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PRINCE HENRIK BIRTHDAY HONOURS FOR CHRISTINA LUND MADSEN



Photo: Jesper Sunesen/Billed Bladet

Christina Lund Madsen and Henrik, HRH Prince Consort of Denmark

Dansk Bridge editor and IBPA member Christina Lund Madsen has received a June 11 birthday honours award from Henrik, His Royal Highness Prince Consort of Denmark. The award, which is in the form of a scholarship, is presented to young personalities who have supported the development of the quality of life in Danish society and who have raised Denmark's recognition culturally, commercially or within science.

In presenting the award, HRH mentioned her bridge results, her efforts to communicate and broaden bridge interest in Denmark, her resolve to become a world champion and her wish to work with and for bridge. He mentioned how, in an attack of intellectual boredom, Christina started in bridge by attending a junior camp in Poland in 2001, ever since spending many long nights at the bridge table. The Prince looked at her over his glasses and said 'Only playing bridge...?'

Lund Madsen followed up her award by winning the Open European Mixed Team Championship in Tromsø, Norway with partner Ton Bakkeren and teammates Meike Wortel and Bart Nab, all of the Netherlands. That was quite a parlay.

Christina Lund Madsen joins bridge stars Andrew Robson and Bauke Muller, who have also been recognised by their respective royal personages recently.

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Jan Van Cleeff, The Hague

WBF Zone 5, the Caribbean and Central American Bridge Federation, held its Championships in Barbados this year. Guadeloupe had a clean sweep, winning all three major titles to qualify their teams for the World Championships in Chennai later this year.

Also of note were Jim and Connie McAvoy of Victoria, BC, winners of both the Mixed Pairs and the Transnational Teams.

Guadeloupe Open Team (l. to r.): Philippe Mathieu, Luc Soudan, Jean-Claude Pelletier, Jean-Pierre Bouveresse, Charles Garnier, Doménique Gérin

Guadeloupe Women's Team: Jacqueline Cassin, Anne Garcia, Christine Thirion, Janine Moers, Sophie Fabricatore, Chantal Bistoquet

Guadeloupe Senior Team: Christine Baert, Michèle Aragonés, René Aragonés, Marie-Jo Foucher, Philippe Gilliocq

Here is a handful of the more-interesting deals that arose.

**CACBF Zonal Open Pairs. 2nd Final
Board 2. Dealer East. NS Vul.**

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

West	North	East	South
Villareal		Tepedino	
—	—	1♥	Pass
2♦	Pass	3♣	Pass
4♥	Pass	4♠ ¹	Pass
4NT ²	Pass	6♥	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. RKCB
2. 1 or 4 key cards

Against six hearts, South led the ten of trumps. Obviously there was a lot of work to do for declarer, who was faced with potential losers in clubs and spades. Tepedino won with the jack of hearts in hand and played ace and king of diamonds, noting the fall of the queen. He ruffed a diamond in hand, North pitching a club. Declarer draw the rest of the trumps, ending in dummy. He cashed the jack of diamonds and the fifth diamond, pitching the two spades from hand. Tepedino continued with a club to his ace and a low club. Eventually the fourth club became his twelfth trick.

Alternatively, declarer could have made his contract by (i) playing clubs from the top or by (ii) pitching his two club losers on the diamonds and guessing spades or by (iii) leading a club to the nine. On the actual deal, the ace, king and a low club is best. With unlimited entries to both hands, however, Tepedino's play is best.

Peter Fredin has a reputation for his doubles. Through the years, he has launched quite a few spectacular doubles, with results varying between massive gains and catastrophes. All these so-called 'Fredin Doubles' have one thing in common: creativity.

When Fredin and his partner, Gary Gottlieb, played against Angel Villareal and Fernando Tepedino, Peter added a new type to his long list of doubles. The deal is from the Zonal Pairs Final, Session 2, when both pairs were in contention for a high finish. Sitting North, Fredin had this hand:

Dealer South. EW Vul.

♠ A 4
♥ 10 5 4 3
♦ K 9 5 4
♣ Q 8 6

West	North	East	South
Villareal	Fredin	Tepedino	Gottlieb
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	Pass	1♦	Pass
1♠	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♣ ¹	?		

1. Check-Back

Fredin didn't want his partner to lead a heart against a possible three notrump contract and therefore doubled three clubs! This kind of action would be out of the question for ordinary people like you and me.

Not for Fredin, who felt queen-third was enough for a lead director. The bidding continued:

3♣ Double 3♠ Pass
4♠ Pass Pass Pass

Against four spades, Fredin was on lead; he tried a heart:

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

The deal was soon over. The defence took its two heart and two spade tricks: down one. Apart from this new type of Fredin Double, note that three clubs doubled is the only makeable game!

On the following deal it was textbook defence v. textbook play.

Board 3. Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
M. Vivens	Bouveresse	G. Vivens	Mathieu
Gérin	Dubois	Pelletier	Humbert
—	—	—	2♥
3♦	4♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			

The second session of the finals of the Open Teams between Guadeloupe and French Guyana was a very lively one. This was an interesting push. Both North/South pairs (Bouveresse/Matthieu for Guadeloupe and Dubois/Humbert for French Guyana) bid to four hearts. For a time, the play at both tables went along similar lines: West kicked off with a top diamond to the ace. Declarer eliminated the clubs, drawing trumps in the process, and exited with a diamond to East, who had to open the spade suit.

Guy Vivens returned a low spade and, when Mathieu followed low, the deal was over, because West was endplayed. At the other table, Jean-Claude Pelletier (East) returned a textbook jack of spades when he won the second diamond. Humbert covered with the king and Gérin won with the ace. In his turn, West returned a sneaky card: the two of spades. Humbert went into the tank and finally did well to play the ten. Curtains.



Photo: Elisabeth Ettinger

Chennai-bound! Guadeloupe Open Team: Left to right - Philippe Mathieu, Luc Soudan, Jean-Claude Pelletier, Jean-Pierre Bouveresse, Charles Garnier, Doménique Gérin

The deal of the Championships was undoubtedly the following one, from Session 4 of the final of the Transnational Teams:

Board 26. Dealer East. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
C. McAvoy	Fredin	J. McAvoy	Gottlieb
—	—	Pass	1♦
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♣
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♠
Pass	6♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

In the closed room, Canadians Debbie and Mike Hargreaves had bid and made four spades with an overtrick. This seemed a fairly normal result with the king-jack of spades behind the ace-queen. In the WBF Voodoo Zone, however, all is different, especially with the High Priest of Voodoo, Peter Fredin, at the helm.

With his team behind in the match, Fredin felt they had to do something extraordinary and he thought this deal offered an excellent opportunity for a swing. That explained his aggressive jump to six spades.

Jim McAvoy led a heart to king and ace. Fredin cashed his three top diamonds and the ace of clubs. He ruffed a club, ruffed a heart, ruffed another club, ruffed another heart and ruffed the fourth club with the queen of spades. At trick 11, declarer advanced the nine of hearts. East, reduced to the king-jack-eight of spades, inserted his jack, but was endplayed. Mission accomplished, six spades made.



2015 USBF SENIOR BRIDGE CHAMPIONSHIP

Suzi Subeck, Chicago

Two teams were to be determined to play for the USA in the d'Orsi Trophy in Chennai. The format was a round robin followed by a double knockout. The successful teams were:

USA1 - MILNER: Reese Milner/Hemant Lall, Bob Hamman/Mark Lair, Zia Mahmood/Michael Rosenberg
 USA2 - SIMSON: Doug Simson/Jeff Aker, Denny Clerkin/Jerry Clerkin, Marc Zwerling/Mark Tolliver

Here are a couple of the more interesting deals:

USA1 QF. STREET v. KASLE.

Board 2. Dealer East. NS Vul.

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

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Casen	Stansby	Krekorian	Bramley
—	—	Pass	Pass
1♦	Pass	1NT	2♦ ¹
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	
1. Majors			

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Street	Kozlove	Jacobus	Kasle
—	—	Pass	Pass
1♦	Pass	1♥	1♠
2♥	2♠	Pass	3♦
Pass	4♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

In the Closed Room, Krekorian (East) led the jack of diamonds and Stansby ducked in dummy. Put yourself in Casen's place. You anticipated the diamond lead. After all, you opened one diamond. You cannot see the ten, nine, eight or seven. Perhaps partner is leading from the a jack-ten sequence. Stansby's jump could certainly be a four-card suit. You really do not attribute ten-nine-eight-seven-four to declarer. Overtaking could set up a diamond trick and you don't want that. So... you make the reasonable play of the six of diamonds, encouraging partner to continue diamonds.

Too bad! Partner can't continue with a suit he doesn't hold. Partner shifts to a low heart. Declarer wins in hand, plays the ace of clubs, and pitches a diamond from dummy. Three rounds of trumps ensue. Declarer concedes the high heart and claims ten tricks. Contract making. That was good play by Stansby.

In the Open Room, Street had an easy lead of the ace of diamonds. Noting the drop of the jack from partner, he continued with the king. Jacobus pitched a club; Street gave his partner a diamond ruff, and Kasle could not avoid four losers. Down one and 12 IMPs to STREET.

USA2 SF. SIMSON v. SORKIN. Segment 4.

It's rare for minus 1100 in two different contracts to be a push.

Board 20. Dealer West. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Mandell	Aker	Sorkin	Simson
2♣	2♠	Double	3♦
Double	3♥	Double	3NT
Double	Pass	Pass	4♣
Double	4♥	Double	Pass
Pass	Pass		



USA 1 - Michael Rosenberg, Hemant Lall, Reese Milner, Mark Lair, Bob Hamman, (Inset: Zia Mahmood)



USA2 - Marc Zwerling, Jerry Clerkin, Mark Tolliver, Jeff Aker, Doug Simson, Denny Clerkin

Sorkin led the seven of clubs. Mandell won with his king, cashed the king of hearts and shifted to the three of spades. Declarer rose with his king and continued with the jack of spades. East won with his queen and continued clubs, ruffed by declarer. Aker played a trump to West's ace and West took the ace of spades before continuing with a club. Both declarer and East threw spades on the club. Unfortunately, East's discard was the now-high ten of spades, which cost the defence a trick. Still, they achieved plus 1100 anyway.

West	North	East	South
D. Clerkin	Lehman	J. Clerkin	Melson
2NT	3♠	3NT	4♦
Double	4♥	Double	5♦
Double	Pass	Pass	Pass

The Clerkins did not let Melson off the hook so easily. Denny led the king of clubs and followed with two rounds of hearts. Declarer ruffed the second and played the ace and queen of diamonds, won by West's king. Denny cashed the ace of clubs and gave Jerry a club ruff. Jerry returned a heart, providing a trump promotion for Denny's ten of diamonds.

That was fine defence to earn down four and the same 1100. Alternatively, ace, king and a club ruff, heart to West, club ruff and the diamond king is the same 1100.

PLAY OR DEFEND?

Oren Kriegel, Upper Peninsula, MI

This deal arose in the third segment of the MORSE-STREET semifinal match for the Senior USA2 team:

Board 8. Dealer West. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Stansby	Feldman	Bramley	Martel
1♣ ¹	2♥	3♥ ²	Pass
4♣	Pass	4♦ ³	Pass
4NT ⁴	Pass	5♣	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. Strong, artificial, forcing
2. Three-suited, short hearts
3. Key card for clubs
4. Two keycards, no queen of clubs

Feldman (North) led the ten of hearts to the six, seven and ace. Stansby led his singleton ten of spades and when Feldman ducked his ace, Stansby was in with a chance. He advanced the queen of clubs from dummy: king, ace, four—and led the two of clubs to the ten, getting the bad news when Feldman discarded a heart. After winning with the jack of clubs, Martel led a spade, ruffed by declarer. The position was now:

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

With West on lead, would you like to play or defend?

Let's see what happens should you choose to defend. There are several variations:

(1) Say declarer ruffs a heart in dummy and plays four rounds of diamonds (or takes three rounds of diamonds, ruffs a heart, then leads the fourth round

of diamonds). South ruffs low. Declarer must overruff and remains with a heart loser at the end.

(2) It is no better to cash the king of hearts and then ruff a heart: South refuses to overruff, discarding a diamond, and now South can ruff the third round of diamonds. If declarer plays a diamond to his hand and leads a trump, South wins and returns a spade, which promotes his three of clubs.

(3) If declarer takes three rounds of diamonds ending in his hand and plays the king of hearts and ruffs a heart, South overruffs and returns a black card, locking declarer in hand with a heart loser.

At the table, declarer took a fourth line: he played four rounds of diamonds at once. South ruffed low, so declarer overruffed, ruffed a heart in dummy, and the fifth diamond took care of his losing heart (whether South ruffed or not). However, the defence had a counter here too: South ruffs the fourth diamond with the nine of clubs and exits with the three of clubs. Declarer must win in hand and loses a heart at the end.

You should opt to defend in the previously-diagrammed position, but...

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

Earlier, you should have preserved the two of clubs. Declarer plays along the same lines as previously, leaving the same cards as in the previous diagram, except keeping the two of clubs instead of the seven. At that point, playing four rounds of diamonds succeeds: if South ruffs low, declarer overruffs and ruffs a heart, producing the ending that occurred at the table. With the two of clubs left, South cannot defeat the contract by ruffing high, because declarer can then let the three of clubs exit ride around to dummy's five and cash the fifth diamond to discard the last heart loser.

FAST EDDIE

John Carruthers, Kingsville, ON

'Fast Eddie' Felson is the name of the character Paul Newman played in "The Hustler", a 1961 film about Felson's life as a pool shark. It was not too many years after the film made its appearance that Eddie Wold began his ascendancy in American bridge. He has now



Eddie Wold

been a top professional since the 1970s, frequently playing with and on teams with fellow Texans Mike Passell and Mark Lair and their Arizonan colleagues and friends Roger Bates and Garey Hayden. These days he is playing in the senior ranks and, if the following three deals are any

indication, he has not lost his touch around the table.

There is a theme in each of the following deals—the opponents could have nullified Wold's brilliance. That they failed to do so in each case is a reflection on how difficult Wold made it for them.

Wold's defence on the following deal from the semifinal of the USBC Senior Teams was beautiful...

USA2 SF. Board 16. Dealer West. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Woolsey	Jacobus	Stewart	Street
Pass	1NT	2♠	Double
Pass	3♦	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

All four North/South pairs in the semifinals of the USA2 Senior Trials reached three notrump by North. In the SIMSON v. SORKIN match, both declarers were allowed to win a trick with the ten of diamonds, one at trick one and the other at trick two, for an easy make.

In the STREET v. MORSE match, Fred Stewart, for MORSE, led a spade to present Marc Jacobus with his ninth trick at once.

At the other table...

West	North	East	South
Passell	Feldman	Wold	Martel
Pass	1NT	2♦ ¹	Double ²
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. Diamonds and a major
2. Takeout

Wold led the jack of diamonds, Rusinow. Mark Feldman, the declarer for MORSE, ducked. Wold continued with the queen of diamonds, to smother the ten, and Feldman won with his king. Declarer cashed the queen of hearts and led another to the ace in dummy (six of spades from East). Feldman then led the five of clubs from dummy: three, four, jack. Wold knew that declarer had the ace-six of diamonds remaining (Passell had obligingly played his diamonds in the order eight-two to show a doubleton and then had played the two of hearts under the queen to indicate lack of interest in a diamond continuation. Having committed to diamonds rather than spades, a spade shift now was out of the question, so Wold returned the queen of clubs, covered by Passell's king and won by declarer's ace. Feldman cashed the jack of hearts: spade two, heart ten, heart six. This position had been reached:

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

When Feldman played a spade toward the dummy's king, Wold could see that the endplay was inevitable... if he played low. The ace would also surrender the contract immediately. Wold played the jack of spades!

Feldman won with the king of spades in dummy, cashed the king of hearts pitching a club and, certain that East had started with ace-jack-ten-six-two of spades, returned the three of spades to the ten (what a shock that was!), queen and ace. Wold exited with the seven of spades to the nine in dummy and declarer had to surrender the last two tricks to Passell's clubs. Down one.

Had Feldman led the nine of spades to the ten, queen and ace, Wold would have had to lead to declarer's hand rather than the dummy's. But, despite the BBO commentators' adverse comments on declarer's play (looking at all four hands), should he have found that?

(See top of next column.) Lew Stansby led the queen of spades: five, ten, four. When he followed up with the two of spades, Woolsey had a problem. He ducked to try to block the suit or force out East's putative ace. There was good news and bad news: the duck did block the suit, but the bad news was that Stansby held the king of diamonds. When Bart Bramley returned a diamond, Woolsey had to duck that as well in an attempt to make the contract. That resulted in two off, minus 200.

USA2 SF. Board 86. Dealer East. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Stansby	Stewart	Bramley	Woolsey
—	—	Pass	INT
Pass	2♣ ¹	Pass	2♦
Pass	3NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			
I. Puppet Stayman			

West	North	East	South
Feldman	Passell	Martel	Wold
—	—	Pass	INT
Pass	3♣ ¹	Pass	3♦
Pass	3NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			
I. Puppet Stayman			

At the second table, Feldman led the Rusinow jack of spades: five, nine, three. Again the two of spades was led to the second trick, but Wold put on the king, winning the trick. He ran the clubs, West discarding one heart and two diamonds. Wold came to the ace of hearts and exited with the eight of spades to endplay West for plus 600 and 13 IMPs.

USA2 Final. Board 69. Dealer North. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Passell	Aker	Wold	Simson
—	Pass	Pass	1♦ ¹
2♣	Pass	Pass	Double
Pass	2♦	Pass	Pass
Double	Pass	Pass	Pass
I. Precision: 2+ diamonds, 10-15 HCP			

The STREET team was down 9 IMPs to SIMSON when Wold's table presence allowed him to violate one of Edgar Kaplan's edicts, viz., "I like my takeout doubles to be taken out." Wold reasoned that if South could re-open with a double, he must have short clubs, which could mean North would be in a position to punish any further indiscretion by East/West (Passell had already committed one indiscretion with his takeout double). Wold thought that even if North/South could make two diamonds doubled, minus 180, or even minus 380, might not be as bad as two hearts or three clubs doubled. He was right: three clubs doubled was headed for minus 800 and two hearts doubled might have been as bad or worse, depending upon the play and defence.

Against two diamonds doubled, Passell led the ace of clubs and followed with the ace of diamonds. He shifted to the two of spades, which went to the king and ace. Simson led a diamond to the king, then ruffed a club and led the jack of diamonds. Wold won that with his queen and returned the nine of spades to Passell's queen. Passell cashed the king of clubs: jack, three of spades, six of hearts; then he gave Wold a spade ruff. That was one off for minus 100 to SIMSON.

At the other table, none of East, South or West displayed table presence equal to Wold's.

West	North	East	South
<i>D. Clerkin</i>	<i>Bramley</i>	<i>J. Clerkin</i>	<i>Stansby</i>
—	Pass	Pass	1♦ ¹
2♣	Pass	Pass	Double
Pass	2♦	Pass	Pass
Double	Pass	2♥	3♦
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. 2+ diamonds, 10-15 points

Denny Clerkin led the king of clubs and shifted to the two of spades. Lew Stansby won the spade shift with his ace over the king. Declarer tried a diamond toward the king, West winning with his ace. West shifted to the nine of heart which Stansby won with dummy's queen. He led the ten of spades to Denny's queen and won the spade continuation with the jack. Declarer ran the nine of diamonds to Jerry's queen and ruffed the club continuation. He then drew East's remaining trumps with the king and ten and had two top hearts and the thirteenth spade at the end. That was a two-trick differential from the other table, plus 110, and 5 IMPs to STREET.



Just like last year, the LAVAZZA team has won the Italian Open Team Championship, held in Salsomaggiore Terme. Playing for LAVAZZA this time were Agustin Madala, Norberto Bocchi, Alejandro Bianchedi, Giorgio Duboin, Massimiliano Di Franco and Gabriele Zanasi. Second place went to ANGELINI (Cima-Giubilo, Lauria-Versace and Sementa-Tokay) and third place to VINCI (Michel and Thomas Bessis, Fantoni-Nunes and Hugony-Vinci). The format was a single round-robin of nine matches. When LAVAZZA met VINCI in round six, board 31 produced a swing of 10 IMPs in favour of VINCI. The way it happened proved to be quite intriguing:

Board 31. Dealer South NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Madala</i>	<i>Fantoni</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Nunes</i>
—	—	—	Pass
INT ¹	Pass	2♥ ²	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♦	Pass
3♥ ³	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♦ ⁴	Pass	4♥ ⁵	Pass
5♦	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. 10-12
2. Transfer to spades
3. Agrees diamonds; heart feature
4. No club control
5. Heart control and club control

Nunes led the ace of clubs and switched to a diamond to the queen. Next came a spade to the

queen and ace. Bocchi took the next diamond with the ace, played the king of spades and ruffed a spade. He then ruffed the nine of clubs in hand, ruffed his last spade in dummy and ruffed the queen of clubs in hand.

At this point, declarer cashed his king of hearts and played a heart to the jack: down one. This was remarkable as South had shown up with the ace-king of clubs (no club continuation or cover of the queen of clubs with the king) and the ace of spades. With the queen of hearts, South would have had an opening bid. Therefore, on the second round of hearts, the ace should have been played and the contract would have been made.

At the other table, things were even more intriguing as Michel Bessis declared the same contract with similar defence.

West	North	East	South
Thomas	Di Franco	Michel	Bianchedi
—	—	—	1♣
Pass	Pass	Double	Pass
1♥	Pass	2♦	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♥	Pass
3NT	Pass	4♣	Pass
5♦	Pass	Pass	Pass

Here, Bianchedi led the king of clubs: six, ten, jack. He also shifted to a diamond, won by the ace over North's ten. Declarer, Michel Bessis, led the queen of spades and Bianchedi won that with his ace and played his second diamond to dummy's nine. Bessis led a spade to his king, ruffed a spade, then ruffed the nine of clubs and ruffed his last spade. He crossed back to hand with the heart king in this end-position, having retained the queen of clubs in the dummy:

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

When Bessis cashed his remaining trumps, South was forced to discard two hearts to keep the ace of clubs. So when declarer led a heart toward the ace-jack and South followed with the ten, declarer knew South's remaining card was the ace of clubs and so played the ace of hearts, dropping North's queen and making his contract. That was plus 400 and plus 50 for a 10-IMP gain to VINCI.



The Istanbul Club Teams final matches were held April 24-26, 2015, with 15 teams participating. The championship was won by Coup Bridge Player.

During the tenth-round matches, there was a good defensive play by Etkin Ozgan. Or was it poor play by declarer?

IMPs. Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Ozgan	—	—	2♠
—	4♠	Pass	Pass
Pass	—	—	—

Ozgan, West, led the eight of hearts. Declarer won in dummy with the ace and played a low trump to his king and a second trump to the ace. Then he ruffed a heart and played a low club. Ozgan played the jack(!), which went to the queen and ace. When East returned the queen of diamonds Ozgan took declarer's king with his ace and played back the five of clubs. Declarer went wrong and played the seven from dummy and thus lost three club tricks.

That was a good deceptive play. Declarer can make the contract by establishing the heart suit but was afraid of an overruff.

In the other room, after a three-spade opening and a raise to game, West defended routinely and the game was made.



IBPA Column Service

Tim Bourke, Canberra

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765. Dealer West. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
3♥	Double	Pass	4♥
Pass	5♣	Pass	5♠
Pass	6♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

The final contract was decent. However, its chance of success was severely reduced after West led the two of clubs, an obvious singleton. Declarer rose with the ace of clubs, drew trumps and cashed the ace and king of diamonds, throwing a club from hand. He then cashed the ace and king of hearts, throwing a club from dummy, followed by a heart ruff. There was only one chance for the contract. Declarer led the ten of diamonds from dummy, discarding a club from hand.

Since West had started with both the queen and jack of diamonds, he had to win this trick and found himself on lead with only hearts left in hand. Declarer ruffed the forced heart return in dummy and threw his remaining club from hand.

766. Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
—	—	—	1♠
Double	2NT ¹	Pass	4♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. Limit raise or better in spades

Because he was worried that leading a plain suit would cost a trick, West led a trump. This choice and the bidding allowed declarer to place most of the missing high cards on his left. Consequently, there was a danger of losing one heart, one diamond and two clubs.

Declarer won the trump lead in hand and then drew the remaining trumps with dummy's ace. Next he ran the queen of diamonds to West's king. West got off play with a diamond to dummy's jack. Declarer crossed to the ace of diamonds and continued with the four of hearts from his hand. West could not afford to rise with the ace for that would have given declarer two heart tricks and the contract. So, West played the jack of hearts and dummy's king won the trick.

Declarer returned to hand with a trump to cash the ten of diamonds, throwing a heart from dummy. West had to win the continuation of the queen of hearts with the ace. As it was clear that a heart return would have conceded a ruff-and-discard, West played a club. This gave declarer his tenth trick with the king of clubs.

767. Dealer North. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
—	1♦	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♠	Pass	4♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

West led the five of trumps. Declarer played the two from dummy and won East's eight with the ten. As

East's trump looked like a singleton, declarer realised that the defence was a tempo ahead and could play three rounds of trumps before he could set up a diamond ruff. However, he thought, he might be able to set up a long heart. Therefore, declarer cashed the king of hearts and led the four of trumps, intending to finesse the six to create an extra dummy entry. Alas, West was wide awake and played the seven of trumps on the four. From there declarer had no way to make ten tricks.

"You were right to cash the king of hearts at trick two," observed North. "However, you should have led a diamond at trick three. If West had won and returned the three of trumps, dummy's six would have won the trick and you would have had the entries to set up and enjoy a long heart. If, instead, West had exited with the seven of trumps you could have won it with dummy's ace, following with the nine from hand, thereby preserving the six of trumps as an entry to dummy."

North continued, "And, if West had failed to exit with a trump, leading a club instead, or had allowed East to win the diamond, a diamond ruff would have been your tenth trick."

768. Dealer East. NS Vul.

♠ Q J 10 9
♥ A 8 3
♦ 7 6 4
♣ K 9 2

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

♠ A 4
♥ 2
♦ K 8 5
♣ A Q J 10 7 6 3

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

West led the king of hearts against the ambitious contract of five clubs. Declarer likely had three diamond losers, as the ace of diamonds was sure to be wrong and he rued his decision to bid five clubs rather than three notrump. The only hope for five clubs was to make three spade tricks somehow. The issue was that the spade suit was clearly split 7-0, so it seemed a forlorn hope to make the necessary tricks. Then inspiration struck.

Declarer ducked the opening lead and played low again on the heart continuation. He ruffed the second heart in hand and cashed the ace of trumps, being relieved to see that the suit was not 3-0. Next he crossed to dummy by playing the six of trumps to dummy's nine

to run the queen of spades. When that held, he discarded the ace of spades on ace of hearts, then played the jack of spades. East shrugged his shoulders and covered this with the king of spades. Declarer ruffed, crossed back to dummy with the king of trumps and cashed the ten and nine of spades to make his contract. Declarer had made three spades, a heart and seven trumps.

The improbable opening lead of a low heart would have seen the contract fail.



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THE 2015 SCHAPIRO SPRING FOURSOMES

**Brian Senior,
Nottingham, England**

The toughest and most prestigious weekend event in the EBU calendar is the Spring Foursomes. Held in Stratford over the bank holiday weekend at the beginning of May, it attracts a number of strong teams from overseas plus the vast majority of the top players in England. The Spring Fours is a double-elimination teams competition. In other words, you play straight knockout matches of 32 boards and stay in the main event until you have lost twice.

Fifty teams entered this year's event; the winners were Frances Hinden/Graham Osborne and Jeffrey Allerton/Jon Cooke.

Test Your Play

Day two featured a number of interesting play problems, including these two, one of which was solved at the table, the other not.

Board 26. Dealer East. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
—	—	1♥	Double
Pass	3♣	Pass	Pass
Pass			

East led the ace of diamonds, then switched to a trump. Declarer can arrange to take one heart ruff but that will only be sufficient if either she also gets a heart trick or can enjoy three spade winners. As the cards lie, any simple line of play will therefore fall one trick short.

Nevena Senior won the club switch in hand, led a spade to the jack, ruffed a diamond and led a second spade up. East won and returned a second trump so

declarer won with dummy's jack, ruffed a diamond with the ace and led the queen of clubs to dummy's king, drawing the last trump in the process. Now she cashed the two spade winners and led a heart to the jack.

Declarer's campaign to exhaust East of everything but hearts had succeeded. East could win with the queen and ace of hearts, but had then to concede the last trick to the king for a nicely played plus 110.

Board 30. Dealer East. Neither Vul.

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

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

East led a spade, West putting in the queen, which lost to declarer's king. Declarer cashed two top diamonds, getting the bad news there, then continued with two more diamonds. When East, Roumen Trendafilov, won with the jack of diamonds and returned the queen of clubs, declarer was powerless. If he won in hand, then crossed to the king of clubs to cash the diamonds he would establish too many winners for the defenders before setting up his own ninth trick. So he had to win the club in dummy to cash the diamonds—but now he squeezed his own hand, needing to have three hearts, two spades and the ace of clubs as his last five cards. And even Garozzo at his best couldn't manage to squeeze six cards into five spaces.

Once East follows to the first diamond, the contract is a sure thing on the assumption that the ace of spades is onside. The question is, which is more likely, the actual position or that the spade will be offside? To succeed, declarer must duck the second diamond! Or even duck the first in case they are 5-0.

If the defenders clear the spades, that establishes declarer's ninth trick, while if they return a minor suit, declarer wins in dummy and leads a spade towards the jack, again establishing the ninth trick, and still has the necessary transportation to get at his winners.



2015 Schapiro Spring Foursomes winners

l. to r.: Helen Schapiro (presenting the prizes), Jeffrey Allerton, Frances Hinden, Graham Osborne, Jon Cooke.

Baldrick Rides Again

Baldrick is a character in the British television series *Blackadder*, and is renowned for his catchphrase, "I have a cunning plan."

On occasion, playing a simple game just doesn't appeal—you feel it is time to 'step out' and try to be a little more imaginative. On this first board, I decided it was a good idea to try to steal the opponents' suit—or, at a minimum, sow some confusion if possible.

Board 9. Dealer North. EW Vul.

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

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

1. Interest in the minors

Favourable vulnerability, fit for partner, short in the other major—what better time for a baby psyche? Hardly a very original idea and, as it turned out, hardly very successful either.

West cashed a top diamond, then switched to a trump. My partner won dummy's ten and ran the ten of hearts so was down two for minus 300 on a board where the opposition cannot make anything above the one level. Yes, Baldrick would have been proud of that one.

Board 7. Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
—	—	—	Pass
3♦	4♦ ¹	4♥ ²	4♠
Pass	Pass	5♦	Pass
Pass	5♠	Pass	Pass
Double ³	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. Majors

2. Now, I wanted to save at the five level but, preferably, no higher, but there was a concern that if the opposing diamonds were 2-0, North/South could have a slam. Thus...

'I have a cunning plan, my lord. If I bid four hearts, they will think that there is a heart ruff out even if there isn't, so they won't bid a slam.'

3. 'Does this cunning plan of yours allow for partner taking you seriously, Baldrick?'

Well, five spades doubled duly went one down for a small gain. You might think it mildly fortunate to find the diamonds 1-1 on this auction, so allowing the contract to be defeated. In the words of another great TV character—I couldn't possibly comment.'

Not Easy

The fourth day featured more tough problems in all areas of the game. Take this first deal—how should declarer tackle his three-heart contract after the ten-of-clubs lead to the queen and the four of spades switch from East?

Board 9. Dealer North. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
—	—	3♣	Double
Pass	3♦	Pass	3♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Here is the full deal:

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

Declarer rises with the ace of spades at trick two and plays two rounds of hearts, both defenders following. The contract cannot be made on the actual lie of the cards, but is cold if East holds the ten of diamonds. If declarer takes a diamond finesse now, or after drawing the last trump, West can win and exit with a club. Twist and turn as he might, declarer cannot avoid three more losers.

But suppose that declarer ruffs a club before drawing the last trump and running the diamond nine? If the ten is onside, that will force the queen or king and West will be endplayed. Declarer can get out for one diamond and two spades losers, or vice-versa, according to West's choice of poison. It does not benefit the defence for East to cover the diamond if he does have the ten. Removing the defender's safe exit card is an easy play to overlook, and on this occasion proves to be ineffective, but it is something to bear in mind on similar deals in the future.

Try another...

Board 26. Dealer East. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
—	—	Pass	1♦
Pass	1♠	Pass	INT
Pass	3NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

West leads the five of hearts to the jack, king and ace and you cash a top diamond, then four rounds of spades, pitching a club from hand. East discards the three of hearts and five of clubs. How do you continue?

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

There is no sure solution to this one. If the diamonds are 3-3, declarer simply takes the diamond finesse then cashes two more diamonds and has his nine. However, that line leads to defeat on the actual deal.

It must be correct to finesse the jack of diamonds after taking the spades, but now there is a winning line despite the 4-2 split—if only declarer can read the position.

The point is that East has been triple-squeezed on the spades. Not being able to afford a diamond discard, and forced to keep the ace of clubs, he was obliged to throw the long heart. With only three hearts to be lost, declarer can afford to lose a club. If he can read that it was East who began with five hearts, he can win with the jack of diamonds then play a club to the jack.

That loses to the ace but the defence has only three more tricks to take and the contract is made. How does declarer know to play to the jack of clubs and not the king? If East did not hold the ace of clubs, he could have voided himself of the suit to keep the fifth heart. The only club he must keep is the ace.

Essentially, declarer must decide whether to play for the actual lay-out, or for West to be 4=5=3=1 and East 2=4=3=4.

Board 23. Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

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

In the match between PENFOLD and GILLIS, both Wests became declarer in four spades and both Norths led the singleton heart.

For GILLIS, Boye Brogeland played a spade to the jack at trick two, losing to the king. South made the obvious-looking play of the king of hearts to the ace and ruff, but now North was endplayed. It didn't matter what she did as the seven of spades was an entry to dummy's club winners, so the contract made.

The defence can prevail in a number of ways. Firstly, if South does not give his partner the heart ruff, but instead returns a diamond. Now the defence is OK so long as North does not lazily play three rounds of diamonds expecting partner to over-ruff dummy. Instead, North wins the diamond, exits with the ten of spades, and sits back and waits for two more diamond tricks. Secondly, even after the heart return, North can refuse to ruff. Now there is no entry to the ace and king of clubs and the defence will eventually come to two diamond tricks (North can be endplayed to avoid the third loser) and a heart.

Should the defenders get this right? It is difficult, but they might ask themselves why declarer led a low spade to the jack rather than playing ace and another, given that he must know there is a danger of running into a heart ruff. That might suggest that he is desperate to get to dummy, implying that he is void in clubs.

At the other table, Roumen Trendafilov, for PENFOLD, led a spade to the seven at trick two. If South did not give his partner a ruff, there would be six trump tricks, two hearts and two clubs, while if North did get a ruff, he would be endplayed. A diamond exit gives a trick immediately, while a club allows declarer to ruff out the queen-jack and go back to dummy with the spade jack to cash the long clubs.

High-Level Decisions

Boards 9-16 of the first session on Friday evening were a lively set, including a number of high-level decisions. I'm not sure that anyone covered themselves in glory at my table, where the Anglo-Bulgarian PENFOLD team faced the young Scots MORRISON.

Board 12. Dealer West. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Wilkinson	Senior	Morrison	Penfold
Pass	Pass	1♠	2♠ ¹
3♦	4♥	5♦	Double
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. Hearts and a minor

The extent to which three diamonds, from a passed hand, implied a spade fit, was not clear at the time, though it seems reasonable to suppose that it should do so—particularly if you happen to play weak two-diamond openers, when it is hard to see how West can have a good enough single-suited diamond hand to justify the bid.

Four hearts and five diamonds both seemed obvious enough (given the doubt about a spade fit from East's point of view), but what about South's double? At a level higher, it might be readily understood as Lightner, asking for an unusual lead on some auctions, but I confess to just having assumed that East/West were saving and my partner was doubling because she expected it to go off, given that I would have some values to bid four hearts when vulnerable.

Anyway, it takes a spade lead for a ruff, a heart to the ace and a second ruff to defeat five diamonds doubled. When I actually cashed the ace of hearts, we could get either a ruff or a club trick but not both, and that was minus 550 and 13 IMPs away when our teammates were forced to bid higher to save over five hearts, which is on only a winning club view.

Board 14. Dealer East. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Wilkinson	Senior	Morrison	Penfold
—	—	4♠	4NT ¹
5♠	Double	Pass	Pass
Pass			

1. At least 5/5 in two unspecified suits

When Alex Wilkinson competed to five spades, I had an interesting choice of actions. There was nothing in this auction to say that a pass over five spades would have been forcing, so the options were to bid five notrump to ask partner to pick a suit, or to double and leave it up to her whether to play or defend. The

double, I'm sure, should not be penalty here, but should show transferrable values—ones that would be good both on offence and defence. Well, that is what I seemed to hold and, with a reasonable expectation of beating five spades, and no guarantee of making a slam, double seemed to be the better option. But Sandra could not expect to make a slam on the South cards so left in the double, only to find that we could not defeat five spades doubled. That was minus 650 this time. Did anyone do anything terribly wrong?

Board 15. Dealer South. NS Vul.

♠ A K Q J 9 7 6 2			
♥ —			
♦ 8 4 2			
♣ 5 3			
♠ 3		♠ 5 4	
♥ A K 9 8 7 3		♥ Q 6 2	
♦ A K Q 6		♦ J 10 7 3	
♣ K 4		♣ Q 7 6 2	
♠ 10 8			
♥ J 10 5 4			
♦ 9 5			
♣ A J 10 9 8			
West	North	East	South
<i>Wilkinson</i>	<i>Senior</i>	<i>Morrison</i>	<i>Penfold</i>
—	—	—	Pass
1♥	4♠	Pass	Pass
Double	Pass	Pass	Pass

The auction up to East's final pass seems to be pretty automatic. Should East pass the double? Well, he has no great expectations of making a five-level contract, but how confident can he be of defeating four spades? It looks to be another close one.

If East does remove the double, should he bid five hearts, or prefer four notrump, two or more places to play? And for the more-sophisticated partnerships, there may also be a difference between an immediate five hearts and bidding four notrump, then converting partner's expected five of a minor to five hearts. For me, the immediate five hearts is stronger, so that one can get one's slam-try in before the opponents can interfere further.

After a heart lead, I ruffed and took an immediate club finesse—the defenders will usually be able to prevent a diamond ruff in the dummy, so an alternative tenth trick has to be found from somewhere—and a few moments later, the contract had been made for plus 790.

That was worth 12 IMPs. At the other table, Trendafilov and Karaivanov had reached five diamonds on the East/West cards and this proved to be unmakeable because of the 4-0 heart split. Five hearts, however, can be made despite that bad trump split.

The Final

Two tight semi-finals saw VITAS beat ALLFREY by 8 IMPs and HINDEN overcome MOSSOP by 6 IMPs. The final proved to be even tighter. HINDEN had the better of the first set but the swing on this first deal went the other way.

Board 3. Dealer South. EW Vul.

♠ A Q 8 6 4			
♥ K 5 3			
♦ 6			
♣ Q 8 7 6			
♠ J 5 3		♠ 10 7 2	
♥ Q 10 9 6		♥ A	
♦ 10 9 8		♦ Q J 7 4 3	
♣ 9 4 2		♣ A J 10 3	
♠ K 9			
♥ J 8 7 4 2			
♦ A K 5 2			
♣ K 5			
West	North	East	South
<i>Osborne</i>	<i>Schwartz</i>	<i>Hinden</i>	<i>Fisher</i>
—	—	—	1♥
Pass	1♠	Double	INT
Pass	2♣ ¹	Pass	2♦ ²
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. Marionette to two diamonds
2. Forced

In the other room, the HINDEN pair had declared in four spades and, when the first heart play was low to the king and ace, were down two for minus 100. The same play in four hearts would, of course, also doom that contract.

Graham Osborne led the ten of diamonds. Lotan Fisher won with the ace, led the nine of spades to the queen and a low club off the table. When Frances Hinden ducked, the king scored and now Fisher cashed the king of spades, played the king then ruffed a diamond, then cashed the ace of spades for a club discard. A club ruff, followed by a low diamond ruff as Osborne pitched his last club, meant that Fisher had won the first nine tricks and could not be prevented from coming to one more trump trick for plus 420 and 11 IMPs to VITAS.

The remainder of the set went in favour of HINDEN, who led by 24-12 after eight boards. VITAS tied the match up at 47-47 with eight boards to play. The final set was the quietest of the lot, with only 7 IMPs changing hands (4 to VITAS, 3 to HINDEN) in total until the decider...

Board 30. Dealer East. Neither Vul.

♠ A K 9 5
 ♥ A 9 6 4 2
 ♦ 4 3
 ♣ 9 8

♠ J 8 4
 ♥ Q 10 7 5
 ♦ J 8
 ♣ K 7 6 5

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

♠ Q 6 2
 ♥ 8 3
 ♦ A 9 7 6 5
 ♣ Q J 10

West	North	East	South
Cooke	Schwartz	Allerton	Fisher
—	—	1♦	Pass
1♥	Pass	1NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Fisher led the two of spades, imagining that someone would have bid spades had his opponents had a fit there. Schwartz won with the king and returned a low spade to the queen. Now Fisher switched to the queen of clubs. Allerton won with the ace and knocked out the ace of diamonds. Fisher won the second round and led a spade for his partner to cash two more tricks in that suit but, with no entry to the eventual club winner, the defence could only take the heart ace from here and the contract was home for plus 90. That was an average-plus result for HINDEN, but it was easy to see how one notrump could again be allowed to succeed in the other room.

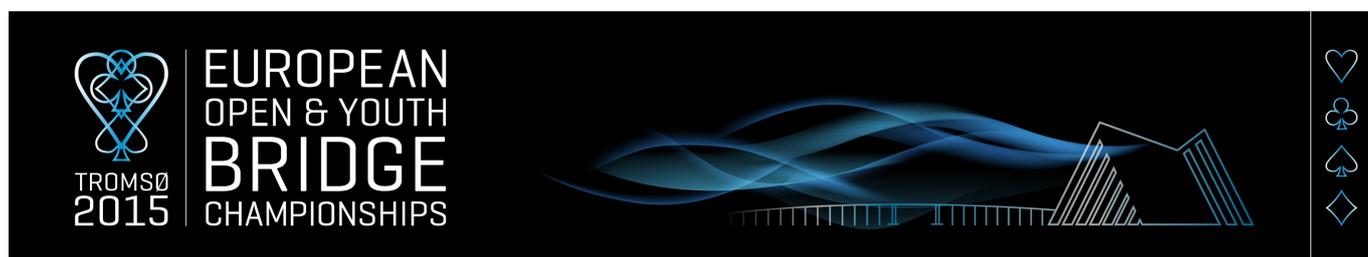
West	North	East	South
Olanski	Osborne	Padon	Hinden
—	—	1♦	Pass
1♥	1♠	Pass	2♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

If this board had proved to be flat, VITAS would have won by a single IMP, though of course none of the players knew that.

Osborne's four-card overall won the auction for his side. Now, all he had to do was to make two spades to win the match, while one down would mean extra boards and two down would leave VITAS as the winners.

Padon led the king of diamonds. Osborne won with the ace and played the ten of clubs 'round to Padon's ace. Padon now underled his queen of diamonds as he could read from the play at trick one that Olanski had begun with either the jack or a singleton, and Olanski duly won the trick and played the king and another club. Osborne threw a heart from hand as he won the third club in dummy, and now played ace and another heart to Padon's king. The ten of diamonds was ruffed with the jack and over-ruffed with the king, and next a heart was ruffed with the seven and over-ruffed by the queen. Osborne was allowed to ruff a diamond low, not that it mattered what the defence did, and he continued with his last heart. Padon could ruff with the ten in front of dummy but Osborne had the last two tricks for plus 110 and a gain of 5 IMPs.

HINDEN had won the 2015 EBU Schapiro Spring Foursomes final by 55-51. Frances Hinden, Graham Osborne, Jon Cooke and Jeff Allerton had won all eight matches to remain undefeated throughout the weekend and were worthy winners. Not only were they undefeated, but they were also the only team in the latter stages of the event to play as a foursome throughout, an impressive effort in what is a very demanding event. The runners-up were a multi-national squad: Vitas Vainikonis and Wojtek Olanski (Lithuania), Dror Padon, Lotan Fisher and Ron Schwartz (Israel), and Waseem Naqvi (England).



Roll of Honour

Mixed Teams

- 1 White House - Meike Wortel, Jacco Hop, Christina Lund Madsen, Ton Bakkeren
- 2 AJ Diamonds - Anna Sarniak, Andrzej Jaszczak, Cathy Baldysz, Przemyslaw Janiszewsky, Ewa Harasimowicz, Jakub Wojcieszek
- 3= Zimmermann - Philippe Cronier, Sylvie Willard, Joanna Zochowska, Pierre Zimmermann, Catherine D'Ovidio, Franck Multon

3= Full House - Cecilia Rimstedt, Johan Upmark, Karen McCallum, Cenk Tuncok

Mixed Pairs

- 1 Philippe Cronier - Sylvie Willard
- 2 Geir Helgemo - Aase Langeland
- 3 Andrey Gromov - Victoria Gromova

Open Teams

- 1 Orange White - Bob Drijver, Danny Molenaar, Bart Nab, Tim Verbeek
- 2 Slufsa - Ole Berset/Olav Arve Høyem, Aksel Hornslien/Børre Lund/ Jørgen Molberg
- 3= Noralia - Jon Sveindal, Arild Rasmussen, Justin Howard, Kieran Dyke
- 3= Khiuppenen - Simon de Wijs, Yuri Khiuppenen, Vadim Khomoleev, Georgi Matushko, Bauke Muller, Alexein Sterkin

NEWS & VIEWS



COGNITIVE CLOSURE

There were extraordinary goings-on at the recent Italian Teams Championship and, later, in the Italian courts. The event comprised a ten-team, all-play-all league. In the fourth round, TEAM VINCI met TEAM PALMA...

Board 19. Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

♠ A K 10 2
 ♥ 8 2
 ♦ K J 9 4 3
 ♣ 6 3

♠ Q 5
 ♥ A K Q J 9 7 5
 ♦ Q 8
 ♣ K 8

♠ J 9 7 4
 ♥ 4
 ♦ A 10 7 5 2
 ♣ A 7 2

West	North	East	South
Mazzadi	Fantoni	Lo Presti	Nunes
—	—	—	Pass
1♦	2♣	2♦ ¹	Double
Pass	3♣	4♣	5♣
Pass	Pass	6♥	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. Hearts

Trick 1: ♦A, ♦3, ♦6, ♦8

Trick 2: ♦2, ♦4, ♥6, ♦Q

Trick 3: ♣Q, ♣K, ♣A, ♣3

Trick 4: ♣7, ♣6, ♣J, ♣8

This deal, defended by FIGB members Fulvio Fantoni and Claudio Nunes—the current no. 1 and 2 players of the World Bridge Federation—was presented for investigation and details were forwarded to the Federal Public Prosecutor's Office. The deal in question is from the fourth stanza of the 2015 Italian Open Teams Championships, held in Salsomaggiore Terme (Parma, Italy) from April 30 to May 3. Fantoni/Nunes (Team Vinci) were playing against Mazzadi-Lo Presti (Team Palma). Questions were raised about the



Women's Teams

- 1 Baker - Lynn Baker, Karen McCallum, Meike Wortel, Marion Michielsen
- 2 China Orange - Wang Nan, Shan Xingxing, Chen Yiyi, Zhao Bing, Liu Jing, Wang Wei
- 3= Netherlands - Carla Arnolds, Anneke Simons, Jet Pasma, Wietske Van Zwol
- 3= Cameron - Maruša Baša, Vanessa Vos, Gail Cameron, Catherine Seale

Senior Teams

- 1 Team TAKE- Leif Trapp, Gunnar Elmroth, Kent Karlsson, Kalle Aldeborg
- 2 Team SAGG- Per Aronsen, Olve Gravrak, Petter Goldenheim, Bjørn Sigurd Tornberg Simonsen
- 3= Sørvoll - Jostein Sørvoll, Erik Bølviken, Sverre Koch, Tormod Clemetsen
- 3= Notteroy - Per Bryde Sundseth, Arvid Lorentzen, Knut Kjærnsrød, Tor Walle, Sten Bjertnes

ace of diamonds lead from Nunes, followed by another diamond (the two), ruffed by Fantoni, who returned the queen of clubs. The verdict of the Sports Judge (solicitor Tommaso Toniolo) was delivered on June 12, 2015.

The Prosecution's Case: Fantoni and Nunes were accused of breaching article 48 a) of the Italian Olympic Committee Federal Charter and article 36 of the Tournament Regulations because of an extremely abnormal play, which raised the possibility that the defenders received Unauthorized Information (UI).

The Defence: Nunes claimed to have had a mental blackout, believing declarer to be void in clubs, and as a consequence, he was incapable of thinking properly. He played mechanically and continued with a diamond without thinking, because he was convinced that declarer had a club void.

The Court's Verdict: The judge did not have any proof that UI was received by either player, and so Fantoni and Nunes were acquitted.

The VuGraph operator stated that Nunes took around ten seconds to choose the lead (with the screen closed) and only two seconds after that to continue with a diamond.

Dano DeFalco, one of the judge's expert consultants, did not find the claimed blackout "plausible". However, the judge stated that he had surveyed the matter and had "verified that behaviours such as the one described by Nunes are indeed commonly acknowledged in psychology and the relevant literature, where they are referred to as cognitive closures (or difficulties, when less severe)".

In an interview in www.neapolitanclub.altervista.org, Lorenzo Lauria stated, "From a technical point of view, Nunes' defence is not justifiable... the ace of clubs being ruffed is only possible if declarer has a void. Nunes can see two clubs in dummy, and he has three to the ace: if the ace is not cashing, this means Fantoni had eight clubs (KQJ109854). But Fantoni, facing a passed partner, at favourable vulnerability, overcalled two clubs; if he had had eight good clubs, he would have bid four or five clubs. The bidding and dummy made it clear that the ace of clubs was cashing and that it had to be cashed quickly, since declarer had good diamonds (the queen falling under the king) on which to pitch the clubs."

Lauria continued, "The evaluation of the case was up to the judge, which I am not. I'd rather worry about the consequences of this verdict in the bridge world. How many bridge players will claim a mental blackout

to justify an abnormal play? This verdict may set an extremely dangerous precedent."

Suppose for a moment that Nunes had led the ace of diamonds, then taken his ace of clubs at trick two, then given Fantoni a diamond ruff at trick three. Taking the second ace immediately would have obviated any suspicions about UI and no one would have even had second thoughts about the deal. No case could or would have been made about UI.

This deal brings to mind another great lead by an Italian, Camillo Pabis Ticci, in the final of the 1968 Olympiad Teams in Deauville. With the Italians leading the Americans by 17 IMPs, and with four boards remaining...

Board 77. Dealer North. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>D'Alelio</i>	<i>Robinson</i>	<i>Pabis Ticci</i>	<i>Jordan</i>
—	1♠	Pass	2♥
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

What would you lead?

Quoting "The Official Handbook of the Third World Bridge Team Olympiad: "East led the ace of clubs. He continued with the club six. West ruffed and returned a diamond to East's ace. East gave partner another club ruff. Declarer still had to lose a trick to the jack of spades, for down two. Italy (E-W) +200. SCORE: ITALY +820 (13 IMPs)."

At the other table, Edgar Kaplan led the nine of hearts and declarer made ten tricks for plus 620.

Although nothing was ever proven, it was suggested at the time that East had to have had UI in order to find the club ruff.

It is interesting that both deals involve the minor-suit aces and both involve a ruff.

World Bridge Calendar

DATES	EVENT	LOCATION	INFORMATION
2015			
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.noe-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.worldbridge.org
Sep 30-Oct 2	EUSA University Championships	Warsaw, Poland	www.eusa.eu
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	18 th Madeira International Open	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
2016			
Mar 10-20	ACBL Spring NABC	Reno, NV	www.acbl.org
Jun 16-26	European Team Championships	Budapest, Hungary	www.eurobridge.org
Jul 21-31	ACBL Summer NABC	Washington, DC	www.acbl.org
Aug 3-13	World Youth Team Championships	Salsomaggiore, Italy	www.worldbridge.org
Sep 2-17	World Bridge Games	Wroclaw, Poland	www.worldbridge.org
Nov 24-Dec 4	ACBL Fall NABC	Orlando, FL	www.acbl.org