3♦        | 4♠             | Pass                |
| Pass                        | Pass      |                |                     |
| 1. Three-card heart support |           |                |                     |

In four spades, on the queen of clubs lead, Kang timed the play very well. He won with the ace of clubs and ruffed a diamond, then ducked a heart. South won and led a club to North's king. North exited in spades, won by the nine in dummy. Now declarer ruffed three more diamonds in hand and two hearts in the dummy, scoring eight trump tricks and the rounded-suit aces.

In the other room, Hu reasoned that, with partner known to have values, declarer's only source of tricks would be a cross-ruff. Thus, he led a trump, and Li continued the suit when in with a heart. Here, declarer had seven trump tricks and two aces, and Hu had earned 12 IMPs for his side.

#### Board 32. Dealer West. EW Vul.

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

| West             | North           | East             | South      |
|------------------|-----------------|------------------|------------|
| <i>Lu</i>        | <i>Liu Jing</i> | <i>Liu Li</i>    | <i>Hou</i> |
| 1♥               | Pass            | 2NT <sup>1</sup> | Pass       |
| 3♦               | Pass            | 3♠               | Pass       |
| 4NT <sup>2</sup> | Pass            | 5♠ <sup>3</sup>  | Double     |
| 6♥               | Pass            | Pass             | Pass       |

1. Four-card, game-forcing raise
2. Key Card ask
3. Two key cards and the queen of hearts

| West             | North          | East             | South         |
|------------------|----------------|------------------|---------------|
| <i>Sun</i>       | <i>De Wijs</i> | <i>Kang</i>      | <i>Muller</i> |
| 1♥               | 2♦             | 4♦ <sup>1</sup>  | Pass          |
| 4NT <sup>2</sup> | Pass           | 5NT <sup>3</sup> | Pass          |
| 6♣ <sup>4</sup>  | Pass           | 6♥ <sup>5</sup>  | Pass          |
| 7♥               | Pass           | Pass             | Pass          |

See top of next page for alert explanations...

1. Splinter
2. Key-card ask
3. Two with a void (obviously diamonds)
4. Anything more?
5. Queen of hearts

Seven hearts on a club lead saw declarer take the ace. He ruffed a club, then played the king of diamonds, covered and ruffed. Now Sun ruffed another club, crossed on a trump and ruffed a third club to establish the long card. He ruffed a diamond, drew trumps, cashed the diamonds and went to the ace of spades to take the established club winner at trick 13.

In the other room, declarer wasn't even cold for six hearts on a spade lead. His plan was to ruff out the clubs to pitch the spade, having ruffed the low diamond in dummy and lose only to the ace of diamonds. When trumps turned out to be 3-0, he could not ruff three clubs in hand, draws trumps and then give up a diamond, since the opponents would then run spades. Instead, he switched to the ruffing finesse in diamonds, and brought home 12 tricks considerably more painfully than 13 had been made in the other room. That was still 13 IMPs to China Open.

### Shanghai Duck by Mark Horton

When the antepenultimate deal of the final of the 2015 Yeh Bros. Cup hit the table, only 8.5 IMPs separated China Open, the leader, and Red Bull. The winners would pick up \$150,000, the losers \$36,000.

#### Board 46 Dealer East. Neither Vul.

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

In the Closed Room, Li and Hu stopped in three notrump. Muller led the queen of hearts and continued the suit when declarer won in dummy and took the spade finesse. That ensured a fast two down, plus 100 to Red Bull. However, in the Open Room:

| West       | North           | East        | South           |
|------------|-----------------|-------------|-----------------|
| <i>Sun</i> | <i>Lu</i>       | <i>Kang</i> | <i>Liu</i>      |
| —          | —               | Pass        | Pass            |
| Pass       | 1♣ <sup>1</sup> | Pass        | 1♦ <sup>2</sup> |
| Pass       | 1NT             | Pass        | 2♣              |
| Pass       | 2♠              | Pass        | 4♠              |
| Pass       | Pass            | Pass        |                 |

1. Precision: 16+ HCP
2. Negative: 0-8 HCP

If Lu Yiping could bring home four spades, Red Bull would leapfrog China Open to take the lead.

East led the queen of hearts (a club to the ace and a diamond switch would have doomed the contract). Declarer won with dummy's king and played a spade to the queen and king. East returned a club and West took the ace and continued with the seven. Declarer won with the king of clubs, drew trumps, cashed the ace of hearts, crossed to dummy with a club and played the six of diamonds for the jack and queen.

If East had taken the ace and returned a diamond, declarer, realising that West would have switched to a singleton jack of diamonds when in with the ace of clubs, would undoubtedly have gone up with dummy's king, felling West's ten and landing the contract.

However, East smoothly ducked the queen of diamonds. With West apparently marked with the ace, declarer continued with the five of diamonds to dummy's seven and West's ten was the card that doomed the contract.

East's Shanghai duck might not become as famous as its namesake from Peking, but it was a tasty morsel as it delivered the extra \$114,000 to China Open.

### Round and About

Here are two deals from the ancillary events to reflect the diversity of games in play. First, from the Swiss Teams; this deal occurred in the last round and saw Justin Lall extracting not just a quart, but a gallon, from a pint pot.

#### Consolation Swiss Teams Round 8. Board 18. Dealer East. NS Vul.

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

Normally, Roy Welland, who held the South cards, bids every hand as if it were a 17-count, but here he passed throughout and led a trump against four spades. Before you saw the dummy, wouldn't you, as the South defender, fancy your chances if you were told that you had a trump trick and that the king of diamonds was behind the ace?

Justin Lall captured the queen of spades in hand. He led the ace of diamonds, then the jack, which held. Declarer ruffed a diamond, ruffed a club and ruffed a

diamond with the ten of spades, establishing the queen. So far so good. Then he led a low heart from dummy to the jack, two and ace. With no good options, Welland exited with a low club and declarer put in the jack, which held. In this ending, declarer had taken eight tricks and needed two more:

|         |         |
|---------|---------|
| ♠ —     | ♠ K 9 5 |
| ♥ Q 9 8 | ♥ 4     |
| ♦ —     | ♦ Q     |
| ♣ K 7   | ♣ —     |

|       |
|-------|
| ♠ J 8 |
| ♥ K   |
| ♦ —   |
| ♣ A Q |

Declarer ruffed another club, and now knew that South had started with either a 4=1=4=4 or a 3=2=4=4 pattern. To cover both eventualities, he exited with his fifth diamond. If trumps had been 4-1, then South would have had to ruff and would have been forced to concede a trick to the nine of spades. As it was, South needed to protect his trump trick so could not ruff in, but North could ruff the diamond and South could discard... but what?

If South had discarded his heart winner, North would have had to lead either a losing heart, neutralizing South's trump winner, or a club, allowing East to ruff in safely. Call it an elopement, or a decompression (the reverse of a squeeze, since South really wants to discard twice on the same trick) or just plain bridge magic.

And from the pairs qualifying ...

**Board 20. Dealer West. Both Vul.**

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

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

| West             | North | East             | South |
|------------------|-------|------------------|-------|
| <i>Byrne</i>     |       | <i>Bell</i>      |       |
| Pass             | Pass  | 1NT <sup>1</sup> | Pass  |
| 2NT <sup>2</sup> | Pass  | 3♣ <sup>3</sup>  | Pass  |
| 3♠ <sup>4</sup>  | Pass  | 4♥               | Pass  |
| Pass             | Pass  |                  |       |

1. 14+-17
2. Puppet Stayman
3. No 5-card major, but at least one 4-card major
4. 4 hearts, not 4 spades

Michael Byrne and Mike Bell were the eventual pairs winners. On this deal, they reached four hearts on an unopposed auction.

Had the defenders led the king of spades and continued spades, North overtaking at trick one and continuing with the jack of spades next, then shifting to a club, North falls victim to a squeeze in the minors whether or nor declarer rises with the ace of clubs. But South led his king of clubs at trick one. Bell won and drew trumps, then led a spade. North flew up with the ace and returned the suit, South overtaking to play a third spade. North (who had discarded a diamond on the third trump) now pitched another diamond. In this ending:

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

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

Bell played off three rounds of diamonds, ruffing the third in the dummy, then exited from the board with a low club. When North won with his ten, he was forced to lead into the club tenace at trick 12.

Results:

1. **China Open:** Hou Xu, Hu Linlin, Kang Meng, Li Xiao Yi, Liu Jing, Sun Shaolin, Chen Gang (Coach)
2. **Red Bull:** Liu Li, Lu Yiping, Bauke Muller, Sun Yanhui, Simon de Wijs, Zhang Ligang, Kuang Yue Gang (NPC), Wang Yuewu (Coach)
3. **Poland:** Krzysztof Buras, Krzysztof Jassem, Jacek Kalita, Marcin Mazurkiewicz, Grzegorz Narkiewicz, Michal Nowosadzki

**CHINA**

**A-LEVEL CLUB**

**TOURNAMENT**

**Jerry Li, Beijing**

From March 26<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup>, the Chinese A-level Club Tournament was hosted at Wujiang, Suzhou in Jiangsu

Province, China. Sixteen teams took part in the tournament.

This tournament is the top bridge event in China. It consists of three stages. In the first stage, the 16 teams play a round robin to advance eight teams to stage two. The second stage is also a round robin; from there, four teams go on to the final stage. The third stage is a double knockout.

The league is open to foreign players. Dutch players Sjoert Brink and Bas Drijver became the first non-Chinese players to compete in 2013 when they joined the Chinese team, PD Times. They won the Championship that first year. This year, more foreign players took part in the Chinese League, including Bulgarians Roumen Trendafilov/Karlin Karaivanov and Japanese players Dawei Chen/Kazuo Furuta.

After the 15 rounds of Stage 1, the Bulgarian players' team, Shanghai Pudong, had secured first place while the Dutch players' team, PD Times, were runners-up. The Japanese players' team, Shanghai Finance, garnered the fourth spot.

Here are two boards from this stage.

**Board 14. Dealer East. Neither Vul.**

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

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

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

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

| West            | North       | East            | South        |
|-----------------|-------------|-----------------|--------------|
| —               | Bas Drijver |                 | Sjoert Brink |
| —               | —           | 1♣ <sup>1</sup> | Pass         |
| 1♦ <sup>2</sup> | Pass        | 1♥              | Pass         |
| 1♠              | Pass        | 2♥              | Pass         |
| 4♥              | Pass        | Pass            | Pass         |

- 1 Precision: 16+ HCP
- 2. Negative: 0-7 HCP

After the one-diamond response, the auction was natural. Brink led the three of diamonds. North, Drijver won with the ace. Upon seeing the jack or queen of diamonds from declarer, most North players shifted to a club at trick two. After two club tricks, the defence was finished as declarer could then double finesse for the queen-jack of hearts and so make his contract.

Drijver tried an alternate defence. After he won with the ace of diamonds, he continued the suit. On that

defence, declarer had extra chances: he could draw two rounds of trumps and play for the queen of spades or the ace of clubs onside. So declarer won the second diamond, cashed the ace-king of hearts, and tried the jack of spades. Brink cooperated by not covering the jack of spades, so declarer played the ace then the king of spades (the queen might still be doubleton) and played a club. Down one.

Well done, Dutch players.

**Board 14. Dealer East. Neither Vul.**

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

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

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

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

| West     | North | East     | South |
|----------|-------|----------|-------|
| Jerry Li | —     | Fu Zhong |       |
| —        | —     | 1♦       | 2♣    |
| Pass     | 2♥    | Pass     | 2♠    |
| Pass     | 3♥    | Pass     | 3♠    |
| Pass     | 4♥    | Pass     | Pass  |
| Pass     |       |          |       |

Four spades seems a better contract, despite the poorer trumps. Fu's opening lead against four hearts was the king of spades. Declarer won with dummy's ace and played clubs from the top, pitching two spades. Fu ruffed and, after five minutes thinking, made the killing switch: he underled his ace of diamonds to my king. I played a fourth club, forcing declarer to ruff with a middle trump. Fu pitched his queen of spades. Declarer then ruffed a diamond in dummy and faced this position:

♠ —  
 ♥ A J 10 5 4 3  
 ♦ —  
 ♣ —

♠ J 7  
 ♥ K 6 2  
 ♦ 6  
 ♣ —

♠ —  
 ♥ 8  
 ♦ A J 9 8 7  
 ♣ —

♠ 10 9 6 2  
 ♥ —  
 ♦ —  
 ♣ J 9

Dummy (South) is to play. Any card from dummy promotes my golden six of hearts to the setting trick!



**THE 2015 WHITE HOUSE  
JUNIOR  
INTERNATIONAL TEAMS**  
**Kees Tammens, Amsterdam**

For the 23<sup>rd</sup> consecutive year, an international junior team event took place in the Netherlands, from 1993-2004 in 's-Hertogenbosch and, in 2005, in Amsterdam at the café Twee Klaveren. In 2006, we moved to Het Witte Huis. The 10<sup>th</sup> White House Junior Internationals (29 March-3 April) was contested by twenty-four teams from seventeen European countries. Unfortunately, teams from the USA, Canada, China, Japan, Argentina, Venezuela and Australia, that had participated in previous years, did not attend this year.

After a qualification stage in two groups of twelve teams, the top six from each group went on to quarterfinal A, with the top three from quarterfinal A qualifying for the semifinals. Poland, Israel and Turkey succeeded. Sweden, somewhat slow to start in the first two days, did very well in quarterfinal B (formed by the teams finishing 7-12 in the qualification), winning by a large margin and earning themselves a place in the semifinal. Poland got the better of Turkey (157-93 over 42 boards) and, somewhat surprisingly, Sweden upset Israel (93-63). In the final, Poland, which had been overwhelming up to that point, took an early 22-to-6 lead. Sweden fought back in the second session of 14 boards (43-24) and took the victory with a decisive final set for a total of 98-73 IMPs. It was a deserving win for Ida Grönqvist/Mikael Rimstedt and Ola Rimstedt/Johan Säftsen, the core of the team that won the 2014 U-20 World Championships.

**Dealer East. Neither Vul.**

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <p style="text-align: center;">♠ J 5 3<br/>♥ Q J 6<br/>♦ A K J 9 7<br/>♣ J 4</p> <p>♠ A K 10 9 4 2<br/>♥ 10 9<br/>♦ Q 5 3<br/>♣ 8 2</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ Q 7<br/>♥ A 8 7 3<br/>♦ 8<br/>♣ A Q 9 7 6 5</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">♠ 8 6<br/>♥ K 5 4 2<br/>♦ 10 6 4 2<br/>♣ K 10 3</p> |
|--|--|

On this deal, some pairs ended up in three notrump, a reasonable option for South. When West led the ten of spades, it was pretty difficult to put up the jack for the double club finesse, so three notrump was only made on three of eight occasions.

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

Against the Moysian four hearts, West led the ace, king and a third spade. The jack of spades was ruffed with the two of hearts and over-ruffed with the three. Declarer played a diamond to the ace and the queen of hearts, not covered and run. Then declarer played the jack of clubs to the king and ace, the queen of clubs and a third club, ruffed with the six of hearts. The jack of hearts came next, again not covered. Declarer played the king of diamonds and ruffed a diamond with the ace of hearts, felling the queen of diamonds. A high club from South meant that East could ruff it with the thirteenth trump, but had to give the last trick (the tenth and game-fulfilling one) to the jack of diamonds in dummy.

In the final between Poland and Sweden, it took until board 36 (of 42) for the Swedish team to take the lead.

**Dealer North. Both Vul.**

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <p style="text-align: center;">♠ 6 3<br/>♥ 10 9 8 4<br/>♦ K 9 8<br/>♣ Q 8 5 3</p> <p>♠ Q 8 7 2<br/>♥ Q 2<br/>♦ Q 10 6 4 3<br/>♣ A 4</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ A K 4<br/>♥ A K J 7 3<br/>♦ 7<br/>♣ J 10 6 2</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">♠ J 10 9 5<br/>♥ 6 5<br/>♦ A J 5 2<br/>♣ K 9 7</p> |
|---|---|

| West              | North           | East           | South        |
|-------------------|-----------------|----------------|--------------|
| <i>O.Rimstedt</i> | <i>Chodacki</i> | <i>Säftsen</i> | <i>Nowak</i> |
| —                 | Pass            | Pass           | 1 ♥          |
| Pass              | 1 NT            | Pass           | 2 ♣          |
| Pass              | 2 ♥             | Pass           | 2 ♠          |
| Pass              | 3 ♥             | Pass           | Pass         |
| Pass              |                 |                |              |

| West          | North            | East         | South             |
|---------------|------------------|--------------|-------------------|
| <i>Niajko</i> | <i>Grönqvist</i> | <i>Marks</i> | <i>M.Rimstedt</i> |
| —             | Pass             | Pass         | 1 ♥               |
| Pass          | 3 ♥              | Pass         | 4 ♥               |
| Pass          | Pass             | Pass         |                   |



Photo: www.imp-bridge.nl

Winners of the 2015 White House Junior International Teams: SWEDEN  
l. to r. Mikael Rimstedt, Ida Grönqvist, Johan Säfsten, Ola Rimstedt

A well-controlled bidding sequence by the Polish North-South pair ended in the reasonable three-heart partscore: plus 170 for Poland.

After the pre-emptive three hearts, any junior South would have hated to miss a vulnerable game, so Mikael Rimstedt, the Swedish South, bid one more for the road, hoping for a singleton club or another useful feature in North. West led a fourth-best four of diamonds against four hearts. Declarer played the king from dummy, aiming at ace and another diamond. But East switched, though luckily for Sweden, not to the very-hard-to-find low club, but to the jack of spades: plus 620 for Sweden.

The final stayed full of tension and exciting bridge till the end. The last blow came on Board 41.

**Dealer North. EW Vul.**

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

| West            | North             | East         | South          |
|-----------------|-------------------|--------------|----------------|
| <i>Chodacki</i> | <i>O.Rimstedt</i> | <i>Nowak</i> | <i>Säfsten</i> |
| —               | 2♦ <sup>1</sup>   | 3♣           | 3♦             |
| 3♠              | 4♦                | 4♠           | 5♦             |
| Double          | Pass              | Pass         | Pass           |

1. 10-16; 6+ diamonds; no 4-card major.

South judged excellently by ‘saving’ against four spades for plus 550, winning 12 IMPs when Poland, after a Forcing Pass mix-up, went on to six diamonds, down one. That brought the score to 91-73 with only one board to play and assured Sweden of the Carrousel Cup (the heritage of those beautiful junior years in ‘s-Hertogenbosch).

It had been six days of exciting bridge, starting on Sunday with a Pro-Am Patton (that intriguing combination of board-a-match and IMPs) where guests and officials as ‘Ams’ paired up with juniors as ‘Pros’, and a closing pairs tournament, with many transnational pairings on Friday, won by Brigitta Fisher (Hungary) and Sam Bahbout (Belgium). Max Abram and Herman Drenkelford, the main sponsors, remain ever so enthusiastic about junior bridge, so that the young participants said goodbye in the expectation of returning to Amsterdam in 2016 for the 24<sup>th</sup> event.

**David Bird also reports on the White House Junior International Teams on page 14.**



# IBPA Column Service

Tim Bourke, Canberra

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

## 757. Dealer South. Neither Vul.

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

| West | North | East | South |
|------|-------|------|-------|
| —    | —     | —    | 2♣    |
| 4♥   | Pass  | Pass | 4♠    |
| Pass | Pass  | Pass |       |

This deal was played in a teams match and both South players arrived in four spades after West had preempted in hearts.

At the first table, West began with the ace and king of hearts. Declarer, a seasoned campaigner, ruffed the continuation with the six of spades as a matter of technique because it might be useful to preserve the four of trumps for later in the play. Declarer played the ace of trumps at trick three. West's heart discard changed a routine contract into one that would need some luck, specifically 3-3 breaks in both minors, leaving East with three hearts as well. But since declarer had already suffered a 4-0 trump break, he felt good minor-suit breaks to be no more than his due.

Declarer cashed the three top diamonds, then played the ace, king and jack of clubs. West won with the queen of clubs but found himself on lead with a handful of hearts. Declarer ruffed the heart exit in dummy with the five of trumps and underruffed in hand with the jealously-husbanded four. A trump was then led from dummy and East's jack was allowed to hold the trick. Declarer took the last two tricks with the ten and king of trumps.

When the defenders at this table scored up, they found that they had lost ten IMPs on this board. "Didn't you

ruff the second heart with an intermediate trump?" asked East of the declarer.

"It was difficult to do so when my West shifted to a diamond at trick two," said his teammate. "After that there was no way to make the game."

## 758. Dealer South. Neither Vul.

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

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

West led the jack of spades on this deal from the same team game. The second declarer on the previous deal took this in hand with the queen and ducked a heart. East won the trick with the nine of hearts and exited with the queen of hearts. Declarer took this in hand and led a club to dummy's queen and East's king. East played a heart to dummy's queen and was pleased when declarer panicked and played ace and another club. Declarer finished down two.

At the other table, declarer saw that he had eight winners and that the club suit offered the best chance for the ninth trick. After taking the first trick with the queen of spades he continued with the ace, then the two of clubs. East won the third trick with the jack of clubs and now declarer had an easy nine tricks for the taking.

If West had taken the ten of clubs with the jack, declarer would have won the return and arranged to lead his last club towards dummy's queen. This way of tackling the club suit loses only when West started

with a doubleton jack of clubs, roughly a 6% chance a priori.

In this particular instance, declarer could also have succeeded by endplaying East in hearts to lead into the ace-queen of clubs: duck a heart and later a diamond. That would not have worked so well had East's red-suit distribution been reversed, however.

**759. Dealer South. EW Vul.**

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

|             |  |             |              |
|-------------|--|-------------|--------------|
|             | ♠ Q 7 6<br>♥ 8 7 5 4<br>♦ A K<br>♣ A Q 6 3 |             |              |
| <b>West</b> | <b>North</b>                               | <b>East</b> | <b>South</b> |
| —           | —  | —           | INT          |
| Pass        | 6NT  | Pass        | Pass         |
| Pass        |  |             |              |

West led the jack of spades. Declarer could count eleven tricks and, at first glance, the contract seemed to depend on hearts being 3-3. Declarer was a bit surprised when East discarded a diamond on the spade lead.

After winning the first trick with dummy's king of spades, declarer cashed the king, jack and ace of clubs. Once the suit broke 3-3, ten of West's cards were known. So, declarer ducked a heart, to West as it happened. After winning the spade return in dummy with the ace, declarer cashed the king of hearts and the king of diamonds. This gave him a complete count of the unseen hands: West had started with 7=2=1=3 shape and East with 0=4=6=3.

After declarer cashed the queen of spades, these cards remained to be played:

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <p>♠ —<br/>♥ A<br/>♦ 10 6 4<br/>♣ —</p> <p>♠ 10 9 8 5<br/>♥ —<br/>♦ —<br/>♣ —</p> | <p>♠ —<br/>♥ Q 9<br/>♦ Q J<br/>♣ —</p> |
|---|--|

♠ —  
♥ 8 7  
♦ A  
♣ Q

The queen of clubs was led, declarer discarding a diamond from dummy, and East had no answer. Whichever suit he discarded from would see declarer cash the ace in that suit and use the ace in the other suit to reach the established red-suit winner.

**760. Dealer East. Both Vul.**

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

|             |                 |                 |              |
|-------------|-----------------|-----------------|--------------|
|             | ♠ A             |                 |              |
| <b>West</b> | <b>North</b>    | <b>East</b>     | <b>South</b> |
| —           | —               | 2♠ <sup>1</sup> | Double       |
| Pass        | 3♣ <sup>2</sup> | Pass            | 3♥           |
| Pass        | 4♥              | Pass            | 4NT          |
| Pass        | 5♥              | Pass            | 7♥           |
| Pass        | Pass            | Pass            |              |

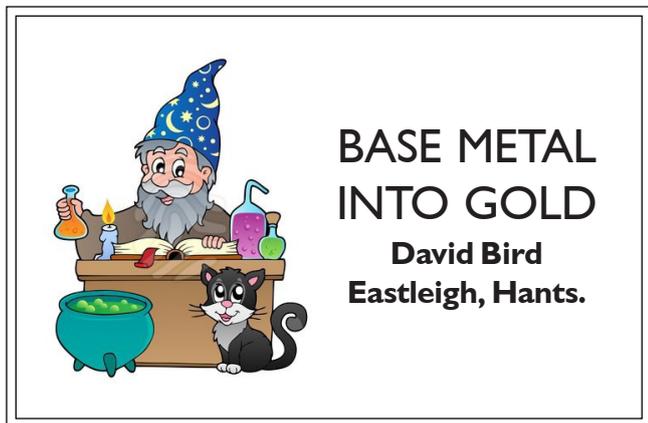
1. Weak two, promising 6-9 hcp and a six-card suit
2. 7-10 high card points or so – weaker hands would go via a Lebensohl 2NT

South decided to bid the grand slam in a suit known to be (almost certainly) solid when his partner showed two aces in response to the Roman Key Card Blackwood enquiry of four notrump.

West led the three of spades. Declarer took this in hand with the ace of spades and cashed the ace of trumps. Once both defenders followed, declarer could count twelve certain tricks. The issue was to play the club suit for four tricks.

After drawing two more rounds of trumps, declarer saw that it would cost nothing to cash the king and queen of diamonds before touching clubs. When East showed out on the second diamond, he was then known to have started with 2-1 in the red suits. As the bidding and the lead suggested that East did indeed have exactly six spades, he began with a presumed 6=2=1=4 shape. So declarer played a club to the ace and a low club back towards his hand. When East produced the five of clubs declarer played the nine of clubs from hand and thereby made his contract.

If East had followed to the second diamond then declarer would have known that only West could have had four clubs and would accordingly have started the suit by playing the king and queen of clubs. This would have brought home four tricks when clubs were 3-2 and also when East had a singleton jack or ten of clubs.



Israel faced Sweden in a semi-final of the White House Junior invitational in Amsterdam. Declarer had an unusual chance to benefit from wayward defence on this deal:

**Dealer West. NS Vul.**

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

| West      | North    | East       | South   |
|-----------|----------|------------|---------|
| Grönkvist | Gerstner | M.Rimstedt | Meyuhas |
| 1♦        | Double   | 1♠         | 2♥      |
| Pass      | 3♥       | Pass       | 4♥      |
| Pass      | Pass     | Pass       |         |

West led the ace of diamonds, East following with the ten (a reverse-count signal). On the king of diamonds continuation, East chose to play the seven. This may have been a suit-preference signal, implying that he did not want a club switch. A side effect was that South's five of diamonds was elevated into a threat-card against West.

West now switched to the four of spades. Although the prospects of avoiding a setting trick in clubs were limited, Moshiko Meyuhas was not inclined to run this to his jack. When he rose with the ace of spades and led dummy's ten of hearts, East won with the ace and returned a spade (hoping that West could ruff). The jack, queen and king completed this trick and the *Bridge Base* operator informed the kibitzers that declarer was not looking too happy about his play on the first round of spades.

At this stage, West held the sole guard of both clubs and diamonds. However, the five of diamonds was not much use as a threat-card, since it could be ruffed in

dummy anyway (for a ninth trick). To promote the five of diamonds to its full value, declarer needed to ruff two spades in his hand. The dummy reversal would provide an alternative route to the ninth trick and a tenth would follow from a minor-suit squeeze on West.

The winning line of play is: ruff a spade high (West shows out), cross to a trump (West again showing out) and ruff a spade. Declarer then crosses to a trump and plays dummy's last trump, throwing a club from his hand. West has no good discard. Meyuhas called for dummy's trump king instead of taking the first of the necessary spade ruffs and no recovery was possible. At the other table, a lead of the jack of clubs allowed North to make two hearts with two overtricks for a 7-IMP swing. Sweden beat Israel 93-63 and went on to defeat Poland 98-73 in the final.



Six teams entered the Trials. They played a double round-robin over two days to qualify four teams for knockout play. The knockout winner was designated as USA1 for the upcoming Venice Cup in Chennai. The losing finalist in the USA1 title match then played off against the winner of a match between the USA1 losing semifinalist teams for the right to become USA2. The USA1 semifinal matches were 64 boards in length while all others were over 120 boards.

**USA1 Final. Goldberg v. Narasimhan Board 19. Dealer South. E/W Vul.**

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

| West   | North     | East          | South  |
|--------|-----------|---------------|--------|
| Lewis  | Campanile | Eythorsdottir | Meyers |
| —      | —         | —             | 1♦     |
| Double | 1♥        | 2♠            | 3♥     |
| 4♠     | Pass      | Pass          | Pass   |

| West       | North  | East  | South    |
|------------|--------|-------|----------|
| Narasimhan | Sprung | Radin | Goldberg |
| —          | —      | —     | 1♦       |
| Double     | 2♣     | 3♠    | Pass     |
| 4♠         | Pass   | Pass  | Pass     |

To defeat four spades, South must lead either a high spade or the ace of diamonds.

At both tables, declarer had a good idea of the distribution. In the Closed Room, the two-club bid by North told declarer that South was void in clubs. Since neither North nor South had bid hearts, declarer suspected that the hearts were 4-4. If South had had four spades, the contract was probably hopeless, so declarer could assume the suit was 3-2.

Connie Goldberg got off to the killer lead of the ace of diamonds and continued with a diamond. When North followed to the second diamond, indicating an even number, South was pegged at 3=4=6=0. Declarer won in hand with her ten, discarding a club from dummy. At that point, declarer will come up a trick short if the defence is accurate. Radin led the queen of spades; Goldberg won with the ace and led the three of diamonds. Radin trumped with the ten and ruffed a heart. She played the king of spades and led a club toward dummy. When Goldberg showed out, Radin won with the ace, cashed the ace and king of hearts and ruffed a heart with her last trump. She cashed the king of diamonds, discarding dummy's last club, and led a club to score the five of spades *en passant*.

In the other room, Meyers led a third-best heart. Declarer won with dummy's ace and led the nine of diamonds, ducking it to South's jack. South led another heart to dummy's king. Declarer ruffed a heart back to hand and led the king of diamonds, discarding a club when South did not cover with the ace. The queen of diamonds was not covered either, so declarer pitched the queen of clubs and North ruffed. North got out with a club, South ruffing with the nine of spades. When South exited with the ace of diamonds, declarer ruffed it with the ten of spades in the dummy and led a heart, splitting the suit out 4-4 and establishing the fifth heart in the dummy, alas too late. When declarer next led a trump to South's ace, South persisted with diamonds. Declarer could ruff in hand, establishing South's jack of spades as the second undertrick, or ruff low in dummy and allow the jack of spades to be promoted. Down two.

The best lead should have defeated the contract, but the contract made...and the inferior lead should have allowed four spades to make, but the contract went down two tricks. That was 13 IMPs to Narasimhan.

### Board 27. Dealer South. Neither Vul.

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

| West  | North     | East          | South  |
|-------|-----------|---------------|--------|
| Lewis | Campanile | Eythorsdottir | Meyers |
| —     | —         | —             | Pass   |
| Pass  | 1♣        | Double        | Pass   |
| 1♠    | 2♣        | 4♠            | Pass   |
| Pass  | Pass      |               |        |

| West       | North  | East   | South    |
|------------|--------|--------|----------|
| Narasimhan | Sprung | Radin  | Goldberg |
| —          | —      | —      | Pass     |
| Pass       | 1♣     | Double | Pass     |
| 1♠         | Double | 4♠     | Pass     |
| Pass       | Pass   |        |          |

Four spades can always be made. Declarer can take the three top minor-suit tricks and eventually score seven trump tricks or, alternatively, make six trump tricks and the nine of hearts since the ace-king-ten of hearts come down in three rounds.

In the Closed Room, Sprung led the king of hearts and shifted to a diamond. Narasimhan rose with dummy's ace and cashed the ace of spades, getting the bad news in that suit. Declarer cashed the ace of clubs and the king of diamonds, followed by a third round of diamonds, on which Goldberg discarded a club and Narasimhan ruffed in her hand. She then ruffed a club in dummy and played another diamond, trumping with the eight. She led the ten of clubs from hand and ruffed it in dummy with the six of spades. South overruffed with the seven.

At this point, the contract could have been defeated! Goldberg led a heart to Sprung's ace. Sprung simply needed to play a high club to promote an extra trump trick for her partner. Instead, she continued hearts, allowing declarer to ruff with dummy's nine of spades and take the last two tricks on a high crossruff.

The key play on this deal was for declarer *not* to ruff the third round of clubs, but instead, to discard a heart. Then the defence would have been helpless.

In the Open Room, the ace of hearts was led and the king was cashed. North exited with a club to the ace

and declarer cashed the ace of diamonds followed by the ace of spades. Lewis played the king of diamonds and trumped a diamond while South discarded a club. The six of clubs was trumped and declarer ruffed another diamond.

The contract could then have been made by ruffing a heart. However, declarer cashed the king of spades and still could have ruffed a heart to take ten tricks. Given the auction, it is almost certain that Campanile's distribution was 0=3=4=6. Lewis instead ruffed the ten of clubs. She was defeated when Meyers overruffed and tapped dummy with her last heart. That meant 10 IMPs to Narasimhan.

**USA1 Final: Goldberg v. Narasimhan & USA2 Semifinal: Moss v. Baker**  
**Board 44. Dealer East. Neither Vul.**

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

At all four tables, after a pass from East, South bid five diamonds, West doubled and all passed.

West led her king of hearts. Only Kerri Sanborn, for Baker ducked the opening lead, East following with the ten. Sokolow, West, exited a low heart. Sanborn won with the eight in dummy and finessed a diamond, cashed the diamond ace and exited with a diamond to East's king. Looking at nine spades and seven clubs between her hand and the dummy and knowing that her partner held both black aces, Seamon-Molson tried a club. Sanborn ruffed the club and ran the diamonds, squeezing West in spades and hearts.

At the other table in that match, Moss won the opening lead with dummy's ace of hearts, finessed the queen of diamonds, cashed the ace of diamonds and led a low heart, losing one spade, two hearts and a trump for two off and minus 300; 13 IMPs to Baker.

In the USA1 Final, both declarers won with the ace of hearts, finessed a diamond, cashed the ace of diamonds and led a spade. Both Wests took the ace of spades and the king of hearts for a push at one down.

Narasimhan won a tight match to become USA1 for the Venice Cup in India.

**USA2 Semifinal: Moss v. Baker**  
**Board 113. Dealer South. Both Vul.**

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

| West        | North    | East    | South     |
|-------------|----------|---------|-----------|
| Deas        | Levitina | Palmer  | Sanborn   |
| Granovetter | Sokolow  | Stansby | S.-Molson |
| —           | —        | —       | 1♦        |
| Pass        | 1♥       | Pass    | 3♥        |
| Pass        | 4♥       | Pass    | Pass      |
| Pass        |          |         |           |

In the Closed Room, where Deas was West, Levitina was North, Palmer was East, and Sanborn was South, Palmer got off to the lead of a fifth-best club. Deas won with the ace and shifted to a diamond for the king and ace. Levitina ruffed a diamond with the trump six, played the jack of spades to West's king, ruffed the diamond return with the jack of hearts, cashed the king of clubs, pitching a diamond from dummy, led a heart to dummy's ten and ruffed dummy's last diamond with the king of hearts. A further trump lead from North meant ten tricks.

Stansby led the nine of diamonds from the king-nine doubleton. North won with dummy's ace and played a club toward the king. Granovetter won with the ace and continued with diamonds. Declarer made the fatal play of trumping with the king, playing the nine to be a singleton. This would have worked had hearts been 2-2 or if the king of spades had been onside. Unfortunately for declarer, trumps were 3-1 with the spade king offside. In the end, the trump promotion defeated the contract! Nice lead and 12 IMPs to Baker!

**USA2 Final: Moss v. Goldberg**  
**Board 43. Dealer North. Both Vul.**

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

|             |              |             |               |
|-------------|--------------|-------------|---------------|
| <b>West</b> | <b>North</b> | <b>East</b> | <b>South</b>  |
| Deas        | Lewis        | Palmer      | Eythorsdottir |
| —           | Pass         | 2♣          | Pass          |
| 3NT         | Pass         | 4♣          | Pass          |
| Pass        | Pass         |             |               |
| <b>West</b> | <b>North</b> | <b>East</b> | <b>South</b>  |
| Goldberg    | Sokolow      | Sprung      | S.-Molson     |
| —           | Pass         | 1♣          | Pass          |
| 1♥          | Pass         | 3NT         | Pass          |
| 4NT         | Pass         | 6♣          | Pass          |
| Pass        | Pass         |             |               |

This deal reflected a major difference in viewpoint between Deas and Palmer. Palmer intended her four-club bid as forcing, supported by the general principle that pulling three notrump to four of a minor is a slam try and cannot be passed. Deas thought Palmer was merely trying to escape from three notrump, holding the bottom of their range and a broken suit.

In the Closed Room, where Sprung overstated her hand and gambled on a spade card or length with partner, Goldberg knew she had a great hand for Sprung and invited with four notrump. Sprung really liked her hand opposite that auction. What a lucky lie of the cards! Sprung needed trumps to be favourably distributed, the jack of hearts onside and the hand with the ace of hearts to hold a singleton spade: 15 IMPs to Goldberg.

That was not enough, however, and Moss ran out easy winners. The results:

#### Round Robin Qualifying:

|   |   |        |
|---|---|--------|
| 1 | <b>MOSS</b> (Moss/Glasson, Sokolow/Seamon-Molson, Deas/Palmer)            | 124.31 |
| 2 | <b>NARASIMHAN</b> (Narasimhan/Radin, Wolpert/Levin, Meyers/Zur-Campanile) | 122.43 |
| 3 | <b>GOLDBERG</b> (Goldberg/Sprung, Lewis/Eythorsdottir)                    | 97.65  |
| 4 | <b>BAKER</b> (Baker/McCallum, Stansby/Granovetter, Sanborn/Levitina)      | 95.58  |
| 5 | <b>QUINN</b> (Quinn/Wittes, Pollack/Bjerkan, Chambers)                    | 93.77  |
| 6 | <b>HOWARD</b> (Howard/Tebha, Morse/Kozlove)                               | 66.26  |

#### USA I Semifinals:

Goldberg 117 – Moss 109  
Narasimhan 167 – Baker 154

#### USA I Final:

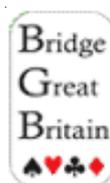
Narasimhan 212 – Goldberg 198

#### USA2 Semifinal:

Moss 227 – Baker 169

#### USA2 Final:

Moss 240 – Goldberg 150



## TECHNICAL TRIUMPH

Mark Horton  
Sutton Benger, Wilts.

The Lady Milne Trophy is contested over one weekend by women's teams from England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. Since 2009, the host nation has fielded a sixth team called by the name of its federation. This year's event, in Birmingham, England, featured many spectacular deals – only one player was up to the mark on this deal, a wonderful example of the application of perfect technique.

#### Dealer South. EW Vul

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

When Northern Ireland met Scotland...

|             |              |             |              |
|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|
| <b>West</b> | <b>North</b> | <b>East</b> | <b>South</b> |
| Connolly    | Leslie       | Burns       | Punch        |
| —           | —            | —           | 1♠           |
| Pass        | 2♠           | 5♣          | Pass         |
| Pass        | Pass         |             |              |

South did not find the ace of hearts lead, preferring instead her king of spades, so Northern Ireland scored plus 600.

|             |              |             |              |
|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|
| <b>West</b> | <b>North</b> | <b>East</b> | <b>South</b> |
| Kane        | Watson       | Symons      | Hill         |
| —           | —            | —           | 1♠           |
| Pass        | 2♠           | 3♣          | 3♦           |
| Pass        | 4♠           | Pass        | Pass         |
| Pass        |              |             |              |

At this table, South had to tackle four spades after East had overcalled at a lower level than at the first table and had passed thereafter.

West led the five of clubs. Declarer ruffed in dummy and continued with the ten of spades. When East pitched the three of clubs, a simple-looking contract had suddenly become seemingly impossible. However, declarer came to hand with the ace of hearts and played a diamond to the ten, king and ace and East returned the four of hearts. Declarer won with dummy's king

and played the jack of diamonds; East won and returned a heart. Declarer ruffed and could have escaped for one down by playing on diamonds. When she played two rounds of trumps first she was two down, which still gained 11 IMPs for NI against the five clubs made by East at the other table.

The 5-0 trump break was unlucky, but it meant that after the club lead playing even one round of trumps would be fatal, and who would be able to resist the temptation to do that? Let's move to Wales v Ireland:

| West      | North  | East | South  |
|-----------|--------|------|--------|
| Kulchycky | Clench | Finn | Pierce |
| —         | —      | —    | 1♠     |
| Pass      | INT    | 2♣   | 2♦     |
| Pass      | 3♠     | 4♣   | 4♠     |
| Pass      | Pass   | Pass |        |

West led the ten of clubs. Maggie Pierce for Wales ruffed the opening club lead and took stock. Realising that she could afford to lose three tricks, she immediately played dummy's jack of diamonds, following the sound technique of setting up the side suit before touching trumps. The dividend was enormous.

East won and switched to a heart (continuing clubs was an alternative defence, but declarer could have ruffed in dummy and cleared the diamonds, ruffed a third club in dummy, come to hand with a heart, played four rounds of trumps and then played on diamonds). Declarer won in dummy, cashed the jack of spades and then played a second diamond. She could win the heart return in hand and draw trumps.

At the other table after one spade-pass-two spades, East bid five clubs and South went on to five spades. When West led a trump, declarer had been handed a lifeline, as she could win in dummy and play on diamonds but, fatally, she took the lead in hand and could not recover, finishing three down.

Wales won the Trophy, ahead of England and Scotland.



Photo: Welsh Bridge Union

2015 Lady Milne Trophy winners:

WALES: Aida Aris/Sue Ingham, Gilly Clench/Maggie Pierce, and Liz Commins/Diane Kurbalija  
NPC Linda Greenland.



As usual, the club expert was blowing his own trumpet. His coterie was listening with rapt attention and devoted looks on their faces.

"You know we won this tournament because of this deal I shall show you, and we won despite our having Mr. Badhir at the other table."

"I was South. I held: ♠A J 6 ♥J 5 ♦8 7 4 2 ♣Q 6 3 2. West opened one notrump, my partner bid two diamonds, which was a transfer to two hearts..."

Suddenly, someone interjected, "You play transfers over the opponents' notrump too?"

"Not always. If my partner bids it, it is a transfer, but if I bid it, it is natural. This is so that the contract is always played by the better player."

"But that is illegal," the interjector continued.

"Not in Kashmir, where this tournament was held," the expert responded. "They have a strong history of independent thought. In any case, I accepted the transfer and my partner bid three hearts, which I passed with alacrity, knowing his tendency to overbid. Although I can usually score two tricks more than the next man, there are limits to my prowess. Anyway, West led a spade and this was the deal and the bidding..."

**Dealer West. NS Vul.**

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

| West | North           | East | South |
|------|-----------------|------|-------|
| INT  | 2♦ <sup>1</sup> | Pass | 2♥    |
| Pass | 3♥              | Pass | Pass  |
| Pass |                 |      |       |

1. Transfer to hearts

The expert went on: "I could see that with one spade, two diamonds and one club to lose, I could not afford to lose a heart trick as well. Thus, I needed either the heart queen-ten to be doubleton with West (one chance only - East's king of spades at trick one meant there were only 16 points outstanding), which was perhaps too much to expect from the goddess of bridge, or the ten of hearts to be doubleton in the East hand (three chances). If the latter were the case, I could play the jack of hearts from my hand to scoop the ten. However, I had only one entry to hand: the ace of spades. How would you have proceeded?"

Without waiting for an answer, he continued his soliloquy. "I won the first trick in hand with the ace of spades and played a low diamond to the king which, of course, held the trick. I exited from dummy with a diamond. West had to win. He took another diamond trick, then cashed the ace of clubs and continued with the ten of clubs. An ordinary mortal would thus have been locked in dummy, but I threw dummy's king of clubs under the ace and won the second club trick in hand with queen. Now when I played the jack of hearts, the defence could not beat me."

"In the other room, declarer went down and we earned 6 IMPs. We won the match by 4 IMPs. My counterpart was a good player, but he could not have played as well as I."

A timid voice rang out, "Sir, he also tried to play like you, but Mr. Badhir produced a scintillating defence."

The expert was apoplectic. "Are you mad? That nincompoop who masquerades as a bridge player defended well? Pray enlighten me."

The timid voice continued, "When declarer played a low diamond toward the king, Mr. Badhir put up the queen. After that, Mr. Badhir's partner had an entry with the jack of diamonds. When he won the second round of diamonds after the king and another, East fired back a club. The hapless declarer could not get to his hand to play the heart jack and quietly went down."

Everybody was stunned. Somebody mustered enough courage to ask, "Why did Mr. Badhir jettison his queen?"

"He had put his diamond ace in with his heart cards. When declarer asked him why the queen, he replied, 'I was giving my partner the count in diamonds by playing high-low.'"

When the declarer called for the heart ace from dummy, Mr. Badhir realised that he had the diamond ace and not the heart ace. He is still bemoaning the fact that he lost a trick by playing the queen of diamonds."

But, by this time, the expert had taken to his heels.



**OZ BRIDGE**  
**Ron Klinger,**  
**Northbridge, NSW**  
[www.ronklingerbridge.com](http://www.ronklingerbridge.com)

## THE AUSTRALIAN SENIOR TEAM TRIALS

Six teams contested the Australian Seniors' Team Playoffs. The format was a double round-robin of 16-board matches, followed by a 96-board final. This is analogous to the format for the 2015 world teams' championships.

### Round 3. Board 4. Dealer West. Both Vul.

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

Two Wests opened three spades:

Table 1

| West              | North | East            | South |
|-------------------|-------|-----------------|-------|
| 3♠                | Pass  | 5♠ <sup>1</sup> | Pass  |
| Pass <sup>2</sup> | Pass  |                 |       |
| 1. ?              |       |                 |       |
| 2. ??             |       |                 |       |

Whatever message East intended was lost on West.

Table 2

| West            | North | East  | South |
|-----------------|-------|---|-------|
| 3♠              | Pass  | 4♣ <sup>1</sup>   | Pass  |
| 5♣ <sup>2</sup> | Pass  | 7♠  | Pass  |
| Pass            | Pass  |   |       |
|                 |       | 1. Inquiry  |       |
|                 |       | 2. Good hand with two key cards and the queen of spades |       |

Table 3

| West | North | East | South |
|------|-------|------|-------|
| 1♠   | Pass  | 2♦   | Pass  |
| 2♠   | Pass  | 3♣   | Pass  |
| 4♣   | Pass  | 6NT  | Pass  |
| Pass | Pass  |      |       |

Table 4

| West | North | East | South |
|------|-------|------|-------|
| 1♠   | Pass  | 2♦   | Pass  |
| 2♠   | Pass  | 3♣   | Pass  |
| 5♣   | Pass  | 6NT  | Pass  |
| Pass | Pass  |      |       |

Table 5

| West            | North | East             | South |
|-----------------|-------|------------------|-------|
| 1♠              | Pass  | 2♦               | Pass  |
| 2♠              | Pass  | 4NT <sup>1</sup> | Pass  |
| 5♠ <sup>2</sup> | Pass  | 7♠ <sup>3</sup>  | Pass  |
| Pass            | Pass  |                  |       |

1. Key card ask
2. 2 key cards and the queen of spades
3. Surely a 13<sup>th</sup> trick will materialize

Table 6

| West            | North | East             | South |
|-----------------|-------|------------------|-------|
| 1♠              | Pass  | 2♦               | Pass  |
| 2♠              | Pass  | 4NT <sup>1</sup> | Pass  |
| 5♠ <sup>2</sup> | Pass  | 5NT <sup>3</sup> | Pass  |
| 7♠              | Pass  | Pass             | Pass  |

1. Key card ask
2. 2 key cards and the queen of spades
3. Further ask, guaranteeing possession of all 5 key cards and the trump queen

As the cards lie, seven spades should be made, no matter how good (or poor) the contract is. Declarer ruffs the diamond lead (say) and plays three rounds of trumps, discarding a club from dummy. Now he crosses to the ace of clubs and cashes the king of clubs, followed by the ace, king and another diamond ruff. These cards remain:

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

When West plays the jack of spades, North must keep the jack of diamonds and so throws a heart. The nine of diamonds is now discarded from the dummy. South cannot afford to pitch the queen of clubs and also throws a heart. Now the ace, king and ten of hearts give declarer all thirteen tricks.

All three Wests in seven spades went one down, a sad state of affairs.

### Round 9. Board 4. Dealer West. Both Vul.

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

Every North/South pair ended in six notrump after (i) North had shown a 15-17 notrump (once), or (ii) South had responded two notrump, then four notrump to show a balanced 18-19 HCP.

Where North was declarer, East led the two of spades. After that unfortunate choice, South succeeded easily. Against six or seven notrump, it is generally advisable not to lead from a suit with just one honour in it. On any lead by East other than a spade, six notrump could still be made, but would probably fail.

At the other five tables, South was declarer. Not wanting to lead from a suit headed by an honour, every West led the six of spades. That also gave South four spade tricks and, with clubs 3-3, South had twelve easy tricks.

David Hoffman of Canberra made the excellent point after the match that West should lead a club. West has six HCP. The opposition's bidding indicated about 33-34 points. Therefore, partner could not have a queen, but might have a jack. The spade lead might trap the jack of spades, but a club lead cannot do any damage. Not only should West lead a club, but it should be the jack. Since a club lead will not cost, the jack of clubs might deceive declarer. Consider South's position after the club jack lead. Is it not likely that South might (would) finesse dummy's nine of clubs sooner or later? If so, six notrump would be defeated.

The final was between BROWN (Terry Brown/Avi Kanetkar, Peter Buchen/Henry Christie, Bill Haughie/Ron Klinger) and KROCHMALIK (Robert Krochmalik/Brian Bedkoher, Martin Bloom/Nigel Rosendorff, Jonathan Free/Paul Lavings).

BROWN won the first three sessions comfortably, 52-10, 48-10 and 53-20 to lead by 153-42 at the halfway mark. KROCHMALIK won Session 4 by 47-39. When BROWN won Session 5 by 56-41 to lead by 248-130 after 80 boards, KROCHMALIK conceded.

There was some fine play and defence here:

**Board 25. Dealer West. NS Vul.**

♠ J  
 ♥ 4  
 ♦ K Q J 10 7 5 4  
 ♣ Q 10 7 2

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

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

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

| West | North | East | South |
|------|-------|------|-------|
| 1♣   | 3♦    | Pass | 4♠    |
| Pass | Pass  | Pass |       |

Both tables bid as in the diagram. Avi Kanetkar, West, led the two of spades to cut down potential ruffs in dummy. Nigel Rosendorff, South, overtook the jack with his queen and played the king of spades. West won with his ace and switched to the nine of hearts: four – queen – king. South drew the last trump and had twelve tricks for plus 680.

To try to nullify the value of dummy's diamonds is a good idea. With that in mind Jonathan Free led the two of diamonds, an excellent choice. Henry Christie, South, took the trick. ace and played the king of spades to the ace. West then continued with the eight of diamonds. Dummy won, but the diamonds were dead!

Undeterred, South knew that almost all of the high-card strength was with West for the opening bid. South played the queen of clubs: three – ace – six, and drew trumps. He then led the jack of clubs. If West ducked, South had ten tricks. When West took the trick, he was end-played. A club would have given dummy the lead and so West cashed the ace of hearts. That gave South the heart king, ten tricks, plus 620, but minus 2 IMPs. Free's fine lead deserved more than 2 IMPs, but Christie's great play did not deserve to lose 2 IMPs.

Paul Lavings produced an excellent lead and subsequent defence here:

**Board 26. Dealer South. Both Vul.**

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

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

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

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

| West | North | East   | South |
|------|-------|--------|-------|
| —    | —     | —      | 1♠    |
| Pass | INT   | Pass   | 2♥    |
| Pass | Pass  | Double | Pass  |
| Pass | Pass  |        |       |

Both Souths were in two hearts doubled after the auction given. Terry Brown led the five of clubs. Avi Kanetkar, East, won with his king and switched to the ace of spades, followed by the spade six to the king and a ruff with the two of hearts. West played another club. East took the ace and shifted to the two of diamonds – king – ace.

Martin Bloom, South, now did very well. He ruffed a diamond, cashed the ace of hearts, ruffed his last club, ruffed another diamond and played the jack of spades. West ruffed with the jack of hearts and returned the heart six to South's king. Bloom played another spade to score the nine of hearts *en passant* for one down, minus 200.

At the other table, Paul Lavings led the two of hearts, judging that North/South were probably in a 4-4 fit—a great lead! Peter Buchen, South, won in dummy and played a spade. East took the ace and switched to the two of diamonds – king – ace. South played the seven of spades to the king. West ruffed and returned the queen of hearts! South won and led the jack of spades. Lavings ruffed with the jack of hearts and played his last trump. This excellent defence took South two down, East/West plus 500 and plus 7 IMPs.



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# NEWS & VIEWS



## The New York Times

The New York Times has announced its intention to terminate its bridge column. Decisions such as these can be, and have been, reversed, if there is enough public outcry. All IBPA members should immediately protest this errant decision to The New York Times.

To make your objections known, please call or email the Public Editor, Margaret Sullivan, at [public@nytimes.com](mailto:public@nytimes.com) or +1(212) 556-7652.

Ms. Sullivan acts as the independent voice of the Times and has the power to express our community's outrage about the removal of the bridge column. Letters to the Editor are also welcomed and can be sent to [letters@nytimes.com](mailto:letters@nytimes.com). These should be between 150-175 words for the best chance of appearing in the paper.

## EBU Awards

The English Bridge Union has instituted a new diamond award, given for consistent excellence at the highest level for England (and previously Great Britain). The first two awards went to Tony Forrester and Nicola Smith. They were presented at the Lederer Memorial tournament, hosted by the Royal Automobile Club in London, at the beginning of March. More information can be found at:

<http://www.ebu.co.uk/awards/diamond-award>

## Vale Seamus Browne

At Easter, 2015, Seamus John Charles Browne died from a brain haemorrhage, aged 62. He had suffered serious head injuries, including brain damage, in a motorcycle accident in Sydney in 2008 and had never fully recovered from those injuries.

As well as winning many Australian and New Zealand championships, Seamus, originally from Christchurch, NZ, represented Australia at the bridge table in 1980, 1981, 1983, 1990, 1994, and 1999. He competed for Australia in the Bermuda Bowl, bridge's highest competition, in 1997 and 1999.

## Bridge Federation of India Trials

Confusion and controversy surrounds BFI and the team that had won India's Bermuda Bowl Trials. BFI had disqualified the winning team and scheduled new Trials for April 28-May 2, then abruptly announced cancellation of those new Trials, perhaps as a result of court order. IBPA is attempting to determine the details.

## New System Direction

IBPA member Prakash Paranjape is attempting to get the English Bridge Union to license a bidding system whereby the initial bid describes strictly a point-count rather than distribution and points (one club=12-14, etc.). The goal is to make it easier for beginners to learn the basics of the game.

## Bridge as a Sport

Bridge has again been in the headlines in Britain recently, with reports in the national media on the case involving the English Bridge Union, Sport England, and whether 'bridge is a sport'. In the most recent hearing, Mr. Justice Mostyn ruled that a judicial review could be undertaken against Sport England's refusal to recognise bridge as a sport. This is a first step in the legal process to have Sport England recognise bridge as a sport so, while it is not a definitive decision in itself, it is an important and positive step towards a favourable ruling and a reversal of Sport England's position. The full story: <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3057633/Judge-says-card-game-bridge-physical-rifle-shooting-rules-bid-recognised-sport-lottery-funding-ahead.html>

## Bridge Featured in AARP Bulletin

An article on the benefits of bridge ("brainpower") appeared on March 25, 2015 in the bulletin of the American Association for Retired Persons:

<http://www.aarp.org/health/brain-health/info-2015/bridge-for-brain-health.html>

## Spring Foursomes

The Schapiro Spring Fours has been won by Frances Hinden/Graham Osborne and Jon Cooke/Jeffrey Allerton. The Hinden team went undefeated throughout the competition, defeating in the final the Vitas team: Lotan Fisher/Ron Schwartz, Vitas Vainikonis/Wojtek Olanski and Waseem Naqvi/Dror Padon. They won the 32 board final by 4 IMPs, though by virtue of their unbeaten record could have extended the match by a further eight boards had they been trailing at the conclusion of 32 boards.

## German Bridge Team Trophy

The Jutek team (Josef Piekarek/Rafal Jagniewski, Christian Schwerdt/Julius Linde) finished ahead of Team Orange West (Berend van den Bos/Joris Lankveld, Danny Molenaar/Tim Verbeek) to win the German Bridge Team Trophy in Berlin.



## Correspondence

The Editor reserves the right to abridge and/or edit correspondence.  
Email: [ibpaeditor@sympatico.ca](mailto:ibpaeditor@sympatico.ca)

Dear John,

Mark Newton has added a feature to the WBF master points site at: [www.wbfmasterpoints.com](http://www.wbfmasterpoints.com) which we feel IBPA members may find of interest.

If you go to the site, you will see a link to Historical Rankings by PP by any year, which enables you to select, first of all, whether you want to view the Open or the Women's ranking and then to select which year you are interested in.

These pages are designed to help researchers and you should be aware that the actual published ranking for

a particular year is normally of World Grand Masters by Placing Points, whereas these pages list the players, living or dead, by Placing Points. There are occasions when the two will be different.

Some of the rankings have been reconstructed from data available since, sadly, records used to be deleted when a player died, so should you or any IBPA member have additional information that can assist with these records, please ask them to email Mark at: [mark@ecats.co.uk](mailto:mark@ecats.co.uk)

Best regards,  
Anna Gudge, WBF Communications Manager



## REPORT ON THE WOMEN'S FESTIVAL



The most successful Women's Online Bridge Festival yet was held in April 2015, with a significant increase in the number of participants, who came from 58 countries.

Adriana Dutu from Romania won the overall event, and has accepted the prize of free entry for herself and the partner of her choice (Romana Tanese), to the European Women's Pairs Championship in Tromsø. We would like to congratulate her and wish her well as she heads for Norway.

We would like to thank the organisers from BBO who ran the event so well and especially the director, Ileana Nedelea (Aditan) and her assistants.

The next Women's Festival will be from November 9-15, 2015.

| Overall Winners            | Name                 |
|----------------------------|----------------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup>            | Adriana Dutu         |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup>            | Anne Gladiator       |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup>            | Jeannie Fitzgerald   |
| Individual (human) winners |                      |
| 1 <sup>st</sup>            | Biserka Plevko-Dumic |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup>            | Rita Choksi          |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup>            | Adriana Dutu         |
| Individual (robot) winners |                      |
| 1 <sup>st</sup>            | Connie Marfell       |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup>            | Anna Dosseva         |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup>            | Liv Marit Grude      |
| Pairs winners              |                      |
| 1 <sup>st</sup>            | Emer Joyce           |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup>            | Jeannie Fitzgerald   |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup>            | Adriana Dutu         |

Anna Maria Torlontano,  
Chairman of the WBF Women's Committee

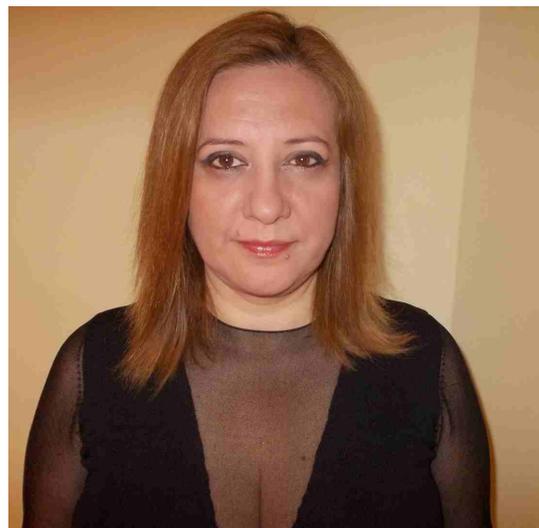


Photo: World Bridge Federation

Adriana Simona Dutu of Romania,  
winner of the Spring 2015 Online  
Women's Bridge Festival

# World Bridge Calendar

| DATES                | EVENT  | LOCATION                      | INFORMATION                    |
|----------------------|--|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <b>2015</b>          |  |                               |                                |
| 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.csbnews.org                |
| May 14               | XXXV Bonn Cup                                    | Bad Godesburg, Germany        | www.bridge-verband.de          |
| May 15-23            | 28 <sup>th</sup> 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 <sup>th</sup> Asia Pacific BF Championships   | Bangkok, Thailand             | www.thailandbridgeleague.com   |
| May 23-25            | 6 <sup>th</sup> Gros Supercup                    | Hessen, Germany               | www.grossupercup2015.wix.com   |
| May 24-31            | XXVIII Golf-Bridge International                 | Costa Calida, Spain           | www.aebridge.com               |
| Jun 3-7              | 55 <sup>th</sup> Poznan Bridge Meeting           | Poznan, Poland                | www.kongres.brydz.wlkp.pl      |
| Jun 6-14             | 17 <sup>th</sup> German Bridge Festival          | Wyk auf Föhr, Germany         | www.bridge-verband.de          |
| Jun 14-17            | 14 <sup>th</sup> Sharm el-Sheikh Festival        | Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt        | www.egypt-bridge.org           |
| Jun 17-21            | 5 <sup>th</sup> Tolani Open Summer Nationals     | Bangalore, India              | www.bfi.net.in                 |
| Jun 23-Jul 5         | 33 <sup>rd</sup> International Festival          | Albena, Bulgaria              | www.bridgealbena.org           |
| Jun 27-Jul 11        | 7 <sup>th</sup> Open European Championships      | Tromsø, Norway                | www.tromso2015.no              |
| Jul 1-12             | Festival de Biarritz                             | Biarritz, France              | www.biarritz-bridge.com        |
| Jul 3-12             | 58 <sup>th</sup> 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 <sup>th</sup> Baltic Bridge Congress          | Sopot, Poland                 | www.bridge.gda.pl/mkb          |
| Jul 24-Aug 2         | 21 <sup>st</sup> Swedish Bridge Festival         | Örebro, Sweden                | www.svenskbridge.se/eng        |
| Jul 25-31            | Chairman's Cup                                   | Örebro, Sweden                | www.svenskbridge.se/eng        |
| Jul 27-Aug 5         | European Maccabi Games                           | Berlin, Germany               | www.emg2015.de                 |
| Aug 2-8              | 47 <sup>th</sup> International Bridge Week       | Mauter, Austria               | www.noie-bridgesportverband.at |
| Aug 6-8              | ACBL Youth NABC                                  | Chicago, IL                   | www.acbl.org                   |
| 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 13-16            | Colombia National Championships                  | Santiago de Cali, Colombia    | www.csbnews.org                |
| 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 <sup>th</sup> "Riga Invites to Jurmala"        | Jurmala, Latvia               | www.rigainvites.lv             |
| Aug 20-29            | 4 <sup>th</sup> World Youth Open Championships   | Opatija, Croatia              | www.worldbridge.org            |
| Aug 21-30            | 43 <sup>rd</sup> 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      |
| Aug 31-Sep 6         | 4 <sup>th</sup> European Universities Ch.        | Warsaw, Poland                | www.eucupbridge2015.eu         |
| Sep 2-6              | VV Cup   | Vilnius, Lithuania            | www.vvcup.com                  |
| Sep 5-12             | International Bridge Festival                    | Pula, Croatia                 | www.pulabridgefestival.com     |
| Sep 11-20            | Confiance Guernsey Congress                      | Guernsey, Channel Is.         | www.ebu.co.uk                  |
| Sep 18-20            | Madrid Grand Prix                                | Madrid, Spain                 | www.granprijmadrid.com         |
| Sep 26-30            | NZ National Congress                             | Hamilton, NZ                  | www.nzbridgecongress.co.nz     |
| <b>Sep 26-Oct 10</b> | <b>World Team Championships</b>                  | <b>Chennai, India</b>         | <b>www.bfi.net.in</b>          |
| 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 26-29            | 8 <sup>th</sup> European Small Federations Games | Protaras, Cyprus              | www.eurobridge.org             |
| Oct 29-Nov 1         | International Festival                           | Avignon, France               | www.festivalsdusoleil.com      |
| Oct 31-Nov 7         | Bridge Brazil                                    | Bahia, Brazil                 | www.bridge.org.br              |
| Nov 2-8              | International Festival                           | Madeira, Portugal             | www.fpbridge.com               |
| Nov 5-7              | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Marbella International           | Marbella, Spain               | www.marbellabridge.com         |
| Nov 9-15             | WBF Women's Online Festival                      | BBO                           | www.worldbridge.org            |
| Nov 11-14            | 14 <sup>th</sup> European Champions Cup          | Milton Keynes, England        | www.ebu.co.uk                  |
| Nov 12-22            | 21 <sup>st</sup> Red Sea Festival                | Eilat, Israel                 | www.bridgeredsea.com           |
| Nov 13-21            | XII Bolivariano Championships                    | Panama City, Panama           | www.bridgebolivariano.com      |
| Nov 16-22            | BFI Winter Nationals                             | Pune, India                   | www.bfi.net.in                 |
| 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                  |