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# THE INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE PRESS ASSOCIATION

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

Bulletin No. 610

November 10, 2015

## The 2015 World Champions



Photo: Elisabeth van Ettinger

### BERMUDA BOWL – POLAND

Top row, l. to r.:

Piotr Walczak (NPC)

Michal Klukowski

Krzysztof Jassem

Jacek Kalita

Michal Nowosadzki

Bottom row, l. to r.:

Piotr Gawrys

Stanislaw Golebiowski

(Coach)

Marcin Mazurkiewicz

### VENICE CUP – FRANCE

l. to r.:

Joanna Zochowska

Vanessa Reess

Debora Campagnano

Laurent Thuillez (NPC)

Bénédicte Cronier

Sylvie Willard

Elisabeth Hugon



Photo: Francesca Canali

### d'ORSI TROPHY – USA

l. to r.:

Hemant Lall

Reese Milner

Michael Rosenberg

Petra Hamman (NPC)

Zia Mahmood

Bob Hamman

Mark Lair

Jacek Pszczola

(Coach)



Photo: Francesca Canali

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# Roll of Honour

## **Bermuda Bowl**

### **Gold: POLAND**

Piotr Gawrys  
Krzysztof Jassem  
Jacek Kalita  
Michal Klukowski  
Marcin Mazurkiewicz  
Michal Nowosadzki  
Piotr Walczak (NPC)  
Stanislaw Golebiowski (Coach)

### **Silver: SWEDEN**

Tommy Bergdahl  
Fredrik Nyström  
Johan Sylvan  
Johan Upmark  
Niklas Warne  
Frederic Wrang  
Jan Lagerman (npc)

### **Bronze: USA2**

Vincent Demuy  
Paul Fireman  
John Hurd  
John Kranyak  
Gavin Wolpert  
Joel Wooldridge  
Shane Blanchard (NPC)

## **Venice Cup**

### **Gold: FRANCE**

Deborah Campagnano  
Bénédicte Cronier  
Elisabeth Hugon  
Vanessa Reess  
Sylvie Willard  
Joanna Zochowska  
Laurent Thuillez (NPC)

### **Silver: USA2**

Juanita Chambers  
Lynn Deas  
Joann Glasson  
Beth Palmer  
Janice Seamon-Molson  
Tobi Sokolow  
David Sokolow (NPC)

### **Bronze: ENGLAND**

Sally Brock  
Fiona Brown  
Heather Dhondy  
Catherine Draper  
Nevena Senior  
Nicola Smith

Derek Patterson (NPC)  
David Burn (Coach)

## **d'Orsi Trophy**

### **Gold: USA1**

Bob Hamman  
Mark Lair  
Hemant Lall  
Zia Mahmood  
Reese Milner  
Michael Rosenberg  
Petra Hamman (NPC)  
Jacek Pszczola (Coach)

### **Silver: SWEDEN**

Sven-Åke Bjerregård  
Per Gunnar Eliasson  
Anders Morath  
Johnny Östberg  
Göran Selldén  
Björn Wenneberg  
Tommy Gullberg (NPC)  
Carina Wademark (Coach)

### **Bronze : POLAND**

Julian Klukowski  
Apolinary Kowalski  
Krzysztof Lasocki  
Victor Markowicz  
Jacek Romanski  
Jerzy Russyan  
Wlodzimierz Wala (NPC)  
Andrzej Biernacki (Coach)

## **Transnational Open Teams**

### **Gold: ZIMMERMANN (MONACO)**

Geir Helgemo  
Tor Helness  
Krzysztof Martens  
Franck Multon  
Pierre Zimmermann

### **Silver: BULGARIA OPEN**

Diyana Danailov  
Rossen Gunev  
Vladimir Mihov  
Ivan Nanev  
Jerry Stamatov  
Julian Stefanov  
Vladislav Nikolov Isporski (NPC)

### **Bronze: YBM (CHINESE TAIPEI)**

Ehud Friedlander  
Inon Liran  
Shih Juei-Yu  
Yeh Chen  
Wang Ping  
Zhang Yalan  
Chen Chi Hua (NPC)  
Yeh Tong Shu-Ping (Coach)



The three main events of the World Team Championships were run along similar lines. The 22 teams in each series played a round robin over seven days (3 x 16-board matches per day), with the top eight teams qualifying for knockout play (96-board matches each over two days). As is now the norm, the top qualifier was allowed to choose its opponent for the quarterfinals. The only difference in format was that the Bermuda Bowl final consisted of eight sessions (128 boards) rather than the six in the Venice Cup and d'Orsi Trophy.

## BERMUDA BOWL

**Brian Senior, Nottingham**

**Jan van Cleeff, The Hague**

**Brent Manley, Arlington, TN**

**Micke Melander, Stockholm**

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

**Ana Roth, Buenos Aires**

### Match #1 – England v India

#### by Brian Senior

After all that had happened in recent days and weeks, it was a relief to actually start the tournament. Match One on vugraph featured the Bermuda Bowl duel between England, the highest-ranked team at last year's European Championships in Opatija still standing, and India, the host nation.

The first board out was delicate to play and defend.

#### Board 1. Dealer North. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Roy	Justin H	Banerjee	Jason H
—	Pass	2NT <sup>1</sup>	Pass
3♣ <sup>2</sup>	Pass	3♦ <sup>3</sup>	Pass
3♠ <sup>4</sup>	Pass	4♥	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. 20-22
2. Puppet Stayman
3. One or two four-card majors
4. Four hearts

Declarer can beat himself, but for the defence to legitimately succeed, it needs to attack spades either at trick one or when they next gain the lead in hearts or clubs. Otherwise, declarer has time to take a club ruff for his tenth trick and discard a spade on the long diamond.

South led a diamond, neither giving away the contract nor damaging the defence's chances. Banerjee erred when he won the first trick with the nine of diamonds, leaving no flexibility within the suit. He passed the jack of hearts, which held the trick, then led a low heart, putting in the queen when South showed out. Justin Hackett won with the king this time and returned a club. Banerjee won with the ace and returned the jack, Justin winning the queen and playing back a diamond. Declarer could not get to dummy to ruff a club then get back to draw the last trump, so was down one for minus 50.

West	North	East	South
Robson	Majumder	Forrester	Manna
—	Pass	1♣	Pass
1♦ <sup>1</sup>	Pass	3♥ <sup>2</sup>	Pass
4♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. Hearts
2. 18-19 balanced heart raise

South also led a diamond here. Forrester won with the king of diamonds at trick one and ran the heart ten. Majumder ducked so Forrester continued with a low heart and he too put in the queen, losing to the king. Majumder returned the queen of clubs so Forrester won with the ace and played back the jack. Manna won and played a diamond. Forrester was in control now and could win in dummy, ruff the third club and overtake the jack of hearts with the ace then

draw the last trump; ten tricks for plus 420 and 10 IMPs to England, a great start.

Had the defence returned another trump or a spade upon winning the king of hearts, Forrester would have been left with only nine tricks.

### Match #3 – Japan v France by Jan van Cleeff

#### Board 15. Dealer South. NS Vul.

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

In the open room, Godefroy de Tessières as West made 11 tricks in three notrump on the lead of the ten of diamonds. The spicy stuff came from the closed room:

West	North	East	South
Chen	Bessis	Furuta	Volcker
—	—	—	2♠
Pass	Pass	Double	Pass
3NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

North led his nine of spades to the ten and a low one from declarer. West won the jack of spades continuation with his queen, crossed to dummy with the jack of diamonds and played a low heart to his queen. When Bessis followed low, declarer ducked a heart. Winning with the jack, South cleared the spades. Declarer, convinced that South still had the ace of hearts, fell back upon Plan B and finessed the jack of clubs; two down. Bessis's brilliant manoeuvre was good for 11 IMPs for France. *Bien fait.*

### Match #7 – USA1 v USA2 by Brent Manley

#### Board 5. Dealer North. NS Vul.

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

The auction was the same at both tables.

West	North	East	South
Wooldridge	Rodwell	Hurd	Meckstroth
Levin	Demuy	Weinstein	Kranyak
—	1♠	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Joel Wooldridge led a low spade against Jeff Meckstroth. Declarer ducked in dummy and John Hurd won the trick with his ace and shifted to the deuce of diamonds. Wooldridge won with his ace and continued the suit. Meckstroth put in dummy's jack, losing to the queen. A club to West's ace allowed him to play a third round of diamonds, ruffed by East for the fifth defensive trick, with another trump trick to come for one down.

The opening lead at the other table was the queen of spades from Bobby Levin, covered by the king and ace. Stevie Weinstein also returned his low diamond, but when Levin won with his ace, he shifted to a low club. Kranyak went up with dummy's king and played three rounds of trumps. When the suit split 3-3, Kranyak was home with eight tricks for plus 110. It was a 5-IMP gain for USA2.

### Match #7 – England v Denmark by Micke Melander

#### Board 10. Dealer East. Both Vul.

<p>♠ 10 4 ♥ K Q 10 6 2 ♦ A Q 10 6 4 3 ♣ —</p> <p>♠ 9 6 ♥ A 9 5 ♦ 8 7 ♣ A Q 10 9 6 4</p>	<p>♠ 8 7 2 ♥ 8 7 4 3 ♦ K J 9 ♣ J 7 5</p> <p>♠ A K Q J 5 3 ♥ J ♦ 5 2 ♣ K 8 3 2</p>
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In both rooms South played in four spades, a very interesting mission.

In the Open Room, West led a trump. Jason Hackett won in hand and played the jack of hearts, which held the trick. He then ruffed a club in dummy and simply ran the king of hearts to West's ace, pitching a second club from hand. West had no defence to this game plan because, on a diamond return, declarer could put up the ace and cash the established hearts to pitch the remaining clubs (one getting ruffed) for ten tricks.

In the Closed Room, Askgård received the eight-of-diamonds lead and went up with dummy's ace. He played a heart to the jack and West's ace. When West returned a diamond, declarer tried the ten, but East won with the

jack and continued with the king of diamonds. Declarer ruffed high, which gave West the opportunity to pitch the five of hearts. South ruffed a club and played the king and queen of hearts, pitching clubs, but West ruffed the second of these and continued with the ace of clubs, forcing declarer to ruff in dummy. There was then no way for declarer to avoid a second trump loser since East's eight-seven-two became a trick when South had to ruff high again to get back to his hand.

Askgård could have avoided going down in three ways. Instead of ruffing a club, (i) he could have cashed the ace of spades and played a spade to dummy's ten to enjoy dummy's established hearts for club discards when the heart length also held the third spade, or (ii) he could have simply finessed in diamonds on the opening lead to remove East's later diamond entry that forced him to ruff high, or, (iii) he could even have afforded to ruff the king of diamonds with a low spade. West could have overruffed and played a trump but declarer could have won that in hand and ruffed a club and pitched three clubs on hearts. That was 12 IMPs to England.

### Match #7 – USA1 v USA2 by Brent Manley

Board 11. Dealer South. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Wooldridge	Rodwell	Hurd	Meckstroth
—	—	—	INT
Double	2♣	2♥	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Rodwell led the ten of clubs (Rusinow), taken by Wooldridge with the ace. Declarer ruffed the eight of clubs and played a spade to his jack. When that held and both followed to the ace of spades, Wooldridge claimed plus 420.

At the other table, Demuy and Kranyak found a way to defeat the contract.

West	North	East	South
Levin	Demuy	Weinstein	Kranyak
—	—	—	INT
Double	Pass	2♥	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♠	Double
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Demuy found the killing lead of his doubleton heart. Kranyak won the with the king of hearts, cashed a high diamond, then followed with the ace of hearts and a third heart. With the ten of spades in the North hand, there was nothing Levin could do. He had to lose a trump trick for minus 100. USA2 had won 11 IMPs.

### Match #8 – Japan v Sweden by Micke Melander

Board 28. Dealer West. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Sylvan	Tanaka	Wrang	Yokoi
2♦ <sup>1</sup>	Double <sup>2</sup>	Redouble <sup>3</sup>	Pass
2♥	Pass	Pass	3♥
Pass	3NT	Pass	4♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. Weak two in either major
2. 13-15 balanced or any 18+
3. Bid your major

Despite the 5-1 trump split, declarer was not hard pressed to record eleven tricks for plus 450 when the queen of diamonds fell. However...

West	North	East	South
Chen	Warne	Furuta	Bergdahl
3♥	3NT	Pass	4♦ <sup>1</sup>
Pass	4♠ <sup>2</sup>	Pass	6NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. Transfer to spades
2. Poor hand for spades

Furuta led the ten of hearts, taken by dummy's king. With plenty to think about Warne considered the possibility of developing a squeeze against East. After a spade to the ace and a spade to the queen, West discarding a heart, declarer continued with the jack of spades, West and declarer pitching hearts, as East won with the king.

Declarer took the spade return in dummy as he and West again discarded hearts. When North continued with the ace and king of diamonds and the queen appeared, we can guess that it was a happy declarer who crossed to his hand in diamonds and cashed the ace of hearts, squeezing East in clubs and spades in this layout:

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

When East discarded a club, the remaining spade went from dummy and declarer could cash four club tricks, giving Sweden 13 IMPs.

It would not have helped East to duck the jack of spades. As long as declarer cashes the ace and king of diamonds, East will still be squeezed when declarer later cashes the ace of hearts. In that case, discarding a spade would have allowed declarer to enter dummy with a club to set up another trick in spades.

### Match #10 – Japan v Brazil by Brent Manley

Board 19. Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Barbosa	Tanaka	Brenner	Yokoi
—	—	—	Pass
1♣	Pass	1♠	Pass
1NT	Pass	2♦ <sup>1</sup>	Pass
2♠	Pass	4♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. Artificial game-force

Hiroki Yokoi started with the three of diamonds. Diego Brenner played low from dummy – Ryoga Tanaka won with the queen and got out with a heart. Brenner took the ace of hearts and played three rounds of spades, ending in hand, then ran the ten of diamonds. North won with the king and the defenders cashed two hearts, so declarer was one down: minus 100.

At the other table (see auction at top of next column), Dawei Chen received a trump lead. He won with the king and played a low heart from dummy.

West	North	East	South
Chen	Salomao	Furuta	Brum
—	—	—	Pass
1♣	Pass	1♥ <sup>1</sup>	Pass
1♠ <sup>2</sup>	Pass	4♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. Spades  
2. Three-card spade support

Paolo Roberto Brum went in with the king and played another trump to the jack and queen. The ace of hearts and another heart put North on lead, and he exited with a spade to declarer's ace. When Chen played a low diamond from hand, Jeovani Salomao could not help winning the trick and was endplayed, forced either to lead his now-singleton king of diamonds into declarer's ace-jack or to lead away from the queen of clubs into declarer's king-jack. Plus 620 was worth 12 IMPs to Japan.

### Match #11 – Australia v Poland by Brian Senior

The following board allowed both declarers to show off their technique and card-reading skills, though in quite different contracts – and with differing success.

Board 6. Dealer East. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Courtney	Nowosadzki	Wyer	Kalita
—	—	3♥	Pass
4♥	5♦	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Nowosadzki won the jack-of-hearts lead with the ace. He led a diamond to the queen, followed by two more rounds of diamonds. Wyer won the third diamond and returned the nine of clubs, overtaken by Courtney with the ten, and Nowosadzki ducked to rectify the count for a possible squeeze. Courtney switched to the queen of spades and Nowosadzki read the position perfectly, then showed the technique required to take advantage of the situation. He won with the king of spades and ran the diamonds, coming down to the bare ace of spades and jack-doubleton club in dummy facing two low spades and the bare ace of clubs in hand. What could Courtney do? If he discarded a club,

declarer would cash the ace of clubs then cross to the spade to cash the jack of clubs. If, as in practice, he threw a spade, declarer would cash the ace of spades then come back to hand with a club to cash the small spade – a perfect criss-cross squeeze and plus 400 for Poland.

West	North	East	South
Jassem	Milne	Mazurkiewicz	Griffiths
—	—	3♥	3♠
Pass	4♥	Pass	4♠
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♥
Pass	6♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

In the other room, Aneurin Griffiths overcalled three spades with the South cards and Liam Milne drove to slam. You may say that this is why you should not overcall with such a weak hand – if you can make three spades, partner will put you in game and if you can make four spades, he will put you in slam – but on another day six spades could have been making.

Krzysztof Jassem led the king of clubs. Griffiths won with the ace and led a spade to his ace then took the diamond finesse. When the queen scored he did not draw a second round of trumps, which would have been the correct thing to do had the spades been two-two, but instead left the spade king as a late entry to the hoped for diamond winners. Griffiths played ace of diamonds, pitching a club, and a third round, ruffed and over-ruffed, and Jassem had a club to cash for down one; minus 50 and 10 IMPs to Poland.

Having found the diamond king onside and judged correctly to play for trumps to be three-one, Griffiths just needed diamonds to be three-two with the pre-empter having the shortage – surely not an unreasonable ask – as his third-round ruff would then have stood up and he could have crossed to the king of spades and started running diamonds, his first discard being the remaining club loser, and the contract would have been made.

### Match #15 – USA1 v RSA by Brent Manley

#### Board 10. Declarer East. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Grunder	Levin	Kaprey	Weinstein
Nickell	Stephens	Katz	Fick
—	—	1♥	1♠
2♥	Pass	3♣	Pass
4♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

On this deal, Katz played expertly to engineer a big gain for his team. The auction was the same at both tables.

At one table, Weinstein started with a low spade to the jack and declarer's ace. Kaprey played a club to the ace to take the heart finesse. Weinstein won and put his partner in with the queen of spades. Now the ten of clubs went to declarer's jack and Weinstein's queen. A third round of clubs was ruffed by Bobby Levin and a diamond to the ace meant two down, plus 200 for USA 1.

At the other table, Fick started with the tricky nine of hearts. Katz played the ten from dummy and, when it held, he ran the eight of hearts to Fick's king. Fick played the queen of diamonds, won by the king in dummy. Katz pulled the last trump and exited with the jack of diamonds. Fick took the ace and continued the suit, Katz ruffing. Assessing South's plays and reading the situation accurately, Katz cashed the king of clubs and put the jack of clubs on the table. When the ten appeared from Stephens, Katz could claim plus 620 (he still had to lose a spade), which was good for 13 IMPs.

### Match #16 – Poland v Bulgaria by Mark Horton

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

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

In the Open Room North played in two diamonds, which could not be defeated, plus 90. In the Closed...

West	North	East	South
Kalita	Stamatov	Nowosadski	Mihov
Pass	Pass	1♦ <sup>1</sup>	Double
1♥ <sup>2</sup>	INT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

- 11-GF 3+ diamonds, but three only with 4=4=3=2
- Spades

East found the only lead to keep the defenders in with a shout when he selected the nine of spades. When declarer played dummy's king West ducked – winning would have given declarer a vital entry to hand. The ten of diamonds was covered by the jack and king and now it was East's turn to make an important duck, as winning would give declarer the rest of the diamond suit. When declarer continued with the eight of diamonds, East found the essential play of winning and returned his remaining spade.

When declarer played dummy's queen, West ducked for the second time. Winning the next spade, East correctly pitching a diamond, West switched to the six of hearts for the seven, nine, and jack (the fourth defensive duck). When declarer continued with a heart to the queen, East took the ace and exited with the two of hearts, declarer winning with dummy's king. Declarer exited with a heart, East taking the ten as West disembarassed himself of the ten of spades. When East returned a low club, declarer put up dummy's king, but now the defenders had the last three tricks for one down and a well deserved 4 IMPs.

### Quarterfinals, Segment 6 – USAI v England by Brent Manley

With 16 boards to play in their quarterfinal match, England was leading by 48 IMPs. Just seven boards in to the set, USAI had cut the lead to 10 IMPs, thanks in large part to the following three boards, wins of 12, 10 and 13 IMPs to the Americans. It seemed the Nickell team was poised for yet another of its miracle comebacks.

#### Board 85. Dealer North. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Meckstroth</i>	<i>Robson</i>	<i>Rodwell</i>	<i>Forrester</i>
<i>Gold</i>	<i>Weinstein</i>	<i>Bakhshi</i>	<i>Levin</i>
—	1♣	1♥	1♠
2♥	Pass	3♥	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Jeff Meckstroth led the eight of hearts to the seven, queen and ace. Tony Forrester played a club to the king, which held, then a club to his queen, and West's ace, Eric Rodwell showing out. Meckstroth continued hearts, won in dummy perforce, and Forrester played a diamond to

his ace, took the marked finesse in clubs and cashed the suit. Rodwell, feeling the pressure, bared his queen of diamonds rather than discard heart winners. He discarded the queen of spades on the last club. Forrester could have made his contract by playing the king of diamonds at that point, but he exited from dummy with a spade. Rodwell won with the ace and cashed three heart tricks for down one, plus 100.

At the other table, the auction was the same, putting David Gold on lead. The nine-of-hearts lead went to Levin's jack, which turned out to be to Levin's benefit. He played a club to the king and a club to the queen. Gold took the ace and played another heart. Dummy's king was overtaken by the ace perforce, and Levin took the club finesse. After cashing the clubs, Levin took the right view in diamonds, playing the king, then following with the jack. Bakhshi covered with the queen and Levin was able to claim 10 tricks for plus 630 and a 12-IMP gain.

#### Board 86. Dealer East. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Meckstroth</i>	<i>Robson</i>	<i>Rodwell</i>	<i>Forrester</i>
—	—	1♦ <sup>1</sup>	Double
1♠ <sup>2</sup>	4♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			
		1. Precision: 2+ diamonds	
		2. Transfer to INT	

Rodwell led a trump, which went to the queen and declarer's ace. Rodwell took the ace of clubs at trick two when Robson played that suit, continuing with a heart to dummy's jack and Meckstroth's king. Meckstroth got out with the jack of diamonds, overtaken by Rodwell with the queen when Robson played low. Rodwell played a third round of trumps, taken in dummy. Robson could take three discards on the clubs, but he still had to lose a spade. That was plus 50 to USAI. Well defended.

West	North	East	South
<i>Gold</i>	<i>Weinstein</i>	<i>Bakhshi</i>	<i>Levin</i>
—	—	Pass	Pass
Pass	1♥	Pass	2♣ <sup>1</sup>
Pass	2♥ <sup>2</sup>	Pass	4♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. Drury (fit)
2. Minimum opener

In the Open Room, where Weinstein was declarer, Bakhshi selected the ace of clubs for his opening lead. He switched to a spade at trick two. Weinstein played low from dummy and Gold won the king of spades to play a club, taken in dummy with the king. Weinstein played a low heart to the queen and his ace and he followed with a heart to the nine and Gold's king. A third round of clubs was ruffed by Weinstein with the ten. He picked up the last trump with the jack, cashed his clubs for diamond pitches, then claimed for plus 420.

**Board 87. Dealer South. Both Vul.**

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Meckstroth</i>	<i>Robson</i>	<i>Rodwell</i>	<i>Forrester</i>
—	—	—	Pass
3♦	Pass	5♦	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Robson started with the queen of spades, taken in dummy with the ace. Meckstroth played a diamond at trick two, inserting the jack when Tony Forrester played low. Meckstroth then played a heart to dummy's ace, ruffed a heart, played a spade to the king and ruffed a spade, then got out of his hand with the ten of diamonds. At that point, Forrester was down to nothing but minor-suit cards. If he had played a club, Meckstroth could win in dummy and further reduce his trump holding with another ruff of a major suit. In the three-card end position, Meckstroth could play a club to dummy and follow with a non-club, scoring his two diamonds and conceding a club at the end.

After some thought, Forrester got out with a diamond to Meckstroth's nine, needing Robson to hold the jack of clubs to defeat the contract. Meckstroth picked up the last trump with the ace and took the club finesse; it lost, but Meckstroth was home with plus 600.

West	North	East	South
<i>Gold</i>	<i>Weinstein</i>	<i>Bakhshi</i>	<i>Levin</i>
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	2♥	Pass	Pass
3♦	Pass	3NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Levin led his singleton heart to the ten, king and ace. Bakhshi played a low spade from hand at trick two,

taken by Levin with the ten. A second spade would have kept the defenders one step ahead, but Levin got out with the nine of clubs, which went to Bakhshi's queen.

At that point, with a view of all four hands, Bakhshi could have succeeded by cashing his high spades and the queen of hearts, following with a diamond from hand. No matter what Levin did at that point, the contract was cold. Even if Levin didn't split his diamond honors (doing so would make declarer's job easy), declarer could play any diamond but the ace. When the diamond held, he could play the ace and throw Levin in with a diamond to lead away from his king of clubs. As it was, Bakhshi cashed the top spades and the ace of clubs before playing a diamond to dummy's jack. That held, but the ace of diamonds was his last trick and he was two down for minus 200.

At that point, the score was 201-191 for England, with nine boards to play. The Americans didn't even need big swings if they could just chip away at the lead. As the match played out, however, England were the ones chipping away. They outscored USAI 14-4 the rest of the way with four small swings to end with a 215-195 victory.

**Semifinals, Segment I – Sweden v USA2 by Micke Melander**

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

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Kranyak</i>	<i>Warne</i>	<i>Demuy</i>	<i>Bergdahl</i>
—	—	Pass	Pass
Pass	1♣ <sup>1</sup>	Pass	1♦ <sup>2</sup>
Pass	1♥ <sup>3</sup>	Pass	2♣ <sup>4</sup>
Pass	2♦ <sup>5</sup>	Pass	2♥ <sup>6</sup>
Pass	2♠ <sup>7</sup>	Pass	3♠ <sup>8</sup>
Pass	6♦	Pass	Pass

1. Any 16+ HCP
2. 0-7
3. 20+
4. 5-7
5. Relay
6. Balanced, no five-card suit
7. Relay
8. Some 4-4-3-2

Demuy was under the gun. Kranyak led a diamond to the nine, jack and declarer's queen. With not much hope, declarer tried the finesse in clubs, which worked. Six more rounds of trumps and the ace of clubs followed. As soon as Kranyak discarded his two of hearts, encouraging, Demuy pitched his ace to avoid being thrown in with it and having to led away from the queen-third of spades into declarer's tenace. Well done!

West	North	East	South
<i>Sylvan</i>	<i>Wolpert</i>	<i>Wrang</i>	<i>Fireman</i>
—	—	Pass	Pass
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦
Pass	3♦	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

The defence cashed two hearts and when the diamonds were not 4-0 declarer could claim eleven quick tricks and the same number of IMPs for USA 2.

### Semifinals, Segments 4/5 – England v Poland by Mark Horton

#### Board 53. Dealer North. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Forrester</i>	<i>Jassem</i>	<i>Robson</i>	<i>Mazurkiewicz</i>
—	Pass	Pass	Pass
2NT	Pass	3NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		

North led the six of spades and, when South played the king, declarer ducked. He took the return of the eight of spades with the ace and played the king of diamonds, followed by the ten. When that also held he played three rounds of clubs, South winning with the queen and returning the jack of spades. Declarer won, cashed the ten of clubs and exited with the jack of diamonds. North won, South discarding the ten of spades. North cashed the nine of spades and played the eight of hearts. Declarer played low from dummy and was home, plus 400.

There is more to this deal than meets the eye. For instance, if North had held the king of hearts, declarer would have been able to get home by playing a third diamond, relying on the queen of hearts to be an entry.

He was perhaps able to judge that was unlikely from the early play.

West	North	East	South
<i>Kalita</i>	<i>Hackett</i>	<i>Nowosadzki</i>	<i>Hackett</i>
—	Pass	Pass	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♣ <sup>1</sup>	Pass
3♥ <sup>2</sup>	Pass	3♠ <sup>3</sup>	Double
3NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. Puppet Stayman
2. No major
3. Command to bid 3NT

North led the four of spades and declarer took South's king with the ace and played three rounds of diamonds, North winning with the ace (South discarding the two of hearts) and continuing with the three of spades. Declarer ducked, won the next spade and played the ten of hearts to the jack, queen and king.

The defenders cashed a spade and exited with a heart, waiting for a club trick, minus 50 and 10 IMPs for England. Credit those to Forrester.

#### Board 69. Dealer West. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Forrester</i>	<i>Kalita</i>	<i>Robson</i>	<i>Nowosadzki</i>
1♠	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♦	Pass	3♥	Pass
3NT	Pass	4♦	Pass
4♥	Pass	5♣	Pass
6♦	Pass	Pass	Pass

South led the jack of hearts and declarer played low from dummy, North winning with the ace and returning the three of hearts to the king. After long thought, declarer played a club to the queen and was one down, minus 100. Declarer had three options open to him: (i) finesse the queen of clubs, cash a high diamond from hand, take the ace of clubs in case the king dropped doubleton, then, assuming it had not, unblock the queen of spades, cross to the ace of diamonds and try to cash two high spades for club discards, (ii) finesse the club and run diamonds immediately, hoping for a favourable club/spade

position to exist or develop, and (iii) reject the club finesse, unblock the spade queen immediately and take two rounds of trumps ending with the ace in dummy, then hope to be able to cash three spades for club discards as the defender with long trumps follows helplessly.

Line (iii), although successful, is clearly inferior to the other two.

West	North	East	South
<i>Klukowski</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Gawrys</i>	<i>Bakhshi</i>
1♠	Pass	2♦	Pass
2NT <sup>1</sup>	Pass	3♦	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♣	Double
Pass <sup>2</sup>	Pass	Redouble <sup>3</sup>	Pass
4♦ <sup>4</sup>	Pass	4NT <sup>5</sup>	Pass
5♦ <sup>6</sup>	Pass	6♦	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. Extra values; game-forcing, as 2♠ would not have been GF
2. No club control
3. First-round club control
4. Six-and-one-half minute pause
5. RKCB
6. Three key cards

The defence started in the same way. Having been warned off the club finesse by South's double, declarer crossed to the king of diamonds, unblocked the queen of spades, went to dummy with a diamond and was able to cash three spades, which took care of dummy's clubs, plus 1370 and 16 IMPs to Poland.

At issue was the hesitation before the four-diamond bid. Should it be more encouraging than four spades or five diamonds? Did it promise/suggest a heart control? In any case, England objected and the deal was subsequently reviewed, but there was no change to the result. This was well more than the margin in the match, won by Poland with a 6-IMP gain on Board 96 to win by 2 IMPs.

### Final, Segment 2 – Sweden v Poland by Mark Horton

Board 29. Dealer North. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Klukowski</i>	<i>Upmark</i>	<i>Gawrys</i>	<i>Nyström</i>
—	1♦	Pass	1♥
Pass	2♥	Pass	3♦
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

West led the queen of clubs and declarer won with dummy's ace, played a heart to the king and a heart, West taking the ace and exiting with a heart. Declarer won in hand and played a spade to the ten, soon claiming the rest, plus 680.

West	North	East	South
<i>Sylvan</i>	<i>Kalita</i>	<i>Wrang</i>	<i>Nowosadzki</i>
—	1♦	Pass	1♥
Pass	2♥	Pass	4♦ <sup>1</sup>
Pass	4♠	Pass	4NT <sup>2</sup>
Pass	5♠ <sup>3</sup>	Pass	6♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. Splinter
2. RKCB
3. Two key cards plus the ♥Q

Here, West led the seven of diamonds, five, three, ace. Declarer led the king of hearts, West taking the ace and returning the jack of diamonds. Declarer ruffed, crossed to the nine of hearts, ruffed a diamond, played a club to the ace, ruffed the queen of diamonds, played a spade to the ace and drew the outstanding trump. When declarer ran the ten of spades, West's queen was the setting trick and Sweden collected 13 IMPs.

### Final, Segment 3 – Sweden v Poland by Mark Horton

Board 41. Dealer North. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Klukowski</i>	<i>Warne</i>	<i>Gawrys</i>	<i>Bergdahl</i>
—	Pass	Pass	3♠
3NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

North led the jack of spades and declarer ducked, won the next spade with the king, pitching a diamond from dummy, cashed the ace of hearts and played a heart to the nine, queen and king. South switched to the king of diamonds and declarer won and played a heart, North winning with the jack and playing the jack of

diamonds. When it held he cashed the ace of clubs, one down, minus 100.

West	North	East	South
Sylvan	Jassem	Wrang	Mazurkiewicz
—	Pass	Pass	3♠
3NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

Here, declarer won the second spade and played a club to dummy's jack. A diamond to the queen saw North follow with the jack and declarer played another club, North taking the ace and exiting with the five of diamonds for the four, king and ace. Declarer exited with a diamond and North, endplayed, tried the nine of hearts, which ran to declarer's ten.

After cashing the eight of diamonds declarer played the two of hearts for the queen and king. South returned the seven of hearts, but declarer had a full count and put up the ace, plus 600 and 12 IMPs to Sweden.

### Final, Segment 5 – Sweden v Poland by Ana Roth

#### Board 72. Dealer West. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Klukowski	Upmark	Gawrys	Nyström
Pass	3♠	4♦	4♠
5♦	Pass	Pass	Pass

Nyström took a while before deciding on his final call. He finally passed and then, almost immediately, led a low spade, the only lead to defeat the contract.

Nyström's problem with any other lead was that he was going to be disadvantaged when he won the king of hearts or king of clubs, giving the contract to declarer. As he saw it, the only possibility was that his partner could win the first trick and play back a club or a heart through declarer, whichever was appropriate.

At the table, Upmark won the first trick with his queen of spades and shifted to a club. Declarer chose to play the ace, continued with the ace of diamonds, and the ace of hearts and another heart. When Nyström took the king of hearts and the king of clubs, declarer claimed ten tricks for one down and minus 50.

West	North	East	South
Sylvan	Kalita	Wrang	Nowosadzki
Pass	2♦	3♦	4♣
4♦	4♠	5♦	Double
Pass	Pass	Pass	

At the other table, Sweden also declared five diamonds but, this time, doubled. Nowosadzki chose to lead the trump queen and declarer made 11 tricks. After winning the first trick, Wrang played the ace of hearts and another. South won with his king, but could not prevent the hearts from being set up for two club discards. Plus 550 and 11 IMPs to Sweden.

The results of the Bermuda Bowl were as follows:

#### Round Robin Standings

1	Bulgaria	277.74
2	China	274.90
3	Poland	267.87
4	England	267.18
5	France	256.68
6	USA1	243.67
7	USA2	236.56
8	Sweden	225.18

#### Quarterfinals

Sweden	223	Bulgaria	203
USA2	238	China	206
England	215	USA1	195
Poland	211	France	197

#### Semifinals

Sweden	248	USA2	242
Poland	207	England	205

#### Final

Poland	308	Sweden	293
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#### Playoff for Bronze

USA2	252	England	243
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It had been a very difficult Bermuda Bowl. Firstly, Israel, Monaco and Germany had withdrawn in the wake of the controversy surrounding Fisher/Schwartz, Fantoni/Nunes and Smirnov/Piekarek respectively. Those teams had been replaced by Denmark, Sweden and France.

Secondly, Balicki/Zmudzinski's ratification to play had been rescinded by the WBF Credentials Committee, while the pair was onsite. The Poles had then been allowed a substitute pair, Gawrys/Klukowski who, as play began, were still in Poland with no entry visa to India.

Thirdly, Sweden qualified for knockout play due to a scoring error in their round-robin match against, who else, Canada. The teams had not been allowed to correct the error by the tournament officials. Japan would have qualified instead of Sweden had the error been corrected.

Finally, Poland beat England due to a controversial 'review' of a long hesitation and possible unauthorised information. There are no longer appeals of TD rulings.

# VENICE CUP

Mark Horton, Sutton Benger, Wilts.  
Brent Manley, Arlington, TN  
Brian Senior, Nottingham

## Match #13 Pakistan v Australia (Pakistan 2 - Southern Hemisphere 1 - Rest of the World 0)

by Mark Horton

This deal from Round 13 proved to be one of the most fascinating of the event so far.

### Board 6. Dealer East. EW Vul.

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

Virtually the whole field attempted four spades on the East/West cards, with varying degrees of success (only an initial club lead is sure to let it make, assuming declarer makes no mistake).

A few pairs attempted three notrump, but only three succeeded.

In the Venice Cup match between Pakistan and Australia this was one auction:

West	North	East	South
Dossa	Fuller	Bokhari	Biltoft
—	—	1♣	Pass
1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♣ <sup>1</sup>	Pass	3♣ <sup>2</sup>	Pass
3NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. Checkback

2. Four hearts and three spades

South led the queen of diamonds. Declarer took the third round of the suit, discarding a club from dummy, cashed the king of spades, overtook the jack of spades with the queen and ran the queen of clubs. When it held, declarer played off the spades to reach this position (see top of next column):

When declarer played the last spade from dummy, North saw what would happen if she threw the king of diamonds – her partner would have to throw a diamond as well – declarer would then exit with a heart and, after cashing two tricks in the suit, the defenders would have to lead a club.

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

Taking her best shot, she discarded the seven of clubs, hoping declarer might play her to have started with the king-ten-seven-four of the suit, but declarer was not to be denied and, rather than attempt an endplay, she continued with the nine of clubs to land her contract.

Only two other declarers were successful – remarkably in the same match, that between the seniors representing New Zealand and Pakistan (which gives you a clue as to my choice of sub-title).

The bidding and play followed a similar course with some variations.

At the table where Ibrahim was at the helm for Pakistan, North refused to pitch a club, so declarer exited with a heart to leave North/South to choose who would be endplayed.

When Stuckey declared for New Zealand, he pitched a low heart on the third round of diamonds. When declarer later led the queen of clubs, North covered and, after taking the ace, declarer played a club to the nine for ten tricks.

## Match #16 USA2 v China by Brent Manley

A match involving the leader of an event and another contender is almost always of interest. That was the case when USA2, leading the round-robin standings after 15 matches, played against China, who were in sixth place.

### Board 31. Declarer South. NS Vul.

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

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# IBPA Column Service

Tim Bourke, Canberra

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

## 781. Dealer West. EW Vul.

<p>♠ 8 3 ♥ A Q 7 6 ♦ 9 7 5 4 2 ♣ J 4</p> <p>♠ K 7 ♥ 9 5 3 ♦ K Q J 10 ♣ A 9 7 3</p>	<p>♠ 4 ♥ K J 10 8 4 ♦ 8 6 3 ♣ K 10 8 5</p> <p>♠ A Q J 10 9 6 5 2 ♥ 2 ♦ A ♣ Q 6 2</p>
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West	North	East	South
1♦	Pass	1♥	4♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

West led the king of diamonds to declarer's bare ace. Declarer could count seven trumps and the two red aces as certain tricks. Unless the king of trumps was singleton, the tenth trick would have to come from the club suit. A low club from hand would succeed if West had the ace and king of clubs, which was unlikely, given the lead.

Declarer turned his attention to what would happen if West had two trumps, including the king, and only one of the ace and king of clubs. In that case, East would win the first club and play a trump and if West could win the second round of clubs cheaply he would cash the king of spades and ace of clubs to defeat the contract. So, leading a low club from hand was unlikely to work.

As a result of these ruminations, declarer crossed to dummy with the ace of hearts and led a low club from the table, which fixed the defence. If East had risen with the king of clubs and played a trump, declarer would have been able to establish the queen of clubs for his tenth trick by winning with the ace of trumps and leading a low club toward dummy's jack.

In practice, East played the eight of clubs and declarer covered it with the queen of clubs. Now it was West who had no answer. Clearly, if he had played a trump he would have lost his trump trick, so he tried to cash a diamond. Declarer ruffed and led a low club to dummy's jack and East's king. East shifted to a trump, but declarer rose with the ace of trumps and ruffed his third club in dummy for the tenth trick. The defenders only made a trump and two club tricks.

## 782. Dealer South. Both Vul.

<p>♠ K J 10 3 ♥ 7 4 2 ♦ J 6 2 ♣ J 6 2</p> <p>♠ 9 8 7 4 ♥ K Q J 3 ♦ 10 8 ♣ Q 9 3</p>	<p>♠ — ♥ 10 9 8 5 ♦ Q 9 7 5 3 ♣ K 8 7 5</p> <p>♠ A Q 6 5 2 ♥ A 6 ♦ A K 4 ♣ A 10 4</p>
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West	North	East	South
—	—	—	2NT
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

West led the king of hearts, East following with the ten to promise the nine, and to deny the jack of that suit. After ducking the first trick, declarer took the heart continuation with the ace. Next, declarer led a low spade to dummy's ten. When East discarded a diamond, declarer had to change tack slightly from his original plan of a complete elimination play: draw trumps, ruff dummy's last heart and play the ace, king and a third diamond, forcing the defence to open up the club suit.

Instead, declarer had to engineer a partial elimination. As West had started with four trumps and at least three hearts (the king, queen and jack), on a vacant places basis he was rather less likely to have the queen of diamonds too. So, after ruffing dummy's remaining heart, declarer drew two more rounds of trumps with his ace and dummy's jack, leaving one trump outstanding, then played the ace, king and another diamond. His luck was in when East had to win this trick with the queen of diamonds.

As a red suit return would have seen declarer discard a club from hand and ruff in dummy for his tenth trick, East exited with a low club. Declarer played low from hand and West won the trick with the queen of clubs and played his last trump to dummy's king. Next, declarer finessed the ten of clubs for his ninth trick. The ace of clubs was his tenth trick; declarer made five trumps, a heart, two diamonds and two clubs.

Notice that declarer had to draw all but one of West's trumps to succeed for otherwise West could have ruffed the third round of diamonds and exit with a trump.

**783. Dealer South. EW Vul.**

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

West	North	East	South
—	—	—	INT
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♠
Pass	4♦ <sup>1</sup>	Pass	4♥
Pass	5NT <sup>2</sup>	Pass	7♣ <sup>3</sup>
Pass	7♠	Pass	Pass

1. Splinter, agreeing spades
2. Grand Slam Force
3. In case North has 'engineered' the auction to discover the ace-queen of spades with South

West opted for the safe lead of the ten of trumps. Declarer took this in hand with the jack and ruffed a low diamond. Next he returned to hand by leading the eight of trumps to his queen. When the trumps proved to be 3-2, declarer ruffed a second low diamond with dummy's king of trumps. Next, he returned to his hand with a low heart to the ace to draw the last trump with the ace, throwing a heart from the table.

Declarer continued by playing dummy's three top clubs. When the clubs proved to be 4-1 declarer ruffed a club, thereby establishing a long club in dummy. After discarding dummy's remaining low heart on the ace of diamonds, dummy was high with the king of hearts and a good club. Declarer made four trumps, two hearts, the ace of diamonds, two diamond ruffs and four clubs for a total of 13 tricks.

Note that if trumps had been 4-1, declarer would have cashed dummy's king of trumps then returned to hand with a heart to draw the last trump. After cashing the ace of diamonds, declarer would have had rely on clubs being 3-2 to make his contract.

**784. Dealer North. EW Vul.**

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

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

West led the queen of diamonds, taken by declarer with his ace. Declarer could count twelve top tricks if trumps were 2-1. So, he addressed what could be done if trumps were 3-0. In that event, he would need either the spade finesse or clubs 4-3. As the ace of hearts was the only fast side entry to dummy, declarer cashed the king of trumps at trick two. When East discarded a diamond, declarer cashed dummy's three top clubs, discarding a diamond and a spade from hand.

When clubs proved to be 4-3, declarer ruffed a club next. It did not matter whether West overruffed or discarded. Either way, declarer would enter dummy with the ace of trumps and throw his queen of spades on the established club.

If clubs had not been 4-3, declarer would have used dummy's ace of trumps to take the spade finesse.



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West	North	East	South
Li	Sokolow	Yan	Seamon-Molson
—	—	—	INT
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Against Seamon-Molson's contract, Li led a low heart to the ten and declarer's jack. At trick two, Molson led a diamond to dummy's jack and was soon claiming nine tricks: four diamonds, two hearts, two spades and a club. At the other table:

West	North	East	South
Deas	Wang	Palmer	Shen
—	—	—	1♣ <sup>1</sup>
1♥	Double	Pass	INT
Pass	3NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			
1. 16+ HCP			

Deas also led the three of hearts to the ten and jack. Shen played a diamond to the ace and ran the jack to the queen. Deas played the queen of hearts to dummy's king. Shen then played a diamond to her king, cashed her two high spades, then played her last diamond to the ten. This was the end position:

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

Shen exited from dummy with a heart. Deas could cash two more tricks in the suit but then had to lead into declarer's club tenace at the end for plus 600 and a push.

### Match #17 England v India by Mark Horton

#### Board 3. Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

On Friday evening, Dilip Gidwani announced at dinner that he had seen a well-played hand in the Venice Cup match between England and India. Here it is.

In the Open Room, Nicola Smith's opening bid of three hearts was passed out and she finished two down for minus 100. In the Closed Room...

West	North	East	South
Dhondy	Sain	Senior	Chothia
—	—	—	3♥
4♣ <sup>1</sup>	Pass	4♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		
1. Clubs and spades			

South led the seven of diamonds. Declarer won with dummy's king perforce and played a top spade. North took the ace and returned a heart, South winning with the ace and returning a heart for North to ruff. Declarer won the trump exit in hand, ruffed a diamond, drew the outstanding trump, cashed the remaining spade and came to hand with the king of clubs. This was the position:

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

When declarer played the king of hearts North had no good move.

Once North has ruffed a heart, the contract almost plays itself, but there is no obviously stronger defence. Perhaps best is for North to forget about ruffing anything and exit with a spade. Declarer can still prevail – one line being to win and play the queen of hearts, South winning and returning a heart, which declarer wins, ruffs a diamond, plays a club to the king, and then plays the ace and ten of diamonds, endplaying North.

My curiosity aroused, I checked to see how many players had failed in four spades. In the Bermuda Bowl it was five, in the Venice Cup, six and in the d'Orsi Trophy, only three.

### Quarterfinals, Segment 2 – France v Denmark by Brian Senior

Denmark headed the qualifying rankings and chose France as their quarterfinal opponents. Under the conditions of contest, France started the match with a 2.33 IMP carry-over advantage, which they extended to 7.33 in the first set, making the overall score 55.3-

48. There were relatively few small swings in the second segment, but a host of big ones, the following being one of them:

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

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Houlberg</i>	<i>Cronier</i>	<i>Madsen</i>	<i>Willard</i>
—	—	2♠ <sup>1</sup>	Double
3♠	4♥	Pass	Pass

1. 11-14 balanced with five spades

Madsen led the five of diamonds, Polish-style, low from a doubleton, to the queen and king. Houlberg switched to the jack of spades. Madsen overtook with the queen to continue with a second diamond, but this confirmed what declarer already suspected about that suit. Cronier won with the ace of diamonds and played a heart to hand, then the ten of clubs, intending to run it. Madsen went up with the ace and returned a club to dummy's king. Cronier drew trumps ending in dummy, then took the ruffing diamond finesse and had ten tricks for plus 420.

West	North	East	South
<i>Reess</i>	<i>Bekkouche</i>	<i>Zochowska</i>	<i>Rahelt</i>
—	—	1♠	2♦
2NT	3♥	3♠	4♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Zochowska opened at the one level and Reess showed a constructive raise to three spades. With a minimum opening, Zochowska let her opponents get on with playing four hearts. She led the ace of spades then switched to the nine of diamonds. How to play was not at all clear.

Bekkouche won with the ace of diamonds and played a low diamond back, Reess winning with the jack. A spade return forced dummy to ruff and Bekkouche crossed to hand with a trump to ruff her last spade. She then tried to get back to hand to draw trumps by ruffing a diamond with the nine and was over-ruffed with the ten. Zochowska cashed the ace of clubs and that was down one for minus 50 and 10 IMPs to France.

**Semifinals, Segment I – England v France by Brian Senior**

Old rivals England and France met once again in the semifinals of the Venice Cup. France had a 6-IMP carryover advantage from the round-robin match between the two teams and added a small swing on the first board of the match.

**Board 1. Dealer North. Neither Vul.**

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Brock</i>	<i>Reess</i>	<i>Smith</i>	<i>Zochowska</i>
—	1♦ <sup>1</sup>	2♥	Double
Pass	3NT	Pass	Pass
Double	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. Four-plus cards unless specifically 4=4=3=2

Smith led the six of clubs, second-highest from bad suits, to the jack and ace. Reess played the ace then the nine of diamonds. Brock won with the king and returned the jack of hearts, ducked, followed by the ten. Reess won that with her ace and cashed the diamonds, coming down to three spades and the king-ten of clubs in the dummy. She led a spade to the jack and king and Brock ducked. She could see that if she simply won and played two more rounds of spades, declarer would have no option but to lay down the king of clubs, and now the fall of the queen would give declarer the ninth trick. Of course, declarer could still have cashed the club at this point, but she didn't know that and instead exited with another spade, hoping for an endplay of some kind. But Brock had three spade winners to cash before being obliged to give dummy the last trick with a club, and that was down one for minus 100. Nicely defended.

West	North	East	South
<i>Willard</i>	<i>Brown</i>	<i>Cronier</i>	<i>Drafer</i>
—	1♦ <sup>1</sup>	3♥	4♦
Pass	5♦	Pass	Pass
Pass			

1. Five-plus cards unless 4-4-4-(1)

Cronier led the jack of spades and that was allowed to hold the trick – I would have thought declarer might have covered as that would have set up a later ruffing finesse against the queen. Cronier switched to

the two of clubs and Sylvie Willard falsecarded with the queen as Brown won with the ace. Brown played the ace then the queen of diamonds. Willard won with her king and returned the jack of hearts to declarer's ace. Brown tried a club to the ten now, losing to the jack, and the trump return left her with nowhere to go for tricks. She was three down for minus 150 and 2 IMPs to France.

### Semifinals, Segment 6 – England v France by Brian Senior

One 16-board set to go to decide who would go to the final of the 2015 Venice Cup, with France leading by 35 IMPs going into the set. That was a useful edge to have, but by no means decisive. Both teams would be eager for a good start.

#### Board 17. Dealer North. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Smith	Willard	Brock	Cronier
—	1♦	Pass	1♠
2♣	2♠ <sup>1</sup>	Pass	4♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. Four-card support

Smith led the king of clubs and continued with the jack when Cronier ducked. Cronier won with the ace and led a heart to the queen, then the king of spades. Smith won and played the queen of clubs, ruffed by Cronier, who drew a round of trumps, unblocked the king of hearts and drew the missing trump before cashing the ace of hearts.

Reading the position perfectly, Cronier led a low diamond to the king, then ducked a diamond on the way back. Smith won with the ace but Cronier had the rest for plus 420. Nicely played.

West	North	East	South
Reess	Senior	Zochowska	Dhondy
—	1♣	Pass	1♠
Double	2♠ <sup>1</sup>	Pass	2NT <sup>1</sup>
3♣	4♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

1. Four-card support
2. Artificial game-try

Reess too led the king of clubs. Dhondy won immediately and played a spade up. Reess won with the ace and played the queen, then the jack, of clubs. Dhondy ruffed in hand and played a spade to the king, cashed the king and queen of hearts and came back to hand with a spade. Now she cashed the heart ace and led a diamond towards the king. Reess rose with the ace and played back her remaining diamond.

That would have been a necessary play had the jack and queen of diamonds been switched around, as ducking would have offered declarer the opportunity to put up the king then exit with a second round to the now bare ace and get a ruff and discard to make her contract. In practice, of course, there was no defence and Dhondy had also played well to flatten the board.

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

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

West	North	East	South
Reess	Senior	Zochowska	Dhondy
—	—	—	1♣
Pass	1♠	Double	INT
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Reess found the nine of hearts, a good start for the defence. Dhondy won with dummy's king to lead the three of diamonds, ducking Zochowska's queen. Dhondy won the queen of hearts return with her ace and took a losing spade finesse. Zochowska cashed the hearts then exited with the two of clubs and Dhondy shot up with the ace to cash two spades then played a diamond to her jack. There was just the ace of diamonds to come so the contract was down two for minus 100.

West	North	East	South
Smith	Willard	Brock	Cronier
—	—	—	1♦
Pass	1♠	Double	Pass
2♣	Double	Pass	2♥
Pass	3♦	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

After this rather more complex auction, Smith made the more attacking lead of the seven of clubs – declarer had, of course, bid hearts here – and that gave declarer a chance.

Cronier played low from dummy and Brock played the four, so Cronier's nine scored. She was one trick better off than Dhondy already – could she find the other extra trick she required to bring her up to nine?

Cronier took the spade finesse, losing to the bare king, and Brock, rather than play back a club, chose the seven of diamonds. Cronier thought about that and came to the conclusion that it would be strange to lead away from a diamond holding including the ten with four to the nine in dummy. Additionally, most of the missing high cards were known to be on her right from the auction. So she put in the jack and must have been very pleased when she saw Smith's ten. Time to think some more.

There appeared to be two tricks in each suit and the extra one was likely to require a squeeze. Cronier led a low heart and ducked it to Brock's five (to win the first round of a suit with the five with everyone following would cost a round of drinks in some circles). Brock returned a club and Cronier ducked again. She won the club continuation and cashed the ace and jack of spades and Brock had to surrender. Cronier could wait and see which red-suit Brock discarded and throw from the other one herself. A heart discard would give a third heart trick immediately, while a diamond discard would just require Cronier to cash the king of hearts then play ace and another diamond to establish the fourth round as her ninth trick. Plus 400 meant 11 IMPs to France.

### Final, Segment 4 – USA2 v France by Brian Senior

#### Board 23. Dealer South. Both Vul.

	♠ A 10 4 3		
	♥ Q J 8 5 3		
	♦ A 4 3		
	♣ Q		
♠ 9 5		♠ Q J 8	
♥ 9		♥ A K 10 6 2	
♦ K 7 6		♦ J 8 5 2	
♣ K J 9 8 7 6 2		♣ 4	
	♠ K 7 6 2		
	♥ 7 4		
	♦ Q 10 9		
	♣ A 10 5 3		
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
Sokolow	Cronier	Molson	Willard
Hugon	Palmer	Campagnano	Deas
—	—	—	Pass
3♣	Double	Pass	3♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Both Souths settled for a simple three-spade response to the takeout double and were happy not to have been more optimistic when they saw the dummy.

Sokolow led the nine of hearts to the jack and king and Molson returned the two of hearts for her to

ruff. Sokolow returned the king of clubs to pin dummy's queen, so Willard won with her ace and played the king of spades and a spade to the ace, then ruffed a heart, ruffed a club, Molson discarding a diamond, and ruffed another heart. Molson over-ruffed the next club and cashed the heart ace, leaving everyone with three diamonds. When she now led a low diamond and declarer put in the ten, Sokolow correctly played low and the defence had a diamond to come as the setting trick; down one for minus 100.

Hugon too led her singleton heart, but Campagnano switched to her club at trick two. Deas won with the ace and cashed the king and ace of spades then led a low heart off the dummy, Campagnano going in with the ten and returning a low diamond to the ten, king and ace. Deas led the jack of hearts to the ace and a ruff, ruffed a club and, when Campagnano discarded a diamond, cashed the heart eight then led a diamond to the nine and cashed the queen. Another club was ruffed and over-ruffed, and there was still a club or a heart to come; ten tricks for plus 170 and 7 IMPs to USA2.

#### Board 25. Dealer North. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Deas	Cronier	Palmer	Willard
—	Pass	Pass	1♥
Pass	2♥	Double	Redouble
2NT <sup>1</sup>	Double	3♣	4♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. Scramble: no five-card suit

Deas led the ten of spades to the queen, king and ace. Willard led a low heart to the queen, a club to hand and a second low heart. Deas went in with the king and continued with the nine of spades, resolving one of declarer's problems. Willard won, cashed the jack of hearts and came back to the king of clubs to draw the last trump. She had just one diamond loser, and so took 11 tricks for plus 450.

West	North	East	South
Reess	Sokolow	Zochowska	Molson
—	Pass	Pass	1♥
Pass	2♥	Double	Redouble
2NT <sup>1</sup>	Pass	3♣	Double
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. Scramble: no five-card suit

Plus 450 looked like a solid-enough result for the French pair, until you consider how the play might go in three clubs doubled, which has the potential to be very bloody indeed. Molson cashed the king and ace of trumps then underled the ace of hearts. Zochowska went up with the king and ran the ten of diamonds to Molson's queen. A low heart forced declarer to ruff and she drew the last trump then led the king of diamonds, ducked, followed by the jack to Sokolow's ace. Sokolow needed to play a spade now for plus 800, but played another heart. Zochowska ruffed, crossed to the nine of diamonds and exited with dummy's last heart to South's ace. Molson, who had pitched a heart earlier, was endplayed and forced to give a trick to declarer's king of spades, so Zochowska had got out for only two down and minus 500. That was still 2 IMPs to USA2.

This was the last board of the match, with France ahead 179.67-171:

**Board 32. Dealer West. EW Vul.**

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Deas</i>	<i>Cronier</i>	<i>Palmer</i>	<i>Willard</i>
Pass	1♠	Pass	3NT <sup>1</sup>
Pass	4♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

1. Balanced, four-card, game raise in spades

West	North	East	South
<i>Reess</i>	<i>Sokolow</i>	<i>Zochowska</i>	<i>Molson</i>
Pass	1♠	Pass	2NT <sup>1</sup>
Pass	3♣ <sup>2</sup>	Pass	3♦ <sup>3</sup>
Pass	3♥ <sup>4</sup>	Pass	3♠ <sup>5</sup>
Pass	4♣ <sup>6</sup>	Pass	4♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. Game-forcing, four+-card spade raise
2. Minimum
3. Shortage enquiry
4. Singleton somewhere
5. Where?
6. Diamond shortage

Both North/South pairs bid to four spades with no great difficulty. For USA2 to win the match they needed to make the spade game while defeating it in the other room.

Both Easts led the queen of clubs. Cronier won with the ace and took a trump finesse. That lost and a second club saw the king ruffed out. Back came a heart and declarer was powerless. If she took the double finesse in hearts she could hold herself to only one heart loser, but East would get in to cash a club for down one. But if declarer took the ace of hearts and cashed the diamonds for a club discard, she would then lose two heart tricks. There was no escape and the contract was one down for minus 50.

USA2 had a chance now, but alas the play followed the same line in the other room and with the same result. Sokolow too was down one for a flat board and France were the 2015 Venice Cup champions, winning the final by 179.67-171 IMPs. Congratulations to Bénédicte Cronier, Sylvie Willard, Vanessa Reess, Joanna Zochowska, Elisabeth Hugon, Deborah Campagnano, and npc Laurent Thuillez.

You are perhaps thinking that four spades was completely cold – declarer could have just played the ace and another spade and come to 11 tricks. Or, she could have cashed the diamonds to get rid of her third club, and could then have finessed a spade but survived the club ruff as she could have afforded to finesse on the heart return. However, the line chosen at both tables failed only because clubs were six-one. On any other club layout the minor-suit dummy entries could be used to take further major-suit finesses, also with some prospect of an elimination and endplay.

Perhaps a different line is superior, but one declarer in the Bermuda Bowl play-off and both declarers in the d'Orsi Trophy final also went down, so it was certainly not clear-cut to a number of high-class players.

The results of the Venice Cup were as follows:

Round Robin Standings

1	Denmark	304.11
2	USA2	288.03
3	USA1	281.05
4	Italy	278.87
5	England	277.73
6	China	274.12
7	Netherlands	274.09
8	France	266.55

Quarterfinals

France	232	Denmark	184
England	225	USA1	184
Netherlands	265	Italy	205
USA2	201	China	175

Semifinals

France	211	England	186
USA2	211	Netherlands	157

Final

France	180	USA2	171
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Playoff For Bronze

England	165	Netherlands	140
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# d'ORSITROPHY

Brian Senior, Nottingham

Mark Horton, Sutton Benger, Wilts.

## Match #1 England v Brazil by Brian Senior

The true greats of this wonderful game of ours see things that mere mortals do not. England's Gunnar Hallberg might not claim to be a true great, but every now and then he does see things that most others would not and plays accordingly. Take this deal from the first round of the d'Orsi Trophy.

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

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

West	North	East	South
Holland	Cysneiros	Hallberg	Carvalho
—	—	—	Pass
1♣	Pass	1♦	Double
2♣	2♥	3NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Hallberg became declarer in three notrump on the lead of the ten of hearts. What would you play from the North hand after this auction? I think North should play the jack, which surely promises the queen, but our actual North merely encouraged with the eight. Hallberg won with the king and, of course, knew that he was down on normal play. However, he saw a chance and went for it.

At trick two, Hallberg led the seven of clubs to dummy's king, the first key play, as not playing the king would have revealed the position of the queen. South had ducked as he did not know that there were four heart tricks to cash. Hallberg continued with the king of diamonds followed by a second diamond to the ten: the second key play. Next came three more rounds of diamonds. South had two easy spade discards but his last discard was a real problem. Imagine that North had held the queen of clubs instead of the queen of hearts – would he not still have encouraged at trick one? And if South now discarded his remaining low club he would be endplayed. So South threw the ace of clubs!

As Hallberg had pitched one of dummy's clubs, he made 'only' 12 tricks for plus 690, matching many declarers around the room who played three notrump on a spade lead.

## Match #14 Austria v Norway by Mark Horton

At every major championship, the journalists are always on the lookout for something brilliant, but it is frequently the case that, on most of the potential deals, no one finds the winning line. England's Paul Barden wondered if anyone had played in and made six clubs on this deal from Match #14:

### Board 20. Dealer West. Both Vul.

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

He imagined this scenario: You open a strong club as West, North overcalls in spades, and you reach six clubs (this didn't happen that I know of, but it could have). North leads a trump (or a diamond) but let's say a trump.

You win, cash a diamond, ruff a diamond, bad news. North thinks for a long time then discards a spade – he's worked out that if he ruffs high and returns a trump, you'll discard one of dummy's hearts on his ruff, and another on the king of diamonds, then he'll be caught in a trump squeeze as you ruff diamonds.

You place him with the jack of clubs for his protracted thought. It's no good crossing in spades to ruff another diamond, or North will ruff up and give South a spade ruff. Nor can you use the ace of hearts. So you cross in trumps and lead a diamond. North discards another spade for the same reason. As before, it does no good to cross in spades to lead another diamond – North can ruff high and lead a spade honour, breaking up the squeeze. So, you change tack, draw the last trump and lead the king of diamonds in this position:

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

North is caught in an unusual strip-squeeze. If he pitches a heart, you discard a spade from dummy and endplay him with the ace and queen of hearts. If he pitches a spade, you discard a heart and play three rounds of spades, endplaying him to give you a heart trick and an entry to the dummy.

That was quite a deal. I checked the records to see if anyone had reached six clubs. In all three series, only one pair had solved the first part of the equation.

This was the auction from the Closed Room in the match between Austria and Norway in the d'Orsi Trophy.

West	North	East	South
Kubak	Anderssen	Bamberger	Marstander
1♣ <sup>1</sup>	1♠	Pass <sup>2</sup>	Pass
Double	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♠	Pass	3NT <sup>4</sup>	Pass
6♣	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. Blue Club
2. 0-7
3. Spade stopper; 5+ clubs

North led the two of diamonds and declarer won and correctly played back a diamond. North refused to ruff, pitching a spade and declarer ruffed, came to hand with a club, ruffed a diamond, came to hand with a club and ruffed yet another diamond.

This is a clear improvement on the line already described; it was clear from my conversation with declarer that he had worked out that if North ruffed in with the jack of clubs at any point he would be subjected to a squeeze. When he refused to do so, declarer came to hand with the ace of hearts and drew the last trump. He could now play the queen of hearts, establishing a twelfth trick.

During my research, I discovered that a couple of pairs had bid to six notrump, North leading the queen of spades.

Declarer can win in hand, unblock the clubs and run the ten of spades. Suppose he then plays the queen of hearts? North must duck, but then declarer cashes the ace and king of diamonds, extracting any potential exit cards from North, and plays the ace of hearts and another heart. North wins but has to give dummy the last three tricks. A beautiful combination of a Dentist's Coup and Stepping Stone.

No doubt you have noticed that a minor-suit lead defeats six notrump.

The opportunity for the brilliancy was, however, missed, as six notrump failed at both tables.

Now I'll leave you with a question: Is this deal a contender for the best-played deal, the best-bid deal, or even, considering North's refusal to ruff in, the best-defended deal?

The results of the d'Orsi Trophy were as follows:

#### Round Robin Standings

1	USA I	298.89
2	Australia	286.21
3	Ireland	280.95
4	Poland	273.84
5	England	259.93
6	USA2	255.12
7	Norway	253.27
8	Sweden	250.41

#### Quarterfinals

USA I	220	Norway	183
USA2	192	Ireland	167
Poland	220	England	196
Sweden	253	Australia	195

#### Semifinals

USA I	217	USA2	169
Sweden	190	Poland	161

#### Final

USA I	263	Sweden	126
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#### Playoff For Bronze

Poland	208	USA2	147
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## TRANSNATIONAL OPEN TEAMS

### Marek Wojcicki, Przemysl, Poland

One hundred and thirty-five teams entered the TNOT. They would play a three-day, 15-round, 10-boards-per-round, Swiss qualifying to produce 16 teams for knockout play. Each KO match would be 48 boards in length, played in three 16-board segments over a single day.

Furthermore, losing quarterfinal teams from the three main events would be allowed to join the fray for the last day of qualifying. Seven of those 12 teams chose to do so and they entered the final day of the Swiss with 120 VP (effectively 12 VP from each of the 10 matches played to date), 22.70 VP off the lead and just 2.25 VP out of a qualifying spot. Oddly enough, of those seven teams, only Bulgaria (Open) managed to qualify for knockout play.

### Match #13. Poland (Women) v Texan Aces

Usually, the East/West pairs on the following deal played in four hearts, making ten tricks. Most often, the defenders tried to make life hard for declarer by leading trumps twice, but a capable declarer could survive that defence.

Let's look at how it was done by Danuta Kazmucha (playing with Grazyna Brewiak) of the Polish Women's team in their match against the Texan Aces.

**Board 10. Dealer East. Both Vul.**

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

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

North led a heart. South won with the ace and returned the suit. Kazmucha took the trick in the hand with a top heart, ruffed a spade, and finessed against the diamond queen, playing a low one to the jack. Now the third round of trumps was cashed, South discarding a spade. Declarer played two rounds of diamonds and another heart (declarer had practically a complete count of the hand - South had to be 5=2=3=3 or 6=2=3=2), and at the ending:

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

When a heart was played, South was in trouble. Finally he discarded a club. Declarer continued with a club to the ten – South won with the jack and tried the club king. Kazmucha discarded a spade from hand and South was forced to lead away from the spade king, giving the tenth trick. Well done by declarer!

At the other table:

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

Are ten tricks then certain? The Polish Women's pair at the second table showed how to reduce declarer's tricks to only nine. Anna Sarniak (North) started with the club ace. That took out declarer's exit card and disabled the end-game throw-in. At trick two, Sarniak shifted to a trump. Cathy Baldyz (South) won with the ace and played another heart, leaving declarer with only nine tricks. This inspired defence was very hard to find, but the East/West pair made a club bid, doubled by South...sometimes it is better not to speak too much.

At the end of the Swiss qualifying, the top 16 were:

1	Buras	223.15
2	Zimmermann	210.47
3	Netherlands	199.17
4	Bulgaria Open	193.09
5	China Hengyuanxiang	192.78
6	YBM	190.28
7	Bulgaria Seniors	182.89
8	Canada	182.31
9	Formidables	182.19
10	England Seniors	180.79
11	Germany	179.91
12	Australia	179.88
13	Indonesia Senior	179.83
14	Askgård	179.78
15	Brasil	179.17
16	China Red	179.15

Results of the knockout matches were:

Round of 16

Buras	142	England Seniors	61
Askgård	116	China Hengyuanxiang	111
Brasil	147	Bulgaria Seniors	94
Bulgaria Open	126	Indonesia Seniors	96
Formidables	102	Netherlands	84
YBM	75	Canada	74
Germany	118	Australia	78
Zimmermann	165	China Red	117

Quarterfinals

Askgård	98	Buras	90
Bulgaria Open	105	Brasil	97
YBM	113	Formidables	100
Zimmermann	132	Germany	26

Semifinals

Bulgaria Open	102	Askgård	92
Zimmermann	125	YBM	28

Final

Zimmermann	125	Bulgaria Open	91
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Playoff For Bronze

YBM	65	Askgård	48
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## NEWS & VIEWS



### Zimmermann Team Wins Transnational Open Teams



Photo: Francesca Canali

l. to r.: Krzysztof Martens, Tor Helness, Pierre Zimmermann, Geir Helgemo, Franck Multon



### 2015 IBPA Awards

The annual IBPA Awards were announced during the Annual General Meeting in Chennai. Details (in the awards document) can be found on the IBPA website at: [www.ibpa.com/archive/Awards/2015\\_IBPA\\_Awards.pdf](http://www.ibpa.com/archive/Awards/2015_IBPA_Awards.pdf)

The winners were:

**Master Point Press Book of the Year:** *Professional Slam Bidding*, by Krzysztof Martens

**Personality of the Year:** Boye Brogeland

**Alan Truscott Memorial Award:** The Investigators (Traian Chiara accepting on their behalf)

**Keri Klinger Memorial Declarer Play of the Year:** Winner: Espen Lindqvist (Norway); Article : *Letter from Norway*; Journalist: Knut Kjærnsrød (Norway); Event: 2014 World Open Pairs, Sanya, China; Source: IBPA Bulletin 601, February, 2015, p. 2

**Yeh Bros. Best Bid Deal of the Year:** Winner: Martin Kirr & Katie Thorpe (Canada); Article: *Hollywood Finish*; Journalist: Fernando Lema (Argentina) & Katie Thorpe (Canada); Event: 2015 Canadian Senior Teams Championship; Source: IBPA Bulletin 605, June 2015, p. 8

**Gidwani Family Trust Defence of the Year:** Winner: Dennis Bilde/Chris Willenken (Denmark/USA); Article: *Defend with Your Life*; Journalist: David Stern (Australia); Event: 2015 Yeh Bros. Cup; Source: IBPA Bulletin 604, May 2014, p. 4

**Richard Freeman Junior Deal of the Year:** Winner: Ben Norton/Freddie Illingworth (England); Article: *Czech Corkers*; Journalist: Michael Byrne (England); Event: 15<sup>th</sup> International Championship of the Czech Republic of School and Junior Teams; Source: IBPA Bulletin 595, August 2014, p. 4

### IBPA President's Report on Chennai

Chennai was unusual for IBPA and its President. The cheating allegations prior to the event had made his (and several other) newspapers' main news, leading to an interview on BBC Radio's World News. There are normally at most two Press Conferences at a World Championship with an attendance of around 20. In Chennai, the WBF held two before play began, one for local Press and then a second, just before the captains' meeting, with two hundred journalists and players in attendance. This event (shown on youtube) was conducted by the IBPA President. Later Yves Aubry, EBL President, gave a well-attended one in the Press Room. The traditional end-of-championship Conference was held during the penultimate day's play.

Your Executive held three meetings during the championships with a good turnout. The decisions to be made included one of the most difficult that your President has seen in more than thirty years on the Executive, namely how to handle our Personality of the Year Award in the unique circumstances that had arisen.

Before the Championships your Executive had decided to spend \$400 on printing enough sample IBPA Bulletins (8 pages) for all those in Chennai who wanted one to receive a copy. We signed up seven new members, a somewhat disappointing figure. These were David Price (England); Marcelo Caracci (Chile), Dolores Gilliland (Ireland), Oren Kriegel (USA), Subbaroyan Rajasekhar (India), Satakopan Venugopal (India), and Jerry Clerkin (USA). In addition Michael Byrne (England) earned membership by winning the journalist award for reporting the Richard Freeman Junior Play of the Year.

More encouraging was the fact that twelve 2014 members paid late for 2015 when requested, proving again that it is the administrative difficulty of making a payment that costs the organisation the bulk of its lapsed members. Your new Membership Secretary, Herman De Wael, is seeking to implement some auto-renew facilities to reduce this problem.

The Press Room, conveniently next to the Viewgraph Room, was initially one of the largest we have ever had, and managed efficiently as usual by Jan Swaan. This was the venue for our AGM and Awards with a healthy attendance well in excess of quorum. The AGM was followed by an excellent Press Trip and lunch for which we

are most grateful to the Indian Bridge Federation. Later, the large entry for the Transnational meant the Press Room had to make way for that and move to a more obscure venue opposite the Bulletin Room.

Links to the three WBF Press Conferences and the EBL Press Conference in Chennai can be found here...

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gbAyZSEAjQ4>  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H5LWxwLRdKk>  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BDbAjnDD1H4>  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ICyuwlS-uj8>

Patrick Jourdain, President, IBPA

## IBPA Dues Payment

Members are kindly requested to pay their annual dues for 2016, which are set at 42USD.

Methods of payment:

- world-wide: via PayPal. Go to the website <http://www.ibpa.com/> and follow the links Renewing – Paying and “add to cart” for a full calendar year, and checkout via PayPal. The site will tell you how to pay via your credit card.
- within the SEPA (the Single European Payments Area = EU, EFTA, Monaco, San Marino & Andorra), you can perform a cost-free bank transfer to our bank in Malta. The amount to pay is 32EUR (conversion valid until 31<sup>st</sup> January) and the bank details are:  
IBAN: MT70 MMEB 4426 6000 0000 2611 3621 451  
BIC: MMEBMTMT
- in the rest of Europe, you can try the bank transfer to Malta, but should make certain all extra charges are at your own cost.

## WBF Responds via Formal Statements & Press Conferences

After Press Conferences rife with platitudes and excuses and the inability or refusal of WBF officials to answer questions from the audience to its satisfaction, the WBF has come under fire from many quarters. On BridgeWinners especially, the ire of bridge players was unprecedented.

Furthermore, David Harris, acting as Legal Counsel for the WBF (and not the IBPA), published a statement by the WBF in the Daily Bulletin (and given widespread play elsewhere) decrying the current “lynch-mob mentality” in attempting to expose cheats. Harris’ statement can be read in its entirety at:

<http://bridgewinners.com/article/view/statement-by-wbf-oct-9-2015/>

Parrying, and parodying, Harris’ statement, Fred Gitelman of BBO issued his own ‘alternative statement’. To read Gitelman’s statement, scroll down from the WBF statement location in BridgeWinners. Be patient.

Criticism of the WBF was not limited to players. NBB, the Dutch Federation, sent a letter to Gianarrigo Rona,

expressing “disappointment” at the WBF Statement. That letter can be read at.

[http://eurobridge.org/Data/Sites/1/media/documents/LetterAboutStatementWBF\\_Oct9\\_2015.pdf](http://eurobridge.org/Data/Sites/1/media/documents/LetterAboutStatementWBF_Oct9_2015.pdf)

Yves Aubry, President of the European Bridge League, has written a response to the NBB criticising the WBF Statement for its “combative tone and an unpleasant impression given in the name of WBF to hide behind legal considerations rather than to act.”

Aubry’s letter can be read at:

<http://bridgewinners.com/article/view/reply-from-yves-aubry-president-european-bridge-league-to-koos-vrieze-president-of-the-netherlands-bridge-bond/>

and at: <http://eurobridge.org/>

In the wake of all this controversy, the EBL and the ACBL have both announced the formation of expert panels to evaluate evidence against any accused cheats in their jurisdictions. A further, firmer and more positive, statement from Gianarrigo Rona appears at [www.worldbridge.org](http://www.worldbridge.org).

## Kudos to Bessis

Thomas Bessis of France continues to gain our admiration. Already, barely into his thirties, he has won a World Championship and has earned a slew of medals in European Championship and World Championship play and has won a handful of North American titles, including a pair of Vanderbilts. He has also been an IBPA Personality of the Year. He has successful partnerships with his father Michel, Cédric Lorenzini, Frédéric Volcker and Ishmael Del’Monte, amongst others.

Now, according to Pierre Zimmermann, Bessis has turned down the opportunity to play in the Zimmermann Team for Monaco. Zimmermann cited loyalty to France and to Volcker as Bessis’ reasons. We would wager that not many bridge players could have resisted that temptation and we applaud Bessis for exhibiting such commendable character traits. We also congratulate Véronique and Michel, who have obviously raised their son well, imbuing him with exemplary values. *Félicitations à tous.*

## Hair’s-Breadth Decisions

Three controversial decisions by WBF officials determined the outcome of this year’s Bermuda Bowl:

- (i) Poland was allowed to compete despite one of its pairs being deemed ineligible. Balicki/Zmudzinski had their accreditation revoked by the WBF Credentials Committee immediately prior to play. As is customary with such decisions, no reason was made public. Balicki/Zmudzinski were on the Polish team that had qualified for the Bermuda Bowl in last year’s European Team Championships.

- (ii) Denial by TDs to correct a scoring error in the Canada-Sweden match kept Japan out of the quarter-finals and allowed Sweden in.

- (iii) An adverse TD ‘review’ decision (no longer allowed to go to appeal) to England decided their semifinal match against Poland, keeping England out of the final.

## Bob Hamman

Hamman has been in the news recently. As well as winning the d'Orsi Trophy, Hamman had the distinction of being played by Dustin Hoffman in the film 'The Program', Stephen Frears' docudrama about disgraced cyclist Lance Armstrong. Hamman's company, SCA Promotions, insured Armstrong's sponsors against his winning several Tours de France and their paying out millions of dollars in

bonuses. SCA recently settled a lawsuit against Armstrong demanding the return of those bonuses.

Hamman was also the subject of a recent article profiling him, SCA and their legal battle with Armstrong in Bloomberg, the financial news magazine. The article can be found at:

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2015-10-26/this-guy-wins-when-contestants-miss-a-half-court-shot-jackpot>



## Correspondence

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

Email: [ibpaeditor@sympatico.ca](mailto:ibpaeditor@sympatico.ca)

Dear John,

I have just returned from the 2015 World Bridge Championships in Chennai, India, where our Indian hosts put on a terrific tournament. Their warm hospitality was second to none. However (isn't there always a however in this sort of letter), the same cannot be said for the VuGraph show put on by the WBF (note that our Indian hosts were not responsible for the VuGraph).

While recognising that VuGraph Commentator is the toughest job at a tournament, the VuGraph show in Chennai had a lot of room for improvement. Here are my suggestions:

1. The sound system was not good – often the commentators could not be understood properly by the audience. A good sound system is a must for any technical presentation.
2. Some of the commentators played Scrabble on their computers while play was going on. More conscientiousness is required – for example, knowing the players' systems.
3. Some personality and zest needed to be injected into the show. It was, by and large, dull. There are plenty of colourful characters in the bridge world, people like Zia, David Berkowitz and Billy Eisenberg to name just a few who'd put some zip into the commentary. When offered the services of Berkowitz (free of charge), the offer was turned down and the existing commentators droned on.

The proof of the pudding was on the final day of a close and exciting Bermuda Bowl final between Sweden and Poland – the VuGraph hall was less than half full. Most people preferred to watch BBO or OurGame elsewhere.

Sincerely, Joey Silver, Hampstead, QC

Dear John,

Here are my observations on the recent World Championships:

1. There were too many press conferences where no one said anything important.
2. Security was lacking. We were supposed to enter through a door with a scanner that would detect a cell phone. I had mine (fortunately off) in my purse one day and didn't realize it until after the match. But when I went to the bathroom, with no one accompanying me, I could easily have turned it on (wifi was everywhere) and checked

on a match that was ahead of mind to see the unplayed results and/or boards via BBO or the running scores. Or for that matter met someone in the bathroom. Or found a note secreted away in a predetermined place. Really?

3. Uniforms? No one seemed to enforce the rule about wearing team uniforms. And sometimes it was cold and sometimes too hot.

4. Board discussion. Tables were quite close and many people spoke too loudly. This had less impact in the Seniors where half (most?) of the players are deaf anyway! In the Transnational, I had to ask a TD to go and quiet down a discussion from the 'closed' room when we were in the 'open'.

5. Convention cards. Once upon a time, they were vetted. Now I find some of them barely readable (and sometimes not in English) and with conventions whose names I have never seen before. How will anyone learn if no one corrects them? Is anyone in charge of this any more?

6. The hotel was great, with tremendous facilities. But the restaurants were expensive and mostly repetitive, and there was nowhere convenient outside (within walking distance) to get simpler/cheaper meals.

7. Additionally, at the end of play each day (around 8 p.m.), it was very tough to get a taxi or car if one had not prebooked. If there were only two or three of you, you could take a tuk-tuk but, if there were more than that, as is the case with most teams going out together, it was a problem.

8. VuGraph. A cheery, entertaining sidekick would have improved the presentation.

9. Language is still an issue, although it is becoming less so. We played a couple of opponents who were incomprehensible. One of them at least had a prepared 'book' with phrases in English.

10. There were several dubious TD rulings - are we sure Appeals Committees are a bad idea? If one must have a TD canvas a group of players, perhaps the issue at the table should be laid out in writing and okayed by both sides prior to such canvassing, to ensure everyone gets the same information.

On the plus side, all the Indian volunteers were great and friendly, as were the hotel staff. And, for the most part, the events ran pretty smoothly.

Katie Thorpe, Kingsville, ON

# Jan-e-Alam Fazli



News reached us in Chennai that Jan-e-Alam Fazli, a true gentleman of the game, had died in Karachi.

**From “The News” online edition, by Syed Khalids Mahmood, Friday, October 9, 2015:**

## **Jan-e-Alam Fazli Laid to Rest**

KARACHI: Jan-e-Alam Fazli, one of the greatest-ever bridge players of the country, was buried here on Thursday evening. Jan-e-Alam held the distinction of being the highest ranked Pakistani player at the international level. He was the only player in the South Asia and Middle East Zone to have been conferred the rank of International Life Master by the World Bridge Federation. He was an integral part of the national team in the golden era of the 1980s when Pakistan reached the finals of both the Bermuda Bowl and Rosenblum Cup within six years.

The City District Government Karachi recognised his contribution by dedicating a street after his name in 2010. The road housing his childhood residence in Block A of North Nazimabad was named Jan-e-Alam Fazli Street.

## **From Abdul Rahman Allana:**

A dear friend, a mentor and a great bridge player , Jan-e- Alam.

He personified the meaning of his name, “life of the world” to the core. Living a full life, he grasped every moment and made it his own. Living in the hearts of many, Jan-e- Alam “aced” all facets of relationships, beating most of us at the game with his kind and loving nature. Our bridge game sessions would be incomplete without his experienced advice and chuckles, creating an ambience of mirth and laughter.

It would be difficult for me to explain our friendship in words. He was the kind of friend that stands by you when you need somebody to be there. It’s hard to think that we are not going to get to see him any more. While we miss him here, we know that he is now in a better place, looking down and hopefully smiling while I am trying to express my feelings about him, as he knew better than anyone else that I am quite awkward at expressing heartfelt emotions.

Being the optimist I am, I rather celebrate his life than to grieve his death. I am thankful for having had the good fortune of knowing a man like him.

A.R.Allana, Karachi

## **From Zia Mahmood:**

Jan-e-Alam...He was my partner and my team mate but first and foremost ...he was my friend. He was the heart of the Pakistani team that did so well in the 1980’s...not only because he played well, but because he laughed in the face of defeat and kept us all in touch with why we played the game.

I remember so many stories about him...

Once, when he flew to Dubai to practice the ‘system’ with Munir before the Bermuda Bowl in 1981, he was pushed into the toilet as Munir had a ‘niece’ arrive for ‘tea’. Jan-e-Alam assured me that he spent half of the first day there pleading to be let out...promising to play all of Munir’s Stone Age Acol system if he was released. He said that Munir’s manservant would smuggle him a cup of tea and biscuits from time to time! That was the reason he knew the system much more thoroughly than the inventor!

In 1981, after he had found a genius defence (ruffing a trick where I had the ace) to keep us in the Rosenblum , when asked how he did it, he joked, “How should I have known my partner had the ace? I thought declarer had it!”

He would never take a penalty from a dropped card or a bid out of turn...old-fashioned sportsmanship, which is so rare in today’s cutthroat game. He was at all times modest (unique in our team!) and played down his talent, but it was so obvious – it shone through for all to admire.

I wish there were more Jan-e-Alams – the bridge world is less without him. I wish his family the love and strength he shared with all of us .

Zia Mahmood, London

# World Bridge Calendar

<b>DATES</b>	<b>EVENT</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>INFORMATION</b>
<b>2015</b>			
Nov 9-15	WBF Women's Online Festival	BBO	www.worldbridge.org
Nov 11-14	14 <sup>th</sup> European Champions Cup	Milton Keynes, England	www.ebu.co.uk
Nov 12-22	21 <sup>st</sup> Red Sea 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 <sup>th</sup> 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 1-6	ASEAN Bridge Club Championships	Bangkok, Thailand	chai870@hotmail.com
Dec 13-18	UAE National Day Bridge Festival	Dubai, United Arab Emirates	amr.mekky@hotmail.com
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
<b>2016</b>			
Jan 5-12	IMSA Elite Games	Beijing, China	
Jan 9-10	7 <sup>th</sup> 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 5-11	1 <sup>st</sup> European Winter Games	Monte Carlo, Monaco	contact@federation-bridge.mc
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 BridgeWeek	Kitzbühel, Austria	www.bridgeaustria.at
Mar 18-20	International Team Festival	Lisbon, Portugal	www.fpbridge.com
Mar 20-25	White House Junior Int'l Teams	Amsterdam, Netherlands	www.jeugdbridge.nl
Mar 22-27	121 <sup>st</sup> 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.zgqpw.com.cn
Apr 22-May 1	Lambourne Jersey Festival	Jersey, Channel Is.	www.ebu.co.uk
Apr 29-May 1	German Bridge Team Trophy	Berlin, Germany	www.bridge-verband.de
Apr 29-May 3	Schapiro Spring Foursomes	Stratford-upon-Avon, England	www.ebu.co.uk
Apr 29-May 12	Festival du Soleil	Juan-les-Pins, France	www.festivalsdusoleil.com
May 12-16	Grazer BridgeWeek	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 24-29	Grand Prix Of Portugal	Estoril, Portugal	www.fpbridge.com
May 27-Jun 4	South American Transnational	Medellin, Colombia	www.confisudbridge.org
Jun 16-25	53 <sup>rd</sup> 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 <sup>th</sup> 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 <sup>nd</sup> 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
Aug 19-28	EBU Summer Meeting	TBD (ex-Brighton)	www.ebu.co.uk
<b>Sep 3-17</b>	<b>World Bridge Games</b>	<b>Wroclaw, Poland</b>	<b>www.worldbridge.org</b>
Sep 9-18	Confiance Guernsey Congress	Guernsey, Channel Is.	www.ebu.co.uk
Sep 24-Oct 1	NZ National Congress	Wellington, NZ	www.nzcba.nz
Sep 30-Oct 4	International Azores Festival	Azores Is., Portugal	www.fpbridge.com
Oct 5-11	EBU Overseas Congress	Cardone, Lake Garda, Italy	www.ebu.co.uk
Nov 7-13	Madeira International Festival	Madeira, Portugal	www.fpbridge.com
Nov 24-Dec 4	ACBL Fall NABC	Orlando, FL	www.acbl.org