



BULLETIN

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The IBPA Master Point Press Book of the Year Shortlist

This year's BOTY shortlist is as varied a collection as we've ever had. The jury will have a difficult job judging them against one another. The BOTY jury is as diverse as this year's books: Tim Bourke (recused this year), John Carruthers, Dilip Gidwani, Fernando Lema, David Morgan, Barry Rigal, PO Sundelin, Ron Tacchi and Paul Thurston.

Descriptions of the books are taken directly from publisher/author blurbs.

Augie Boehm - *Big Deal*. The author shares tales and insights from his unique perspective as an expert bridge player and as a world-class musician. The book chronicles Augie's life journeys and reveals the highs and lows of a life in and around the game of bridge, from the highest-level tournaments to the most-dubious bridge club in Times Square; from the carriage trade to luxurious cruise ships, to Sing Sing Penitentiary. You'll find glimpses of Stephen Sondheim, Omar Sharif, the Rockefellers, bridge legends, and the colourful characters who populate the world of bridge. Boehm's story encapsulates much of modern bridge history.

Ron Klinger - *A Good Game of Modern Bridge*. In Klinger's latest book, you will find the methods and conventional bids which reflect current standards. The first half will enable the club player to glide comfortably into modern practice. The second half contains more sophisticated approaches suitable for the advanced player and perhaps even for the expert. Adopt those that suit you.

Julian Laderman - *Bumblepuppy Days*. The origins of the game of bridge have been shrouded in mystery . . . but no longer. Tracing the development of the game and the fascinating characters who played it from whist through to auction bridge and eventually to contract bridge, the author reveals the missing link, and demonstrates how the world's most-popular card game came into being.

Krzysztof Martens - *Professional Slam Bidding*. Martens looks at slam auctions bid at the table by professional players. It contains over 150 deals in the slam zone bid by championship pairs, with his comments and proposed solutions, concepts, conventions, and agreements. Bidding in the slam zone is an art, requiring good hand evaluation, a well-prepared set of bidding tools, and a large number of additional agreements with particular emphasis on competitive auctions. Slam zone bidding consists of several stages, each of which requires considerable expertise. It also demands precision and a great deal of intellectual effort.

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2015 SOUTH AMERICAN CHAMPIONSHIPS

Ana Roth & Fernando Lema,
Buenos Aires

From May 11 to May 16, 2015, in Buenos Aires, Argentina, the South American (Zone 3) Championships were contested. The Championships selected two teams in each of the Open, Ladies, and Seniors category to represent Zone 3 in the 2015 Bermuda Bowl, Venice Cup and d'Orsi Cup respectively, to be held in Chennai, India from September 26 through October 10.

In the Open category, before the last match of the Round Robin, Chile led the field, 14.10 VP ahead of the second-place team, Brazil, the only other team with a chance to win the RR. The teams faced each other in the last round and Brazil won the match 17.49 to 2.51 to finish first in the standings by 0.88 VP. So, Brazil had the privilege of choosing its semifinal opponent and elected Colombia. That left Chile to face the always-dangerous Argentina in the other semifinal.

Here are some of the boards from the first and second sets of the Argentina vs. Chile match, won by Argentina.

1st Set of the Semifinal Argentina v. Chile

Board 3. Dealer South. EW Vul

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

West	North	East	South
Muzzio	Caracci	Camberos	J. Robles
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♥
Pass	2♠	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

A heart lead gave the defence the first five tricks for one down.

At the other table Pellegrini, North, (ARG), chose to open one club and he wrote another story. Lucena answered one spade, Pellegrini rebid two diamonds and Lucena continued with two hearts, fourth-suit forcing. Pellegrini chose to support his partner with two spades and Lucena closed the auction by bidding the spade game. Declarer only lost two hearts and a club to win 11 IMPs for Argentina.

Board 10. Dealer East. Both Vul

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

West	North	East	South
Muzzio	Caracci	Camberos	J. Robles
—	—	Pass	Pass
Pass	1♣	Pass	1♦
1♥	3♥	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

With West having both entries, the only lead to defeat the contract was a heart, but Muzzio chose to lead a spade. Then declarer could develop nine tricks before the defence could set up and run hearts.

At the other table, Pacareu (CHI), in third chair, opened the West hand with one heart, so when North/South played in three notrump with North as declarer, Benjamin Robles didn't have to think too much to choose a heart lead, defeating the contract and adding 12 IMPs for his team.

2nd Set of the Semifinal

Board 15. Dealer East. Both Vul

♠ K Q J 7 5
♥ A 9 7 5
♦ K 5 3
♣ 9

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

♠ 10 9 8 4
♥ J 6
♦ A 10 8
♣ K J 8 5

West	North	East	South
<i>Lucena</i>	<i>J. Robles</i>	<i>Pellegrini</i>	<i>García</i>
—	—	Pass	Pass
1♣	Double	Pass	INT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Declarer made eight tricks for plus 120: four spades, one heart, two diamonds and one club.

West	North	East	South
<i>B. Robles</i>	<i>Lambardi</i>	<i>Pacareu</i>	<i>Angeleri</i>
—	—	Pass	Pass
1♣	1♠	Pass	3♣ ¹
Pass	4♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

1. Invitational, mixed raise

At the other table, the bidding also started with one club, but Lambardi (ARG) in North chose to show his five-card spade suit, and that helped his partner to evaluate his hand and invite game. Lambardi accepted the game try.

After Pacareu's (CHI) six-of-clubs lead, Lambardi played low from dummy and Robles inserted his queen, winning the trick. Declarer won the queen-of-diamonds switch with the king and played a low trump, winning the trick in dummy as East followed low. Lambardi continued by playing the king of clubs to the ace and a ruff. Declarer ducked a heart, won by East with king, and East played the ace and another spade. To no avail, as Lambardi won in the dummy and cashed the jack of clubs felling the ten. The eight of clubs provided a further discard and declarer ended up losing the trump ace, one heart and one club. That was 11 IMPs to Argentina.

2nd Set of the Semifinal

Board 20. Dealer West. Both Vul.

♠ A K Q 7 6
♥ 7
♦ K 10 8
♣ A 8 4 3

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

♠ 5 4 2
♥ K J 10 8 2
♦ J 4
♣ J 10 9

West	North	East	South
<i>B. Robles</i>	<i>Lambardi</i>	<i>Pacareu</i>	<i>Angeleri</i>
Pass	1♠	Pass	INT
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♦	Pass	4♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Pacareu led a trump, Lambardi won the trick in his hand, and immediately led a heart. Pacareu, attentive to the auction that had marked declarer's hand as a 5=1=3=4, rose with his ace and continued with another trump. Lambardi tried a club toward dummy, but East ducked and West won with his king. On the club return, North won with his ace, drew the last trump and led a club. East won with his queen and shifted to the six of diamonds, four, nine, ten. Declarer still had two diamonds to lose for down two, minus 200.

West	North	East	South
<i>Lucena</i>	<i>J. Robles</i>	<i>Pellegrini</i>	<i>García</i>
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♠
Pass	4♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Pellegrini also led a spade, but here, declarer drew all of the trumps and led his heart, ducked by East, who had less information than the East at the other table. When declarer put in the jack, it won the trick and afforded him an entry to the dummy to run the nine of clubs to East. The ace of hearts would have given the defence a chance, however slight, but East led a club, picking up the suit for declarer. Declarer lost just two diamonds and one club to make four spades for plus 620 and 13 IMPs.

Argentina dominated this semifinal, defeating Chile handily, and Brazil comfortably defeated Colombia. Once again the classic rivals, Brazil and Argentina, faced each other in the final.

Argentina led by 3 IMPs when the teams arrived at the last board of the final:

Final. Board 56. Dealer West. NS Vul.

♠ K Q 10 8 7
♥ 3
♦ K Q J 9 4
♣ Q 6

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

♠ 4 2
♥ A K 10 6 2
♦ A 5
♣ A K 8 7

At his table, Chagas had scored plus 690 playing in four notrump (Villas Boas didn't accept his partner's slam invitation) and the Argentine pair Muzzio/

Camberos just needed to declare in game and make ten tricks to win the championship.

West	North	East	South
Branco	Muzzio	Brenner	Camberos
—	1♠	Pass	2♥
Pass	2♠	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♦	Pass	3♠
Pass	3NT	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♣	Pass	6♣
Pass	6♦	Pass	6NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

The room full of Vu-graph spectators was silent as everyone held their breath while Camberos was devising his plan. They could see that he needed to guess spades.

After a diamond lead, declarer played to the spade king after Marcelo Branco (West) ducked his ace. Camberos returned to hand with a heart and played another spade, Marcelo Branco (West) again playing low. Camberos, with no doubt, played the queen, winning the board and the Championship.



Argentina Open Team - Winners, South American Open Teams Championship

From left to right: Marilyn Hernandez (NPC) Hector Camberos, Ana Vilela (Asst. NPC), Carlos Pellegrini, Carlos Lucena, Ernesto Muzzio, Silvia Santamarina (presented the award) and Pablo Lambardi.

Winners and runners-up to qualify for Chennai were:

Open Teams

1. Argentina: Pablo Lambardi, Carlos Pellegrini, Ernesto Muzzio, Hector Camberos, Carlos Lucena and Ricardo Angeleri, Marilyn Hernandez (NPC)
2. Brazil: Marcelo Branco, Gabriel Chagas, Diego Brenner, Miguel Villas Boas, Mauricio Figueiredo, Paulinho Brum

Ladies Teams

1. Brazil: Sylvia Mello, Leda Pain, Paula David, Isabella Vargas, Graça Poncioni, Juliana Pacheco, Paulo Brum (NPC)
2. Venezuela: Morella Pacheco, Padma Daryniani, Mora Devletian, Andree Dichi, Nina Tache, Alisa Douer, Franco Gusso (NPC)

Senior Teams

1. Argentina: Martin Monsegur, William Mooney, Scanavino Eduardo Jorge Gueglio, Walter Fornasari, Marcelo Villegas
2. Brazil: Joao de Deus Silva, Amilcar Magalhaes, Sergio Aranha, Eduardo Barcellos, Emilio La Rovere, Eduardo Assumpção

The Transnational Teams Championship was played from May 14 to 16. As of this year, the event has been renamed the Ernesto d’Orsi Transnational Teams. Twenty-four teams took part; the winners of the first Ernesto d’Orsi Cup were the ROBIN Team: Robin and Simon Fellus from Italy, Franco Gusso (VEN), Adolfo Madala (ARG), Agustin’s brother, Rafael Benaderette (ARG) and Fernando Lema (ARG).



2015 AFRICAN ZONAL TRIALS

Ron Tacchi, Vaupillon, France

Four teams contested the eighth African Championships, held in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt in May. They were Egypt, South Africa, Tunisia and Botswana. Egypt and South Africa booked their berths in the upcoming Bermuda Bowl in India this fall by finishing first and second, respectively, in the competition. Here are a few of the key deals.

Open Round 6: Tunisia v. Egypt
Board 3. Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Sherif	Trabelsi	el-Ahmady	Rebaie
—	—	—	Pass
1♣	1♥	1♠	2♥
Pass	Pass	3♦	3♥
Pass	Pass	4♣	Pass
4♥ ¹	Pass	5♣	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. Choice of games

There was some discussion on BBO about which game el-Ahmady would choose. Many thought he would try five diamonds. Fortunately, he decided on five clubs, as five diamonds has no chance after a heart lead.

North led the heart ace, which declarer ruffed in dummy. He came to hand with a diamond and

immediately led a spade. If North hops up with his ace to lead a trump to curtail the heart ruffs, declarer has an entry to cash the long diamonds after he has drawn trumps. So, wisely North ducked. The additional advantage of ducking was that it gave declarer a chance to misguess the spade situation which, unfortunately for Sherif, he did when he selected the jack of spades.

South won with his queen of spades and forced dummy again with the king of hearts. Declarer came to hand with another diamond to lead a second spade, won by North with the ace. North led a trump, removing the last one in dummy. Declarer tried the king of spades, ruffed by North, who could then lead a heart to South for another spade play. Declarer guessed well by ruffing with the nine of clubs for two off for minus 200.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Mestiri	Hussein	Bellazre	Abdel Fattah
—	—	—	Pass
1♣	1♥	1♠	3♥
Pass	Pass	4♦	Pass
5♣	Pass	Pass	Pass

The same contract was reached in the Closed Room with similar interference from North/South. Again the lead was the ace of hearts and again declarer ruffed it in dummy and followed with a diamond to hand. And, yet again, declarer tackled the spade suit, but this time he got it right by putting up the king. Another diamond to hand was followed by a heart ruff. Declarer led a master diamond from the table and South ruffed and was overruffed. Another heart was ruffed in dummy and again followed by a top diamond, South again tried a ruff but he was overruffed again and declarer had his contract with three heart ruffs, a spade trick, two diamonds and the five trumps in his hand for a 13-IMP swing to Tunisia.

It does South no good to refrain from ruffing the master diamonds as declarer could have made 12 tricks on that defence.

Board 18. Dealer West. NS Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Sherif	Trabelsi	el-Ahmady	Rebaie
1♣	1♦	1♥	Double
Pass	3♦	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Double	Pass
Pass	4♦	Pass	Pass
Pass			

In the auction, both Rebaie and el-Ahmady must have thought someone had lost his mind. Nevertheless, three notrump was (likely) headed for one off and four diamonds was makeable on any lead and defence. However...

East led the ace of clubs and shifted to a low spade, which declarer took in dummy with the ace. A low diamond gathered the king from West and was taken with the ace. Declarer now went astray, cashing the queen of trumps, and so went one off for minus 100, losing a trump trick and two heart tricks.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Mestiri	Hussein	Bellazre	Abdel Fattah
Pass	1♦	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♦	Pass	Pass
3♣	3♦	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Double	Pass
Pass	Pass		

After what can best be described as an entertaining auction, West led the four of clubs. East took this with the ace and returned the seven of clubs to the jack, king and a diamond discard from dummy. West then made the apparently-obvious play of the jack of hearts, ducked to the king in hand, but now declarer was in control when he led a diamond towards dummy and played three rounds to establish the suit. He was then home free as he had five diamonds, two spades and a trick in each of the rounded suits.

When West won the second trick, he needed to switch to a spade honour to disrupt declarer's timing and transportation. Had the defence started with

hearts, however, there would never have been a chance for declarer. The defence lost its way discarding on the long diamonds and declarer managed a doubled vulnerable overtrick for plus 950 and 14 IMPs.

Open Round 8: South Africa v. Tunisia

The matches between these two teams were critical for their hope to visit the Indian sub-continent, more so for South Africa as they had had a poor result against Egypt in the previous match.

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Rebaie	Fick	Bellazre	Stephens
INT	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♦	Pass	Pass	Double
Pass	Pass	Pass	

After a Stayman sequence, the merits of which were dubious, South doubled two diamonds for takeout and North converted it for penalties. With over half the deck, perhaps pass over one notrump was more prudent. Equally pertinent was that, if you do not mention a major, there is always a good chance that the defence will lead one. I must confess that I would have bid three clubs over the double with West's hand—I could have guaranteed seven tricks with clubs as trumps. On the other hand, perhaps we'd have made eight tricks with diamonds as the trump suit; you pays yer money and takes yer choice.

North led a low spade, ducked to South's jack. Stephens shifted to a trump, ducked to North's king and the jack of diamonds went to declarer's ace. West led the ten of spades and ran it to South's queen. South shifted to a low club to the queen. West took the ace of clubs and led another, ruffing it in the dummy while North discarded a heart. Declarer could make only the diamond queen and heart ace from there and so was two off for minus 500.

Could the defence have done better if North had ruffed the third club? Not if declarer reads the layout and discards after North ruffs. Then he could always make the four of diamonds *en passant*.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Grunder	Ghodhbane	Kaprey	Fourati
1♣	Pass	1♥	Double
Redouble ¹	Pass	Pass	1NT
Double	2♦	Pass	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♥	Pass
Pass	Pass		
1. Three-card support			

For a moment, it looked as though both Tunisian pairs would declare in two diamonds, but with such good clubs, West rescued them from that fate and East made a questionable decision to remove three clubs to the known seven-card heart fit.

The defence started with a diamond, ducked to North's king. North accurately shifted to a spade to South's jack. South continued with another diamond, won by dummy's ace, and declarer ducked a spade to South's queen. Fourati played back a club to dummy's queen, followed by the ace and a third round of the suit. North discarded his remaining spade and declarer ruffed it in hand. The queen of diamonds was led and ruffed in dummy in order to lead a fourth round of clubs for another ruff in hand. Declarer had taken six tricks on his mini-crossruff, but was out of steam. He could make only the ace of hearts from there for two down and minus 100. Still, that was 7 IMPs for South Africa.

Board 5. Dealer North. NS Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Rebaie	Fick	Bellazre	Stephens
—	Pass	1♦	3♦
Double	Pass	Pass	3♠
Double	Pass	Pass	Pass

South's three diamonds was one of those leaping things showing the majors. It appears that West endplayed himself with his first double: what was he to do after South's three spades? His solution of another double was not voted the most successful bid of the championships as it resulted in 1130 away after two overtricks were made.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Grunder	Ghodhbane	Kaprey	Fourati
—	Pass	1♦	2♦
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♠	Pass	5♣
Pass	5♥	Pass	5♠
Pass	6♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

At this table, two diamonds showed the majors and, after North showed values and a diamond stop, the slam was reached. On a good day, West would have had the singleton or doubleton king of spades, but today was not a good day, and so the slam failed. That was 16 IMPs in the 'out' column.

Qualifying for Chennai were Egypt and South Africa in both the Open and Women's series, with Egypt and Tunisia making it in the Seniors.



The Canadian Bridge Championships are an annual eight-day tournament that is usually held in the month of May and features multiple national competitions. This year, the Canadian Senior Team Championship (CSTC) offered the participants the extra chance to represent Canada in the d'Orsi Trophy in Chennai 2015.

The CSTC final featured the HEINO team vs. the CARRUTHERS team:

HEINO: Janet Heino NPC, James Galand/Gerry McCully; Ken Scholes/Peter Herold

CARRUTHERS: John Carruthers/Joey Silver; Michael Roche/John Rayner; Martin Kirr/Katie Thorpe.

Board 59. Dealer North. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Galand</i>	<i>Silver</i>	<i>McCully</i>	<i>Carruthers</i>
—	Pass	Pass	Pass
1♣ ¹	Pass	2♦ ²	Pass
2♠	Pass	4♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. Precision: 16+ HCP
2. 8+ HCP, 5+ diamonds

With two boards to go, the HEINO team had accumulated a 21-IMP advantage in their favour, 130-109, but ...

Silver led the king of hearts. Galand won with dummy's ace and led the jack of diamonds, covered by the king and ace. When declarer then led out the ace and king of spades and a diamond, he was one down, losing two spades, one heart and one diamond. Plus 50 to North/South.

At the other table ...

West	North	East	South
<i>Kirr</i>	<i>Scholes</i>	<i>Thorpe</i>	<i>Herold</i>
—	Pass	Pass	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♠	Pass
2NT ¹	Pass	3♣ ²	Pass
3♦ ³	Pass	3♥ ⁴	Pass
4♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. Game-try; asks for the cheapest suit in which you'd accept a game try
2. Would accept a help-suit try in clubs
3. What about diamonds
4. Not necessarily in diamonds, but would accept a heart try

The same king of hearts was led, again won with dummy's ace. Kirr, however, led the deuce of diamonds from dummy, inducing Herold to play the three. Kirr put in the eight, holding the trick, and led out the two high trumps, getting the bad news there. The contract seemed doomed, however, as so often happens in bridge, declarer found a solution to his problem.

Kirr crossed to dummy with the king of clubs and came back to hand with the ace of diamonds. The ace and queen of clubs were played to discard hearts from the dummy to leave this ending:

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

When Kirr played the jack of hearts to North's queen, Scholes found himself with only hearts and clubs remaining. The ensuing ruff-sluff allowed Kirr to get rid of his losing diamond from hand while ruffing in the dummy with the ten of spades, to make his contract. Plus 420 to East/West. That seemed like a minor miracle. The major miracle was still to come.

HEINO 130 - CARRUTHERS 119

Board 60. Dealer East. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Galand</i>	<i>Silver</i>	<i>McCully</i>	<i>Carruthers</i>
—	—	INT ¹	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♠	Pass
6NT	Pass	Pass	Pass
1. 14-16			

McCully claimed 12 tricks for plus 1440 as soon as the dummy appeared.

During the play of this deal at the other table, Michael Roche, who was sitting out, approached John Carruthers and Joey Silver, who had finished play. Roche had his iPad, on which he had been watching the match on BBO, with him. Roche's partner John Rayner had joined the gathering group to congratulate the opponents on their win.

"They've got one board to play and we're down 9 IMPs," Michael told his partner and teammates.

(BBO had the score incorrect - the margin was 11 IMPs at that point.)

"Then we have no chance," JC replied, "they bid to six notrump at our table and had 12 tricks on top with no hope of a thirteenth except on a squeeze, which does not work because Joey has the jack of hearts to guard the suit."

"But they can make seven clubs," Michael pointed out.

JC took a second look. "But there's no way to bid it," he responded.

Michael closed his iPad. "I can't watch," he said.

Marty Kirr's visualization skills are second to none. This was the auction at the second table ...

West	North	East	South
Kirr	Scholes	Thorpe	Herold
—	—	1♣	Pass
1♦ ¹	Pass	1♠ ²	Pass
2♥ ³	Pass	3♦ ⁴	Pass
3♥ ⁵	Pass	3♠ ⁶	Pass
4NT ⁷	Pass	5♣ ⁸	Pass
5♥ ⁹	Pass	6♣ ¹⁰	Pass
7♣ ¹¹	Pass	Pass	Pass

- Four-card suits up the line unless weak. With a one-bid hand, diamonds can be bypassed to bid a major.
- Promises at least 4 clubs
- 4th-suit forcing
- Natural, usually 3-card support unless 4=1=4=4 or 4=0=4=5
- Values in hearts
- Spade concentration
- RKCB for diamonds
- 1 or 4 key cards
- Queen ask
- Queen of diamonds and king of clubs
- Choice of grand slams

Kirr reasoned that Thorpe's three-spade bid, showing a concentration there, must contain the king-queen of the suit as, otherwise, she'd have bid three notrump after he'd shown values in hearts. Then when Thorpe showed the queen of diamonds, Kirr visualized a losing heart, if she had one (Thorpe could have been any of 4=2=3=4; 4=1=3=5; 4=1=4=4; or 4=0=4=5), being discarded on the fourth diamond. A spade ruff in Kirr's hand would provide the thirteenth trick if Thorpe had only four clubs. Thus seven clubs. Thorpe would have converted to seven diamonds with four diamonds.

The whole auditorium was watching Katie Thorpe play. Exactly as Kirr had visualized, Thorpe arranged to ruff a spade in dummy and discard her losing heart on the fourth round of diamonds for plus 2140. That was 12 IMPs to CARRUTHERS and the team's tickets to India ... by only 1 IMP. A Hollywood finish!

You may have noticed that an initial (but very improbable) diamond lead defeats the grand slam.

The results:

Round Robin:	
CARRUTHERS	150
HEINO	134
BOUCHER	133
BAYKAL	128
Semifinals:	
CARRUTHERS	146 - BOUCHER 74
HEINO	123 - BAYKAL 120
Final:	
CARRUTHERS	131 - HEINO 130



**A
MATCHLESS
PAIR**

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

While compiling a short report on the final of the 2015 Vanderbilt (LAVAZZA v. DIAMOND), I spotted a couple of deals from the last set that deserve a wider audience. One featured perfect technique, the other outstanding bidding.

Board 18. Dealer East. NS Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Madala	Hampson	Bocchi	Greco
—	—	Pass	2♣ ¹
4♥	Double	Pass	5♣
Pass	Pass	Pass	

South led the jack of spades and declarer won with dummy's queen and played the two of clubs. North was caught by Morton's Fork, a well-known theme but, here, somewhat unusually, in the trump suit. If he ducked, declarer could win and then play to discard his losing heart on a spade (or even a diamond) whereas his actual play of the ace of clubs meant declarer had only one trump loser, plus 600.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Jacobus	Duboin	Wold	Zia
—	—	Pass	1♣
4♥	Double	Pass	5♣
Pass	Pass	Pass	

West led the eight of diamonds. Declarer won in hand with the nine and played the king of spades and a spade to the ace. West played the jack on this trick, so there was every reason for declarer to abandon the suit and play the two of clubs. However, he tried a third

spade, pitching a heart and West's ruff meant the contract was one down, 12 IMPs to DIAMOND.

Board 26. Dealer East. Both Vul.

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

<p>♠ 10 3 ♥ K Q J 7 4 3 ♦ K Q 2 ♣ Q J</p>	
---	--

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Madala</i>	<i>Hampson</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Greco</i>
—	—	Pass	1♥
1♠	INT	Pass	2♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

West led the ace of spades and switched to the nine of clubs. When East played three rounds of the suit declarer pitched his losing spade and was plus 140.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Jacobus</i>	<i>Duboin</i>	<i>Wold</i>	<i>Zia</i>
—	—	Pass	1♥
1♠	INT	Pass	2♥
Pass	2♠	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

The BBO operator described this as “an incredible sequence to an apparently unbeatable game”. Not so incredible—two spades clearly showed a maximum for one notrump (and perhaps implied some useful card in hearts), after which Zia, with his ‘soft’ values, went for the nine-trick game. Barnet Shenkin was closer to the mark with his comment: “Nice bidding.”

East led the three of clubs and declarer took his ten tricks for plus 630 and 10 IMPs to LAVAZZA.



Micke Melander, Stockholm

It was a clean sweep for China at the 20th APBF Youth Championships in Bangkok this year. The medallists:
Juniors - Gold: China; Silver: Singapore; Bronze: Australia
Youngsters - Gold: China; Silver: Singapore; Bronze: Chinese Taipei
Girls - Gold: China; Silver: Indonesia; Bronze: Chinese Taipei

Girls Series. China v. Chinese Taipei

From one of the key matches in the Girls Series, leading China was up against Chinese Taipei Blue and needed to score well to keep Indonesia behind them in the standings. The Chinese player Deng held:

♠ K 9 4 ♥ 4 ♦ K Q J 3 ♣ Q 10 8 7 5, and saw:

West	North	East	South
<i>Deng</i>	<i>Lee</i>	<i>Yu</i>	<i>Wu</i>
—	—	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♥	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♥
Pass	6♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Deng's opponents had a natural auction where four notrump asked for aces and five hearts showed two of the five key cards without the queen of trumps. What to lead and why?

Deng eventually led the king of diamonds, and who could blame her for that? But when the layout of the deal looked like this, it became apparent that that lead was fatal.

Board 18. Dealer East. NS Vul.

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

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

A club is the killing lead against six spades, removing a vital entry to the dummy prematurely—not so easy to find!

In six spades, Wu started well. She won the king of diamonds lead with her ace, took a diamond ruff in dummy and finessed in trumps. Deng won with her king of spades and led a second trump. Wu won that in hand with the seven and pulled the last trump. After that, she could set up an extra heart trick for a discard, but not the needed two.

When Wu played the king and jack of hearts, the curtain fell when West showed out. If hearts had been 3-3 or had the queen dropped doubleton, Wu would have made the contract with this play. She also had a potential squeeze against West if that defender had had queen, jack, ten of clubs and the queen of hearts. However, with the layout as it was, declarer was doomed to go one down.

At the other table...

West	North	East	South
Liu C.L	Guan	Peng	Liu J.
—	—	Pass	1♠
2♣	2NT ¹	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

1. Artificial raise with three+-card spade support

Liu also received the king of diamonds for an opening lead. As she was only in game, she drew trumps and was not able to ruff both of her losing diamonds in dummy. When the hearts didn't break, all the needed discards were not available and she was also held to eleven tricks.

China was lucky when Deng made her unfortunate, but normal, lead and Wu subsequently did not play the deal to best advantage. Thus 13 IMPs went China's way in their hunt for VPs and the gold medal.

Junior Series. Australia v. Chinese Taipei

Board 1. Dealer North. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Chung	Thompson	Huang	Williams
—	1♥	Pass	3♣ ¹
Pass	4♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			

1. 4-card limit raise

Huang led the ten of hearts, won by declarer with the ace in dummy. Without giving further information to the defence, Su immediately led and ran the ten of clubs to East's king. Huang then had to work out what was going on. He soon realised that the defence needed three tricks from spades and diamonds. Since his partner needed the ace of spades for this to happen, he led the eight of spades. When declarer played the king and Chung won with the ace, the jack fell from declarer. It was not difficult for West to shift to the queen of diamonds to take declarer one off. That was unlucky for declarer: he had needed only of the three key cards to be onside to make four hearts. Plus 50 to East/West.

West	North	East	South
Henbest	Su	Harrison	Chou
—	1♥	Pass	3♦ ¹
Pass	4♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			

1. 4-card limit raise

Harrison led the three of hearts. That went to the two, seven and declarer's eight. When declarer then played a heart to the ace and ran the ten of clubs to Harrison's king, he was faced with the same dilemma that Huang had faced. Harrison instead cashed the ace of diamonds, then led a spade, allowing the contract to make. That was plus 420 to North/South and 10 IMPs to Chinese Taipei.



Twenty-one teams met in Schaumburg, Illinois, a suburb of Chicago, in early May, to decide who would be USA2 in the Chennai Bermuda Bowl. Three teams, DIAMOND (Diamond/Platnick, Hampson/Greco, Lall/Bathurst), HAMMAN (Hamman/Lee, Weinstein/Grabel, Rubin/Weichsel) and FLEISHER (Fleisher/Martel, Moss/Del'Monte, Rosenberg/Willenken) were seeded into the Round of 16. The other 13 spots were determined by a two-day round robin amongst the other 18 teams. All knockout matches were 120 boards in length.

All of the half-dozen or so fancied teams made it to the knockout rounds. In the round of 16, only

Continued on page 14...



IBPA Column Service

Tim Bourke, Canberra

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

761. Dealer West. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Pass	1♦	Pass	1♥
1♠	Double ¹	Pass	4♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1, Support double, promising three hearts

The bidding was the same at both tables in this deal from a team game.

The first declarer took the opening lead of the king of spades with dummy's ace and could no longer make ten tricks. Eventually, East won a diamond trick and shifted to the queen of clubs. Declarer then had to lose two clubs and a spade to finish one trick shy of his contract.

At the other table, declarer ducked the opening lead of the king of spades, East indicating an odd number of spades. At trick two, West shifted to the ten of diamonds. Declarer saw that leading up to his king of clubs would enable him to make ten tricks if East held the ace of clubs. However, on the bidding, declarer was more inclined to place that ace on his left. If that were the case, he saw that he would need both red suits to be 3-2. Also, when trying to establish tricks in diamonds, he had to prevent East from gaining the lead.

As a result of this thinking, the second declarer continued with a low spade to his jack and West's queen at trick three. West exited with the nine of diamonds, taken by dummy's king. After drawing two rounds of trumps with his ace and dummy's ten, declarer discarded his remaining diamond on dummy's ace of spades. He then ruffed a diamond with the king of trumps and drew the last defensive trump by

crossing back to dummy with the jack of trumps. Declarer was then able to cash the two established diamonds for club discards. The second declarer took a spade trick, five trumps and four diamonds for a total of ten tricks and his contract.

762. Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

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

1. Game-forcing spade raise
2. Balanced minimum

West led the jack of hearts. Without much thought, declarer called for dummy's queen. When East produced the king of hearts, declarer needed the diamond finesse to succeed. Alas, East held the king of diamonds and the contract failed by a trick.

When declarer moaned about both kings being off-side, dummy was unsympathetic. "There was little chance West would have led the jack from the king-jack-ten of hearts after such a power-based auction," said North. "Instead of playing the queen of hearts at trick one, you should have played low from dummy and won the trick with your ace of hearts. Then, after drawing trumps and eliminating the club suit, you would have exited with a heart. As the cards lay, this would have allowed the contract to make because the extra chance that East had begun with a doubleton king of hearts was there."

"Upon winning with the king of hearts, East would either have had to lead a diamond or to concede a

ruff-and-discard,” concluded North. “Either way, you would have made twelve tricks.”

763. Dealer East. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
—	—	2♠	3♣
3♠	4♠	Pass	5♣
Pass	Pass	Pass	

West led the six of spades. East took this with the ace and continued with the queen of spades. Declarer ruffed with the two of trumps and then cashed the king of trumps, pleased to see that the suit was no worse than 3-1. Rather than rely on four tricks from diamonds, declarer decided on another plan. At trick four, declarer led the jack of hearts from hand and, when West played low, he called for dummy’s king, since East could hardly have had the ace as part of his weak-two bid.

After ruffing a spade, declarer exited with the six of hearts. East won the trick with the queen of hearts and exited with a low diamond. Declarer played low from hand and took West’s jack with dummy’s queen of diamonds. Declarer continued by ruffing a heart high as East discarded a spade. Declarer led a diamond to dummy’s queen and ruffed dummy’s last heart high. Declarer then drew trumps with dummy’s ace and ten. The ace of diamonds was his eleventh trick.

Yes, the defence could have beaten five clubs, but not after the initial spade lead.

764. Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

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

West led the queen of clubs. After winning the trick with the ace of clubs, declarer cashed the ace and king of trumps. Next he played dummy’s king of spades. East took his ace of spades and, judging a diamond return to be dangerous, exited with his remaining trump. Declarer won this on the table with the queen of trumps and cashed dummy’s queen of spades. Then he crossed to hand with the king of clubs and ruffed his remaining spade.

Finally, declarer led a low diamond from dummy and ducked East’s ten. No matter how the defence played from this point, declarer would have made either two diamond tricks or one diamond trick and another from a ruff-and-discard.

Notice that if declarer draws a third trump or cashes the king of clubs before playing the king of spades, he will find himself an entry short for the elimination. After winning the king of spades with the ace, East, in the former case, would exit with a club and, in the latter case, a trump. As a result, declarer would have been unable to execute the elimination.


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HAMMAN, of the top eight seeds, fell by the wayside. In the quarterfinals, DIAMOND, FIREMAN (Fireman/Wolpert, Demuy/Kranyak, Wooldridge/Hurd), CAYNE (Cayne/Seamon, Mahmood/Kamil, Cheek/Grue) and GORDON (Gordon/Rajadhyaksha, Sontag/Berkowitz, Dwyer/Pszczola) made it through. FIREMAN beat CAYNE, then DIAMOND, to win the Bermuda Bowl berth. After a 4-IMP win in their Round of 16 match, they dominated every other opponent, winning their quarterfinals, semifinal and final matches quite handily.



USA2: John Hurd, Joel Wooldridge, Vincent Demuy, John Kranyak, Gavin Wolpert, Paul Fireman

The Round Robin

From the BRAMLEY/GORDON match in round robin play...

Board 19. Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
—	Miller	—	Gupta
—	—	—	1♦
Pass	2♦ ¹	Pass	3♦ ²
Pass	4♥ ³	Double	Pass ⁴
Pass	Redouble ⁵	Pass	5♦ ⁶
Pass	6♦	Pass	Pass

1. Inverted
2. Minimum
3. RKCB
4. No heart control
5. RKCB continuation
6. Two key cards and the diamond queen

Board 19 presented a bidding problem for many pairs (quite apart from the problem in the play).

At the other table in this match, Dwyer and Pepsi reached seven notrump after Dwyer, South, opened one notrump (14-16) on his 13-point hand and six-card diamond suit. Pepsi transferred to diamonds and when Dwyer super-accepted, Pepsi decided that seven notrump was as good as seven diamonds and bid it. In hindsight, he was wrong...seven notrump was as BAD as seven diamonds! Neither grand-slam had a chance...but needless to say, Pepsi had lots of company floundering at the seven level on this deal.

The North/South hands are mirrored...soooo..."Mirror, Mirror, on the wall, who's the fairest of them all?" Vinita is the answer. Billy Miller, Vinita Gupta's partner, reported this deal.

The pair incorporated two bidding gadgets to reach a reasonable six-diamond contract. Knowing that partner held two or more hearts without the king, Miller made the wise decision to stop in six diamonds.

It's not easy to bring this home, but Gupta was up to it. A heart was led and she rose with the ace, drew trumps and cleared the spades. Now she led a heart and East's goose was cooked, He led the club jack from his "quack". No problem for Gupta. She won with the king in dummy and returned a club to her ten, scoring up the slam.

Board 19. Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Rigal	Bates	Aker	Granovetter
—	—	—	Pass
2♣ ¹	Pass	2♥ ²	Pass
2NT ³	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♦	Pass	3♥	Pass
3♠	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♦	Pass	5NT	Pass
7♦	Pass	7♠	Pass
Pass	Pass	—	—

1. Strong or 20-21 balanced
2. Transfer
3. Balanced hand; super-accept

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Woolsey	Falk	Stewart	Lusky
—	—	—	Pass
1♣ ¹	Pass	1♠	Pass
1NT	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♦	Pass	2♥	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♦	Pass
3♥	Pass	4♣	Pass
6NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. Precision

You don't see a 20-IMP swing every day. In the Closed Room, Rigal and Aker did well to bid and make the grand slam in spades. Granovetter led a trump and Aker took the jack with his ace. Aker played a club to the king and cashed the ace. A trump to hand followed and a club was ruffed. Another trump to hand and three rounds of diamonds, pitching a heart from hand...

The defence was done. Granovetter couldn't keep more than one heart and the diamond guard so he pitched a heart. Bates couldn't keep the heart guard and the club guard so he pitched a heart. Aker took the last two tricks with the ace and ten of hearts.

Note that Aker could have disdained the squeeze and ruffed a second club in dummy. Had he done that, he would have needed to cash two rounds of diamonds and ruffed a diamond to hand. That seems to have a better likelihood of success than the squeeze. But well done anyway!

Round of 16

In CAYNE v. CAPELLI ...

Board 19. Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Bitterman	Grue	Helms	Cheek
—	—	—	2♣ ¹
Pass	2♦ ²	Pass	2♥ ³
Double	Redouble	Pass	Pass
Pass			

1. Precision
2. Inquiry
3. I have a 4-card major

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Mahmood	Treiber	Kamil	Cappelli
—	—	—	1♣
1♥	2♦	Pass	3♣
Pass	4NT	Pass	6♣
Pass	Pass	Pass	

In the Open Room. Zia led a low spade against six clubs. Cappelli won in dummy and played five rounds of trumps, Kamil winning the last. Kamil continued spades but with spades 3-3 and the heart king onside, there was nothing else to the play. Plus 920 to Cappelli.

In the Closed Room, Bitterman led a low diamond against two hearts redoubled. Cheek won with the ace in dummy and played four rounds of clubs, pitching three diamonds while Bitterman pitched two diamonds and a spade. Cheek finessed the queen of hearts, followed by the king of diamonds, ruffing with the eight, Bitterman overruffing with the ten. A spade went to the king, followed by the queen of spades. A spade to the ace followed, ruffed by West. Bitterman played his king of hearts, which was allowed to hold, while Cheek claimed ten tricks for the little known score (except at tax time) of 1040! Three IMPs to Cayne. But what a way to win 3 IMPs!

The Quarterfinals: DIAMOND v. MAHAFFEY; GANZER v. FIREMAN; CAYNE v. BRAMLEY; FLEISHER v. GORDON

All matches now played the same boards.

Board 3. Dealer South. Neither Vul.

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

BRAMLEY v. CAYNE. Open Room

West	North	East	South
Cheek	Bramley	Grue	Stansby
—	—	—	1♣ ¹
Pass	1♦ ²	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♠ ³	Pass	3♣ ⁴
Pass	3NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

1. Strong: 16+ HCP
2. 0-8 HCP
3. Range enquiry or minors, weak
4. Maximum

It is always interesting when the same boards are being played in all the matches. Board 3 illustrates just how differently even experts perceive their holdings. There was a great mix of partscores and games—some successful and some not. So many factors impacted the outcome.

In the BRAMLEY v. CAYNE match, Open Room, Bramley/Stansby reached three notrump. Cheek led the three of hearts, which Stansby let ride to his ten. Things were looking good—if Stansby could find the queen of spades, he could collect five hearts and three spades for eight ... and then one of the minor suit kings would surely make nine.

Stansby led the club king at trick two, losing to the ace. A low diamond came through to the ten and jack. Another diamond to the ace was followed by a third diamond to the king, clearing the suit. Stansby played a heart to the queen and a spade to ace. Misguessing the spade was costly: down two for minus 100 and a 6-IMP loss when the other table played in only two notrump, making eight tricks.

GANZER v. FIREMAN. Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Kranyak	Baseggio	Demuy	Richter
—	—	—	1♥
Pass	INT	Double	Redouble
2♠	Pass	Pass	Double
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♦
Pass	3♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			

GANZER v. FIREMAN. Open Room

West	North	East	South
Watson	Wolpert	Liu	Fireman
—	—	—	1♥
Pass	INT	Double	Redouble
2♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

Neither of the North/South pairs got to game in Ganzer v. Fireman. There was a 4-IMP swing for Fireman when Richter/Baseggio made three hearts while Watson and Liu went down three vulnerable tricks in two spades.

GORDON v. FLEISHER. Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Gordon	Del'Monte	Rajadh-yaksha	Moss
—	—	—	1♣ ¹
Pass	1♦ ²	Pass	INT
Pass	2♠ ³	Pass	3♣ ⁴
Pass	3NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

1. Strong: 16+ HCP
2. 0-8 HCP
3. Range enquiry or minors, weak
4. Maximum

In GORDON v. FLEISHER, the result was very different. As in the BRAMLEY v. CAYNE match, the swing was 6 IMPs, however, in GORDON v. FLEISHER, Del'Monte and Moss bid game and made it while their counterparts in the other room stopped in one notrump, making ten tricks!

How did Moss make three notrump? Gordon led the six of spades, which went to the ten, queen and ace. Moss, like Stansby, led the king of clubs from hand, losing to the ace with East. Rajadhyaksha, like Grue, shifted to low diamond to the ten and jack but, instead of continuing diamonds, Gordon led the three of hearts to the ten. Moss ran the seven of clubs, which held the trick. Then he unblocked the queen of hearts and led a spade to the jack. He cashed his hearts and claimed nine tricks.

This all goes to prove that you never know what is happening at “the other table”... in your match or in others.

From FIREMAN v. GANZER ...

Board 9. Dealer North. EW Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Watson	Wolpert	Liu	Fireman
—	2♥	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♣ ¹	Pass	4NT ²
Pass	5♥ ³	Pass	6♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. 5-card heart suit
2. Key card and heart ask
3. One key card and the heart queen

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Kranyak	Baseggio	Demuy	Richter
—	Pass	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♦	Pass	3NT ¹
Pass	5NT ²	Pass	6♦
Pass	6NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

1. Based on a long suit
2. Pick a slam

After Wolpert's somewhat unusual weak-two opening (after all, his suit is only five cards long and he has a second four-card major), Fireman placed the contract in six hearts after finding out what he thought he needed to know. The weak two could have backfired had East, Liu, led a spade. However, Liu chose a heart. Wolpert won that with the ten of hearts and continued with the king, losing to Watson's ace. Watson shifted to a club to dummy's king. Wolpert drew the last trump, led a diamond and claimed after the opponents both followed to two rounds of the suit.

In the Closed Room, Richter chose to open two clubs, hardly unreasonable since the sixth diamond makes the hand look awfully good. Over three notrump, Baseggio chose to bid five notrump, pick a slam. When Baseggio chose six notrump, Kranyak led the diamond deuce. There just were not 12 tricks on the 4-2 diamond break. Richter went light one for a 14-IMP swing to Fireman.

Board 10. Dealer East. Both Vul.

```

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

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

West	North	East	South
Watson	Wolpert	Liu	Fireman
Kranyak	Baseggio	Demuy	Richter
—	—	3♠	Pass
4♣	5♣	Pass	Pass
Double	Pass	Pass	Pass

The auction was the same in both rooms ... but the result was very different.

In the Open Room, Liu chose to lead the nine of spades... the queen would have worked better. Wolpert played low from the dummy and Watson won with the ace. He shifted to the heart king, but it was too late. Wolpert won with his ace, pulled trumps and claimed, pitching his diamond loser on the good king of spades, for plus 750.

Demuy chose to lead the seven of diamonds. Baseggio played the eight and Kranyak won with his queen. Holding all the cards, Kranyak shifted to a trump and waited for his tricks. Baseggio won with his club ace, played a club to the queen, ruffed a diamond to hand

and ran a million clubs (at least it seemed like a million) to reach:

```

      ♠ J
      ♥ A 10 5
      ♦ —
      ♣ 5 2

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

      ♠ K 2
      ♥ J 7
      ♦ K
      ♣ —
  
```

Kranyak had been squeezed out of his second spade. When declarer led the jack of spades from hand to the queen, king and ace. Kranyak exited with the diamond ace, which Baseggio ruffed. When he cashed the ace of hearts instead of leading low to the jack to endplay West, he was down two for minus 500 and 15 IMPs to Fireman.

In the CAYNE v. BRAMLEY match:

Board 17. Dealer North. Neither Vul.

```

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

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

      ♠ 10 6 3 2
      ♥ 8
      ♦ A 6 4 3
      ♣ K 9 4 2
  
```

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Granovetter	Kamil	Bates	Mahmood
—	1♠	Pass	3NT ¹
Pass	4♣	Pass	Pass
Pass			

1. Spade raise with 1-1½ defensive tricks

In the second segment of the second day, trailing by nearly 100 IMPs, the Bramley squad came upon Board 17. It did nothing to improve their level of confidence. Both tables bid to four spades.

Both Easts led the king of hearts. Both declarers won with the ace and ruffed a heart in dummy. Both declarers came off dummy with a low trump; both Wests winning with the king.

In the Open Room, Granovetter cashed his spade ace, eliminating all hope of regaining the lead to collect two diamond tricks before the thirteenth club was

established for a pitch. Granovetter exited with a diamond; Kamil played the queen, then ducked Bates' king. Bates continued with diamonds, but Kamil won in dummy; played a club to his jack, cashed the ace of clubs and led a club to the king, hoping for the best. Clubs broke 3-3 and Kamil was able to discard his losing diamond, making four spades.

In the Closed Room, Seamon won with his spade king and put through an immediate diamond. Stewart won it with his ace and played a second spade. Seamon was able to win his ace and lead another diamond to cash two tricks in the suit to defeat the contract one trick—10 IMPs to Cayne.

In GANZER v. FIREMAN, GANZER was trailing by 43 coming into Segment 8 of 8.

Board 21. Dealer North. NS Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Ganzer</i>	<i>Kranyak</i>	<i>Brady</i>	<i>Demuy</i>
—	Pass	1♠	Pass
4♦ ¹	Pass	4NT ²	Pass
5♣ ³	Pass	6♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. Splinter in support of spades
2. Key card ask
3. 1 or 4 key cards

Demuy led his singleton three of trumps. Brady won the eight with his king and played a club to the ace. The king of clubs followed, Brady pitching a heart. The five of clubs was led, Kranyak tossing a heart while Brady ruffed with the six. Brady played the ace of diamonds and another diamond, ruffing in the dummy. Another club was led; again Kranyak pitched a heart while Brady ruffed. Brady led a heart to the king and Kranyak's ace, and Kranyak exited with a trump to declarer's ace. Brady ruffed his third diamond in the dummy, came to hand with the queen of hearts, drew the last trump and had the good heart left in hand. Contract making... plus 980 to East/West.

Six spades would have been down had North pitched only one heart.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Hurd</i>	<i>Watson</i>	<i>Wooldridge</i>	<i>Liu</i>
—	Pass	1♠	Pass
4♦ ¹	Double	Redouble	Pass
4♥	Pass	4NT ²	Pass
5♦ ³	Pass	6♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. Splinter in support of spades
2. Key card ask
3. 1 or 4 key cards

Liu led the five of diamonds. Wooldridge won the queen with his ace and played three rounds of trumps immediately(!). He successfully finessed the club jack, and cashed the ace and king of clubs, pitching a heart and a diamond respectively. He ruffed a club, ruffed a diamond, and played a heart to the queen. A heart went to Liu's jack and Wooldridge was out of steam. He had one trump too few. Down one... 14 unexpected IMPs to GANZER.

The Semifinals: FIREMAN v. CAYNE & DIAMOND v. GORDON

Board 2. Dealer East. NS Vul.

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

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Mahmood</i>	<i>Wolpert</i>	<i>Kamil</i>	<i>Fireman</i>
—	—	Pass	1♦
1NT	Double	Pass	Pass
2♥	Double	Pass	Pass
2♠	4♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			

In the Closed Room, Wolpert let the comedy go as long as he could and then he bid his game. Kamil led the spade queen. Zia won with his ace, Wolpert unblocking the king, and returned a diamond to the nine, ten and ace. Wolpert led a low heart off dummy and inserted the jack. Kamil won with his ace and played a second spade to dummy's jack. Wolpert cashed the heart queen, played a heart to the king and led a low heart to Kamil's ten. Kamil played the queen of clubs.

Wolpert won with the king, played a club to the ace, cashed the last trump, and led a club to the jack, claiming ten tricks when the ten fell, plus 620.

In the Closed Room, the auction showed less imagination. Demuy opened a Precision one diamond in the East seat. Seamon, South, passed, and Kranyak made a pre-emptive jump to three spades. Everyone passed that. Cayne, North, led a fifth best heart and the defenders took their obvious six tricks for two down and 11 IMPs to FIREMAN.

This time, the simple pre-empt worked better than the psych.

In the other match (GORDON v. DIAMOND), this board was a push... but the results did not resemble the CAYNE v. FIREMAN results one bit:

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Hampson	Berkowitz	Greco	Sontag
—	—	1♦ ¹	Pass
3♠	Double	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♦	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Gordon	Diamond	Pratap	Platnick
—	—	Pass	1♦ ¹
3♠	3NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

1. Precision (at both tables)

Things to note about this deal: At all tables one diamond was the opening bid... however, once in each match it was opened by East... and once in each match it was opened by South.

In the Closed Room, against three notrump, Pratap led his queen of spades. Gordon ducked his ace and Diamond won with the king. Diamond played a heart to the queen and a club to the ace. He wanted to collect all the tricks he could since he knew the spades were up and running and that three notrump was hopeless. He played a second club disdaining the finesse and winning with dummy's king. He played a diamond to the king and a diamond to the ace. He then exited from dummy with the spade jack and the defence took the rest for minus 300.

In the Open Room, five diamonds was as successful as three notrump. Greco led the queen of spades and Hampson won with his ace. Hampson played a heart to Greco's ace and Greco gave him a heart ruff. Hampson played a low spade and Berkowitz won with dummy's jack, having unblocked the king at trick one. A diamond to the king and a diamond to the ace followed. Eight tricks were claimed ... down three for the push.

Board 6. Dealer East. EW Vul.

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

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Sontag	Diamond	Berkowitz	Platnick
—	—	Pass	1♦ ¹
Pass	1♥	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♠ ²	Double	Pass
Pass	Redouble	Pass	3♣
Pass	4NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

1. Precision

2. Fourth-suit forcing

In the Closed Room, Berkowitz led a top of nothing diamond to partner's queen and declarer's ace. On that lead, all transportation problems were solved and Diamond coasted home with all of the tricks.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Hampson	Gordon	Greco	Rajadhyaksha
—	—	Pass	1♦
Pass	1♥	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♠ ²	Pass	3♣
Pass	6NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

In the Open Room, it was not so easy. Declarer appears to have the same 13 tricks as were taken in the Closed Room, but ...

Greco led a top of nothing club against the slam. Gordon won with his ace, cashed the queen of clubs, led a heart to the ace, cashed the club king and eight, Hampson, pitching a spade. Gordon led a diamond to his ace to work on hearts. When hearts didn't break, the contract was doomed. West could not be prevented from taking two red-suited tricks.

Had Gordon been psychic, he actually could have made the contract by squeezing West without the count. He needed to run the clubs and cash the ace of spades before playing on diamonds. As it went, it was 11 IMPs to Diamond.

In the CAYNE v. FIREMAN match, Seamon and Cayne

played seven diamonds and made it when both the diamonds and clubs behaved. Kranyak and Demuy declared in four notrump, making seven after receiving a diamond lead. That was 14 IMPs to Cayne.

In these matches, one North/South pair in each match played in four notrump. One of those pairs gained 11 IMPs and the other lost 14 IMPs.

The Final: DIAMOND v. FIREMAN

DIAMOND had lost last year's USAI Final to NICKELL and were anxious to redeem themselves.

Board 13. Dealer North. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Demuy</i>	<i>Hampson</i>	<i>Kranyak</i>	<i>Greco</i>
<i>Platnick</i>	<i>Fireman</i>	<i>Diamond</i>	<i>Wolpert</i>
—	1♦	Pass	1♥
Pass	1♠	Pass	4♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Finally, two identical auctions! However, that's where the similarity ends.

In the Open Room, Kranyak led the six of diamonds to the ten, jack and Hampson's ace. Hampson unsuccessfully finessed the queen of hearts, losing to Demuy's king. Demuy played back a diamond to Hampson's king; Hampson pulled one round of trumps with the ace and went to dummy with the ace of hearts to ruff a heart. Kranyak overruffed the deuce of spades with his queen. He continued the attack on diamonds, Hampson winning his queen. Hampson played a spade to dummy's king, but it was too late. In the end, he lost two spades, a club and a heart for down one.

In the Closed Room, Fireman received the same diamond lead as had Hampson. Fireman also took the immediate heart finesse, losing to the king. And, once again, a diamond was continued to the king. Fireman played the spade ace and a second spade to dummy's king, pulling both of Diamond's trumps. No overruff was possible then. The ace of hearts, a heart ruff, a diamond ruff, a heart ruff, the queen of diamonds, pitching a club from dummy, and a club to East's ace. A club was continued and ruffed in dummy. The good eight of hearts forced out the jack of spades at the thirteenth trick ... Contract making and 12 IMPs to Fireman.

Board 20. Dealer West. Both Vul.

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

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Demuy</i>	<i>Lall</i>	<i>Kranyak</i>	<i>Bathurst</i>
Pass	Pass	2♦ ¹	Double
3♣	3♦	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. 11-15, 3-suiter with short diamonds

Demuy led a fourth-best club to the queen and ace. Bathurst played a heart to the king and Kranyak won with his ace. Three rounds of clubs were cashed and the five of hearts went to declarer's queen. Bathurst cashed the queen and king of diamonds and the ace of spades. The nine of diamonds went to the ace and Kranyak was forced to part with either a heart or a spade. He chose the spade. Bathurst finessed the spade queen and successfully fulfilled his contract for plus 600.

Kranyak had rectified the count on himself. A heart return at trick three or four would have allowed him to keep an 'idle' club to discard on the diamonds.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Hampson</i>	<i>Fireman</i>	<i>Greco</i>	<i>Wolpert</i>
Pass	Pass	2♦ ¹	Pass
3♣	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. 11-15, 3-suiter with short diamonds

In the Open Room, it was somewhat amazing that Wolpert never bid. Three clubs wasn't easy. A spade was led through the queen to the ten. The ace of spades was cashed and a low spade was continued. Hampson pitched a heart while Fireman ruffed with the deuce of clubs. A heart to dummy's ace was followed by a diamond to Wolpert's king. Wolpert continued his attack on spades. Hampson ruffed with the ten and Fireman pitched the eight of hearts. Declarer ruffed a diamond in dummy and a heart in his hand. Another diamond ruff followed. Another heart ruff and the now good jack of diamonds, pitching a heart from dummy while Wolpert ruffed with the trump jack. The ace of clubs and jack of spades were cashed, the contract failing by two tricks. That was minus 200 and 9 IMPs to Diamond.



Correspondence

The Editor reserves the right to abridge and/or edit correspondence.

Email: ibpaeditor@sympatico.ca

Hi JC,

For some time now, I have been collecting Microsoft Word's (helpful) suggestions about how the quality of my bridge writing might be improved. For example: "Bid to the four level" becomes "Bid to the four levels". "Discard the club on the heart ace" ~ "Discard the club on the heart ache".

"Hold up the ace at trick 1" ~ "Hold up the ace hat trick 1".

"Bid your longer suit before your shorter" ~ "Bid your longer suit before you're shorter".

"Ruff the suit good" ~ "Ruff the suit well".

and

"single suiter" becomes "'single suitor" (this makes sense; you wouldn't want a suitor to be married, would you?).

If any IBPA members have similar examples of Microsoft's attempts to help them be better writers, please let me know at: simonx@simonx.plus.com

Regards, Simon Cochemé, London

John:

Per the May Bulletin "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."

This idea has been put forward on numerous occasions. It was, and remains, foolish and I cannot conceive that the EBU would consider licensing it.

Richard Fleet, Sidmouth, UK

Board 7. Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Hurd	Hampson	Wooldridge	Greco
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♠	Pass	4♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

On the jack of hearts lead, Hampson won with the ace. He took the king and queen of spades and led the jack of clubs to the king and ace. He led a club toward the dummy, but Wooldridge rose with the queen and continued with the nine of clubs to the ten and a ruff by Hurd. Hurd exited with his remaining trump, won by Hampson's ace. Hampson ran the eight of hearts to West's nine and Hurd got out with the king of diamonds. Hampson won with his ace and ruffed a diamond, then ruffed a club. He had another heart loser at the end for one down, minus 100.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Lall	Demuy	Bathurst	Kranyak
—	—	—	2♦ ¹
Pass	2NT ²	Pass	3♣ ³
Pass	3♦ ²	Pass	3NT ⁴
Pass	4♦ ²	Pass	4♥ ⁵
Pass	4♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

- 11-15, 3-suiter with short diamonds
- Relays
- Minimum
- 4=4=1=4
- 0-2 controls

In the Open Room, Demuy won the heart jack opening lead in dummy with the king. He played a diamond to the ace and ruffed a diamond. The spade king was cashed, Demuy noting the fall of the jack from East. Declarer led the ten of hearts to the queen and ace and ruffed another diamond. The heart six was then played to Lall's nine. Lall led the king of clubs to the ace and Demuy played a spade to the queen. The now-established seven of hearts was played from dummy, declarer and East both pitching clubs. When declarer exited from the dummy with a club at trick 11, he still had the ace-seven of spades remaining, poised over West's nine-five. That was very well played.

Demuy took 11 tricks, losing just one heart and one club, gaining 13 IMPs for FIREMAN.

The FIREMAN team went on to win the match 297-229.

NEWS & VIEWS



Notes from Buenos Aires

On Tuesday May 12, in the Assembly of Delegates of the South American Bridge Confederation, Marcelo Caracci (CHI) was elected as its new president and as its delegate to the board of the WBF, replacing Ernesto d'Orsi.

The board of the CSB decided, from now on, to call the South American Transnational Championship after Ernesto d'Orsi.

The next event will be the Open South American Championships to be held in the city of Medellin, Colombia in 2016.

Wroclaw to Host World Bridge Games

Approximately 3,000-4,000 contestants will take part in Bridge's World Championships in Wroclaw, Poland, in September 2016. This is the most important event organized by the World Bridge Federation, and the first to be held in Poland. Each country is entitled to send one team in each of Open, Women's and Seniors categories. In addition, an open competition for Transnational Mixed Teams will take place.

War Game

An article in the Wall Street Journal asserted that bridge, not chess, is the ultimate war game. Follow this link to the story:

http://www.wsj.com/article_email/bridgenot-chess-is-the-ultimate-war-game-1431899680-1MyQjAxMTA1OTE5ODQxMjgwWj

German Doctors Update

With reference to the cheating case of Dr. Elinescu and Dr. Wladow, the website of the German Bridge Federation published the following message (translated):

“On April 9th 2015, the doctors' claim for a provisional measure (immediate lifting the ban for all DBV events) was rejected by the Landgericht Köln. The main procedure, in which the doctors request a final lift of the ban, will continue on May 7th 2015. The public hearing starts at 13.45 at the Landgericht Köln. During this public hearing all parties to the proceeding can plead their case and supply the court with additional information. The adjudication in this case is expected in January 2016.”

According to NewinBridge.com:

“Further to our post from last Thursday: On May 7th 2015 at the Landgericht Köln, Germany, the points of view of all parties in the lawsuit from the doctors against the WBF and DBV were discussed in detail. The Court expects, before June 18th, the final explanations by all three parties: the doctors as plaintiffs and the WBF and DBV as defendants. The case will then be adjourned until August 6th. On that date, there will be no hearing and the parties don't have to be present in court. On August 6th, there will be either a final decision or an interlocutory decision in case the Court needs further information from one or more parties. In any case, in January 2016, there will be a final decision.

Donald P. Krauss 1937–2015

Four-time NABC champion Don Krauss died May 11. Krauss, a resident of Beverly Hills CA, was 77.

Krauss represented the U.S. in world-level play on several occasions and earned the silver medal at the 1964 World Team Olympiad. His NABC titles include the 1962 and 1971 Reisinger Board-a-Match Teams, the 1964 Vanderbilt Knockout Teams and the 1970 Mitchell Open Board-a-Match Teams.

Book of the Year Shortlist

(Continued from page 1)

Anthony Moon & Tim Bourke - *Guard Squeezes*. This is the fifth book in a series of eight on squeezes. Guard squeezes are often missed at the table and introduce some fascinating positions. This book is the result of extensive research and analysis by the author into these positions. The first six chapters cover the 35 basic simple and double guard-squeeze positions and relate them to simple and double squeezes. The next six chapters analyse the corresponding show-up guard squeezes. Chapter 13 analyses the rare guard-strip squeezes with a delayed-duck threat. Chapter 14 covers vice-guard hybrid secondary positions.

David Silver & Tim Bourke - *The Canterbury Bridge Tales*. A disparate group of travelers meets by chance at a motel while on the way to the Nationals in Canterbury, Florida. Naturally, they begin swapping stories. Sound familiar? Professor Silver returns in a new collection of short stories, in which literary parody is interwoven with Tim Bourke's brilliant bridge deals. Murder, mystery, sex and the supernatural—and that's just in the first three tales.



EBL Press Release

7th EUROPEAN OPEN BRIDGE CHAMPIONSHIPS

Tromsø, Norway

27th June – 11th July 2015

Organised by the European Bridge League In cooperation with the Norwegian Bridge Federation

We are delighted to inform you that many players have already registered for this event open to all players worldwide. To make it a real success, you could assist us by publicising the Open Championships by any means at your disposal, and include the links that we are sending you herewith. Details of the Championships, Format, schedule of play, Rules & Regulations, entry fees available at: www.eurobridge.org.

Registration

All entries to the medal competitions must be submitted electronically by 15th June 2015 via the EBL Website (not by email) at:

<http://www.eurobridge.org/repository/competitions/15Tromso/microsite/Participants.htm>

Please note that on-site registrations will be closed the day before the event. No registrations will be accepted the day that any competition begins.

Bridge players from all WBF zones are entitled to participate in the Championships provided they are members in good standing of a National Bridge Federation (NBO). To be eligible for participation in the 2015 European Open Championships a player must comply with the EBL Rules & Regulations and the EBL Eligibility Code under the control of the EBL Credentials Committee.

Entries received will be automatically forwarded to the NBO of each proposed player, and are subject to their NBO's approval. Entry applications submitted after the deadline will be accepted only if technically convenient. Withdrawals of accepted entries are subject to the same deadline.

For Open, Women and Seniors Teams the players must only apply to participate in one event. No player may be registered in two teams. The same also applies to Open, Women and Seniors Pairs.

Hotel Accommodation

Special prices have been negotiated with hotels in Tromsø.
All details and reservations are available on the following link:

www.tromso2015.no

Reservation code: embridge

Contacts

For technical information, please send an e-mail to tromso2015@eurobridge.org

For logistical information (accommodation, travel, etc...), see www.tromso2015.no or e-mail post@tromso2015.no or you can contact the EBL Secretariat, Catherine Vitry at: secretariat@europeanbridge.org

Thank you for your collaboration.

Yours sincerely, Yves Aubry, President, European Bridge League

World Bridge Calendar

DATES	EVENT	LOCATION	INFORMATION
2015			
Jun 6-14	17 th German Bridge Festival	Wyk auf Föhr, Germany	www.bridge-verband.de
Jun 14-17	14 th Sharm el-Sheikh Festival	Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt	www.egypt-bridge.org
Jun 17-21	5 th Tolani Open Summer Nationals	Bangalore, India	www.bfi.net.in
Jun 23-Jul 5	33 rd International Festival	Albena, Bulgaria	www.bridgealbena.org
Jun 27-Jul 11	7 th Open European Championships	Tromsø, Norway	www.tromso2015.no
Jul 1-12	Festival de Biarritz	Biarritz, France	www.biarritz-bridge.com
Jul 3-12	58 th Bridge Congress Slawa	Slawa, Poland	www.kongres-slawa.pl
July 4-12	Over 60 Festival	Riccione, Italy	www.federbridge.it
Jul 11-23	Australian National Championships	Fremantle, WA, Australia	www.abf.com.au
Jul 16-29	Festival de Deauville	Deauville, France	www.deauville-bridge.com
Jul 17-25	European Youth Team Championships	Tromsø, Norway	www.eurobridge.org
Jul 17-25	55 th Baltic Bridge Congress	Sopot, Poland	www.bridge.gda.pl/mkb
Jul 24-Aug 2	21 st Swedish Bridge Festival	Örebro, Sweden	www.svenskbridge.se/eng
Jul 25-31	Chairman's Cup	Örebro, Sweden	www.svenskbridge.se/eng
Jul 27-Aug 5	European Maccabi Games	Berlin, Germany	www.emg2015.de
Aug 2-8	47 th International Bridge Week	Mautern, Austria	www.noeb-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 th "Riga Invites to Jurmala"	Jurmala, Latvia	www.rigainvites.lv
Aug 20-29	4 th World Youth Open Championships	Opatija, Croatia	www.worldbridge.org
Aug 21-30	43 rd Grand Prix of Warsaw	Warsaw, Poland	www.warsbrydz.pl
Aug 24-30	Festival du Touquet	Le Touquet, France	www.bridge-club-letouquet.com
Aug 29-Sep 6	International Festival	La Grande Motte, France	www.festivalsdusoleil.com
Aug 31-Sep 6	4 th European Universities Ch.	Warsaw, Poland	www.eucbridge2015.eu
Sep 2-6	VV Cup	Vilnius, Lithuania	www.vvcup.com
Sep 5-12	International Bridge Festival	Pula, Croatia	www.pulabridgefestival.com
Sep 11-13	1 st Festival of Bridge	Viterbo, Italy	www.federbridge.it
Sep 11-20	Confiance Guernsey Congress	Guernsey, Channel Is.	www.ebu.co.uk
Sep 18-20	Madrid Grand Prix	Madrid, Spain	www.granprixmadrid.com
Sep 26-30	NZ National Congress	Hamilton, NZ	www.nzbridgecongress.co.nz
Sep 26-Oct 10	World Team Championships	Chennai, India	www.bfi.net.in
Sep 30-Oct 4	International Festival	Azores Is., Portugal	www.fpbridge.com
Oct 16-18	XXVII International Open Teams	Monte Carlo, Monaco	www.cavendishmonaco.com
Oct 19-23	Cavendish Invitational	Monte Carlo, Monaco	www.cavendishmonaco.com
Oct 21-29	ABF Spring Nationals	Sydney, Australia	www.abf.com.au
Oct 26-29	8 th 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 nd Marbella International	Marbella, Spain	www.marbellabridge.com
Nov 9-15	WBF Women's Online Festival	BBO	www.worldbridge.org
Nov 11-14	14 th European Champions Cup	Milton Keynes, England	www.ebu.co.uk
Nov 12-22	21 st Red Sea International 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