



BULLETIN

www.ibpa.com

President:

PATRICK D JOURDAIN
8 Felin Wen, Rhiwbina
Cardiff CF14 6NW, WALES, UK
(44) 29 2062 8839
president.ibpa@gmail.com

Chairman:

PER E JANNERSTEN
Banergatan 15
SE-752 37 Uppsala, SWEDEN
(46) 18 52 13 00
ibpa@jannersten.se

Executive Vice-President:

JAN TOBIAS van CLEEFF
Prinsegracht 28a
2512 GA The Hague, NETHERLANDS
(31) 70 360 5902
jvcleeff@xs4all.nl

Organizational Vice-President & Bulletin Production Manager:

DILIP GIDWANI
401 Mariden, 16th Road Bandra West
Mumbai 400 050, INDIA
(91) 22 98205 47150 Fax: 22 26002241
dilipgidwani@hotmail.com

Secretary:

HERMANDE WAEL
Michel Willemslaan 40
B-2610 Wilrijk, BELGIUM
(32) 3 827 64 45 Fax: (32) 3 825 29 19
hermandw@skynet.be

Treasurer:

RICHARD SOLOMON
308 Kauri Road, RD2
Tuakau 2697, NEW ZEALAND
(64) 9 232 8494
rsolomon@xtra.co.nz

Membership Secretary:

HERMAN DE WAEL (pro tempore)
Michel Willemslaan 40
B-2610 Wilrijk, BELGIUM
(32) 3 827 64 45 Fax: (32) 3 825 29 19
hermandw@skynet.be

Honorary General Counsel:

DAVID HARRIS
1a Westfield Avenue
Harpenden AL5 4HN, UNITED KINGDOM
(44) 1582 821161 Fax: (44) 1582 821162
davidharris@ntlworld.com

Awards Secretary:

BARRY J. RIGAL
Apt 8E, 22 West 26th Street,
New York NY 10010, USA
(1) 212 366 4799
barryrigal@mindspring.com

Presidents Emeritii:

TOMMY SANDSMARK (NORWAY)
HENRY FRANCIS (USA)

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Editor: John Carruthers

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Editorial

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

There is growing frustration among top bridge players about the inability of bridge administrators to curb, let alone eliminate, cheating. There are at least five big problems, apart from the cheating itself:

- (i.) The ostrich-like stance on cheating taken by most bridge organizations.
- (ii.) The lack of standard and effective protocols both to reveal and to punish cheating.
- (iii.) The absence of bridge expertise among the administrators charged with handling accusations of cheating.
- (iv.) The lack of communication and cooperation among the various organizations such as the WBF, the EBL, the ACBL and other regional and national bodies.
- (v.) The possibility of legal action brought against bridge organizations by accused parties.

Similar frustration was evident in various sports played under the Olympic banner (swimming, athletics, cycling, speed skating, weight lifting, etc.) before the IOC finally recognized the problem and created WADA (the World Anti-Doping Agency). WADA tests athletes for proscribed and restricted substances in and out of competition and employs a team of expert doctors, chemists and technicians to analyse urine and blood samples for those substances. It is not necessary to catch an athlete actually injecting himself or herself – all that is required is to establish elevated levels of a prohibited, regulated or restricted substance to lead to suspension and/or expulsion.

In bridge, cheating is our 'dope'. The top players have strong feelings about various pairs who they 'know' have crossed the line into collusion. They know this because of the continued bridge actions of the suspect pairs in many situations in the bidding and in defence.

The first step, as always, is to recognize that there is a problem, something that the top players realize but that is not universally accepted among bridge administrators. Administrators need to listen to and heed the top players to eliminate problem (i.).

The second step is to take action. Starting with problem (ii.), one solution would be for the WBF (with assistance from regional and national bodies) to create a

STOP PRESS! Israel and Sri Lanka have withdrawn from the Bermuda Bowl and the d'Orsi Trophy respectively - they are to be replaced by Sweden (BB) and Ireland (d'Orsi). The url to the IBF letter to the WBF is on page 2.

Continued on page 2 ...

Address all IBPA Bulletin correspondence to: JOHN CARRUTHERS
1322 Patricia Blvd., Kingsville, Ontario, N9Y 2R4, CANADA
Tel: +1 519-733-9247
email: ibpaeditor@sympatico.ca

forum of elite international players (let's call it WACA, the World Anti-Cheating Agency, or maybe something more politically apt such as WBCC, the World Bridge Compliance Commission). This would solve problem (ii.). Solving problem (iii.) would require this agency to be composed of universally-respected, very-experienced, expert players whose ethics and reputations are above reproach. No politicians, no administrators, no lesser-than-elite players, except perhaps in a liaison or recording function. It might be a good idea to have a lawyer and a Tournament Director who are bridge experts in the agency as well. The agency would analyse the evidence of the deals and decide if there are unacceptable levels of 'testosterone' present. Administrators, by and large, are not equipped to make those judgements, just as non-MDs/PhDs are not qualified to analyze blood and urine for chemical and biological substance abuse. The players hearing a specific case would not be direct competitors of the accused party – the agency would need to be large enough to accommodate cases in all competitive bridge groups: Open, Women's, Seniors and Juniors.

Currently, the feeling among administrators seems to be that they must catch a suspect pair actually signalling ('injecting themselves') to suspend or expel them. As is the case with WADA, that should not be necessary in bridge – the evidence is there for expert players to see; what is needed is a mechanism for taking action based on the results of our 'testing'. The standard of proof needs to be high – we can allow no innocent parties to be convicted. There must thus also be a mechanism for accused parties to present their case.

The next step, solving problem (iv.), would be to make WACA's decisions binding on the WBF and all regional and national bodies. There would need to be, if not agreement on sanctions, procedures in place to ensure compliance with the sanctions and proper communication among all bridge organizations.

Finally, problem (v.), organizing bodies need to ensure that steps are taken to protect WACA, the WBF and regional and national bodies from lawsuits brought by the convicted parties (especially worrisome in North America). In professional team sports, some leagues have a Collective Bargaining Agreement which defines what the players' rights and responsibilities are and which delineates the steps administrators need to take to sanction a player for, among other things, drug use or criminal activity. Yet other sports require players to sign a waiver stating that they will follow prescribed procedures, behave in a certain way and agree to abide by the decisions of a body such as WACA. Lacking anything resembling a CBA, the latter schema would be more appropriate for bridge. Note that the WBF and some NCBOs already require players to sign a "Competitor's Agreement" before being allowed to participate. It would be a simple matter to include a clause to the effect that the player agrees to abide by all decisions of WACA and abandon the right to legal action as a result of WACA's decisions. In addition, the WBF already has a Credentials Committee to approve players for play in their Championships.

This approach is not without difficulties: some of those that spring immediately to mind:

1. WACA would need to have a filter process so that only serious, well-documented cases are heard and the agency is not overwhelmed.
2. Innocent pairs need to be protected against rumour-mongers and false accusations.
3. Responsibilities (for example, the questions of who brings the case and who assembles the documentation) need to be clearly defined.
4. A determination of who bears the cost of investigation, judicial review and the legal consequences needs to be made.
5. The issue of signing a waiver of the right to bring legal action needs to be examined to determine whether it is actually legally binding in various jurisdictions. (Is it a legal contract? Is it merely coercion by a monopoly?)

These are not insurmountable problems, but they do need to be considered before implementing this, or any other, plan.

It is clear that a different approach to the eradication of cheating is needed. Following the example set by the IOC, especially since we hope eventually to join the Olympics, would be a good solution. Playing bridge is a privilege, not a right, and we need to reserve (and preserve) that privilege for those who follow the rules.

This editorial was prompted in part by accusations directed against Israeli players Lotan Fisher and Ron Schwartz. Details of these accusations, the fallout from these accusations and other discussions on the topic of cheating can be found at:

<http://newinbridge.com/news/2015/may/fisher-schwartz-not-bermuda-bowl>

www.bridgewinners.com

www.bridgecheaters.com

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/middleeast/israel/11824257/International-bridge-champions-accuse-teammates-of-cheating.html>

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/uk/article4539199.ece>

<http://newinbridge.com/news/2015/aug/knife-sharpening-nbo%E2%80%99s>

<https://www.indiegogo.com/projects/support-boyes-fight-to-clean-up-bridge#/story>

<http://main.bridge.co.il/uploads/files/sec/bermuda%20bowl%20-%20participation%20of%20the%20israeli%20team.pdf>

FESTIVAL INTERNATIONAL DE BRIDGE DE BIARRITZ

Hervé Pacault, Bordeaux

The International Festival in Biarritz reunited our foreign visitors with the local French participants; both groups were successful in the tournament. The Open Pairs was won by the Spaniards Goded, father and son; the Mixed Pairs was taken by our own Sabine Rolland and Nicolas L'huissier; and the Lavazza Patton Teams went to Messieurs Beauvillain, Combescuré, Oursel, and Rombaut.

Next year, the festival will be held from June 28 through July 10. For information and results, consult the website at www.biarriz-bridge.com.

French World Champion Guy Lasserre went down in five hearts on the following deal, even though many less-titled players were able to bring home eleven tricks without difficulty:

Dealer East. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
X	Jean-Louis Broitman	Y	Guy Lasserre
—	—	Pass	1♥
3♣	4♣	Pass	4♦
Pass	4♥	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♥ ¹	Pass	Pass

1. Two key cards without the queen of hearts

West led the ace of clubs and continued the suit. How did Guy Lasserre manage to go down in five hearts?

For the successful declarers, proper timing was required in all four suits. They discarded a diamond on the second club. They continued with the ace and king of hearts, removing West's trumps. Next came the king-queen of spades, West showing out on the second. The successful declarers then led a diamond to the king, discarded a diamond on the ace of spades



Hotel Le Palais in Biarritz

and led the high club from the dummy. East could trump that or not, but declarer's remaining low diamond would be discarded on that trick, whatever East did. These declarers lost just the ace of clubs and a trump trick.

Lasserre received the ace of clubs lead, followed by a second club. He also discarded a diamond on this trick. However, the pre-empt in clubs had alerted Lasserre to the possibility of a bad split in hearts, so he made a safety play in trumps, leading to the ace and back to the ten. West won that with his jack of hearts and led a third club, East ruffing away dummy's winner. Lasserre overruffed, crossed to the nine of hearts, came back to hand with a spade and cashed the other high spade and his last trump, discarding dummy's third diamond. He had to lose a diamond to West in the end for one down.

Guy Lasserre justified his line of play by explaining that, in most cases where the ten of hearts lost to an honour in the West hand, West would have had fewer than three diamonds and four spades and thus East could have been squeezed between those two suits. West needed either four spades to the jack or three or four diamonds to prevent the squeeze operating.



www.svenskbridge.se/eng

THE SWEDISH BRIDGEFESTIVAL 2015



GLITTERING BRIDGE STARS

Måns Berg, Stockholm

Translated by Micke Melander

Since the Swedish Bridge Festival 2015 didn't collide, as it usually does, with the Summer Nationals in the USA, a big number of the Nordic star players were seen in play very early in the 2015 edition of the Chairman's Cup in Örebro, Sweden. Normally, they fly in to Sweden in the middle of the competition for the last days of the KOs. This year, 166 teams participated, with players from 13 NBOs. Young Danish player Dennis Bilde's star was really glittering when he

made a brilliant play in the Qualifying Swiss on the following board:

Dealer East. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Nyström	Andersson	Bilde	Probert
—	—	1♣	1♠
2♥	Double	3♥	3♠
4♥	4♠	Pass	Pass
Double	Pass	Pass	Pass

Two hearts from Nyström was forcing for one round and North's double was for takeout. Nyström confessed afterwards that his double that ended the auction was a little bit aggressive, but he liked his singleton diamond and the trump holding with which to defend.

Nyström led the four of diamonds, declarer followed low from dummy, and Bilde in East followed suit with the nine! That went to the declarer's king. Bilde foresaw what would happen if he had jumped up with the ace of diamonds to give his partner a diamond ruff: declarer would then have won the heart or club return, drawn trumps and been able to run the established diamonds to score eleven tricks.

By keeping the ace of diamonds and making sure of being in control of the diamond suit, Bilde made a really good defensive move. Declarer played a trump to the ace and a second round of trumps which went to Nyström's king. Nyström then shifted to a club, ducked to Bilde's queen. Bilde returned a low diamond, ruffed by Nyström with his last trump. Declarer could do nothing when Nyström returned his last club—South still had to lose to the ace of diamonds and a second club for two down!

At the other table, they played in four spades, which was easily made after a diamond lead to the ace and a diamond ruff. Of 72 declarers, 62 of them managed to make four spades.

Note that declarer could always have made his contract on a diamond lead, by finessing in spades. The only killing lead was a club. Probert stood no chance to make his contract when he didn't finesse in trumps due to the brilliant defence set up by Dennis Bilde!

Results:

1. ERA (Poland, Lithuania)

Erikas Vainikonis, Boguslaw Gierulski, Jerzy Skrzypczak, Andrei Arlovich, Pavel Jassem, Piotr Zatorski

2. Renons Rimstedt (Sweden, Netherlands)

Cecilia Rimstedt, Marion Michielsen, Johan Upmark, Håkan Nilsson, Mikael Grönkvist, Daniel Gullberg

3. Bahaj

Mikael Lindblom, Mart Altmäe, Jan Andersson, Per Hallberg, Mari Lindblom

4. Red Ash

Magnus Eriksson, Hans Mattsson, Arne Larsson, Tobias Törnqvist, Nils Åhlén, Leif Rutström



Barry Rigal, NYC

Paul Linxwiler, Memphis

Brent Manley, Arlington, TN

David Grainger, Roseville, CA

Al Levy, Long Island, NY

Minors Management (BR)

Jeff Goldsmith gave me a splendid declarer-play problem from the Grand National Teams.

Dealer South. Neither Vul.

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

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

1. Weak
2. Texas transfer

East wins the seven of diamonds lead with the ace and shifts to the king of clubs. Play on.

At the table, South won an early club and played the king of diamonds. West ruffed, and declarer was out of chances. The winning line is pretty cute, but isn't that easy to spot, even when looking at all four hands:

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

After the diamond lead and club shift, you must duck the king of clubs to cut the transportation for a trump promotion. Win the next club and play the ten of diamonds. If West pitches, discard dummy's last club. After losing to the queen of diamonds, you plan to draw trumps and pitch two hearts on the king and jack of diamonds. However, if West ruffs in on the diamond ten, overruff, draw two rounds of trumps ending in hand, and cash the king of diamonds to pitch the club. You will eventually be able to ruff dummy's third heart in hand.

Club Consternation (BR)

On this deal from the second final session of the Von Zedtwitz Life Master Pairs, the club suit proved an impossible burden for the defense—a statement that looks absurd on its face. But watch what happens in four spades by East/West.

Dealer West. Neither Vul.

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

First, I'll tell you what transpired at our table ...

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	1♠	Double
3♠	Pass	4♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Glenn Milgrim led a devious two of spades. I came through with the jack but, as usual, let him down when my nine deprived declarer of a losing option. Michel Bessis cashed a second top spade—to universal amusement and opprobrium from West—then ducked a heart. Milgrim took the jack of hearts and shifted to the king of clubs. Bessis ducked, won the

club queen continuation with the ace, eliminated diamonds, then had to decide whether to cash the ace of hearts before playing a third club, depending on who had the jack. Given the opening lead and takeout double, and South's continuation of clubs with the queen, the winner was to take the ace of hearts and get out with a club. Had South continued with a low club to North's jack on the second round of the suit, it would have been obvious to retain the ace-queen of hearts while exiting with a third round of clubs.

Let's revert to trick one and lead a top club. Declarer can win, eliminate diamonds and trumps, then lead a club to the 10. North wins and gets out with a low heart (in case partner has ace-jack-low). Declarer ducks and South can win and cash a club but must concede the rest. If South continues with a low club at trick two after a duck by declarer, go up with the ace, strip the hand as before and the endplay bites him a trick earlier.

Jay Stiefel tried a matchpoint swindle on this deal that could only work against a good player. After a trump lead, he won and played the queen of hearts, hoping that his LHO would win and play a second trump. When he did, Stiefel could drive out the remaining heart winner and claim 11 tricks!

Planning the Play (BR)

In the warm-up for the Spingold Knockout Teams, Alfredo Versace encountered this neat play problem in the Swiss on Sunday.

Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

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

West leads the two of spades. Plan the play.

Versace made the critical move when he won trick one with the ace of spades and ruffed a spade. East followed with the ten and the king, so Versace drew trumps in three rounds (West had the singleton jack) and led a diamond up: jack, queen, king.

Now a club to West's ace was followed by a third spade. Versace ruffed and led a diamond to dummy's seven as West discarded. East, with 3=3=5=2 shape, had to concede the rest, one way or another. As you



The Chicago Skyline

can see, the spade ruff at trick two was essential. This was the full deal:

<p>♠ A 7 6 4 3 ♥ 7 3 ♦ Q 7 2 ♣ K 3 2</p> <p>♠ Q 8 5 2 ♥ J ♦ J ♣ A J 10 9 8 6 5</p> <p>♠ 9 ♥ A K Q 9 8 4 2 ♦ A 8 5 3 ♣ Q</p>	<p>♠ K J 10 ♥ 10 6 5 ♦ K 10 9 6 4 ♣ 7 4</p>
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Of course, not every story has a happy ending. Versace's plus 620 held the loss on the board to 5 IMPs! His teammates at the other table had saved in five clubs and had gone for minus 800.

Spingold Slam (PL)

Andrea Manno reported the following deal from the opening round of the Spingold KO Teams. Manno, of Italy, was playing with Bar Tarnovski of Israel.

♠ A K 10 7 5 2
♥ 4
♦ 7 6 5 4 3
♣ K

♠ Q J 9
♥ Q 10 9
♦ A K Q
♣ A 10 7 2

Manno opened the South hand with a conventional two diamonds to show a balanced 18 to 19 HCP and was soon declarer in six spades. West led the king of hearts and shifted to a low trump.

In this excellent slam: declarer starts with 11 top tricks. If the diamonds are 3-2, the play is easy. If diamonds are 4-1, declarer is still OK if trumps are 2-2. Then, it's a simple matter to set up dummy's long diamond. But what if trumps are 3-1 and diamonds are 4-1? Manno

spotted a nice line of play that would help him overcome that layout, although it was not 100%.

First, it's necessary to play a second round of trumps to see how they are splitting; in practice, West showed out on the second round of the suit. Manno unblocked the king of clubs, crossed to his hand with a trump (drawing the last one from East), cashed one high diamond and the ace of clubs, and ruffed a club in dummy. This was the ending Manno envisioned, with West holding four diamonds:

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

On the ace of spades from the dummy (South discarding the ten of clubs from hand), if West discards his low heart, declarer would cross to a diamond and ruff out the ace of hearts, while a diamond discard would allow declarer to run diamonds with the king of spades as an entry.

What if East had held four diamonds? Declarer can still succeed if East also holds the jack of hearts. The ending in that case would look like this:

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

On the ace of spades, East is squeezed, although declarer must read the position accurately. A diamond discard is lethal, so say East pitches a heart. Declarer dumps his club and then plays a diamond to discover the 4-1 split with East having the length. Declarer's only shot at that point is to play the queen of hearts, pinning the jack on his right and establishing the ten as his twelfth trick.

What happened at the table? Trumps were indeed 3-1 and West held four diamonds. However, West also held the queen-jack-third of clubs, meaning that the

ten of clubs was unexpectedly set up, but this does nothing to detract from Manno's clever plan.

Hold on to That Trump (BM)

In the Spingold Knockout Teams, Wafik Abdou resisted the reflexive play of ruffing when he had the chance to. His decision paid off with the defeat of the opponents' vulnerable game. His partner was Hussein Sheriff.

Dealer East. Both Vul.

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

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

1. "Mixed" spade raise: modest values, four or more trumps
2. Game try

Sheriff started with the top two diamonds, Abdou playing an upside-down ten of clubs on the second to discourage a shift to clubs. Sheriff shifted to a low heart at trick three. When declarer played low from dummy, Abdou won with the queen and continued with the king of hearts. Declarer won with the ace and played the jack of spades, covered by Abdou with the queen. Declarer took the ace of spades and cashed the ace of clubs, then ruffed a club.

When declarer played the good queen of diamonds from dummy, Abdou declined to ruff, discarding a low club instead. Naturally, declarer drew the inference that Abdou had started with a singleton queen of spades or a vulnerable queen-ten-two. When declarer played a low spade from dummy and About followed with the two, declarer took the bait and put in the nine. When Sheriff produced the ten, declarer was down one.

The defeat of the contract was necessary to avoid a 10-IMP loss, because declarer at the other table went down without the deceptive defense. Thus Abdou's astute play salvaged a push on the board.

Important Push (BR)

On this deal from the Spingold Knockout Teams, declarer made his contract for a pushed board. Had

he gone down, the other team would have moved on to the round of 32. Allen Kahn's team won the match by 4 IMPs. Kahn himself was declarer against the Vinita Gupta team.

Dealer West. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	3♣	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Kahn won the club lead with his queen over East's nine, played the jack of spades and overtook in dummy when West played low. He led a diamond to the jack, which held. Two more rounds of diamonds revealed that West had begun with four to the ten, so Kahn cleared the suit. West played a heart to the nine and Kahn won with the king. He cashed the fifth diamond and led a spade up. West won with the ace and played another heart to the ten and ace.

This was the ending:

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

When Kahn led his heart, West could go up with the queen—a Crocodile Coup—but would have to play to dummy's queen of spades at the end. If West played low and East won the heart, that defender would have had to concede a trick to dummy's king of clubs.

Spingold Round of 16 (BR)

In the next deal (see *top of next page*), you would probably want to play six, but getting to 4-4 minor-suit slams with combined 29-counts isn't easy.

However, after North showed his good three-suiter when South had admitted to a balanced 12-14, nothing could hold South back from bidding a slam in diamonds.

Dealer East. NS Vul.

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

In six diamonds by North, on a low club lead, the play is hardly straightforward. But the ace of clubs, club ruff, spade to the ace, club ruff, ace of hearts, king of hearts (producing the ominous queen from West), spade king, spade ruff, club ruff high produces this ending:

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

If you trust the opponents (not by any means a sure thing, I grant you!), you have a guaranteed route to 12 tricks. Play the queen of diamonds, then the jack of spades. If East shows out, the ten and ace of diamonds will take the eleventh and twelfth tricks. If East produces the queen of spades, discard your club. In that case, West will have started with a 3=2=4=4 pattern (you hope) and will have to ruff his partner's winner and lead into your ace-ten of diamonds at the end.

Another brilliancy stillborn, but it was 12 IMPs to our team nonetheless.

Those Slim Extra Chances (BR)

Down 30 IMPs to the Lavazza team with 15 boards to play, we needed to be lucky and good. We were neither, but when you miss your slim extra chances, the gods have a way of punishing you severely.

Dealer South. Both Vul.

♠ A 9 6 4 3
 ♥ A 7 3
 ♦ A 10 8 7
 ♣ 8

♠ K Q 10 5
 ♥ K J
 ♦ 4 2
 ♣ A Q 9 7 6

You open the South cards with one notrump (15-17), break the transfer into spades (super-accepting) and a moment later are at the helm in six spades. A low trump lead allows you to win trick one with the ten of spades. Plan the play.

At the table, declarer played the ace of clubs, ruffed a club and crossed to the king of hearts to ruff another club. The suit split, but no king had appeared. On a trump to the king, East discarded. Declarer ruffed a club, cashed the ace of hearts and ruffed a heart to hand, ready to claim. Alas, West overruffed and it was down one. This was the full deal:

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

After ruffing a club at trick three, why not play a heart to the jack? It hardly seems to matter, but it does today!

Well-Timed Swing (BM)

After the first set of Monaco's match against Pan-China in the semifinal round of the Spingold Knockout Teams, Monaco was 19 IMPs in arrears. The team, captained by Pierre Zimmermann came out strongly in the second quarter to take a 6-IMP lead at the half on the way to a 122-64 victory to reach the final of the event. This board helped with the Monaco comeback. The bridge wasn't brilliant, but the result was a 13-IMP swing to Monaco.

Dealer East. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Shi</i>	<i>Zimmermann</i>	<i>Ju</i>	<i>Multon</i>
—	—	1NT	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♥	Pass
2♠	Pass	3NT	Pass
Pass	Double	Pass	Pass
Pass			

At one table, Zimmermann and Franck Multon opposed Chuan Cheng Ju and Zheng Jun Shi.

The good spade holding over the suit bid by dummy must have inspired Zimmermann's double. Multon, probably set to lead a club, took his partner's suggestion and started with the five of spades. Zimmermann won with the ace and switched to a club. Ju then ran five diamonds, discarding a club and a heart from his hand. Zimmermann, who had to make four pitches, came down to the singleton queen of clubs, queen-nine of spades and queen-seven-five of hearts. Declarer crossed to his hand with the king of spades and exited with a low heart. Multon played low and Zimmermann took the ten with his queen. When Zimmermann cashed the queen of spades, declarer was down to the jack-seven of clubs and the ace-jack of hearts. Reluctant to part with the jack of hearts in the hope that North would have to play one from the king, Ju let go of the seven of clubs. Multon parted with the king of hearts. Zimmermann then played the queen of clubs, picking up the jack and allowing Multon to overtake with the king to cash the setting trick with the ten of clubs. It was a curious plus 200 for Monaco.

At the other table, Geir Helgemo and Tor Helness for Monaco opposed Lidang Dong and Haitao Liu.

West	North	East	South
<i>Helgemo</i>	<i>Dong</i>	<i>Helness</i>	<i>Liu</i>
—	—	1NT	Pass
2♥	Pass	2♠	Pass
3♦	Pass	3NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Liu led a low club, taken in dummy performance. At trick two, Helness called for the jack of spades, which held. Dong went up with the ace on the next lead of the suit, and continued with the five of clubs. Helness put up the jack, trying—and apparently succeeding—in looking like a man who started with three or four clubs to the queen-jack. When Liu played low on the jack, Helness wasted no time cashing five diamonds and the ace of hearts for plus 600 and a well-timed double-digit swing.

Inferences (BR)

It looks normal to reach four spades on these cards after an auction such as the following.

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

Many other routes would lead to the same point.

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

After a top heart lead, how should you plan the play?

The first thing you should do is duck the heart. Maybe North will shift to clubs. If North continues with hearts, you win and draw trumps while eliminating the hearts, then lead the queen of clubs from the dummy. If South follows low—would anyone duck from king low-(low)?—rise with the ace of clubs and return the nine. When North wins from his king-low and exits in diamonds, the auction should persuade you to play low. If South has bid two hearts on two high-card points, more power to his elbow!

Mark Dahl, playing with Tom Kniest, played four spades exactly this way to make ten tricks. The full deal:

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

Tit for Tat (DG)

This deal was played in a Regional Swiss Teams. It demonstrates that giving declarer a ruff-sluff—usually seen as a bad thing—can be good for the defenders. I was South; my partner was Adam Kaplan.

Dealer West. NS Vul.

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

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

Kaplan cashed the top two spades and, seeing nothing better to do, played a third spade, giving declarer a ruff-sluff. Declarer discarded a club from dummy and ruffed in hand, blocking the heart suit. Declarer then cashed the ace and king of hearts, followed by the top two diamonds, getting good news there, and was at the crossroads.

If trumps were 3-3, he could cash the ace of clubs, ruff a club, pull trumps and make five. If hearts were 4-2, he needed to play a diamond, which would also work half of the time trumps are 3-3 (when North has the jack). Declarer chose to play a diamond, giving a ruff-sluff to the defence. Adam ruffed with his nine of hearts as I pitched my last spade. Another spade promoted the jack of hearts for the setting trick.

No one did anything unreasonable, yet it seemed best to both sides to give ruff-sluffs to the other.

At the other table, the contract was the same. North cashed two high spades and exited with a trump. Declarer lost only the two spades and a club for plus 420 and 10 IMPs to our team.

Jack Wins 10th Computer-Bridge Title (AL)

The field for this year's World Computer-Bridge Championships, held at the Chicago NABC, comprised eight teams, including previous winners Jack, WBridge5, Bridge Baron and Shark Bridge. The two most successful programs in the 19-year history of the event, Jack and WBridge5, met in the final.

Jack, whose developers, Wim Heemskerck and Martin Pattenier, are from the Netherlands, defeated the French program, WBridge5, managed by Yves Costel, 165-148. Jack has now won the title 10 times, WBridge5 three. Neither has finished lower than third-fourth in the competition. Micro Bridge and Q-Plus Bridge were the other semifinalists.

Play records from the 2015 tournament plus the 19-year history of the championship can be found at www.computerbridge.com.

An interesting deal from the fourth round of the robot tournament was also played in a Grand National Teams Championship Flight semifinal match. The contract was three notrump at all the human and robot tables, with a diamond lead at three of the four human tables and three of the eight robot tables. The human declarers were Bryan Maksymetz, Alan Schwartz and Joel Wooldridge. The robot declarers were Jack, Wbridge5 and Micro Bridge.

Dealer West. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
2NT	Pass	3NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		

The opening lead was the three of diamonds. Jack and Wbridge5 duplicated all the human declarers' play at tricks one and two. All took South's nine of diamonds with the ace and led the three of clubs at trick two! This allows for a possible entry to dummy's long clubs if the suit divides 3-1 and the king of diamonds is with North.

THE ODYSSEY AND THE ILIAD OF MIKE PASSELL

"It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of Light, it was the season of Darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair..."

Those words were written by Charles Dickens more than 150 years ago and referred to the time leading up to and during the French Revolution (in *A Tale of Two Cities*), almost 100 years before Dickens' time. Dickens could have been writing about the 2015 Chicago NABC.

First, on Wednesday, August 12, the headline in the Daily Bulletin read:

Gold Medals for the Real Winners

"Nearly two years after having to accept silver medals for an event they felt they won, the Carolyn Lynch team received the coveted symbols of their triumph at the Hilton Chicago. The presentation on Monday ended nearly two years of waiting for Lynch, Mike Passell, Roger Bates, Marc Jacobus and Eddie Wold (*Garey Hayden has since died.* - Ed.). At the 41st World Bridge Championships in Bali, Indonesia, in 2013, a German team accepted gold medals for winning the d'Orsi Senior Trophy despite mounting evidence during the event that two members of the team were using illegal signals. An investigation by the World Bridge Federation confirmed that the signaling had been going on and the German team was stripped of the championship, elevating the Lynch team from runners-up to champions."

Five days later, on Monday, August 17, the Daily Bulletin presented this story:

Report of the ACBL Ethical Oversight Committee

"Mike Passell, #J622382, was found guilty of violating CDR 3.1 (Laws of Duplicate Bridge), 3.7 (Actions unbecoming a Member participating in an ACBL event), 3.20 (Ethical Violations) and E13 (Prearrange a deal or part thereof). He was placed on probation for 13

months and penalized 25% of his total masterpoints.
– Aug. 12, 2015”

On Tuesday, August 18, Mike Passell posted his side of the story on BridgeWinners.com:

The Whole Story

“Here are the facts from my perspective: Early this year, I played a bracketed Swiss at the Palmetto Regional with Mary Chilcote, Meckwell, and Chris Compton. I sat North and tossed a board on the floor after we had gotten a poor result. Sometime during the next hand I noticed a card sitting face down next to a pocket and inserted it. This was a three-way match, so I thought it prudent to make sure the board was correct before our opponents took the boards to the other table. I counted the cards and found 14 in one hand and 12 in another, so I moved the extra card, which I thought was the one that had fallen out and I had replaced. I should have checked more thoroughly, but I thought I had fixed it. When we compared results, our opponents said there was a fouled board and I realized it was my screw-up and owned up to it. They had won 2 IMPs on the board, and we decided to just let that result stand. I should have gone to the director, and I wish I could go back in time and do so.

This was early in the week and I thought nothing of it until the following week when two close friends told me one of my opponents was spreading stories of my “foul play.” About a month later I was contacted by Jim Miller of the ACBL who asked about the incident and I repeated the story exactly as it happened. A short time later I was contacted by Sam Whitten of the ACBL and had the same discussion. I was informed I was to attend a meeting in Chicago of the Ethical Oversight Committee, which I used to be a member of. Both Jim and Sam attended the hearing and testified that I had told them the exact same story. I was told I could bring a representative with me but not a lawyer. I declined, thinking no one could possibly believe I could be stupid enough to change a hand that had already been played.

The end result of my not calling the director was that I was found guilty of four things, most of which I’ve never heard of. The most significant seems to be “prearranging a deal or part thereof,” which I still don’t know exactly what it means or how it pertains to what happened. Apparently it carries with it a mandatory penalty of 13 months probation and 25% of total masterpoints. However, I was found NOT GUILTY of cheating, and I was told the public statement would make this clear. Yet, now I see the statement reads like I was found guilty of cheating and given a lenient sentence. I am 100% not guilty of anything other than stupidity. I have a spotless five-decade record; I never have and never would cheat the game I love. I feel my

reputation has been damaged and am extremely hurt. I have every interest in getting all the facts out, so I welcome all questions from Bridge Winners users; I have nothing to hide.”

On August 27, on its website, the ...

ACBL News

... section reported:

“Mike Passell has been granted a Stay of Discipline pending the outcome of the appeal and automatic review.”

MAJOR CHAMPIONSHIP WINNERS IN CHICAGO

Spingold KO Teams

Jimmy Cayne/Michael Seamon
Lotan Fisher/Ron Schwartz
Lorenzo Lauria/Alfredo Versace

Morehead Grand National Teams

District 9 (Florida)
Mike Becker/Warren Spector
David Berkowitz/Gary Cohler
Jeff Meckstroth/Eric Rodwell

Roth North American Swiss Teams

Kevin Bathurst/Justin Lall
John Diamond/Brian Platnick
Eric Greco/Geoff Hampson

Wagar Women’s KO Teams

Lynn Baker/Karen McCallum
Pam Granovetter/JoAnna Stansby
Irina Levitina/Kerri Sanborn

Freeman Mixed BAM Teams

Shannon Cappeletti/Paul Fireman
Bénédicte Cronier/Vince Demuy
John Hurd/Sylvie Willard

Truscott USPC Senior Swiss Teams

John Hrones Jr., Bill Irvine, Rena Lieberman
Robert Lurie, Melvin Marcus, Haven Sharaf

College Bowl

University of Chicago
Oren Kriegel, Julian Manasse-Boetani, Kelly Mao,
Ruth Ng, Alexander Okamoto, Aaron Song

Von Zedwitz Life Master Pairs

Cédric Lorenzini/Jean-Christophe Quantin

Wernher Open Pairs

Bill Pettis/Ai-Tai Lo

Computer World Championship

Jack (Netherlands)
Wim Heemskerk, Martin Pattenier



IBPA Column Service

Tim Bourke, Canberra

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

773. Dealer North. Both Vul.

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

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

West led the three of trumps, which East took with his bare ace. Upon winning the low heart shift with the king, West exited with a second trump. Declarer took this on the table and cashed the ace and king of diamonds to get rid of his losing queen of hearts. After ruffing a heart back to hand, declarer played the ace of clubs followed by the queen of that suit. West covered with the king and declarer ruffed it in dummy. After ruffing a heart back to hand, declarer threw a diamond on the jack of clubs and continued with the ten of clubs. Alas, West ruffed this and as a result dummy's queen of spades was declarer's ninth and last trick.

"On most layouts, you cannot make ten tricks when East has the king of clubs," said an unimpressed dummy. "So, you should have won the second trump in hand with the ten and then played on clubs. After ruffing out West's king of clubs, you can take the ace and king of diamonds to dispose of your remaining heart then overtake the queen of trumps with the king to run the clubs. West would have made only his eight of trumps as the third and last defensive trick."

774. See top of next column.

West led the jack of hearts. Declarer could count six top tricks. If the diamonds were 3-2, any play would succeed. However, if diamonds were 4-1, the best chance for extra tricks in diamonds was that East had the ace of diamonds.

Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

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

Declarer called for dummy's ace of hearts at trick one and led a low diamond towards his hand. As the cards lay, if East took this with the ace of diamonds then declarer would have three diamond tricks, enough to secure his contract.

After East had followed with a low diamond, the king of diamonds won the trick. Declarer then crossed back to dummy with a low club to the queen to lead a second low diamond towards his hand. Again, East was caught between playing low and giving up two more tricks in diamonds by playing the ace. Once he chose the former strategy, declarer had a second diamond trick for his eighth winner.

Finally, a low spade toward the king gave declarer his ninth trick: he made one spade, two hearts, two diamonds and four clubs.

775. Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
—	—	—	INT
Pass	6NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

West led the obvious queen of diamonds. Declarer could count ten top tricks and the only real prospect of developing extra tricks was in the heart suit. He saw that any play would work when either hearts were 3-3 or there was a queen-jack doubleton of hearts about.

One choice was to play East for both the queen and jack of hearts in a four-card holding by playing the ace followed by the ten. However, declarer saw that playing this way would 'waste' the value of the ten of hearts. So, instead he took the first trick in hand with the king of diamonds and led a low heart to West's eight, dummy's ten and East's jack.

After winning the diamond return in dummy with the ace, declarer cashed the ace of hearts and was pleased to see West play the queen of hearts. He now had the two extra tricks needed to make the contract.

Declarer's play in hearts is best, for it produces four tricks a priori about 61% of the time.

776. Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

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

West had an easy lead of queen of hearts, taken by dummy's bare king. Declarer counted seven sure winners and so he needed to develop two extra tricks from spades or diamonds. Declarer saw that it was possible to improve his chances of doing that by tackling the suits in the correct order. If the diamond broke 3-2, he would always have at least nine tricks.

Declarer then considered what he could do about a 4-1 diamond break. If East had four diamonds, he would need five spade tricks. However, if West had four diamonds he could succeed as long as East had a singleton honour in the suit. So, he cashed the ace of

diamonds at trick two. When the queen appeared from East declarer saw that if he played the four of diamonds West would be in control. Consequently, he played the eight of diamonds and continued with a low diamond to his nine.

West was fixed: if he took the nine of diamonds with the jack then declarer would finesse dummy's seven of diamonds later in the play, giving declarer four diamond tricks. In practice, West let the nine of diamonds hold the trick. Declarer countered by switching his attention to spades, playing a low spade from hand. As a result, declarer made four spades, two hearts and three diamonds for his contract.



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THE 2015 EUROPEAN YOUTH TEAMS

Patrick Jourdain, Cardiff
Michael Byrne, Manchester
Tom Gärd, Strömstad, Sweden
Brian Senior, Nottingham
David Bird, Eastleigh, Hants.

The Youth Teams immediately followed the Open European Championships in Tromsø, from July 18 to July 25. There were four events: Under-26, Under-21, Under-16 and Women's. Medal winners were:

Under-26

1. Poland: Michal Klukowski, Wojciech Kazmierczak, Lukasz Witkowski, Pawel Jassem, Kamil Nowak, Max Chodacki
2. Sweden: Simon Hult, Adam Stokka, Simon Ekenberg, Daniel Gullberg, Mikael Grönkvist, Johan Karlsson
3. Norway: Harald Eide, Anders Gundersen, Espen Flått, Tor Eivind Grude, Christian Bakke, Kristoffer Hegge

Under-21

1. Netherlands: Luc Tijssen, Thibo Sprinkhuizen, Marc Stougie, Leen Stougie, Veri Kiljan, Guy Mendes de Leon
2. Sweden: Mikael Rimstedt, Johannes Matsson, Ola Rimstedt, Johan Säfsten, Carl Blekemo, Ida Grönkvist
3. Israel: Shahaf Avital, Amir Ezion, Oren Toledano, Lior Urman, Asaf Yekutieli, Ami Zamir

Under-16

1. Poland: Kacper Kopka, Michal Maszenda, Oskar Trybus, Mateusz Slusznia, Maciej Kedzierski, Michal Kuczkowski
2. France: Romaric Guth, Maxence Fragola, Hugo Raboutin, Clément Teil
3. Sweden: Willem Berner, Castor Mann, Erik Hansson, Alexander Sandin, Sanna Clementsson

Women's

1. France: Mathilde Thuillez, Anaïs Leleu, Solène Thépaut-Ventos, Sarah Combescure, Jennifer Mourgues, Anne-Laure Hubertschwiller
2. Poland: Izabella Jaworska, Dominika Piesiewicz, Joanna Brede, Justyna Zmuda, Zuzanna Moszczynska, Magda Budzynska

3. Italy: Caterina De Lutio, Margherita Costa, Rossella Benincasa, Michela Salvato, Giulia Scriattoli, Margherita Chavarria

Round 1. U-21 - England v. Italy English Endplay (MB)

Italy gained a small win over England in the first round of the U-21 Championship, but it was England who picked up a game swing on this deal.

Board 15. Dealer South. NS Vul.

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

Both North/South pairs reached four hearts after South had shown a strong, balanced opener, then admitted to holding hearts after North had enquired with Stayman.

The South player for Italy had gone one off, losing the ace of diamonds and three club tricks when both the ace and queen had turned up offside, but England's Sam Behrens, partnering Nick Dean, managed to bring home the game.

West led the three of hearts round to Behrens' eight and he played the ace of spades and ruffed a spade, overtook the king of hearts with the ace and played his last spade, ruffing it in the dummy. Next, he played a diamond to the jack and West ducked, so Behrens drew the last trump before reverting to diamonds. West also ducked the diamond queen, but then had to win the next diamond. He played the king of spades to exit from his hand, but Behrens declined to ruff. Instead, he discarded his low club, and West, down to nothing but clubs, was endplayed to give the game-going trick and 12 IMPs to England.

Nicely played, but West could have done better by ridding himself of the spade king on the third round of the suit, when declarer played the spade queen.

Declarer could then have ruffed the spade and exited with a high club to endplay West.

Round 2. U-26 - Sweden v. Israel.

Elegant Play (TG)

Board 7. Dealer South. Both Vul.

♠ A Q 8
♥ K 8 3 2
♦ Q 10 6 3
♣ 5 4

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

♠ J 10 2
♥ A 4
♦ 9 7 5 4
♣ A K Q 9

West	North	East	South
Grönqvist	Gerstner	Gullberg	Meyouhas
—	—	—	1♣
Pass	1♦	Pass	2♦
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	
West	North	East	South
Asulin	Hult	Levi	Ekenberg
—	—	—	1NT
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦
Pass	3NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

In the match between Israel and Sweden in the U-26 series, the two declarers managed to solve this declarer-play problem in two different, elegant, ways.

Gerstner, for Israel, declared from the North side and received a heart lead, which he won with the ace in dummy, West following with the queen. Declarer immediately went after diamonds and another heart came from East after he won the jack of diamonds. When West followed with the ten, Gerstner read the heart situation correctly and took the king, blocking the suit for the defence. Declarer led another diamond and East won with the ace and could give his partner a heart trick, but was not able to get a trick with his fourth heart. Gerstner could play a third diamond and made his ninth trick with a diamond—that was three spades, two hearts, one diamond and three clubs—while the opponents lacked the transportation to take their five tricks.

The Swedes declared from South and also got a heart lead. This time it was more difficult to read the heart situation and the Swedish South, Simon Ekenberg, ducked the first round. He took the second and led a diamond. Again East won and that defender cleared the hearts. Another diamond to the ace gave East the opportunity to take the fourth heart. Ekenberg had

now lost four tricks and still the diamond king was with the defence. Ekenberg had thrown his remaining diamonds on the hearts. He took the club return, finessed the spade and took his three spade tricks, ending on the table. West could not hold both four clubs and the diamond king, and Ekenberg took the last trick with the club nine. Well done by both declarers for a push.

Round 4. U-26 - England v. Finland

An Opposite View (PDJ)

Board 6. Dealer East. EW Vul.

♠ A 9 8 2
♥ 6 3
♦ K J 3 2
♣ K J 7

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

♠ K J 6 4 3
♥ A K 10 9
♦ 7 6 5
♣ 4

West	North	East	South
Aimala	Paul	Fagerlund	Roberts
—	—	3♣	Double
Pass	3NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

After three wins, England held a narrow lead in the Under-26 for their Round 4 match on BBO against Finland.

In the Open Room, North's choice of three notrump did not turn out well. East led a club to the queen and king. Paul tried the king and ace of spades, but when East threw a club, Paul then had to let West into the lead on the third spade. There was a bit of good news when West's second club proved to be the ten and Paul could play low to leave him on lead. Now West switched to a low diamond and Paul took his only chance by playing the king. But East held the ace, cashed his remaining clubs and returned a diamond to West's queen for four off and 200 to Finland.

West	North	East	South
Shah	Koivu	Paske	Myllaeri
—	—	Pass	1♠
Pass	2NT	3♣	Pass
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

In the Closed Room, Shivam Shah led the club queen, covered by the king and ace. On the next club, declarer ditched a diamond to win with the club jack. He followed with ace and king of spades, two top hearts, and a heart ruff. Now came a club ruff and, as it would not help to over-ruff, Shah discarded a heart. Declarer

realised that to take another heart ruff would leave him stuck in dummy, having to lead diamonds from the wrong hand. So he had to play a diamond first.

It seems curious that, when West played low, declarer was forced to take the opposite view to that taken at the other table. Whereas Paul had needed West to hold the ace of diamonds, Koivu needed East to have this card or West would have risen with the ace, drawn the last trump, and cashed a heart. So Koivu correctly put in the jack. When this fetched the ace, Koivu had both his diamond trick and his second heart ruff. That was plus 420 and 12 IMPs to Finland.

A Point of Technique (PDJ)

Board 11 was a push in slam, making, but with an interesting point of technique.

Board 11. Dealer South. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Aimala</i>	<i>Paul</i>	<i>Fagerlund</i>	<i>Roberts</i>
—	—	—	Pass
1♣	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♥	Pass	2♠ ¹	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♠	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♥	Pass	6♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. Forcing

West North East South

West	North	East	South
<i>Shah</i>	<i>Koivu</i>	<i>Paske</i>	<i>Myllaeri</i>
—	—	—	Pass
1♣	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♥	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♣	Pass	4♦	Pass
4♥	Pass	4♠	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♥	Pass
5♠	Pass	6♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Both Souths led the jack of diamonds. The odds play in spades for one loser is a trump to the queen. Fagerlund began this way and, when the finesse held and the suit broke 3-2, he could unblock the heart ace and claim.

Paske looked deeper into the deal. One of the successful layouts in trumps is when the finesse loses but the trump jack falls on the next round. However, if that is the layout, when South wins with the spade king won't a club switch be embarrassing? In order to dispose of the losing diamond you will have to cash a second club and rely on that suit breaking 3-2. Foreseeing the problem, Paske began by unblocking the heart ace and then returned to dummy with a club to cash a second heart, ditching the diamond loser. Only then did he take the spade finesse. Had that lost there could have been no inconvenient switch from South. When the queen-of-spades finesse won. Paske had also made his slam, but with greater credit for covering the extra danger.

Round 9. Women's - Poland v. Netherlands Missed Opportunity (BS)

Board 16. Dealer West. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Zmuda</i>	<i>Bruijnsteen</i>	<i>Jaworska</i>	<i>Kolen</i>
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♠	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Knowing that declarer held spades, Jaworska tried a club lead. That ran round to Bruijnsteen's ten and declarer continued by cashing the ace and king of clubs, then led a diamond in the hope of splitting out the suit. When diamonds did not behave as required, the hand rather fell apart, and the contract was down two for minus 100.

West	North	East	South
<i>Van Delft</i>	<i>Piesiewicz</i>	<i>Leufkens</i>	
Pass	1NT	2♠ ¹	3♣
Pass	3NT	Pass	Pass
Double	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. Spades and a minor

Leufkens led the ten of spades, and that went to the queen and king. Piesiewicz led the queen of hearts to Van Delft's king, ducked the spade return and won Leufkens' diamond switch with the ace to lead a heart towards the jack. Van Delft grabbed the ace, leaving the suit blocked when declarer played the eight, and

returned a club. Declarer could win with the ace, cash the jack of hearts and king of clubs, then play diamonds. Van Delft won the fourth diamond but had only hearts remaining, so had to give the last two tricks to dummy's heart ten and the long diamond for nine tricks and plus 550. That resulted in 12 IMPs to Poland.

Both sides missed opportunities here. Leufkens made the lead to give her side a chance, but Van Delft could have prevented the contract making by returning a diamond after winning the first heart. On the second heart, Piesiewicz needed to unblock the jack under the ace, and if she'd done that, Van Delft needed to return another diamond.

Round 9. U-26. England v. Norway A Splendid Falsecard (DB)

England faced Norway in the European Under-26 Championship. Halfway through the event, which is decided by a round-robin, the following deal arose. Both sides reached the heart game, which can be defeated only by a club ruff.

Board 18. Dealer East. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Hegge	Paul	Grude	Roberts
—	—	Pass	INT
3♦	3♥	Pass	4♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

East led the two of diamonds to West's ace. What should West do now? Suppose he switches to his singleton club. Declarer will win and play three rounds of spades, ditching his diamond loser. So, West has to return to partner's king of diamonds (leading the three as suit preference) and hope to receive a club switch from the other side of the table. The defenders will then score two diamonds and two trump tricks for one down.

What actually happened? East led a third-best two of diamonds to West's ace and England's James Paul made the inspired falsecard of the queen of diamonds. From the opening lead, declarer was known to hold another diamond. No doubt concluding that North's remaining diamond was the king, West switched to a club. Away

went the eight of diamonds and the game was made, for the loss of one diamond, one trump and a club ruff.

West	North	East	South
Paske	Bakke	Shah	Eide
—	—	Pass	INT
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♥
Pass	3NT	Pass	4♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

At the other table, the contract was played by South and Tom Paske led the nine of clubs. Declarer won in his hand and played three rounds of spades, discarding a diamond from dummy. Shivam Shah won the first round of trumps and led the six of clubs (suit preference) for partner to ruff. Paske returned the three of diamonds to East's king to receive a second club ruff. That was 12 IMPs to England.

Round 10. U-26 – England v. Sweden (PDJ)

Board 6. Dealer East. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Paul	Gullberg	Roberts	Grönkvist
—	—	Pass	Pass
1♠	3♣ ¹	3♥ ²	5♦
5♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. 5+/5+ in the red suits
2. Good spade raise

West	North	East	South
Ekenberg	Paske	Hult	Shah
—	—	Pass	Pass
2♠	Pass	4♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		

The normal one-spade opener by West, James Paul, gave room for Daniel Gullberg to show his two-suiter. South's jump to five diamonds was prompted by the vulnerability.

East/West have five tricks to cash against this, but that is only 500 and still a loss on the board, so one has every sympathy for West's choice to bid on in what might well be a double-fit deal. Against less accurate defence he might well have made five spades. However, Gullberg led the king of diamonds for count and

switched to the jack of clubs. South's clubs were just good enough to ensure two tricks in the suit.

Note that if North had played any other card at trick two, West would have succeeded. He'd have drawn trumps, eliminating the red suits along the way and, knowing North's exact shape, would have led a low club from hand. When the jack appears, declarer could either have played low from dummy or covered with the queen. If declarer had played low, South would have had to either (i) overtake, establishing dummy's queen, or (ii) leave North on lead to concede a ruff and discard; if declarer had covered the jack with the queen, South would have won with his king and would have been in turn endplayed.

In the Closed Room, West's two-spade opener was the constructive type, and that shut out North. The two Simons had an unopposed auction to four spades for plus 620 and 12 IMPs to Sweden.

Round 12. Women's – Norway v. France The Kickoff (BS)

Board 13. Dealer North. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Indrebo</i>	<i>Huberschwiller</i>	<i>Sjödäl</i>	<i>Mourgues</i>
—	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♣	Pass	3♣	Pass
3NT	Pass	4♥	Pass
4♠	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♦	Pass	6♣	Pass
Pass	Pass		
West	North	East	South
<i>Leleu</i>	<i>Klingen</i>	<i>Thuillez</i>	<i>Hauge</i>
—	Pass	1♠	Pass
1NT	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♦	Pass
3NT	Pass	4♣	Pass
6♣	Pass	Pass	Pass

Both pairs bid to the good club slam and it was all about the opening lead.

Klingen led the queen of spades. Leleu won with the king and led a club to the ace, a diamond to the ace

and ran the jack of clubs. Next she played the ace and a low spade, ruffed and overruffed. Klingen returned the queen of clubs but declarer was in control and the contract was just made for plus 1370.

Huberschwiller led the queen of hearts. One winning line is to discard from dummy, after which the heart king is a trick and the clubs can be picked up without loss. However, who would find that play? Indrebo ruffed the heart and cashed the ace of clubs. When Mourgues showed out she was in deep trouble as she could not afford to draw two more rounds of trumps while there was still a heart to lose. Indrebo tried a spade to the king and back to the queen and ace. Now the legitimate line was to play for North to have played the queen as a bluff, knowing that declarer was about to finesse and play for the suit to be three-three onside, so trying to distract her from what was about to be a winning line of playing two more spade winners to get rid of the remaining hearts as North ruffed. Then a second heart lead could be ruffed in hand and the remaining clubs picked up without loss.

Indrebo believed the spade play and continued by ruffing a spade with the jack. Huberschwiller wisely did not over-ruff, so Indrebo continued by trying to cash diamonds and Huberschwiller, who had pitched a diamond on the third spade, ruffed and forced dummy to ruff another heart to ensure a second defensive trump winner. The contract was down two for minus 200 and 17 IMPs to France.

Round 17. U-26 Poland v. Turkey & Sweden v. Greece At the Finish Line (BS)

Going into the final round, Poland led the Under-26 Championship by 1.87 VPs from Sweden, with Norway 8.48 VPs behind. A draw would therefore ensure the silver medal for the Poles, but they hadn't come this far to settle for anything less than gold. Behind Norway, England and Netherlands were waiting to pounce should the host nation falter at the last, but only the top three could still win the European title.

Poland's lead in the competition did not survive a single board of the last match, as Sweden moved into a narrow lead. Elsewhere, England lost 11 IMPs on Board 1, while Netherlands gained the same number to move ahead of them into fourth place.

The lead went back and forth, with spectators not only being able to watch both matches live, but also being able to follow the scores as the results poured in from the BridgeMates. The Poland-Turkey match was being played faster than the Sweden-Greece match and the Poles had completed Board 19 by the time the Swedes had finished Board 15. The VP total at that point was Sweden 241.74, Poland 241.66. Poland won 1 IMP on Board 20, detailed shortly, to leapfrog back into the lead with 241.80. They were finished, and it remained to be seen if Sweden could bounce back.

With Poland on 241.80, here are Sweden's VP totals after each of their remaining five boards:

After Board	VP Score
16	241.74
17	242.72
18	243.03
19	243.03
20	241.54

Here's what happened on that fateful final board:

Board 20. Dealer West. Both Vul.

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

Poland v. Turkey

West	North	East	South
<i>Aydin</i>	<i>Kazmier-czak</i>	<i>Tukenmez</i>	<i>Klukowski</i>
1♣	Pass	2♠ ¹	Pass
2NT ²	Pass	3♠ ³	Pass
4♣	Pass	4♥	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♣	Pass
6♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. 9-11 HCP and 5+ spades/4+ hearts
2. Relay
3. 6 spades/4 hearts

Klukowski led a low diamond and, with no fast discard available to him, Tukenmez ducked it to his ten. His only other option was to play North for the queen-jack of hearts (and 4-3 hearts) and take the double finesse for a diamond discard. That was less likely and when the diamond duck passed off peacefully, he drew trumps in two rounds, then played the king of clubs off the table and had 12 tricks for plus 1430.

West	North	East	South
<i>Jassem</i>	<i>Korkmaz</i>	<i>Nowak</i>	<i>Unalan</i>
1♣ ¹	Pass	1♠ ²	Pass
2♦ ³	Pass	3♥	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♣	Double
Pass	Pass	4♥	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♣	Pass
6♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. Polish Club: 3-way (i) Natural 15+ (ii) balanced (11)12-14 (iii) Any 18+
2. 8+ natural
3. Artificial game-force

Unalan too led a low diamond round to declarer's ten. Nowak led a club at trick two and when Unalan ducked he had lost his ace; 13 tricks for plus 1460 and 1 IMP to Poland.

The match ended in a 69-36 IMP win to Poland, 16.66-3.34 VPs. Sweden still had three boards to play and were ahead by 0.92 VPs. They would win the championship if they won their match by 49 or more IMPs, that is, if they did not concede more than 10 IMPs over those last three deals.

Sweden v. Greece

On Board 18, Sweden picked up 4 IMPs to lead by 63, defeating one notrump by one trick in one room and two spades by one trick in the other. Board 19 was flat when the Swedish East/West pair went down one in four spades, but Greece were also down in three spades on good defence. So it all came down to the last deal, with Sweden having a 14-IMP cushion.

West	North	East	South
<i>Grönkvist</i>	<i>Oikonomopoulos</i>	<i>Gullberg</i>	<i>Sakellaris</i>
1♣ ¹	Pass	1♥ ²	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♥	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♥	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♣	Pass
6♠	Pass	Pass	Pass
1. 2+ clubs			
2. Spades			

The Swedish transfer responses to a potentially short club opening made West declarer. Ioannis Oikonomopoulos led a diamond and there was no winning guess. The slam was one down for minus 100, and was all going to be decided at the other table. If Greece could bid and make slam, the title would go to Poland; if not, it would go to Sweden.

West	North	East	South
<i>Kapayannides</i>	<i>Hult</i>	<i>Sofios</i>	<i>Ekenberg</i>
1♣	Pass	1♠	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♥	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♣	Pass
4♦	Pass	4♥	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♣	Pass
6♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

The natural auction saw East become declarer. They still, however, had to bid the slam, otherwise Sweden would have survived by a single IMP. Katerina Kapayannides set trumps and, after cue-bidding, asked for key cards, then bid the slam. There was the usual diamond lead but it didn't matter. After the also-usual duck, Michalis Sofios had no trouble in coming to 12 tricks for plus 1430 and 17 IMPs to Greece. Sweden still won the match, by 75-29 IMPs, but that meant only 18.23 VPs, and it wasn't quite enough.

What an incredible finish, and if the king of diamonds had been in the other hand it would all have been so different, with Swedish joy and Polish tears, instead of the actual Polish joy and Swedish tears. Norway took the bronze, while England finished fourth, Netherlands fifth and France sixth.

Qualifying for the World Youth Teams Championships next year in Salsomaggiore were:

U-26 - Poland, Sweden, Norway, Netherlands, England, France and Italy

U-21 – Netherlands, Sweden, Israel, Italy, Germany, Latvia and France

U-16 – Poland, France, Sweden, England, Netherlands, Israel and Italy

Women – France, Poland, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Hungary



BOOK REVIEW

**Dilip Gidwani,
Mumbai**

Anant Bhagwat, of Mumbai, India, (the bridge author who created *Mr. Badhir - The Numb*) has written a tantalizing murder mystery with bridge as the backdrop, entitled *The Body in the Closed Room*. The novel contains 36 bridge deals, which play an important part in solving the thrilling murder mystery.

The murder victim is an outstanding player with legendary card-play abilities. He is also a cheat, a blackmailer and a philanderer. In the District Championship finals he plays the first half brilliantly and the second half very badly, leading to his team's defeat. After the match is over, he runs away, the way a coward would. The next day, his dead body is found in the Closed Room.

The Senior Police Inspector is baffled by the method of the murder and many unusual questions which crop up. The most intriguing is, "Why did the victim change his socks before being murdered?" Finally, Mr. Vinay Kamat solves the case with a brilliant piece of deduction and a stunning subterfuge.

The novel is written in an Indian setting and will give the reader an insight into how bridge tournaments in India are conducted. The main character, R.P. Singh, is an outstanding player, as proved by his play in the first half. Why does he crumble in the second half?

The deals used by the author in both halves of the match are instructive and emphatically prove his point. Mr. Badhir makes an appearance in a couple of the deals.

The book will be available in paperback during the World Bridge Championships in Chennai. Although priced at US\$9, in Chennai, during the course of the World Championships, it will be available at US\$6 or INR400.00.

THE NEWSMAKERS



The 2013 d'Orsi Trophy winners (Senior Teams) from the USA: (l. to r.): Eddie Wold, the code breaker, Donna Compton, Non-Playing Captain, Roger Bates, Carolyn Lynch, Mile Passell, Marc Jacobus and the late Garey Hayden. Passell was later placed on probation by the ACBL (details on page 10 of this issue), then had the discipline stayed pending appeal.



In happier times: the 2014 Spingold KO Teams winners (l. to r.): Allan Graves, Ron Schwartz, Richie Schwartz (no relation), Phyllis Harlan, ACBL President, presenting the trophy, Lotan Fisher, Espen Lindqvist, Boye Brogeland. Brogeland later accused Lotan Fisher/Ron Schwartz of cheating and the team offered to vacate the titles won with the Fisher/Schwartz pair.



The International Bridge Press Association

IBPA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING & AWARDS

Saturday 3rd October 2015

Chennai, India

Proposed Agenda

1. Remembrance of members deceased since last AGM.
2. Minutes of the AGM and Awards held on 20th October 2014 in Sanya, Hainan, China (see Bulletin 599, pages 2 and 3) and matters arising.
3. Officers' reports: President, Chairman, Secretary.
4. Appointees Reports: Editor, Liaison Officer, Membership Secretary.
5. Treasurer: Accounts for the year ending 31st December 2014, budget and proposal regarding subscriptions for the year 2015. Auditor's report for 2014 (Richard Fleet).
6. Elections
Note: Officers already elected to the 2016 AGM: President: Patrick Jourdain (Wales); Chairman: Per Jannersten (Sweden); Exec Vice-President: Jan van Cleeff (Netherlands); Organisational Vice-President: Dilip Gidwani (India); Secretary: Herman de Wael (Belgium); Treasurer: Richard Solomon (New Zealand).
Proposed for annual election are: Hon General Counsel: David Harris (England); Hon Auditor: Richard Fleet (England).
Automatically continuing without election are: the Presidents Emeritii: Tommy Sandsmark (Norway); Henry Francis (USA).
Election of Executive Members:
Proposed for a 3-year term to 2018: Geo Tislevoll (New Zealand); Jerry Li (China); Ron Tacchi (France).
Already elected to 2016: David Stern (Australia); Brent Manley (USA); Tadashi Yoshida (Japan).
Already elected to 2017: John Carruthers (Canada); Barry Rigal (USA); Gavin Wolpert (USA).
Note: Appointees in post: Awards Chairman: Barry Rigal (USA); Editor: John Carruthers (Canada); Membership Secretary: Herman de Wael (Belgium).
7. The IBPA Annual Awards
8. Any other competent business including suggested addition to the Job Descriptions, for President Emeritus (see below).

Proposed addition to the Job Descriptions: President Emeritus

President emeritus is an honorary title given to any living Past President of the IBPA. There may be more than one. The title may only be removed by proposal of the Executive Committee approved by a General Meeting. President emeriti shall be listed as such in the IBPA's Bulletin.

A President emeritus has the right to receive the Agenda and Minutes for meetings of the Executive and, upon his notification to the Secretary, to attend in person without a vote. If present at an event where the IBPA President and vice-Presidents are absent he shall be deemed the senior officer of the IBPA present, and, as such, may be allocated a role by the IBPA President.



Correspondence

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

Email: ibpaeditor@sympatico.ca

John,

You are absolutely right that straight differences are better than percentages, but: - only so when both pairs have played the same number of boards, - only when the field is small enough for MPs to make sense.

For example, I think your figure of 25 tables (would be a top of 50 in the rest of the world is already too big to quickly see - what's the difference, quickly, between 876 and 849 MPs?

Maybe the best, therefore, on a leaderboard, is to give the difference with the leader, as a percentage of a top. Your 12.5 then becomes -50% and everyone's happy.

Herman De Wael

PS, I don't exactly know what abstruse means, does this qualify? (No. - Ed.)

Dear editor,

I agree with your editorial in praise of BBO in all respects save one. There can be no doubt that BBO is the worst thing that has happened to bridge in decades in one respect; namely, attendance at clubs.

The number of people who play online has increased, and an aging population with a choice may choose not to drive or go out at night. Both categories are enabled by BBO in their choice not to come out to a club game, especially evening club games. That the ACBL awards points to online, unsupervised play is an abomination, though it no doubt is good for the sales of ACBL memberships, as are other "marketing tools" (who said bracketed KOs?) that encourage payment of entry fees.

Perhaps for anyone who wants to earn points online, if that practice is continued (which is assuredly will even though absurd), he or she should be required to attend a local club a number of times equal to the online participation. But that might cut into online participation or ACBL membership - horrors.

Steven Kipperman, San Francisco, CA

While you may be correct, there is also no doubt that, in the sense you discuss BBO (attendance at clubs) being the worst, someone else would have created online bridge even if BBO had not. It's like the calculus - Newton and Leibniz just got there first. Whereas, for journalists, we've seen what a mess others can make of what BBO does so brilliantly. - Ed.

NEWS & VIEWS



Fisher/Schwartz Battle Just Beginning

Lotan Fisher and Ron Schwartz have embarked on an international legal battle to clear their names, hiring Adv. Dror Arad Ayalon, former chairman of Israel's bar association's ethics committee to lead an international legal and professional team with the goals of clearing their names and unveiling the persons and interests behind the attempt to implicate them.

Fisher and Schwartz announced on Monday, August 31, 2015 that, for the time being and, in order to prevent any shadow over their successes, they will not hereafter compete as a pair. However, the pair affirms that they will continue to play as teammates.

One of the first actions of the legal team was to deliver a letter demanding that Boye Brogeland cease and desist and pay \$1M in damages to Fisher/Schwartz.

IBF Special Committee Formed

The Israel Bridge Federation (IBF) has announced that a special committee has been created in order to examine the various allegations of irregularities against the Israeli pair Lotan Fisher-Ron Schwartz. This Ethics Committee will be headed by David Forer, current head of the IBF's court and a respected lawyer and bridge expert. Other members of the committee are Asher Axelrod, Modi Kenigsberg, Eitan Levy and Adrian Schwartz.

NBF Seeks Review

The Norwegian Bridge Federation has formally asked the European Bridge League to review the status of Lotan Fisher and Ron Schwartz in light of the allegations of cheating made by Boye Brogeland and others.

Vera Petty

Jade Barrett reports that Vera Petty has died in late July. Petty was one of Bermuda's top players for decades, with wins in the Caribbean Championships and Great Britain's Portland Pairs. She won the Norman Bach trophy (awarded to the most successful Bermudian player at the home nation's annual tournament) twelve times in a row. Petty is survived by her husband, Roman Smolski; her siblings Michael and Beryl; her children, Amanda and David; and her grandchildren Lucy, Finbar and Mirabella.

UK Tax Tribunal Refers 'Bridge Is a Sport' Appeal to European Court

The English Bridge Union's (EBU) case for bridge to be considered a sport for VAT purposes has been referred to the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU). In the Upper Tribunal of the Tax and Chancery Chamber, on 14th July, Mrs Justice Asplin and Judge Roger Berner decided that the case should be referred to the CJEU to ensure that the intention of the EU article which gives tax exemption to sport is properly followed. The case was originally dismissed by a First-Tier Tribunal in February 2014 on the grounds that bridge was not sufficiently 'active' to be considered what was traditionally defined as a 'sport'. However, the Upper Tribunal acknowledged that playing bridge provides benefits, as well as recognising that other EU countries, including France, Netherlands, Belgium and Poland, granted VAT exemption to bridge on these grounds. They noted that there was no legal precedent on which they could base a ruling, so therefore referred the case to the CJEU for a judgement on the true meaning of the legislation.

Bridge is recognised as a sport in the UK by the Charity Commission, which considers sport to be any activity which promotes health involving physical or mental skill or exertion. However, this definition is not currently used by other UK government and government-funded bodies. Bridge is viewed by the International Olympic Committee as a Mind Sport, and the World Bridge Federation was recently invited to submit an application for bridge to be considered for inclusion in the 2020 Olympic Games in Tokyo. Although that application was unsuccessful, bridge will be included in the 2018 Asian Games and 2017 South-East Asian Games.

In September a Judicial Review of Sport England's refusal to recognise bridge as a sport will take place.

WBF President Awarded Honorary Citizenship

On the 25th of July each year, on the occasion of St. James Day, the patron saint of Opatija, the city celebrates by awarding its personalities of the year the St. James Medal.

The official public ceremony was held this year at the Royal Hotel and chaired by Opatija Mayor Ivo Dujmic, in the presence of city and regional authorities, during which our world bridge family was honoured with two prestigious awards.

The Opatija City Council bestowed Honorary Citizenship on World Bridge Federation President Gianarrigo Rona. Rona, the Opatija Bridge Association and its President Goran Grguric were also awarded the St James Medal.



IBPA President's Report from Tromsø

Attendance at the European Open in Norway was better than many expected, with a strong contingent of players from the USA, Australia, China, Japan, South Africa and Europe, but the IBPA Executive members were fewer than usual, with only five present.

It was good to see our President Emeritus, Tommy Sandsmark, who has not been in good health for some years, in Tromsø, looking better. We are sorry Tommy missed the Press Trip up the cable car on the mainland, and the lunch hosted by the EBL.

IBPA received one new member, Yves Mucha, a bridge book publisher from Germany and two rejoining members: Rui Marques of Portugal and the USA who

has been appointed a Chief Tournament director for the EBL, and Assistant Chief TD for the WBF; and Els Witteveen of the Netherlands.

Also eight members paid late for 2015 and three in advance for 2016.

The Press Room was less busy than usual but still well-managed by Jan Swaan. Twenty attended the Press Conference on the final Friday, reported in Saturday's Daily Bulletin. Jan van Cleeff asked questions from the Hague via an internet link, and this will be a future trend for IBPA members not at the venue.

Patrick Jourdain, IBPA President

World Bridge Calendar

DATES	EVENT	LOCATION	INFORMATION
2015			
Sep 2-6	VV Cup	Vilnius, Lithuania	www.vvcup.com
Sep 4-10	10 th Greek Bridge Festival	Athens, Greece	www.bridgefestival.gr
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 7-13	EBU Overseas Congress	Ixia, Rhodes, Greece	www.ebu.co.uk
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 14-16	CACBF Regional	San Jose, Costa Rica	www.cacbf.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 26-29	16 th International Schools/Junior Teams	Hluk, Zlin, Czech Republic	kralik_preklady@gmail.com
Nov 26-Dec 5	ACBL Fall NABC	Denver, CO	www.acbl.org
Dec 16-20	Cape Festival of Bridge	Capetown, South Africa	www.sabf.co.za
Dec 27-30	Year End Congress	London, England	www.ebu.co.uk
2016			
Jan 9-10	7 th TGR's Auction Pairs	London, England	www.tgrsbridge.com
Jan 12-24	Summer Festival of Bridge	Canberra, Australia	www.abf.com.au
Jan 23-29	Bermuda Regional	Southampton, Bermuda	www.bermudaregional.com
Jan 28-31	Winter in Vienna	Vienna, Austria	www.bridgeaustria.at
Feb 1-7	EBU Overseas Congress	Paphos, Cyprus	www.ebu.co.uk
Feb 19-27	Gold Coast Congress	Surfer's Paradise, Australia	www.qldbridge.com
Feb 24-28	Festival du Soleil	Cannes, France	www.festivalsdusoleil.com
Mar 10-20	ACBL Spring NABC	Reno, NV	www.acbl.org
Mar 15-20	Kitzbüheler Bridge Week	Kitzbühel, Austria	www.bridgeaustria.at
Mar 22-27	121 st Canadian Nationals	Toronto, ON	www.unit166.ca
Mar 31-Apr 3	Tasmanian Festival of Bridge	Hobart, Australia	www.abf.com.au
Apr 15-24	Asia Open Bridge Congress	Beijing, China	www.cbca.org.cn/asiaopen2016
Apr 22-May 1	Lambourne Jersey Festival	Jersey, Channel Is.	www.ebu.co.uk
Apr 29-May 12	Festival du Soleil	Juan-les-Pins, France	www.festivalsdusoleil.com
May 12-16	Grazer Bridge Week	Graz, Austria	www.bridgeaustria.at
May 14-21	South Africa National Congress	Hazyview, Mpumalanga, RSA	www.sabf.co.za
May 21-29	German Bridge Festival	Wyk-auf-Föhr, Germany	www.bridge-verband.de
May 28-Jun 4	South American Transnational	Medellin, Colombia	www.confusudbridge.org
Jun 16-25	53 rd European Team Championships	Budapest, Hungary	www.eurobridge.org
Jun 25-Jul 7	Australian National Championships	Brisbane, Australia	www.abf.com.au
Jul 13-20	13 th European Youth Pairs & Camp	Liepaja, Latvia	www.eurobridge.org
Jul 21-31	ACBL Summer NABC	Washington, DC	www.acbl.org
Jul 29-Aug 7	22 nd Swedish Bridge Festival	Örebro, Sweden	www.svenskbridge.se
Jul 30-Aug 4	Chairman's Cup Teams	Örebro, Sweden	www.svenskbridge.se
Aug 3-13	World Youth Team Championships	Salsomaggiore, Italy	www.worldbridge.org
Aug 6-7	Gold Mine Pairs	Örebro, Sweden	www.svenskbridge.se
Sep 2-17	World Bridge Games	Wroclaw, Poland	www.worldbridge.org
Sep 24-Oct 1	NZ National Congress	Wellington, NZ	www.nzcba.nz
Nov 24-Dec 4	ACBL Fall NABC	Orlando, FL	www.acbl.org