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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.

Bridge organisations do a pretty good job of protecting their players against unusual bidding methods. The problem is not the methods themselves, but the fact of their unfamiliarity to the opponents. Given enough time for preparation and enough play against the methods, opponents will eventually become competent against them and lessen their effectiveness. This is true even in World Championship play, where certain methods (called "Highly-Unusual Methods", HUM for short) are forbidden in short matches and allowed in longer ones. There are exceptions to this 'protection' of course: Australia and New Zealand spring to mind, where virtually anything goes as regards system. And since that's what their players are used to, no one seems to mind.

Where bridge organisations do not do a good job of protecting their clientele is in illegal communications between partners. Bridge, like one or two other sports (golf and tennis may be the only others, and tennis is doubtful these days), depends to a large extent upon the honesty of its practitioners. Events over the past couple of years have alerted us to the fact that there are pairs abusing the privilege of playing bridge at the highest level by employing illegal signalling. Without exception, bridge organisations do not have reliable procedures in place to catch cheats. It is time to remedy that.

The 1965 Buenos Aires fiasco should have remedied it a half-century ago. Reese/Shapiro were convicted by the WBF and banned from further play; the Foster Commission (in England) whitewashed the whole affair and exonerated them, using British legal standards to determine guilt. The Sion/Cokin affair in the USA served as a further alarm that something needed to be done but, again no action was taken. Every bridge organisation takes the view that: (a.) "If we don't do anything, it will all go away," and (b.) "We need the players to start any process." The IOC did the same until the drug problem became endemic and they had to create WADA. Surely, the time is right for the WBF to do the same.

The first job for bridge organisations operating at the highest level should be to ensure the integrity of their events. Cycling didn't do that, weight lifting didn't do that – does anyone really care who wins their events now? Bridge is headed in the same direction unless action is taken, and taken now!

Furthermore, the bridge organisations must develop procedures such that the players need not complain to be afforded protection. Do we insist that the victims of crime complain for the police to spring into action?

One of the risks run by bridge organisations in allegations of cheating is that of civil litigation by the accused against their accusers. Typically, civil litigation does not have the high standard of proof required by criminal trials. Perhaps it's time to turn the tide: sue those convicted. Surely there are players and teams whose livelihoods and reputations have been lessened by the cheaters' successes. So, as in real life, have the victims sue the criminals. These days, we can adapt Samuel Johnson's pronouncement about patriotism to litigation: "Litigation is the last refuge of a scoundrel." Let's change that.

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INDIAN TEAM SELECTION TRIALS

Bengal Rowing Club, Kolkata,
June 28-July 1, 2015
John Carruthers, Kingsville, ON

There were extraordinary goings-on both before and during the Indian Open Team Selection Trials. This was the second time the Trials had been held. Due to complaints from competitors after the first Trials, the winners, TEXAN ACES, had been disqualified by the Bridge Federation of India from representing India in the Bermuda Bowl because of using an ineligible player (an Overseas Citizen of India, i.e., a dual citizen). That decision had been taken to court by Texan Aces and upheld, the courts ruling that such persons were not eligible to represent India in sports competitions.

Rather than anoint FORMIDABLES, the runnersup to TEXAN ACES in the first Trials, as their representative in the Bermuda Bowl, BFI decided it would be fairer to hold a second set of Trials.

Seven teams entered these Trials. Most of the top names in Indian bridge were in attendance. The teams were:

ARUN JAIN: Arun Jain, Raju Tolani, S Sundarram, P Sridhar, Swarnendu Banerjee, JM Shah

BANGUR CEMENT: Debasish Ray, NRK Moorthy, SK Iyengar, Sukamal Das, Chandrashekhar Majumder, Manas Mukherjee

CV RAO: A Bhattacharya, Pranab Bardhan, PS Mukherjee, SN De Sarkar, Avijit Chakraborty, Satyabrata Mukherjee

HEMANT JALAN: Hemant Jalan, Ashish Malhotra, Sandeep Thakral, Kaustubh Bendre, Kaustabh Nandi, Sandip Datta

INDIAN RAILWAYS: Subir KR Majumder, Rana Ray, Amarnath Banerjee, Sumit Mukherjee, Debabrata Majumder (aka Laltu), Gopinath Manna

SHREE CEMENT: Pritish Kushari, Ravi Goenka, Vinay Desai, Arun Bapat, Bhabesh Saha, Ajay Bagaria

Those six teams played a double round robin to qualify three teams for 60-board semifinal knockout play. The seventh team in the Trials had a bye to the semifinals, having qualified that far by winning the Ruia Gold Cup, the premier Indian team event, at the Winter Nationals late last year. They were:

FORMIDABLES: Kiran Nadar, B Satyanarayana, B Prabhakar, Rajeshwar Tewari, Sunit Choksi, Keyzad Anklesaria

The semifinal winners played a 90-board final.

The results of the Round Robin were:

1	INDIAN RAILWAYS	128.33
2	CV RAO	109.74
3	<u>BANGUR CEMENT</u>	<u>106.91</u>
4	ARUN JAIN	96.75
5	HEMANT JALAN	93.36
6	SHREE CEMENT	64.91

Semifinals:

BANGUR CEMENT	116	FORMIDABLES	107
INDIAN RAILWAYS	192	CV RAO	152

The final:

INDIAN RAILWAYS	194	BANGUR CEMENT	156
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Final - Stanza 5 of 6

There were three Majumders and two Mukherjees playing in the final match: Chandrashekhar (CS) Majumder and Manas Mukherjee for BANGUR CEMENT; Subir KR Majumder, Debabrata Majumder and Sumit Mukherjee for INDIAN RAILWAYS. We shall refer to them by their first names or initials: CS, Subir, Manas, Debabrata (or Laltu), and Sumit, respectively, for simplicity and clarity (we hope).

Further confusing matters (at least to me), there was a Ray (Debasish Ray) and a Roy (Rana Roy) playing in this match and there were two more Mukherjees and another Banerjee on other teams that did not reach the semifinals.

Thus we like the Delhi Bridge Association custom of laying out the table lineups at the beginning of a match report (and now you know why they do it!). Here are the lineups for Set 5 of 6.

Closed Room

North:

Gopinath Manna (RAILWAYS)

West:

Sukamal Das (CEMENT) CS Majumder (CEMENT)

East:

South:

Subir Majumder (RAILWAYS)

Open Room

North: Manas Mukherjee (CEMENT)

West:

Sumit Mukherjee
(RAILWAYS)

East:

Debabrata Majumder
(RAILWAYS)

South:

Debasish Ray (CEMENT)

With the score BANGUR CEMENT 139 - INDIAN RAILWAYS 109, the following tricky declarer-play problem arose...

Board 1. Dealer North. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Das	Manna	CS	Subir
—	1♠	2♦	2♥
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Das led the nine of diamonds. Declarer, Subir, won with dummy's ace, drew trumps and finessed the queen of spades. CS took his ace of clubs and king of diamonds, then exited with another club. Declarer had to lose a spade for minus 50.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Sumit	Manas	Debabrata	Ray
—	1♠	2♦	2♥
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

The Open Room duplicated the auction, but not the play. Sumit also led his diamond nine. Ray won with dummy's ace, drew trumps and led a spade to the ace, gathering the jack from East. Declarer led dummy's eight of diamonds, won by East's king. East led out the ace and another club, ruffed by declarer, who cashed the queen of diamonds for a pitch of dummy's third club. Having stripped the minor suits in both hands, declarer led a spade to the nine, forcing East's king. Even if East had had started with the jack-ten doubleton, or if declarer had misguessed by playing the queen of spades, East would have been endplayed. Plus 420 and 10 IMPs to CEMENT, increasing their lead to 30 IMPs.

Declarer played well, but could have improved his line by leading a club before the ace of spades, to ensure being able to eliminate the suit. As it was, if East could have resisted the temptation of playing clubs early, he'd have had a club exit if declarer had misguessed spades. However, that was probably academic, as South guessed them anyway.

Board 3. Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Sumit	Manas	Debabrata	Ray
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	Pass	1♦	Double
1♥	INT	2♣	Pass
2♦	Pass	Pass	Pass

Sumit/Debabrata conducted a sensible auction to a sensible spot. Ray led his trump and Manas won with the ace to shift to the jack of spades. Declarer won with his ace, took the club ace, and cross-ruffed three clubs and two hearts, cashing the heart ace along the way. When he left dummy with a heart, North had the ten left and South the king. Declarer discarded a spade and was ensured of making the king-ten of diamonds at the end. That was a sensible ... plus 130 for RAILWAYS.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Das	Manna	CS	Subir
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	Pass	1♦	Double
2♥ ¹	3♣	3NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. Fit-showing

Events at this table were extraordinary. Das/CS conducted a very optimistic auction to an atrocious spot.

Subir led the king of spades. Manna dumped the jack on that and declarer ducked. A second spade went to declarer's seven. CS led a diamond to the queen and North's ace. North shifted to a curious jack of clubs; declarer put in the queen and led the king and another diamond to North's jack. North got out with the seven of clubs, won by declarer's ten. When declarer cashed his diamonds and the ace of clubs, his seventh trick, the defence was in a pickle. Declarer could lead the last club (South had had to discard his fourth club on the diamonds) and whoever won it would be endplayed: South into the ace-ten of spades or North

into the ace-queen of hearts. That was a rather unusual plus 600 and 10 IMPs to CEMENT.

Board 6. Dealer East. EW Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Sumit	Manas	Debabrata	Ray
—	—	1♥	5♦
Pass	Pass	Double	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Whatever you may think of the bidding, the result certainly looked good to North/South. They were one off in five diamonds doubled, minus 100, with the opponents on a successful finesse for either of two slams. Manas/Ray failed to reckon with Subir.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Das	Manna	CS	Subir
—	—	1♥	2♦
Double	3♦	4♥	5♦
6♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

The final contract was just acceptable, being slightly worse than on a finesse. However, it met Bob Hamman's criterion: "A good slam is one that makes." Subir led the ace of spades and shifted to ... the eight of clubs! From declarer's point of view, this was unlikely to be away from the king, since South could not possibly know the location of the jack. Declarer might have had no play for his slam other than to duck the club. Be that as it may, declarer rose with dummy's ace and is today a sadder, but wiser, man.

That was 5 IMPs to RAILWAYS when it might have been 16 to CEMENT. After this set, BANGUR CEMENT led 146-137.

Final - Stanza 6 of 6

Closed Room

North: Manas Mukherjee (CEMENT)

West: Rana Roy (RAILWAYS)	East: Amarnath Banerjee (RAILWAYS)
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South: Debasish Ray (CEMENT)

Open Room

North:

Debabrata Majumder (RAILWAYS)

West:

CS Majumder (CEMENT) Sukamal Das (CEMENT)

South:

Sumit Mukherjee (RAILWAYS)

CEMENT's lead did not survive the first board of the last set.

Board 16. Dealer West. EW Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
CS	Debabrata	Das	Sumit
Pass	1♦	Pass	1♠
Pass	INT	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Das led the five of hearts, which ran around to declarer's nine. Three rounds of diamonds put West in, as East discarded the three and seven of spades. West thus shifted to the ten of clubs, jack, queen, three. Declarer ducked the king of clubs as well, and East shifted to the six of spades. With a diamond and two clubs in the bag, East hoped that West had one spade trick to go with the heart to come. Plus he knew that declarer had no entry to the dummy. Why? Declarer had squandered the two of diamonds on the first round of the suit. West had given remainder count in clubs, so East also knew that declarer had no more clubs.

Thus, two clubs, one diamond, one heart and one spade would ensure declarer's defeat provided West had either the ace or the king-queen-third of spades. Not too much to ask. In theory, it mattered not, since declarer could have forced East to lead into the ace-queen of spades later anyway, even with no dummy entry. The defence did eventually score the king of hearts, but that was nine tricks for declarer, plus 400.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Roy	Manas	Banerjee	Ray
Pass	1♦	Double	1♠
Pass	INT	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

The lead and early play were similar. However, when in with the jack of diamonds (East having discarded the two and eight of hearts), Roy shifted to the five of clubs rather than the ten. Declarer ducked twice and, here, Banerjee continued with a third club to dummy's ace. Declarer had a blind spot (discarding the queen of spades and running the jack of hearts would have ensured the contract) and discarded a heart on the ace of clubs. He then ran his two diamond tricks to reduce everyone to four cards.

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

Convinced that East had the two major-suit kings remaining, both guarded, declarer played off the ace and queen of spades instead of the ace and queen of hearts—the “Miami Endplay”—and West claimed two off. Declarer was aghast. Two off meant 11 IMPs to RAILWAYS.

RAILWAYS had slightly the better of it to lead by 15 with two boards to go. On the penultimate board, Debabrata (North) for RAILWAYS made a winning decision to pull Sumit's three-notrump suggestion to four hearts on

♠ Q 9
♥ Q 8
♦ A Q 10 9 8
♣ K 6 5 3

after the auction:

Open Room

West	North	East	South
CS	Debabrata	Das	Sumit
—	1♦	2♠	3♥
3♠	Pass	Pass	3NT
Pass	4♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Sumit had:

♠ K 6
♥ K J 7 6 2
♦ 5
♣ A Q 8 4 2

Sumit lost the ace of spades and two heart tricks when they were 4-2.

At the other table, East/West never bid, so North/South were not alerted to the spade danger and bid to three notrump, off one for 12 IMPs to RAILWAYS, cementing their victory. Five clubs looks to be the best game, but no one ever bid the suit naturally.

Just to put a cap on it, RAILWAYS bid the ninetieth and final deal of the match to perfection at both tables.

Board 30. Dealer East. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
CS	Debabrata	Das	Sumit
—	—	1♣	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♥	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♣	Pass	4♦	Double!
Pass	Pass	4♥	Pass
Pass	Pass		

It must be said that CS kind of dogged the hand. Five hearts might have engendered five notrump from East and then six notrump would have been very attractive. But let's not take anything away from Sumit's double—it was a great bid and he hit a six.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Roy	Manas	Banerjee	Ray
—	—	1♣	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♥	Pass	3♥	Pass
3♠	Pass	3NT	Pass
4♣	Pass	4♦	Pass
6NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

Banerjee/Roy got to six notrump from the right side and made plus 990 on a diamond lead to the ace.

INDIAN RAILWAYS were certainly worthy winners and will be formidable opponents in Chennai.



Vilnius, Lithuania,
September 2-6, 2015
Marek Wojcicki
Przemsyl, Poland

Vytautas Vainikonis, the sponsor of the VV Cup, with prizes of €100,000, has aspirations to make the tournament one of the premier bridge events in the world. This second edition had a unique format. There were two groups of teams, eight invited teams and an Open Swiss Teams for anyone else who wanted a shot at the substantial prize money. The invited teams had a bye into the Round of 16, with the sponsor's team receiving the No. 1 seed. The other 37 teams that entered played a six-round, eight-boards-per-round Swiss with the top 20 carrying on to an "A" group; the other 17 going into Group "B".

Those A and B groups played an additional six-match day (eight boards each) with carryover of 75% (A) and 50% (B) respectively. The top six teams from A and the leading team from B at the end of Day 2 went directly to the Round of 16. The seventh-placed A team played a four-board match against the second-placed B team to decide the sixteenth qualifier for the knockout.

That wasn't all. The seven, not-yet-numbered, invited teams were seeded by random draw. Then, according to their seed number, they chose their Round-of-16 opponent from among the teams qualifying out of the Swiss. In the Round of 16, if the invited team won its match, it carried on to the quarterfinals. However, if the qualifying team won its 24-board match, it was saddled with another 24-board match against the same team, starting over at 0-0, with the winner going through to the quarterfinals. Naturally, this heavily favoured the invited teams and, although only five of the eight won their initial match, all three of the losers won the rematch, so that the quarterfinals was comprised of the eight invited teams.

Players Play, Not The HCP

Points-schmoints, everybody knows that it's the players that play, not the points. Particularly when multiple world champions, an Olympic champion and a European Junior champion meet at the table. Following is a very spectacular board from the match between MILNER and CARLO BOSSI PARFUMES.

Board 7. Dealer South. Both Vul.

♠ 6 2
♥ 8 7 4
♦ A Q 10 8 7 5
♣ 5 2

♠ J 10 9 8
♥ A K 5 2
♦ 3
♣ A Q 10 4

♠ Q 5 4
♥ 9 3
♦ J 9 6 4
♣ 8 7 6 3

♠ A K 7 3
♥ Q J 10 6
♦ K 2
♣ K J 9

In the open room, Miechowicz/Witek of CARLO BOSSI PARFUMES bid quite sensibly to three notrump, down two. For MILNER, a pair of Polish world champions managed to stop at a part score initially, then the opponents put them in game:

West	North	East	South
<i>Nowak</i>	<i>Pszczola</i>	<i>Tuszynski</i>	<i>Kwiecien</i>
—	—	—	INT
Pass	2NT ¹	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♦ ²	Pass	Pass
Double	Redouble ³	Pass	Pass
Pass			

1. Weak with both minors or long diamonds, any strength
2. 6+♦, sign off
3. Maximum strength

The defence was merciless. Tuszynski led his doubleton heart. Nowak cashed the two top hearts and played the two of hearts for East to ruff. Tuszynski returned a club. West cashed two club tricks and played another heart, promoting one more trick for the trump jack. Plus 1000.

Repechage Turnaround

Board 18. Dealer East. NS Vul.

♠ K 9 5
♥ J 6 5 4
♦ Q J 10 7 5
♣ J

♠ A 10 8 3
♥ 9 7 2
♦ 8 6 4 3
♣ K 7

♠ Q 7 6 2
♥ Q 3
♦ A 9
♣ A 8 5 3 2

♠ J 4
♥ A K 10 8
♦ K 2
♣ Q 10 9 6 4

As one of the qualifying teams, MAZURKIEWICZ had to win twice over BRENO to advance to the quarterfinals. In the morning, it was not so difficult—they won all three segments of the match by a total score of 74-44. In the replay, after 16 boards, they

were 22 IMPs behind. Then Balicki/Zmudzinski started a rally:

The Italian pair with the North/South cards did not enter the bidding:

West	North	East	South
Mazurk'z	Lanzarotti	Wujkow	Manno
—	—	1♣ ¹	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. Polish Club

The contract was made for plus 110 to MAZURKIEWICZ. At the other table Balicki, with the North hand, was not quite so polite:

West	North	East	South
Zaleski	Balicki	Franchi	Zmudzinski
—	—	1♣	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♠	Pass
Pass	Double!	Pass	4♥!
Double	Pass	Pass	Pass

Zaleski started with the king of clubs and continued the suit. The second club was ruffed in the dummy and a diamond was played toward the king, East ducking. Diamonds were continued. East took the ace of diamonds and played a spade to West's ace, who played another spade. Declarer won with the king in dummy and cashed the two top hearts. When the queen fell, he claimed plus 790. That was worth 14 IMPs to MAZURKIEWICZ.

B/Z in Action

The defensive play of Balicki/Zmudzinski is regarded as one of the best in the world, particularly at partscores. Look at this example...

Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

The bidding was the same at both tables:

West	North	East	South
Mazurk'z	Lanzarotti	Wujkow	Manno
Zaleski	Balicki	Franchi	Zmudzinski
—	—	—	Pass
1♣	Pass	1♠	Pass
INT	Pass	Pass	Pass

Lanzarotti, with the North cards, led the jack of clubs (Mazurkiewicz's one-club opening was Polish,

promising two or more clubs only). Declarer ducked in dummy and South took the trick with the king and returned the suit. Declarer won with the ace and played a spade to the king, making seven tricks and scoring plus 90.

Balicki made another choice—the four of hearts. How did it work? Declarer won in hand with the king and played a spade to the ten and jack. Zmudzinski shifted to a diamond and the defenders played four rounds of the suit. On the last of these, there was no obvious discard for declarer. He opted for clubs from both hands, Balicki discarding a low heart. Now a heart was played, taken with the jack, and the spade king followed. Balicki won with his ace and shifted to the club jack: low from dummy, king from Zmudzinski and, finally, one more heart. Declarer could have held the loss to one down by guessing the spades, but he did not. Plus 200 for North/South and 7 IMPs for MAZURKIEWICZ.

Before the last board, MAZURKIEWICZ led the segment 32-0 and the match by 10 IMPs. However, on the last board, Mazurkiewicz/Wujkow missed their eight-card spade fit and played in three notrump down one, while Franchi/Zaleski made four spades with two overtricks. BRENO won by a single IMP, 53-52, and made it to the quarterfinals.

Pip Power

The only local team in the semifinals was ERA. Let's look how they battled against the joint forces of Turkey and Italy, playing in memory of the famous Turkish player, Salvador Assael.

Board 5. Dealer North. NS Vul.

	♠ 10 7 2		
	♥ 10 8 3		
	♦ A 4 3		
	♣ Q J 8 6		
♠ K J		♠ A 8 6 5	
♥ K Q 9 5 2		♥ A J 4	
♦ K 10 9 8		♦ 2	
♣ 7 2		♣ A K 9 5 3	
	♠ Q 9 4 3		
	♥ 7 6		
	♦ Q J 7 6 5		
	♣ 10 4		
West	North	East	South
Zatorski	Cem Tokay	Klukowski	Versace
—	Pass	1♣	Pass
1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♦ ¹	Pass	2♥	Pass
3♦	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♥	Pass	6♥	Pass

1. Artificial game force

The young Poles bid to a reasonable slam. North led the club queen. Declarer won in dummy and led a

diamond, unfortunately to the king. North took the trick with the ace and continued clubs. Declarer won in dummy and led another club. Versace ruffed it with trump six. Declarer overruffed and a diamond ruff in the dummy followed. Now declarer had a chance to make the contract with a spade finesse, but he played another club and the seven of hearts from Versace ruined his chances.

Perhaps when Versace ruffed the third round of clubs, declarer should have switched horses in mid-stream and taken the spade finesse. His trumps were not quite good enough to withstand South's pips.

West	North	East	South
Zorlu	Arlovich	Kubac	E.Vainikonis
—	Pass	1♣	Pass
1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass
3NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

An easy three notrump by West made 10 tricks for ASSAEL and they gained 10 IMPs.

Easy Game

On the next board, Andrey Arlovich showed how to make life easy for one's partner:

Board 6. Dealer East. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Zorlu	Arlovich	Kubac	E.Vainikonis
—	—	1♠	Double
Redouble	2♣	Pass	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♦	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♠	Pass

Vainikonis cashed club ace, and after the meaningful play from Arlovich of the jack, South shifted to a low heart. Arlovich made his second excellent play by winning with the king and continuing with the jack. South took this trick with the ace and gave North a heart ruff for one down.

Suppose North had merely won trick two with the jack of hearts, then cashed the king. On that defence South would have had to either overtake with the ace and give North a ruff or really be on his toes later to prevent being triple-squeezed. In the following ending, with declarer having only four of the last six tricks, on the last spade, South would have had to release a club:

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

A diamond discard would have given declarer two more tricks immediately and the ace-of-hearts discard would have allowed declarer to discard the queen of hearts and squeeze South again with the seven of hearts.

Style Points but No IMPs

This set ended with a flat board in a grand slam, a rare event.

Board 7. Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Zatorski	Cem Tokay	Klukowski	Versace
—	—	—	Pass
1♣ ¹	Pass	1♠ ²	Pass
2♦ ³	Pass	2♥ ⁴	Pass
2♠ ⁵	Pass	2NT ⁶	Pass
3♠ ⁷	Pass	3NT ⁸	Pass
4♣ ⁹	Pass	4♥ ⁹	Pass
4NT ¹⁰	Pass	5♦ ¹¹	Pass
5NT ¹²	Pass	6♣ ¹³	Pass
6♦ ¹⁴	Pass	6♥ ¹⁵	Pass
7♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

- Polish Club: (i.) Natural (ii.) 12-14 balanced (iii.) Any 18+ HCP
- 4+ spades and 8+ HCP
- Option (iii.), game-forcing
- 11+ HCP
- Relay for more information
- Balanced
- Sets spades as trumps
- Mildly encouraging

9. Control bid
10. Roman Key Card Blackwood
11. 0 or 3 key cards
12. Kings?
13. No kings
14. Any extras
15. Yes, in hearts

West	North	East	South
Zorlu	Arlovich	Kubac	E.Vainikonis
—	—	—	Pass
1♠	Pass	2NT ¹	Pass
4NT ²	Pass	5♦ ³	Pass
7NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. Forcing-to-game spade raise
2. Roman Key Card Blackwood
3. 0 or 3 key cards

Zorlu used the rule, “Where there are 12, there will be 13,” and also bid the grand slam.

Swing Board

Board 13. Dealer North. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
K.Jassem	Cem Tokay	P.Jassem	Versace
—	Pass	1♣	Pass
1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♦	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♥	Pass	3♠	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♣	Pass
6♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

North led a diamond. Declarer played low from dummy and South inserted the ten. West tried the club finesse: down one.

West	North	East	South
Zorlu	Zatorski	Kubac	Klukowski
—	Pass	1♣	Pass
1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♦	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♥	Pass	4♥	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♣	Pass
6♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

Here also the low diamond was led, but South decided to take the ace immediately and declarer had his

twelfth trick; 17 IMPs for ASSAEL, who went on to win this match and the final over ZIMMERMANN.

Six hearts can always be made double-dummy. If the state of the match had demanded, Krzysztof Jassem could have tried to create a swing by playing for both the king of clubs and the queen of spades to be offside. In that case, the throw-in against South would have worked!

The teams in the money were:

1. **ASSAEL** (€40,000): Nezhik Kubac, Mustafa Cem Tokay, Alfredo Versace, Nafiz Zorlu
2. **ZIMMERMANN** (€25,000): Jean-Charles Allavena, Michel Duguet, Fredrik Helness, Tor Helness, Lionel Sabanne, Pierre Zimmermann
3. **ERA** (€15,000): Andrei Arlovich, Krzysztof Jassem, Pavel Jassem, Michal Klukowski, Erikas Vainikonis, Piotr Zatorski
4. **DE BOTTON** (€10,000): Dennis Bilde, Krzysztof Buras, Janet de Botton, Thor Erik Hoftaniska, Artur Malinowski, Grzegorz Narkiewicz



Michael Berkowitz, son of David and Lisa and brother of Dana, was playing in a pairs game at the Chicago NABC. Michael held this hand (spots approximate).

♠ Q J
♥ K Q 9 8 7 6
♦ 10
♣ A Q 6 5

Michael was South and this was the bidding:

West	North	East	South
—	—	—	1♥
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♥
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥
Double!	Pass	Pass	Pass

As it happened, West held the ace-king of spades and four hearts to the ace-jack. “We were the only pair in the event to be doubled on that board,” Michael said with mock chagrin. But that’s not all, he added: “The person who doubled me was my mother!”

Some time after the game was finished, Dana happened to ask her mother how it went. Said Lisa: “I doubled your brother and now he’s looking for a new mother.”



IBPA Column Service

Tim Bourke, Canberra

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

777. Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

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

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

As North's two-heart rebid promised 10-11 points and three hearts, South made a long-suit trial bid in diamonds, which was happily accepted.

West led the ace of spades and shifted to a trump. As the ace of clubs was almost certainly on his left, declarer took an approach that would work as long as the trumps were 3-2. He allowed dummy's ten of trumps to hold the second trick so that he could ruff a spade. A diamond to dummy's jack allowed declarer to ruff another spade. After crossing back to dummy with the king of diamonds, dummy's last spade was ruffed high. Next, declarer drew the outstanding trumps with dummy's ace and queen. The ace and queen of diamonds were his ninth and tenth tricks.

Note that a red-suit lead defeats four hearts because it allows the defence to attack the entries necessary for the dummy-reversal to succeed.

The following deal (see top of next column) occurred in a team game between an average team and a good one. The auction was the same at both tables, as was the lead of the nine of clubs. Both East players won the first trick with the ten of clubs then played the queen and king of clubs

.The less-skilled declarer thought for some time before deciding to play West for the jack of trumps. So, he ruffed the king of clubs with the queen of trumps and

cached the king of trumps. Alas, the trumps were 4-0 and he could no longer make his contract.

778. Dealer North. EW Vul.

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

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

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

The expert declarer saw that while he could avoid a loser in trumps it was pretty certain that he would lose a trick in hearts. So, at trick three, he discarded the two of hearts from hand. East saw that there was no point in continuing with clubs: declarer would ruff in hand, thereby neutralising West's trumps. Instead, East exited with the queen of diamonds. Declarer took this in dummy with the king of diamonds and then played a low trump to his king. After finessing dummy's ten of trumps and cashing the ace of trumps, declarer crossed back to hand with a heart to the king. All that remained was to draw West's last trump with the queen. This declarer made six trumps and the four top cards in the red suits for his contract.

779. Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

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

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

West led the queen of hearts. Declarer counted nine tricks, with the only realistic hope of a tenth coming if East held the king of clubs and he could get to dummy twice. The latter would be easy if West held the ace of trumps. So, declarer turned his thoughts to what could be done if East held the ace of trumps. After a little thought, declarer saw that if that were so he would need trumps to be 2-2 so that the five of trumps would be his second entry to dummy.

As a result, after winning the first trick with the king of hearts, declarer led the seven of trumps to dummy's ten and East's ace. After winning the heart return with the ace, declarer crossed to dummy by leading the eight of trumps to dummy's jack. As trumps were 2-2, now he had a second entry to dummy. Declarer called for a low club from dummy and East took the trick with the king.

After taking East's heart return with the ten, West shifted to the five of diamonds. East played the nine and declarer won the trick with the ace of diamonds. Declarer cashed the queen of clubs and then led the carefully-preserved four of trumps to dummy's five. All that remained was for declarer to throw his diamond loser on dummy's ace of clubs: he had ten tricks – five trumps, two hearts, one diamond and two clubs.

780. Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

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

West led the king of clubs to declarer's ace. Declarer counted eight winners and another four if spades proved to be 3-3. As East's failure to bid with obvious club support suggested that he lacked a high card, declarer wanted to avoid taking the heart finesse if at all possible.

Declarer considered what could be done if the spades were not 3-3. After some thought, declarer saw that the only chance was if West held the ace-doubleton in spades. So, after drawing two rounds of trumps with the king and queen, declarer led the two of spades towards dummy. If West rose with the ace, declarer would have four spade tricks, so West followed with the eight of spades and dummy's king won the trick. A low spade was then played from dummy to declarer's jack and West's ace. This left West on lead with only clubs and hearts: eventually he exited with a club.

Declarer ruffed this in dummy and threw a heart from hand. After cashing the queen of spades, throwing a second heart from hand, declarer ruffed a spade to establish a spade trick in dummy. Then he could cross back to dummy with a diamond and discard his jack of hearts on dummy's spade winner.



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ENDPLAYS FROM THE SOUTH

**Knut Kjærnsrød,
Tored, Norway**



In Kristiansand, in the south of Norway, a memorial tournament was held during the first weekend of September, and two of the local participants, playing together, showed their ability on the following two boards. First on the scene is Harald Gjellestad.

Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

With Gjellestad South, the bidding went:

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

1. Hearts and a minor, weak

The king of hearts was led. East took the ace and shifted to the the queen of clubs, captured by dummy's king. Gjellestad took two rounds of trumps, ruffed a heart and returned to hand with a trump to lead the knave of diamonds, covered by the king and ace. The diamond ace left this ending:

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

Gjellestad now cashed the ace of clubs and endplayed West with a diamond. That defender had to return a red card for a ruff-and-discard, and 11 tricks proved to be a near top.

We now turn to his partner, Erik Dahl, for this stunning performance:

Dealer East. NS Vul.

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

Dahl was South and the competitive bidding went:

West	North	East	South
—	—	1♣	1♠
4♣	Pass	Pass	4♥
5♣	5♥	Pass	Pass
Double	Pass	Pass	Pass

West elected to start with a trump, and East could easily have beaten the contract by taking the ace and shifting to a spade. However, he played low and declarer's eight won. A diamond was taken by the ace, and the ace of clubs was trumped in dummy. If Dahl had played a trump then, he'd have gone down, but he read the distribution perfectly and continued with diamonds from the top. East trumped the fourth diamond with the knave of hearts and Dahl overtrumped with the king, leaving this position:

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

Erik now cashed the ace of spades, removing East's singleton, and put East in with the ace of trumps. His forced club return took care of the ten of spades, and the queen disappeared on dummy's last diamond. Plus 850 was, naturally, a clear top.

Both boards were published on Nils Kvangraven's blog.



Every couple of years or so the multi-talented Ron Tacchi offers me a deal where he thinks he might have performed moderately well. What do you think of this one, where he was sitting opposite Jean-Paul Géré, the former President of Ron's local club in France?

Dealer North. NS Vul.

♠ Q 9 8 4
♥ K 5
♦ A 9 7 4 3
♣ K 5

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

♠ A J 7 5 2
♥ Q 6 2
♦ K 8
♣ A 8 3

West	North	East	South
	Géré		Tacchi
—	1♦	Pass	1♠
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♦	Pass	4♠
Pass	4NT ¹	Pass	5♥ ²
Pass	6♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			
1.	RKCB		
2.	2 key cards, no spade queen		

North's somewhat exuberant rebid of three spades can be explained not as the actions of a man in dire need of IMPs or someone badly in need of a top, but rather that of a player who had enjoyed a liquid lunch (which is very much the norm in many of the events that are staged in Tacchi's region of France) and was looking through some rosé-coloured glasses.

West led a fifth-best two of diamonds and declarer won in hand, played three rounds of clubs, ruffing in the dummy, and advanced the queen of spades. When East dithered a bit before playing low, declarer's hopes rose, slightly more so when West contributed the ten. It was tempting to play the king of hearts, planning to ruff a heart in dummy, but what if West held the ace of hearts and could give his partner a diamond ruff?

His mind made up, declarer drew the outstanding trumps via the marked finesse to reach this position:

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

When Tacchi played his penultimate trump, West was without resource; if he pitched a diamond, declarer could cross to the ace of diamonds, ruff a diamond and play a heart; throwing a heart would have been no better, as declarer could then have played a heart to the king and ducked a heart.

Bien joué Tacchi, bien sûr.



Phillip Alder, Hobe Sound, FL
David Stern, Sydney
Micke Melander, Stockholm

The Championships had Teams and Pairs in each of four categories: Juniors (U-26), Youngsters (U-21), Kids (U-16) and Girls (U-26), as well as a Board-a-Match Championship, open to all Under-26s. The winners were:

Joan Gerard Sportsmanship Awards: Juniors - Rodrigo Garcia Da Rosa (Argentina); Girls - Selena Pepic (Serbia); Youngsters - Zhengyang Fang (China); Kids - Kacper Kopka (Poland)

Junior Teams: ZLATAN - Simon Ekenberg (Sweden), Simon Hult (Sweden), Rodrigo Garcia Da Rosa (Argentina), Giuseppe Delle Cave (Italy), Daniel Gullberg (Sweden), Johan Karlsson (Sweden), Marshall Lewis, NPC (Croatia)

Girls Teams: ITALY - Flaminia Tanini, Agnese Di Mauro, Giulia Scriattoli, Caterina De Lutio, Michela Salvato, Susanna Broccolino, Emanuela Capriata (NPC)

Youngsters Teams: CHINA - Shiyu Sun, Zhengyang Fang, Zihan Wang, Dongke Fang, Yichen Yin, Hongji Wei, Jichao Hu (NPC), Tong Jiang (Coach)

Kids Teams: SX HYSW (China) - Yingqi Wang, Tianle Yao, Siyuan Liu, Renyu Li, Yijun Shang, Yiqin Shao, Yifan Cui (NPC), Weichang Qiu (Coach)

Board-a-Match Teams: ITALIA JUNIORS - Gianluca Bergami, Alessandro Calmanovici, Margherita Chavarria, Giovanni Donati, Alessandro Gandoglia, Giacomo Percario, Valerio Giubilo (NPC)

Junior Pairs: Mikael Rimstedt, Ola Rimstedt (Sweden)
Girls Pairs: Jovana Zoranovic, Selena Pepic (Serbia)
Youngsters Pairs: Wei Hongji, Sun Shiyu (China)
Kids Pairs: Søren Bune, Christian Lahrman (Denmark)

How to Play Slam (PDA)

In the first round of the pair events, this diabolical deal arose:

Board 3. Dealer East. NS Vul.

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

See if you can work out how to bring home six hearts knowing where all of the cards lie. Only a few pairs climbed as high as six hearts, and just two made it. Here is what happened at those tables. First, in the Girls Pairs.

West	North	East	South
—	Zoranovic		Pepic
Pass	—	Pass	Pass
Pass	1♣	Pass	1♥
Pass	4♥	Pass	4NT ¹
Pass	5♣ ²	Pass	5♦ ³
Pass	6♣ ⁴	Pass	6♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. Roman Key Card Blackwood
2. Three key cards
3. Asking for the queen of hearts
4. Showing that card and the king of clubs, and denying the king of spades

After that optimistic auction, West strangely chose to lead the nine of clubs. Selena Pepic from Serbia won with dummy's ace, played a heart to her king, returned a heart to dummy's ace, took a spade finesse, played off dummy's other top club, ruffed a club, and led a diamond. After taking West's queen with dummy's ace, Pepic ruffed another club and conceded a diamond. Then she could ruff her last diamond and lead a spade, claiming when the king appeared. Pepic took three spades, four hearts, one diamond, two clubs and two club ruffs. She and her partner, Jovana Zoranovic, received a cold top.

The other successful pair were Jamie Thompson and Stephen Williams from Australia. This was their auction:

West	North	East	South
—	Thompson		Williams
2♦	—	Pass	Pass
Pass	Double	Pass	4♦
Pass	6♥	Pass	Pass

That was a very imaginative auction, against which, East led the two of diamonds. Thompson took West's queen with his ace and cashed the two top clubs, worrying that West was short in the suit when he played the eight and nine. Giving up the idea of ruffing a club, North took a spade finesse, played a trump to his queen, and led a second spade to pick up the king. This was the mid-game position:

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

North drew trumps ending with South's king, cashed the queen of spades, and ruffed the five of spades in his hand. On this trick, East made the fatal discard of the eight of diamonds. Now Thompson led the jack of diamonds to squash East's ten and establish dummy's nine. Thompson took three spades, four hearts, two diamonds, two clubs and the spade ruff in his hand for another top.

Fair enough, but how should the contract be played and how can it be made double-dummy, without relying on one defender to be short in hearts and clubs?

Ruffing one club in the hope of bringing down the queen is certainly fair. But ruffing the second club is anti-percentage, because it requires the defender who is short in clubs also to be short in trumps. Unless spades are 3-3 with the king onside, it looks better to try for a squeeze, but which one? It obviously depends on who is guarding the black suits. You can squeeze either defender if he controls both of those suits. And if those guards are split, maybe you play the cards as if executing a double squeeze.

In this exact layout, though, you need something much more complicated and, I venture to suggest, nigh-impossible to envision at the table.

The exact order can be varied, but the basic plan is as follows: win with the ace of diamonds, take a spade finesse, draw two rounds of trumps with the king and

ace, cash the top clubs, ruff a club, and play a heart to the queen, giving this position:

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

After a spade to the king and ace, the queen of spades, and a spade ruff, which two cards does East retain?

He must hold the queen of clubs; otherwise, North cashes his jack. So East must discard the eight of diamonds. Now, though, at trick 12, North leads his jack of diamonds and takes the final trick with dummy's nine of diamonds! This is a vice squeeze, which was first analysed by Terence Reese in *The Expert Game*. In a vice squeeze, the defenders have a winner in the suit (here, diamonds) used as a stepping stone. Since that winner will take a trick, this is a squeeze without the count.

Make Another Slam (PDA)

There were several slams on the second day of the pair events. How would you plan this one from Round 8?

Board 21. Dealer North. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
—	1♣ ¹	Pass	1♥
Pass	2♥	Pass	4♦ ²
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♣ ³
Pass	5NT	Pass	6♣ ⁴
Pass	6♦ ⁵	Pass	6♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. Strong, artificial and forcing
2. A slightly aggressive splinter bid
3. One key card
4. King of clubs
5. Grand slam try

I imagine a lot of pairs bid one club-one heart-four hearts-pass. It is easier to reach six within a strong-club system – not that the slam is exactly cast-iron. However, assuming you get there, what would you do after West leads a diamond?

With an unavoidable club loser, the first thing you should realize is that West must hold the king of spades. But does he also have the ten, when you may have to take two finesses?

You should win with dummy's ace of diamonds, ruff the ten of diamonds in your hand, and draw trumps, preferably with dummy's ace and queen. Then play three rounds of clubs.

If they break 4-2 and you are forced to ruff the fourth round, then you should lead the queen of spades. Maybe West will err and not cover with the king; or you might get lucky and find East with a singleton ten. But if the queen is covered by the king, win with dummy's ace, play a trump to your hand, and run the nine of spades.

Here, though, clubs are 3-3. If the defenders slip up and West takes the third round, you are home. If West defends well, unblocking his queen of clubs, East will win the third round and shift to a low spade. You should play low.

Here, that pulls out West's king and you are home. But if West could cover with the ten, you take the trick with dummy's jack, come back to your hand with a heart (you were careful there, weren't you?), and take a second spade finesse.

How did the competitors get on?

In the Girls event, two pairs reached the slam with one successful: Huang Danlei and Luo Yiyang. In the Juniors, eight got there, but only two made it: Merih Dikbas-Sena Nur Tozoglu from Turkey and Renee Cooper-Ella Pattison from Australia. In the Youngsters, one pair got there but failed. And in the Kids, three pairs were that adventurous and two made it. Shao Yiqin and Wang Yingqi from China and Pawel Hulanicki and Tomasz Kielbasa from Poland, who, after a diamond lead, won all 13 tricks.

There was an interesting development at one table. When declarer, North, came to play on clubs, he cashed dummy's king first, then led low towards his hand. Seeing the potential endplay, Filip Jelic from Serbia smoothly played his queen. Now the declarer wondered if that was from an initial queen-doubleton. After some thought, North decided it was (and that West had failed to unblock on the first round of the suit), so played low from his hand. Then, though, Jelic could exit with his third club, and the slam went down.

Top Contenders Clash Early (MM)

Board 7. Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Arbit</i>	<i>Oik¹</i>	<i>Gannon</i>	<i>Kaplan</i>
—	—	—	Pass
1♣ ²	Pass	1♥ ³	Pass
3♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. Ionnis Oikonomopoulos (Greece)
2. Natural or balanced outside the range for a one-notrump opening
3. Spades

West	North	East	South
<i>Ola R.</i>	<i>Hudson</i>	<i>Mikael R.</i>	<i>Jolly</i>
—	—	—	Pass
2♦ ¹	Pass	2♥ ²	Pass
2NT ³	Pass	3♥ ⁴	Pass
3♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. Balanced 18-19
2. Transfer to spades
3. Maximum with spade support
4. Retransfer

Both Norths led a club honour. This went to declarer's queen when South encouraged instead of playing the king. Now Arbit made a real master play when she immediately led the king of spades from hand! Oik won with the ace and returned a club to the king and ace. Arbit then played a spade to the eight, finessing against North's jack. After pulling North's last trump, Arbit exited with a club to endplay North. He had either to play a heart into the tenace or establish a diamond trick for declarer. Arbit had made her contract. Should North have found the winning defence of the king and another diamond when in with the ace of spades?

In the other room, Ola Rimstedt also won trick one with the queen of clubs, but then he played a spade to dummy's queen, which held, and a spade to his king; that lost to North's ace. North continued the club attack and declarer won with the ace. Rimstedt then exited with his low club. Hudson cashed the jack of spades before playing the king of diamonds and a diamond to partner's ace for one down. That was 6 IMPs to the COOKIE POTTER team.

AUSTRALIA Versus ZLATAN (DS)

The four teams left would play three segments of 16 boards to decide who would advance to the final, where a World Championship title awaited the winners. NORWAY was playing GRESWE AXON and AUSTRALIA were taking on ZLATAN. In the latter match, curiosities abounded. First...

Board 24. Dealer West. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Ekenberg</i>	<i>Harrison</i>	<i>Hult</i>	<i>Henbest</i>
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♦
Pass	INT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

West	North	East	South
<i>Williams</i>	<i>Karlsson</i>	<i>Thompson</i>	<i>Gullberg</i>
Pass	Pass	1♦	Pass
INT	Pass	Pass	Pass

I guess I could say that the auction was the same in both rooms, albeit shifted by 90 degrees. Harrison took three hearts, four diamonds and guessed clubs for plus 120, while his teammates, playing in the same contract, took one heart, one club and two spades for minus 150.

Curiosity number two:

Board 25. Dealer North. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Ekenberg</i>	<i>Harrison</i>	<i>Hult</i>	<i>Henbest</i>
—	4♣	Double	6♣
Pass	Pass	Pass	

West	North	East	South
Williams	Karlsson	Thompson	Gullberg
—	2♥ ¹	2NT	Double
Pass	Pass	3♦	3♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. Four hearts and a longer minor

Against six clubs, East cashed his two top diamonds, and Harrison was one down.

It's hard to blame Karlsson for not taking any further action when his partner knew a lot about his hand and he held a void in partner's suit. Declarer lost four diamonds and a trump for an unusual flat board.

Finally, curiosity number three:

Board 26. Dealer East. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Ekenberg	Harrison	Hult	Henbest
—	—	Pass	1♦
1♥	2NT	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

West	North	East	South
Williams	Karlsson	Thompson	Gullberg
—	—	Pass	1♦
Double	Redouble	1♠	2♦
3♦	Pass	3NT	Pass
4♠	Double	Pass	Pass
Pass			

The bidding seemed to be a contest to see which AUSTRALIA pair could play in three notrumps, North/South or East/West.

Against Harrison, the singleton heart lead by East was won with dummy's jack when West elected not to cover. North played a heart to his nine, then started on clubs. West won with the king and switched to a spade. East took the trick with his king and returned a spade to the queen and ace. Declarer ended up taking two spades, three hearts, three diamonds and two clubs for what he may have thought was a good plus 630. However, his West teammate, Williams, struggled in four spades doubled, conceding 1100. This gave 10 IMPs to ZLATAN.

NORWAY Versus ZLATAN (DS)

NORWAY and ZLATAN played three segments of 16 boards to decide who would win the gold medal and be crowned world champions. Early on in the match...

Board 9. Dealer North. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Gullberg	Bakke	Karlsson	Eide
—	1♠	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♠
Pass	4♣	Pass	Pass
Pass			

West	North	East	South
Hegge	Delle Cave	Grude	Da Rosa
—	1♠	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦
Pass	3♦	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♣	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Both Easts led a low club. Gullberg (West), confident that his partner was not underleading the ace, put in the jack to find out who held the queen. Declarer won with his ace and proceeded to misguess hearts by playing low to dummy's eight. West now led a low club, and Karlsson (East), awake to the tune being played by his partner, won with his queen and switched to a diamond. This established the defenders' setting diamond trick while they still controlled the heart suit. That was terrific defence.

Delle Cave, also for ZLATAN, showed excellent technique by ducking the first club trick, which had the effect of preventing East from gaining the lead to play a diamond through. Declarer won the second club and misguessed hearts, but the defence was powerless. West tried a heart return to the ace, but it was too late.

Well done to Gullberg for playing the jack of clubs at trick one and to Delle Cave for his thoughtful duck of the opening club lead in the other room.

ZLATAN went on to win the final, 114-89.

BRIDGE+MORE

John Carruthers, Kingsville, ON

I have seen the future of bridge and it is Bridge+More. Bridge+More is a module that sits on each bridge table and deals the cards, stores the results of what happened at the table and scores the event. It eliminates the need for boards, BridgeMates and dealing machines. Two decks of cards are needed per table. Here is what the parent company of Bridge+More, Bridge Company A/S, has to say (slightly edited) about its product on their website, www.bridgecompany.com.

“Our unique and patent-protected Bridge solution has been designed from the ground up to take advantage of modern technologies and use the latest developments in tablets and smartphones while maintaining the traditional – and fun – way of playing bridge with cards in your hands.

“The Bridge+Dealer sits at the middle of the bridge table and invisibly and quietly deals the next four hands (52 cards) while you play. When you are ready for the next deal – the cards emerge like magic, and four new hands are ready for play. Just insert the cards you have just played without changing the order and the dealer records the exact way the hands were played.

“Despite being both advanced and revolutionary, the Bridge+Dealer is surprisingly easy to use due to the intuitive interface of both the Bridge+Dealer and the Bridge+Tablet.

“We ensure you keep enjoying the magic of bridge, we enhance both the traditions and the excitement of competing and we enforce the social elements of playing!

“We makes it easier and faster for you to play – just turn the dealer On and turn the tablet On, make a few selections by tapping a few times on the tablet and then start playing – it is as simple as that!”

I saw Bridge+More at the NABC in Chicago and interviewed Kren Erik Nielsen there and later via email. Here is what he had to say.

JGC: What is your background?

KEN: I am Economist by training, have worked as CFO for some of the largest Danish listed or non-listed companies. As a CFO, business development was an important part my job – and a few years ago I decided to invest in companies for myself instead of behalf of my employer. I am the chairman of Bridge Company.

JGC: How did you become involved in bridge?

KEN: Three years ago, I was asked by the owners of Bridge Company to help and circumstances gave me an option to step in not only as chairman/large shareholder.

JGC: Please explain the technology in a paragraph or two.

KEN. On each table you place a Bridge+More Dealer and a tablet with our app and two decks of our cards. The dealer communicates with the tablet via Bluetooth and the tablet uses the internet (WIFI) to



communicate with our cloud-based servers. Via a browser's access to our servers, a tournament is built, card distribution is created, players' info added and then a tournament is ready to be transferred to the tablet and played when wished. The dealer deals the hands board-by-board as instructed by the tablet and the tablet also informs the players about the game and is also used to enter in relevant game information (winning bid/bid sequence and the number of tricks). Simple and easy – no more trays – in real time and barometer tournaments are always an option.

While one deck of card is being played the next deck is being prepared (first dealt into four hidden compartments on the dealer) – and if the players have kept the card order as played we can record card-by-card history for every board played. No more trays to be handled not only improves the game flow but also makes the game faster. We have already introduced several features to improve the flow and handling of a tournament and both our unique information and ability to control the dealer in detail (and inform via the tablet) will be used to add further features to the benefit of the players and the tournament director/club manager.

Real time information, remote control and remote status and the ability to prepare in advance (also remotely) are some of the first elements we have shown to improve the process and the handling of a game – we do the same for result as we present results in real time in the game room and on the internet, with detailed control of what to show, to whom, when. Similar lines of thinking and use of information have and will be used to further reduce errors, omissions and reduce the need for manual corrections.

JGC: Where is it currently in use?

KEN: Our solution has been used at several tournaments in Denmark, Sweden and in Tromsø. Danish bridge clubs and private individuals use our solutions regularly.

JGC: What plans do you have for the next 12 months?

KEN: We already have a list of clubs and private individuals waiting for us to be ready to launch in their respective countries. We have launched in Denmark, and Norway will follow shortly and the federations in these countries will be our local partners. We will launch in further countries this year as soon we have the required setup in place. We are always looking after

interested clubs/private players in a country as early adopters to ensure a successful launch.

JGC: Which bridge players are involved?

KEN: The bridge knowledge comes from a broad group of very-experienced bridge players and tournament directors from several countries – often people with software knowledge – whom we have an ongoing dialog with.

JGC: What are the limits on the technology?

KEN: It's been important for us to have a small, low dealer for it to be placed on each table – and by having small (hidden) UV codes on the cards we have been able to build the dealers' card-recognition very small, but unfortunately as a result, we can't use all types of cards.

It's also been a goal to be able to have our solution on each table without cables – the dealer can deal around 100 – 120 boards before it need to be charged (more than a day) – the tablet needs to be charged each day (we show battery status). Battery times is expected to be improved over time, but the tablet's battery time depends not by us by the tablet producers.

The precision and stability required to be able to handle the dealing of card day in and day out in a busy club have made the dealer quite heavy to carry around because the dealer's main parts are made in metal and the engines (3) are solid and not just a small piece in a corner – it weighs a bit more than 2 kilos.

We have made the dealer very intelligent with two processors (not dual core but two different processors) for it to be able to handle many tasks and features on its own but also to reduce our dependencies of the tablet because what will happen with the tablet in the future nobody knows (but in general we see the tablet as an advantage) – currently we use a standard Android tablet to keep costs down and make it simple.

JGC: Could it be used in conjunction with BBO to present immediate scores for Pairs games of many tables? How?

KEN: Yes – but we expect people to look at our homepage for their results and remember players can see all the details while playing at a screen. We can see some benefits on working together with BBO and it will be discussed with BBO in the near future.

JGC: How expensive are the units?

KEN: We are selling in Denmark at 7500 DKK (that includes the Danish VAT of 25%) for a complete solution including dealer, cards, tablet, software, server access (tournament setup and real time results). After a period (in Denmark two years) there will be a small fee for updates and server access (not required but recommended).

The savings in trays, cards and especially time (costs) to handle cards today should be considered when

evaluating the price (as well as the benefits for the club and players). We estimate a club will have a payback in around two years. Also, each B+M can easily be moved and shared easily among clubs and other users (private, clubs, teachers, federations).

Advanced features for analytic and statistical evaluation of games/players will require a small membership from the players (if wanted) and certain games (historic games/live (delayed) tournaments/virtual games) and certain features (for example bridge lessons) will be based upon a usage fee (also due to our payments for owner's rights) when we launch these features (after a freemium period).

JGC: Thanks, Kren, and good luck with Bridge+More.

NEWS & VIEWS



Nunes/Fantoni Accused

A second European pair, Fulvio Fantoni and Claudio Nunes, many-times World Champions and the numbers one- and two-ranked players in the world, have joined Israel's Lotan Fisher and Ron Schwartz as the accused in separate cheating scandals that have rocked the bridge world in the past two months. Jimmy Cayne, Vytautas Vainikonis and Jean-Charles Allavena have all made public statements on the matter.

You can read the details at these websites:

<http://bridgewinners.com/article/view/statement-from-jimmy-cayne/>

http://vvcup.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/VV-Cup-2015-2015_09_01.pdf

<http://neapolitanclub.altervista.org/eng/message-from-monaco-bridge-federation.html>

<http://neapolitanclub.altervista.org/eng/allegations-of-cheating-ebbs-statement.html>

<http://bridgewinners.com/article/view/the-videos-speak-fantoni-nunes/>

<http://bridgewinners.com/article/view/jump-starting-the-process/>

Monaco and Germany Withdraw

In the wake of accusations levelled at Fantoni/Nunes and Smirnov/Piekarek, Monaco and Germany have withdrawn from the Bermuda Bowl. Denmark and France will take their places.

Ashok Kapur Swiss Pairs

During November 27-29, 2015, the Ashok Kapur Swiss Pairs will be held at PYC Gymkhana, Pune, Maharashtra, India. Total prize money to be awarded is INR700,000 (approximately US\$10,500). Separate prizes will be given for Ladies, Mixed and Club pairs. Information can be found at www.bridgewebs.com/ashokkapur. Foreign players, please register before November 15 with Rajeev Khandelwal, tel. 098200 75239 or email rajeevkhandu@yahoo.com.

World Bridge Calendar

DATES	EVENT	LOCATION	INFORMATION
2015			
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
Nov 27-29	Ashok Kapur Swiss Pairs	Pune, Maharashtra, India	www.bridgewebs.com/ashokkapur
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 20-25	White House Junior Int'l Teams	Amsterdam, Netherlands	www.jeugdbridge.nl
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.ccba.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