



BULLETIN

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Happy New Year!

We wish all IBPA members, their families and their loved ones a happy, healthy and prosperous 2016. In the West, the advent of a new year is the traditional time to make New Year's Resolutions: lose weight, quit smoking, exercise, become closer to family and friends, drink better-quality red wine, and so on. Here are some resolutions for the bridge world, some more light-hearted than others...

World Bridge Federation - we resolve to take the lead in ensuring the integrity of our championships and not to leave matters in the hands of others.

European Bridge League - we resolve to bring a speedy, just and satisfactory conclusion to the alleged cheating cases now under investigation.

American Contract Bridge League - we resolve (i.) to reverse the current trend toward insolvency with a program of financial vigilance and (ii.) to make a serious, concerted effort to bring young people into the game.

Chinese Contract Bridge Association - we resolve to host every Asian and World Bridge Championship in perpetuity. European Championships can wait until we annex Europe.

All bridge organisations - we resolve to reverse board erosion, returning to 16-board segments in important matches.

IBPA - we resolve (i.) to redesign our website and (ii.) to correct the dues payment issues members have.

IBPA members - we resolve (i.) to pay our dues on time (see bottom of page) and (ii.) to bring at least one new member each into the fold.

Forbo Flooring Systems, The Sunday Times, Bonn Bridge Club, The Macallan, Warren Buffett, Cap Gemini and other sponsors of now-defunct invitational bridge tournaments - we resolve to revive the glory days of bridge-tournament sponsorship.

To page 14...

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LETTER FROM NORWAY

Knut Kjærnsrød,
Tored, Norway



MEMORIES OF TROMSØ

For the first time since 1969, Norway hosted a major international tournament, the European Open Championships. I hope most of the players enjoyed our largest polar city, despite the fact that the midnight sun was reluctant to show itself more frequently.

My first board shows the kind of chances you feel inclined to take in your hunt for results at matchpoints:

Dealer North. NS Vul.

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

In the initial stages of the qualifying for the Senior Pairs, I felt that we had not done too well and were in need of a good board. Consequently, the bidding went:

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

North led a club to the nine, ten and king, and I rattled off the spades, to reach this end position:

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

On my ultimate spade, South had to discard his queen of clubs. The ace, king and knave of hearts brought South in, and she had to lead diamonds into dummy's ace-queen. Twelve tricks produced an 80 percent score to secure us a place in the semifinals.

In the Open Pairs final our superstar Espen Lindqvist earned a complete top on this board against the winners Bessis and Volcker:

Dealer North. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Bessis	Brogeland	Volcker	Lindqvist
—	Pass	Pass	1NT
2♥	Double	Pass	3♣
Pass	3NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

West led the ace of diamonds. When East produced the knave, West shifted to a heart, won by dummy's queen. Lindqvist cashed his clubs and, after the penultimate one, the position was:

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

On the last club, West discarded a spade and Lindqvist took full advantage by leading to the ace of hearts,

coming back to the ace of spades and endplaying West with a heart. West had to give away the ninth trick to the queen of diamonds.

Lindqvist and his partner Boye Brogeland produced a defence that gave them a 90 percent score against a top Bulgarian pair, Gunev/Nanev:

Dealer North. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Nanev	Lindqvist	Gunev	Brogeland
—	Pass	Pass	1♦
2♣	3♦ ¹	Pass	Pass
Double	Pass	4♥	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. Pre-emptive, not invitational opposite 18-19

Brogeland thought that East/West might have six club tricks along with five heart tricks and thus elected to lead the ace of spades. Lindqvist encouraged, so Brogeland continued with the three of spades to dummy's king. Gunev played the ace of trumps and the nine to the knave. A club to the queen was ducked without a flicker by North! The bidding and play strongly indicated the king of clubs to be in South's hand, so declarer played the queen of hearts to his king and took a second club finesse. Lindqvist took his now-bare king and played a diamond, ducked to Brogeland's queen, who cashed his queen of spades for one down. Eighteen of 19 other declarers made 11 or 12 tricks!

Peter Marstrander and Rune Andersen defended our Norwegian colours in the Senior World Championships in Chennai.

Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
—	Andersen	—	Marstrander
—	—	—	INT
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♥
Double	Redouble	3♦	Pass
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♥
Pass	6♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			

On their home ground in Tromsø, Andersen/Marstrander were brilliant in the Open Pairs final and finished only millimetres out of the medals. Marstrander played like a true champion on this board from the final:

West started with the three of spades, and the king of hearts revealed the trump position. Marstrander proceeded to cash all his trumps and spades to reach this position:

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

Marstrander discarded his nine of diamonds, and West was defenceless. He elected to discard a diamond, was thrown in and had to lead away from his king of clubs.

Finally I present a Devil's Coup, executed by Geir Brekka:

Dealer East. EW Vul.

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

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

1. FG spade raise, 3+ spades

2. Club void

West led a heart. Brekka took dummy's ace and played the ace of clubs (discarding a heart), club ruff, diamond to the queen and another club ruff. Brekka then played high diamonds (discarding a heart from dummy on the third) and, on the last one, West wrongly elected to discard a heart, and dummy's last heart was thrown. Geir trumped a heart and trumped a club low to reach this position:

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

On the knave of hearts West had no adequate answer. If he had trumped high, Brekka would have finessed the knave of trumps or ruffed a club. With a trump loser and the heart finesse wrong he'd made all 13 tricks!



FROM THE VENICE CUP

Phillip Alder, Hobe Sound, FL

From www.bridgeforeveryone.com

Here are two deals that featured good card-play but did not make it into the daily bulletins.

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	

West	North	East	South
Sokolow	Cronier	Seamon	Willard
Hugon	Palmer	Campagnano	Deas
—	—	—	Pass
3♣	Double	Pass	3♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

My first deal occurred during the Venice Cup final between France and USA2.

Interestingly, both Souths made the cautious advance of three spades. My guess is that the bidding panel of *The Bridge World* magazine would vote primarily for three notrump (which here can be defeated on any lead but a low club), with solid support for pass (three clubs, at double dummy, goes down two) and four spades. Most of the time, they would be right, North having a stronger hand than the one held.

Tobi Sokolow and Janice Seamon-Molson defended perfectly. West led her singleton heart. East took dummy's jack with her king and returned the heart deuce. West ruffed and shifted to the club king to pin dummy's queen. Sylvie Willard won with her ace, cashed the spade king, played a spade to dummy's ace, ruffed a heart, and ruffed a club. When East correctly discarded a diamond (overruffing would probably have let the contract through), declarer trumped another heart and ruffed a second club. This time East overruffed and cashed the heart ace to give the following position, with the defenders needing one more trick.

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

When East exited with a low diamond, and South put in her ten, Sokolow accurately played low. Now the defenders got a diamond trick to defeat the contract.

Now let's look at the other table. Elisabeth Hugon also led her singleton heart. Here, though, Deborah Campagnano won dummy's queen with the king and shifted immediately to her singleton club. Lynn Deas won with her ace, drew two rounds of trumps ending in the dummy, and led the heart three. East won perforce with her ten, then shifted to a low diamond, which was covered by the ten, king and ace. Declarer led dummy's heart jack and ruffed after East covered with the ace. South trumped a club (East threw a diamond), pitched a club on the heart eight, played a

diamond to her nine, cashed the diamond queen, and, at trick 12, ruffed her remaining club. East overruffed, but declarer took the last trick with her final trump to come home with an overtrick.

That was first-rate American defence and declarer play to gain 7 International Match Points.

Top players take full advantage of an error by an opponent. This example occurred during the qualifying stage of the three main world championships in India. We will look at the Venice Cup match between Egypt and USA2.

Dealer North. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
—	<i>Palmer</i>		<i>Deas</i>
Pass	1♥ ¹	Pass	1♠
Pass	2NT ²	Pass	3♣ ³
Pass	3♥ ⁴	Pass	4♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. 10+-15 points; 5+ hearts
2. Minimum with four-card spade support and a singleton somewhere
3. Inquiry
4. Diamond singleton

Opening bids get lighter and lighter, but this deal also highlights one of the main advantages of a strong-club system: the opener's two-notrump rebid is not needed to show a big balanced hand.

West led the diamond ace and shifted to a trump. How did Deas plan the play?

Declarer was confident that West had the club ace; otherwise, she surely would have switched to that suit at trick two. So, placing East with the heart king from the lack of bidding by her opponents, South won the second trick on the board and led the heart queen, which was covered by the king and ace.

West took the second heart with her jack and convinced herself that desperate measures were needed, as they would have been had declarer had another spade and East the club king. So West cashed the club ace and played another club, whereas a heart or diamond play would have been superior. Declarer won with her king, drew trumps ending on the board,

cashed the three heart winners (discarding one diamond and two clubs), and crossruffed the last two tricks. Deas took three spades, four hearts, one club, a club ruff in her hand and a diamond ruff in the dummy.

At the other table, South was in three spades. Joann Glasson also led the diamond ace and shifted to a trump. South cashed her heart ace and played a heart to dummy's ten. Now Juanita Chambers won with her king and accurately shifted to the club jack, which defeated the contract. The defenders took one heart, one diamond and three clubs. Plus 420 and plus 50 gave 10 International Match Points to USA2 en route to victory by 60 IMPs to 9.

This board was played at 66 tables and most North/South pairs bought it in a spade partscore. Only one other declarer, Pablo Lambardi from Argentina, took ten tricks and he was in three spades.

BESSIS' THOUGHTS

Barry Rigal, NYC

In the France-Poland quarterfinal match of the Bermuda Bowl, Thomas Bessis' comments are appended here on a deal that totally escaped my attention as a play problem in four spades, maybe not surprising. Had the cards lain slightly differently, this might well have been an award candidate for card-reading of the highest order.

Board 36. Dealer West. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Volker</i>	<i>Gawrys</i>	<i>Bessis</i>	<i>Klukowski</i>
1♣	Pass	1♠	Pass
1NT	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♥	Pass	4♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Michal Klukowski led the king of clubs, which Thomas Bessis allowed to hold the trick. South shifted to the queen of hearts. Bessis let that hold as well. South did well to continue hearts and declarer won with dummy's ace. Reading the situation perfectly, Bessis played the ace, king and a third spade to endplay South and make ten tricks for plus 620.

West	North	East	South
<i>Kalita</i>	<i>Rombaut</i>	<i>Nowosadzki</i>	<i>Combescure</i>
1♣	Pass	1♠	Pass
1NT	Pass	4♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Combescure also led the king of clubs. Nowasadzki won with dummy's ace and took a spade finesse. South won and shifted to the jack of diamonds, won by declarer with the queen when North played low. Declarer drew the remaining trumps, ducked a heart, won the heart return, ruffed a club and ran the trumps. This manoeuvre squeezed North between hearts and diamonds, so declarer made an overtrick to win 1 IMP.

Bessis to Rigal: "You didn't mention it, but to me it was one of the most interesting play boards of the whole match. I took a somewhat sexy line: I ducked the king of clubs lead(!), as only a heart switch would give me any trouble...which Klukowski found after a three-minute tank! And guess what? I ducked that queen of hearts too! Six minutes later, Klukowski played his second heart (best defence again), and I took it in dummy (reading they were 4-2 this way), and played the ace-king of spades and a spade to endplay LHO. It was quite a disappointment that the king of diamonds was onside."

THE ROUGH RIDERS

John Carruthers, Kingsville, ON

USA Senior teams did almost as well in Chennai as Col. Teddy Roosevelt and his volunteer cavalry regiment (the Rough Riders) did at San Juan Hill during the 1898 Spanish-American War. In India, USA1 rode roughshod over all opposition, taking the gold medal in dominating fashion, while USA2 finished in fourth place. The following two deals showcase those teams at their best.

Changing Horses in Mid-Stream

One of the most difficult tasks to accomplish in bidding is to agree one suit, especially a major, then bid a slam in another suit. Michael Rosenberg and Zia Mahmood, playing in the USA1 team, did just that in their round-robin match against England, and it wasn't just a small slam, but a grand:

Board 21. Dealer North. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Mahmood</i>	<i>Price</i>	<i>Rosenberg</i>	<i>Simpson</i>
—	Pass	Pass	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♣ ¹	Pass
2NT ²	Pass	3♦ ³	Pass
4♦ ⁴	Pass	4♠	Pass
4NT ⁵	Pass	5♣ ⁶	Pass
5♥ ⁷	Pass	6♦ ⁸	Pass
7♣ ⁹	Pass	7♦	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. Drury with a spade fit
- (i) Slam try, usually with a second suit, or (ii) Choice of games with 4M or 3NT, to be clarified with a 3NT bid next time.
3. I have a good diamond suit (two of the top three honours)
4. In order to set up double key card
5. Six Key Card Blackwood
6. One or four key cards
7. Queen ask
8. Both the queen of spades and the queen of diamonds
9. Please pick a grand slam (in case East has only ♦KQ109)

Mahmood took a bit of a chance: a spade grand slam would likely have been on the heart finesse if Rosenberg had only four diamonds, unlikely as that was (Rosenberg had denied a heart control by bidding four spades over four diamonds). Colin Simpson led a heart. Rosenberg won with the ace, led a diamond to the king, ruffed a club, cashed the ace of diamonds, came to the queen of spades, drew the last trump and claimed, plus 1440. A brilliant effort.

At the other table...

West	North	East	South
<i>Holland</i>	<i>Hamman</i>	<i>Hallberg</i>	<i>Lair</i>
—	1♣	Pass	3♣ ¹
Double	Pass	3♦	Pass
4♠	Pass	5♣	Pass
5♦	Pass	5♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. Pre-emptive

Bob Hamman and Mark Lair really got in John Holland's face, forcing him to start at the three level. Having received only a three-diamond bid from Gunnar Hallberg in response to his takeout double and having holes everywhere, despite his jump to four spades, Holland subsided at the five level, taking the obvious 12 tricks to lose 14 IMPs.

Backing the Right Horse

Mark Tolliver and Marc Zwerling of USA2 did magnificently on the next deal, declaring spades from the East seat to protect the king of hearts. On strong club auctions, Tolliver/Zwerling show responder's

primary and secondary suits via transfers and inversions (one heart = spades, one notrump = hearts, two clubs = diamonds and two diamonds = clubs), most times making the strong, undisclosed, hand declarer.

Bermuda Bowl Quarterfinal. USA2 v. Ireland. Board 61. Dealer North. Both Vul.

♠ 7 3
 ♥ 10 5
 ♦ 9 7 4 3
 ♣ A Q J 7 5

♠ K J 8 6 2
 ♥ J 9 8 7
 ♦ Q 2
 ♣ K 3

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

♠ 10 9
 ♥ A Q 4
 ♦ 8 6
 ♣ 10 9 8 6 4 2

West	North	East	South
Zwerling	P. O'Briain	Tolliver	M. O'Briain
—	Pass	1♣ ¹	Pass
1♥ ²	Pass	1♠ ³	Pass
2♥ ⁴	Pass	2♠ ⁵	Pass
2NT ⁶	Pass	3♠ ⁷	Pass
3NT ⁸	Pass	4♣ ⁹	Pass
4♠ ¹⁰	Pass	5♦ ¹¹	Pass
5♥ ¹²	Pass	6♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. 16+ HCP or 7+ controls; upgrades possible
2. 5+ spades, 8+ HCP (or an ace and a king); or any 13+ balanced
3. Distributional relay
4. Five or more spades and four or more hearts
5. Further distributional relay
6. 5=4=2=2 with 8-10 or 13+ HCP
7. Size ask
8. 8-10 (higher bids show 13+ and are control bids)
9. First- or second-round club control
10. Denies any red-suit control
11. Ace and king of diamonds plus a heart control
12. Last Train: forward-going, implying that the 5♦ bid improved the hand, so probably the queen of diamonds

Micheal O'Briain led the ten of clubs, ruffed in declarer's hand. The spade ace, a spade to the jack and another club ruff were followed by a claim of 12 tricks for plus 1430.

West	North	East	South
Mesbur	J. Clerkin	Fitzgibbon	D. Clerkin
—	Pass	1♣ ¹	Pass
1♠ ²	Pass	2NT ³	Pass
3♣ ⁴	Pass	3♦ ⁵	Pass
4♣ ⁵	Pass	4♦ ⁵	Pass
4♠ ⁶	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. 17+ HCP
2. 8+ HCP; 5+ spades
3. Big spade raise
4. Minimum positive
5. Control bids
6. No heart control

As most pairs would, Adam Mesbur/Nick Fitzgibbon declared from the 'wrong' side and were held to ten tricks on the heart lead. They, at least, did not go beyond game.



Here are three deals from the Australian Spring Nationals.

First, a freak from the Open Teams, won by NUNN (Tony Nunn, Sartaj Hans, Tom Jacob, Nick Jacob, Michael Ware) over HORWITZ (Helen Horwitz, David Beauchamp, Peter Gill, Peter Hollands, Justin Howard) by 147-110.

Round 8. Board 20. Dealer West. Both Vul.

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

♠ A Q 2
 ♥ Q J 10 7 2
 ♦ A Q 6 5
 ♣ 6

The grand slam in clubs is laydown barring an opening-lead diamond ruff, but proved very hard to reach. One successful auction went six clubs, pass, seven clubs, all pass.

Another sequence, this one less successful, was:

West	North	East	South
1♣	2♥	3NT	Pass
6♣	Pass	Pass	Pass

Unlike in the first auction, here East was comfortable in passing six clubs, having already shown, more or less, what he had. But perhaps West should have been asking for key cards. Had East shown three key cards, West could have bid seven notrump.

A six-club opening is sensible, since it will almost certainly stifle competition. A good choice would have been to open with the Kabel Three Notrump, asking for specific aces. If East had shown three, West could have bid seven notrump. If East had shown two non-touching aces or the diamond ace and another ace, West could have reasonably bid seven clubs. At worst, it would have been on a finesse and East might have

Continued on page 10 ...



IBPA Column Service

Tim Bourke, Canberra

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

789. Dealer West. Neither Vul.

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

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

West led the two of clubs, an obvious singleton. Declarer was allowed to win the trick in hand with his nine and turned his thoughts to what could be done if the ace of hearts were on his left and the ace of trumps on his right. Unless West had a singleton trump, declarer saw that he would have to make an extra trick in the red suits. Although a successful diamond finesse would provide the extra trick, it was rejected as the main plan because East was more likely than West to hold the queen of diamonds. It was at this point that it struck declarer that the diamond finesse was an illusion: all he had to do was eliminate the diamonds! If West started with the doubleton queen, then South could shift his attention to trumps. So he cashed the king and ace of diamonds. As the queen had not appeared, declarer ruffed the jack of diamonds high. Once West followed his likely shape became 2=7=3=1.

Declarer continued with a low trump to the king and ace. East led club back and West ruffed. Alas, for the defence, West only had hearts remaining and so declarer made a trick with the king of hearts.

Notice that if East had shifted to the queen of hearts at trick six, declarer would have covered and dummy's eight of hearts would have prevented East from regaining the lead.

On the next deal (see top of next column), West led the jack of spades to dummy's queen. As his first move, declarer cashed the ace and queen of diamonds.

790. Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

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

Once East discarded on the second diamond, declarer had to change tack. He saw that he could still make the contract if he could take three tricks in clubs. This would always be possible if clubs were 3-2. The same would be true if West had four clubs: if South played the suit correctly, he could finesse the nine of clubs if required.

So, the problem case was when East had four clubs to the king. Declarer found a neat solution to that eventuality. At trick four he played a club to the ace and a followed this with low club back towards the jack. East was caught: if he rose with the king, declarer would make three club tricks and his contract. After East followed with a low card, declarer's jack won the trick. Declarer now played the king and another diamond, setting up a long diamond for his twelfth trick.

Note that playing the clubs as above also allows declarer to discover that West had at least four clubs in a way that guarantees three tricks in the suit.

On the next deal (see top of next page), against South's five-diamond contract, West led a third-from-even five of hearts. Declarer ruffed in dummy and crossed to his hand with the ace of trumps to ruff the queen of hearts. Next he led the five of clubs to his king. Declarer was not pleased when West won the trick. Still, he thought, "All will be well if West makes the natural shift to spades."

791. Dealer East. EW Vul.

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

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

Alas for declarer, when he won the ace of clubs, West exited with the four of clubs, As a result, when the spade jack lost to the king, East cashed a club winner and declarer was one down.

As usual, dummy was not pleased. "You played the black suits in the wrong order," he stated. "On the bidding, unless East opened on nine high-card-points, West could not have held both the ace of clubs and the king of spades. At trick four, therefore, you should have played a low spade towards your jack. This would catch East in a Morton's Fork as the cards lay. If he had played the king, you would have made three spade tricks and would thus have needed only one club trick. However, if East had played low on the first round of spades, then your the jack would have won the trick and you could then have afforded to lose two club tricks," he opined. "Finally, if the jack of spades had lost to West's king then the ace of clubs was certain to be onside," he concluded.

792. Dealer West. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
1♥	Double	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♠
Pass	6♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

The auction does have an agricultural air. North later gave his reasons: "South was likely to have five hearts on the bidding. He was also likely to have four spades;

otherwise, he might just have passed two clubs and hoped for the best. So, that left South hand with four minor-suit cards and I had them covered," he explained.

West led the ace of hearts. Declarer could see that the clubs would have to be established. He would probably have to ruff a diamond in hand as well. So, after cashing the ace of trumps at trick two, he cashed the ace-king of clubs and then advanced the two of clubs. East concluded that if South had started with an unlikely 4=4=3=2 shape, ruffing in would allow declarer to discard a diamond and later ruff his diamond loser. Consequently, East discarded a heart. Declarer ruffed the club in hand, crossed back to dummy with the king of diamonds and led another club. Again, East discarded a heart. Declarer ruffed, played a diamond to dummy's ace and ruffed the seven of diamonds with his last trump, the nine. Next, he ruffed a heart in dummy. East overruffed and exited with a diamond. Declarer ruffed this low then drew East's last trump with dummy's king. The established six of clubs was the last card left in dummy. Declarer made four trumps, three ruffs, the minor-suit ace-kings and a long club for a total of twelve tricks.


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had another useful card such as the queen of diamonds or a king together with one of the aces.

An interesting idea is to play a Two-Diamonds Multi as a weak two in either major or a specific ace ask. If it starts two diamonds, pass, two notrump, West bids four clubs, setting trumps and asking East to bid the lowest-ranking suit in which he holds an ace. After four diamonds by East, West bids five diamonds, asking, and East bids five spades to show the queen of diamonds. Bingo! West bids seven clubs.

Yet another interesting idea, not for children or those of faint heart, is for an imaginative West to open with one diamond, hoping to later be able to use the Grand Slam Force in the suit. East/West must then have their agreements firmly in place: Responder always bids seven clubs with two of the top three honours or six clubs (giving up graded responses) without two of the top three (so as not to cross purposes with the GSF bidder). Still, sorting it out if East does not have diamond support could be a problem.

Provided you have decided to bid to six clubs anyway, a third possibility put forth decades ago by a Toronto bridge player, John Cunningham, is to open with one diamond, then jump to six clubs at your next turn, conveying the information that you have made a "Help-Suit Grand Slam Try", the first-bid suit being the suit in which help is needed for a grand in the suit in which you jumped. This achieved some adhesion locally in the 1960s and 70s and was known colloquially as "The Cunningham Ba-whomp". It was not restricted to jumps to the six-level – it worked equally well (or poorly!) as a small slam try. The method never gained more than a local following due to the complete unpredictability of the subsequent auction, preemption by the opponents being a significant impediment. Here, though, it would have worked spectacularly. – Ed.

Three pairs reached seven clubs. There were 37 pairs in six clubs, three of them were doubled. Twelve pairs were in five clubs, with two doubled.

Open Teams Final. Board 20.

Dealer North. Both Vul.

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

With East/West silent, Gill/Beauchamp, North/South, bid pass, one spade, two clubs (maximum pass, spade

support), four spades, pass. West led the queen of diamonds and South took eleven tricks, plus 650. At the other table:

West	North	East	South
Hollands	Hans	Howard	Nunn
—	Pass	Pass	1♠
Pass	4♦ ¹	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♣ ²	Double	Pass
Pass	5♠	Pass	6♣
Pass	6♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

1. Four or more spades, shortness in diamonds
2. One key card for spades

West led the three of clubs: queen, eight, four of hearts. Then the play went: diamond to the ace, diamond ruff, heart jack to the ace, diamond ruff, club ace to discard the ten of hearts, heart deuce to the king, diamond ruff and then the spade nine, seven, jack, ace. Declarer won the return, cashed the king of spades and had twelve tricks for plus 1430 and 13 IMPs.

In the Dick Cummings Open Swiss Pairs (matchpoints with % converted into VPs), the results were: 1. Avi Kanetkar/Ron Klinger (173 VP); 2. Adam Edgtton/Max Henbest (156); 3. David Appleton/Peter Reynolds (154).

Round 6. Board 26. Dealer North. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
—	Jeffery		Abel
—	Pass	Pass	INT
Pass	2♦ ¹	Pass	3♥ ²
Pass	4♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			

1. Transfer to hearts
2. 4+ hearts, minimum INT

West led the king of clubs, ducked by declarer, Julian Abel. Abel won the second club with his ace and drew trumps. After declarer found hearts were 2-2, he ruffed the club loser and played the ace, king and a third spade. East had to win and was end-played, so South had only one diamond loser. The ending is equivalent if West switches to a diamond at trick two.



The Fall NABC in Denver was held from November 27th until December 6th, 2015. Here are some of the interesting deals that came to my attention.

We Shall Overcome

When you play with me, defence becomes especially hard – you have to overcome my opening leads. I was North on this deal.

Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

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

1. Two or more clubs, 11-13/17-19 balanced HCP or 11+ natural

I put the two of diamonds on the table (third/lowest). Ulf Nilsson ducked dummy's seven and declarer won in hand to lead a low trump. Nilsson won and shifted to a spectacular king of hearts, a Merrimac Coup, to dislodge the ace of hearts, which worked better than he could have hoped. Declarer should now have run the jack of clubs, but he played a diamond. Nilsson won to force declarer with a heart. I took the ace of spades to force him again, then rose with the ace of clubs on the first club to force declarer a third time. Declarer could cash the king of clubs, but he had to concede tricks 12 and 13 to Nilsson for down one and a 75% score for us.

Getting Out of Your Own Way

Dealer East. EW Vul.

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

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

At our table, the opportunity for a beautiful piece of declarer play and defence presented itself. Sure, East-West had an easy plus 300 from three diamonds doubled and an equally painless plus 130 in four clubs. They needed to make plus 140 to score any matchpoints. The defence started accurately by leading the queen of diamonds. Declarer won and gave up a club, and now two more rounds of diamonds forced dummy to ruff. Declarer played the ace of hearts (ten, four, two), king of hearts (eight, five, seven) then led another club. North won the played a fourth diamond. East read the position perfectly...

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

Declarer ruffed with the queen of hearts and exited in trumps to South, who had to lead a black card and concede the rest. Note that if South had unblocked the jack of hearts on the second trump, his seven would still have been big enough to overruff declarer and low enough to allow North to win with the nine when declarer exited with the six.

Tied Round Equals Marital Bliss

When the teams involving my wife (Sue Picus) and I crossed swords in the second qualifying session of

the Mitchell Board-a-Match Teams, both sides emerged unbloodied, with two halved boards. This was the more interesting.

Dealer East. Both Vul.

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

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

North's caution in the auction was fully justified. Dan Gerstman led a low diamond to the ten and king. Declarer led a heart up and Gerstman took his ace and found the neat shift to the nine of spades. Declarer won (as the cards lay, ducking might have saved the day) and played the king of hearts, then the ace and jack of clubs, ducked by Gerstman. When declarer cashed the ace of spades, Gerstman could unblock the queen and when in with a club he could lead a spade to me to cash out for down one. "That will teach them to overbid," we said.

PS.: At the other table, North raised to two notrump for South to go one down.

Proper Handling

Russ Samuel gave me this interesting deal from the first final session of the Mitchell Open Board-a-Match teams.

Dealer East. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
—	—	1♠	Double
4♠	Pass	Pass	Double
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♦
Double	Pass	Pass	Pass

You reach five diamonds doubled and ruff away the ace of spades at trick one. How should you proceed?

It seems to me the best line is to cash the top diamonds and, when East discards, he must surely be the favourite to hold the rest of the high cards. Cross to the king of clubs to ruff a spade, then run the clubs. West cannot benefit by ruffing in, so he discards a spade. You reach this position:

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

It doesn't work for you to throw West in with a trump. He will exit with a spade, knocking out dummy's last trump. The opponents will then get a heart, a spade and a diamond for one down. Instead, lead a heart to dummy's king. East must win and give you a ruff-sluff (you ruff in hand and discard a heart from dummy) or lead a heart for you to run around to the ten.

Two Bad Options

Partners are supposed to protect each other, but sometimes it doesn't work out that way. Check out this deal from the second semifinal session of the Kaplan Blue Ribbon Pairs. You will see that one player was forced to do his partner in. Steve Beatty was North, Tom Carmichael South.

Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

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

The defenders didn't find their crossruff. West led a club to the ace, Carmichael pitching a spade from hand.

He led a heart to the jack and played two more rounds of the suit. Then Carmichael exited with the queen of spades to West's ace. Carmichael ruffed the club return and passed the eight of spades to East. This was the ending.

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

East could not lead a spade without setting up two tricks for declarer, so he played a club honour, stripping West of his exit card. Carmichael ruffed the club and played a low diamond from hand, ducking when West contributed the ten. West now had to lead the suit around to declarer's queen. Ten tricks made.

False Hope

If you open the East hand on this deal from the second final session of the Kaplan Blue Ribbon Pairs, you will find it very difficult.

Dealer North. Neither Vul.

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

For the record, about one-third of the field managed to stop in three spades. Two North/South pairs actually managed to let through four spades, perhaps cashing the ace of clubs prematurely?

Rob Brady was one of the many Easts in four spades on a club lead. He put up the queen and John Kranyak won with the ace to return the jack of clubs. Brady won and crossed to a top heart to lead a spade to the nine. Had this lost to the ten, he would have cashed the ace of spades and switched to a crossruff for down one. But Vincent Demuy won the nine of spades with the queen and exited with the jack of diamonds, and now when Brady repeated the trump finesse, Demuy could win and hold declarer to eight tricks by leading his third trump.

Regard la Différence

Michael Kamil, Spartansburg, SC

What's the difference between the great and nearly-great bridge player? There are several essential characteristics. I'd say one is *always* to be thinking hard. I witnessed this first-hand during the final session of the Reisinger Board-a-Match Teams in Denver. With three rounds to go and our teams in the middle of the pack, Richie Coren and I played against Tor Helness and Geir Helgemo. Here was the third board of the round:

Board 21. Dealer South. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Helness	Coren	Helgemo	Kamil
—	—	—	1♦
Pass	1♥(!)	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

I guess Richie was a bit tired of bidding notrump himself so I became declarer at three notrump against a high diamond lead. I ducked (ten from Helgemo) and Helness smartly shifted to a heart – Helgemo put in the nine. I won with the queen and led a low club to the queen. Helgemo ducked in almost perfect tempo, but I did notice a small flicker – just enough that I chose to play to the king next, hoping for ace-third with East. Now, as you can see, I was a dead duck! I could no longer set up and reach the clubs after Helgemo ducked clubs twice.

Now, you may say, he knew where all the cards were from trick one and that we should all work this problem out, and I'd agree. But, the question is, how many of us are present enough to make plays such as this one nearly every time? (I suspect I would find it on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays only.)

Interestingly, when one of my teammates, a world-class player in his own right, came back and read off minus 120 for a loss, he asked in a surprised tone, "Really? I thought there were nine tricks, no"? When I replied, "Well, when I led to the club queen at trick three and Helgemo ducked...", my teammate sat for a moment thinking...and then just smiled in admiration.

NEWS & VIEWS



WBF High-Level Players Commission

Following the first meeting of the HLPC held in Chennai, during the World Championship, a meeting of the HLPC was held at the 2015 Fall NABC in Denver, Colorado, USA, attended by Philippe Cronier (as acting Chairman), Ishmael Del'Monte, Heather Dhondy (via Skype conference call), Giorgio Duboin, Chip Martel, Marion Michielsen, Kirubakara Moorthy, Tarek Sadek, Janice Seamon-Molson, Jackie Thompson, Kit Woolsey, Fu Zhong (members), and Simon Fellus (secretary). Excused: Ata Aydin, Agustin Madala and Wang WenFei (who attended the meeting in Chennai).

During the meeting, Giorgio Duboin was unanimously elected as a Member of the WBF Executive Council, representing the High-Level Players, joining Janice Seamon-Molson, who was elected in January, 2015. The HLPC also unanimously approved the election of Ata Aydin as Chairman Emeritus, Philippe Cronier as Chairman and Ishmael Del'Monte as Vice-Chairman.

In the same meeting, the HLPC approved the institution, starting from January 1, 2016 of the HLPC Express Line to enable concerns regarding possible unethical behaviour to be reported confidentially. Details can be found at:

<http://www.worldbridge.org/Data/Sites/1/media/documents/official-documents/HLPCExpressLine.pdf>

Any WBF registered member may report suspicious occurrences or activities which may infringe the Laws, Rules and Regulations of Bridge and the WBF Disciplinary Code.

WBF Medical Commission Paper

A paper published by Bruno Federico, Paolo Walter Gabriele and Giovanni Capelli of the WBF Medical and Prevention Commission on the use of medicines and dietary supplements among bridge players in two world-class tournaments has been published and is available for free download until January 30, 2016.

The paper can be found here: <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2211266915000651> and makes interesting reading. The paper was published in the journal "Performance Enhancement & Health". The study found that top bridge players' demographic and health-related characteristics indicate a different pattern of drug use than "physical" athletes normally considered under the World Anti-Doping Code.

2015 IMSA Elite Mind Games

The inaugural IMSA Elite Mind Games (IEMG) will be held February 25 to March 3, 2016, in Huai'an City, Jiangsu Province, China. The venue will be announced at a later date.

All five members of IMSA will be featured: Bridge, Chess, Draughts, Go, and Xiangqi. About 180 players and 50+ international officials are expected to participate. With a total budget of >\$2.5M, this new event replaces the previous SportAccord World Mind Games (SAWMG) held in December from 2011 to 2014.

See more at: <http://www.imsaworld.com/wp/news/2015-imsa-elite-mind-games-iemg/#comments>

Happy New Year (continued from page 1...)

The Bridge World - we resolve (i.) to make our bidding diagrams read, from left to right, West-North-East-South instead of beginning with South and to (ii.) discard the confusing method we use of denoting alerts, whereby the alerts of two or more auctions are combined.

Bridge Magazine (U.K.) - we resolve to return to print format.

The New York Times - we resolve to bring back the daily bridge column.

BBO - we resolve to make BBO broadcasts even more perfect by displaying the running scores of events, especially pairs events, and not just the teams/pairs competing.

Zia Mahmood - I resolve to make a normal opening lead instead of the six from ten-six in partner's suit; either that, or move to Poland.

Bob Hamman - I resolve to finally see the film *The Program* about Lance Armstrong, in which Dustin Hoffman plays me.

Debbie and Michael Rosenberg - we resolve not to have heart attacks watching son Kevin play in the World Under-26 World Championships later this year, on the 25th anniversary of Debbie's win in the same event.

Paul Hackett - I resolve to allow someone else a chance to win the England Senior Trials.



Correspondence

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

Email: ibpaeditor@sympatico.ca

Dear all (*distribution list includes World Bridge Federation officials - Ed.*),

Having participated in the Venice Cup in Chennai (and many previous Venice Cups since 1981), this year is the first time that I have felt compelled to write to the WBF regarding some issues that I, personally, believe need action.

1. UNIFORMS

The WBF has created a Dress Code:

<http://www.worldbridge.org/Data/Sites/11/media/documents/official-documents/Policies/WBFDressCode.pdf>

This Dress Code states that it is obligatory that all players, captains and coaches be dressed in their uniform in order to enter the playing area (2.2). In addition, "If sweaters, cardigans and sweatshirts are used they must be either the same or a complementary colour and carry the Federation's logo." (2.2)

There are also penalties for violations of the Dress Code.

In Chennai, many of the teams complied with the Dress Code, in particular the European and North American teams, but many did not. I firmly believe that if you have a Dress Code, including penalties for violations, that you should enforce such a Code (and its penalties). That is the only way in which you will have players and officials take these WBF Codes 'seriously'.

2. OFFICIAL ID TAGS

Dress Code 2.2 also states: "Everyone entering the playing rooms is obliged to wear the official identification badge provided by the organisation. In case of loss the organisation will provide a duplicate badge at a cost of 5.00 Euro."

At Veldhoven in 2011, the staff at the entrances to the playing area enforced this rule 100%. I heard players say, "I'm so-and-so", but without their official ID tag they were unable to enter the playing area. That is how it should be, given the Code.

At both Veldhoven and in Lille in 2012, guests and visitors also had to obtain ID tags in order to enter the playing area to kibitz. This level of security, especially in today's times, seems sensible.

In Chennai, the hotel staff held the doors open and basically anyone could enter. Certainly ID tags were

not checked, because I occasionally entered the playing area then realised my ID tag was in my handbag still. This need to be remedied for player and WBF safety reasons.

3. SECURITY and ELECTRONIC DEVICES

I had been led to believe that we would be entering through a security scanner. I had thought that would check for electronic devices, let alone for any other security purposes. There was no such facility evident in Chennai.

Random checks for phones amongst the 66 tables in play were sketchy to say the least. I tended to have 2 bags with me and could have had electronic devices anywhere. The checks were not thorough.

We were not often accompanied to the toilets, although I did see that more men were accompanied.

It would be superior to have playing areas with toilet facilities INSIDE the area so that, having been screened before entering, players would not have access to electronic devices. Veldhoven's set-up with regard to electronic devices was the best I have experienced to date.

4. CONVENTION CARDS

In the past, convention cards used to go through a stringent checking procedure. However, I would have to say that over the past 5 years the standards for the completion of convention cards has declined. I was appalled at the poor standard of some of our opposition convention cards. Basically it seems like the guidelines are totally ignored.

5. VUGRAPH

I would recommend that some thought be given to providing Vugraph commentators who provide informed commentary, with an ability to make some entertaining comments being a bonus. (*Travis' personal assessment of each VuGraph commentator has been excised. - Ed.*)

6. CONCLUSIONS

The BFI put together a good event at an amazing hotel, but these organisational issues do need a high degree of improvement for future world championships. These are all WBF issues and need due consideration. I'm hoping, should I qualify to play in Poland, that things will be heading in the right direction.

With hope,

Barbara Travis, Adelaide, Australian Women's Team

World Bridge Calendar

DATES	EVENT	LOCATION	INFORMATION
2016			
Jan 9-10	7 th TGR's Auction Pairs	London, England	www.tgrsbridge.com
Jan 11-20	75 th International Week	St. Moritz, Switzerland	www.bridge-stmoritz.ch
Jan 12-24	Summer Festival of Bridge	Canberra, Australia	www.abf.com.au
Jan 19-22	Copenhagen Invitational	Copenhagen, Denmark	http://cbi.bridge.dk
Jan 23-29	Bermuda Regional	Southampton, Bermuda	www.bermudaregional.com
Jan 28-31	Reykjavik Bridge Festival	Reykjavik, Iceland	www.reykjavikbridgefestival.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 st European Winter Games	Monte Carlo, Monaco	contact@federation-bridge.mc
Feb 24-28	Festival de Bridge de Cannes	Cannes, France	www.festivalsdusoleil.com
Feb 19-27	Gold Coast Congress	Surfer's Paradise, Australia	www.qldbridge.com
Feb 24-28	Festival du Soleil	Cannes, France	www.festivalsdusoleil.com
Feb 25-Mar 3	IMSA Elite Mind Games	Huai'an City, Jiangsu, China	www.imsaworld.com
Feb 29-Mar 6	Festival de Montegrotto	Montegrotto Terme, Italy	www.federbridge.it
Mar 1	5 th University Online Championship	BBO	www.worldbridge.org
Mar 10-20	ACBL Spring NABC	Reno, NV	www.acbl.org
Mar 15-20	Kitzbüheler BridgeWeek	Kitzbühel, Austria	www.bridgeaustria.at
Mar 16	Simultaneous Pairs for Youth Bridge	Online	www.worldbridge.org
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 st Canadian Nationals	Toronto, ON	www.unit166.ca
Mar 17=Apr 2	XXIX Festival Internacional	P. de la Cruz, Tenerife, Spain	www.aebridge.com
Mar 31-Apr 3	Tasmanian Festival of Bridge	Hobart, Australia	www.abf.com.au
Apr 4-10	WBF Women's Online Festival	BBO	www.worldbridge.org
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 de Bridge de Juan-les-Pins	Juan-les-Pins, France	www.festivalsdusoleil.com
May 5	Bonn Cup	Bad Godeburg, Germany	www.bridge-verband.de
May 12-16	Grazer Bridge Week	Graz, Austria	www.bridgeaustria.at
May 14-21	South Africa National Congress	Hazyview, Mpumalanga, RSA	www.sabf.co.za
May 15-22	XXIX Torneo Internacional Bridge-Golf	Costa Cálida, Murcia, Spain	www.aebridge.com
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 3-10	50 th Tel Aviv Bridge Festival	Tel Aviv, Israel	www.ibf-festival.org
Jun 16-26	53 rd European Team Championships	Budapest, Hungary	www.eurobridge.org
Jun 25-Jul 7	Australian National Championships	Brisbane, Australia	www.abf.com.au
Jul 8-17	Danish Bridge Festival	Svendborg, Denmark	www2.bridge.dk
Jul 13-20	13 th European Youth Pairs & Camp	Liepaja, Latvia	www.eurobridge.org
Jul 21-31	ACBL Summer NABC	Washington, DC	www.acbl.org
Jul 26-31	Hong Kong Inter-City	Hong Kong, China	www.hkcba.org
Jul 29-Aug 7	22 nd Swedish Bridge Festival	Örebro, Sweden	www.svenskbridge.se
Jul 30-Aug 4	Chairman's Cup Teams	Örebro, Sweden	www.svenskbridge.se
Aug 3-13	World Youth Team Championships	Salsomaggiore, Italy	www.worldbridge.org
Aug 6-7	Gold Mine Pairs	Örebro, Sweden	www.svenskbridge.se
Aug 7-9	Pesta Sukan	Singapore	www.scba.org.sg
Aug 19-28	EBU Summer Meeting	Eastbourne, England	www.ebu.co.uk
Aug 20-29	World Youth Open Championships	Opatija, Croatia	www.worldbridge.org
Aug 27-Sep 4	Festival de Bridge de La Grande Motte	La Grande Motte, France	www.festivalsdusoleil.com
Sep 2-14	55 th International Bridge Festival	Pula, Croatia	www.pulabridgefestival.com
Sep 3-17	World Bridge Games	Wroclaw, Poland	www.worldbridge.org
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, Kake Garda, Italy	www.ebu.co.uk
Oct 16-23	Monaco Patton	Monte Carlo, Monaco	www.festivalsdusoleil.com
Oct 28-Nov 1	Festival de Bridge d'Avignon	Avignons, France	www.festivalsdusoleil.com
Nov 7-13	Madeira International Festival	Madeira, Portugal	www.fpbridge.com
Nov 14-20	WBF Women's Online Festival	BBO	www.worldbridge.org
Nov 24-Dec 4	ACBL Fall NABC	Orlando, FL	www.acbl.org