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## Editorial

*The opinions expressed here are solely the editor's and do not necessarily represent those of the IBPA Executive or its members.*

We often write in these pages about acts of good sportmanship. The tendency in this, and other bridge publications, is to stress the good in the game whilst, if not ignoring, at least minimising, the bad. So we feel compelled to report the following egregious display of bad sportsmanship and rule-breaking at the first European Winter Games held in Monte Carlo early last month.

The EBL General Conditions of Contest state, in part:

*29. Prohibition on Leaving the Competition. All contestants are expected to participate until the end of the event. Any contestant failing to comply with this rule can expect to be disciplined.*

*34. Play off Regulations for 3<sup>rd</sup> place. The detailed play off Regulations for bronze medals or 3<sup>rd</sup> place as appropriate will be contained within the Supplemental Regulations for each EBL Championship.*

The Supplemental Conditions of Contest for the 1<sup>st</sup> European Winter Games in Monaco from the 5<sup>th</sup> to the 11<sup>th</sup> of February, 2016 further state:

*3. Provisional Schedule of Play. Thursday 10/2/16, 10:00: Championships Final; 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> Play off; BAM Finals.*

*10. Prohibition on Leaving the Competition. Any pair may cease participation in the competition after the last session of the Qualifying stage, provided it so notifies the Head Tournament Director in writing no later than 15 minutes after the publication of the ranking list at the end of the session in question. No pair may cease participation in the competition at any other time without the permission of the Head Tournament Director or the Operations Director, which permission shall only be given if the pair can show good cause.*

We looked up these Condition of Contest after reading an article in the Daily Bulletin of those European Winter Games stating that there would be no playoff for third place because, "neither Lavazza nor Assael was eager to play." The article stated that EBL officials wished the match to take place as per the Conditions of Contest, so both teams would be treated as losing semifinalists for declining to play.

We'd have gone further. Although not personally in favour of a bronze-medal playoff for bridge, if the Conditions of Contest mandate one, the teams must comply. If not, they should be open to sanctions. We would suggest the following: no prize money, no masterpoints, no medals and an appearance before the EBL Disciplinary Commission. A penalty should be imposed – in our opinion, at least one year's probation and possibly a temporary ban from all European competition would be appropriate for the players involved. Such bad sportsmanship and rule-breaking must be discouraged.

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# 1<sup>st</sup> EUROPEAN WINTER GAMES

Jean-Paul Meyer, Paris; Maurizio Di Sacco, Pisa;  
Mark Horton, Sutton Benger, Wilts.; John Carruthers, Kingsville, ON

## 1<sup>st</sup> EBL WINTER GAMES MEDALLISTS

### Zimmermann Cup

#### 1. ZIMMERMANN:

Dominik Filipowicz, Krzysztof Martens,  
Tor Helness, Geir Helgemo,  
Franck Multon, Pierre Zimmermann

#### 2. BLACK:

Andrew Black, Gunnar Hallberg, Willie Whittaker,  
Peter Bertheau, Philip King, Andrew McIntosh

### FMB BAM Teams

#### 1. ERA:

Andrei Arlovich, Erikas Vainikonis, Piotr Zatorski,  
Sjoert Brink, Ron Pachtman, Bas Drijver

#### 2. NETHERLANDS BLUE:

Milan Macura, Tobias Polak,  
Maarten Schollaradt, Tom van Overbeeke

#### 3. NONAME TUR:

Sedat Dinc, Suleyman Kolata, Ismail Kandemir,  
Okay Gur, M.Gokhan Yilmaz

Bridge players from thirty-odd countries came to Monaco to contest the Zimmermann Cup and the FMB (Fédération Monegasque de Bridge) Board-a-Match Teams in the first European Winter Games. Especially notable was the attendance of three Indian teams and the Chinese Women's Team.

Fifty-one teams contested the main event, the Zimmermann Cup. Three days of 5x10-board matches reduced that group to 16 for knockout play. The teams finishing first through fourth chose their Round-of-16 opponents from among the thirteenth-through-sixteenth group, then the remaining eight teams were seeded fifth through twelfth in the fixed-bracket knockout rounds. All knockout matches were single-day 60-board affairs. Non-qualifying teams and new entries competed for the FMB BAM Trophy. Teams losing in the Rounds of 16 and 8 were allowed to drop into the BAM.

## Une Donne Spectaculaire – JPM

This deal from the Swiss Qualifying was spectacular – it was a question of declaring six or seven spades.

### Round 3. Board 23. Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

Four pairs did not attempt any slam and, of the remainder, less than half the field bid seven spades. This was the bidding at the table we watched, featuring Connector (a young pair from Poland, Danuta Kazmucha, South and Cesary Serek, North) versus Zimmermann:

| West   | North           | East       | South           |
|--------|-----------------|------------|-----------------|
| Multon | Serek           | Zimmermann | Kazmucha        |
| —      | —               | —          | INT             |
| Pass   | 2♣              | Pass       | 2♠              |
| Pass   | 3♥ <sup>1</sup> | Pass       | 4♣              |
| Pass   | 4♦              | Pass       | 4♥              |
| Pass   | 4NT             | Pass       | 6♣ <sup>2</sup> |
| Pass   | 7♠              | Pass       | Pass            |
| Pass   |                 |            |                 |

1. Slam try in spades

2. Two key cards, the queen of trumps and either (i) the king of clubs or (ii) the other two side-suit kings

Could anyone be more precise?

West, Multon, led the three of diamonds. Declarer won in hand and played one round of trumps, dropping the jack, and followed with three rounds of diamonds, ruffing the last. She cashed three more rounds of

trumps, West having to throw two diamonds and a heart to keep clubs guarded. After the ace and king of clubs, Kazmucha had a partial count that allowed her to play hearts from top and collect all 13 tricks. That won 13 IMPs when Martens and Filipowicz stopped in six spades.

### Coach Calling – MDS

Coaching a team is a new experience for me, one that I am really enjoying, even though I have already lost a few kilos (for which I am certainly grateful), and bitten all my nails to the quick. Believe me, watching is much more stressful than playing. But having the chance to watch closely some of the best players in the world is something a lover of the game like me can usually only dream about. My team is Lavazza, one of the most successful of all time, which, thanks to the great love for the game of Mrs. Maria Teresa Lavazza, has been around the bridge world since 1969. Many world champions have been on the team during those years, and many youngsters have grown up in it to become top guns. That was the case for Norberto Bocchi and Giorgio Duboin, who started when they were barely twenty (they are now just a bit older), and is now the case for Dennis Bilde, the most recent acquisition, and Agustin Madala, who joined the team ten years ago. Neither is yet thirty. (*Diego Brenner has since joined the Lavazza team. – Ed.*)

I offer a fascinating deal to start with. “Agus” is well-known for finding solutions where nobody else is able to do so, and he demonstrated it once more in the third match of the Swiss Qualifying against a young Dutch team. Netherlands White was a tough challenge for Lavazza. Most of the boards were pushed, even though the deals were not at all flat. With Lavazza leading 9-6, the last chance for a swing hit the table:

#### Board 30. Dealer East. Neither Vul.

♠ Q 3

♥ Q J 8 5

♦ 7 5 4 3

♣ 7 6 2

♠ 9 7 6

♥ A 6 3

♦ 10 8 2

♣ A Q 10 8

♠ K J 8 5 4

♥ K 9

♦ A J 6

♣ K 5 4

♠ A 10 2

♥ 10 7 4 2

♦ K Q 9

♣ J 9 3

| West   | North   | East  | South    |
|--------|---------|-------|----------|
| Duboin | Verbeek | Bilde | Molenaar |
| —      | —       | 1NT   | Pass     |
| 3NT    | Pass    | Pass  | Pass     |

To have a chance, the defence has to find the heart lead, and both South defenders duly did so, tabling the

seven, whereas a high diamond, the second choice, would have been fatal. After the jack of hearts from North, declarer won with the king and reached dummy with a club honour to play a spade, and both Souths won the jack with the ace to continue the heart attack.

To make the contract legitimately, declarer must win with dummy’s ace of hearts, playing for the suit to be 4-4, and play a spade, but declarer decided to duck the heart. North played a third round and declarer was in control.

| West | North  | East      | South     |
|------|--------|-----------|-----------|
| Nab  | Madala | B.Drijver | Bianchedi |
| —    | —      | 1♠        | Pass      |
| 2♣   | Pass   | 2♦        | Pass      |
| 2♠   | Pass   | 3NT       | Pass      |
| Pass | Pass   |           |           |

After the same start, and when declarer made the same mistake of ducking the second heart, Madala unerringly switched to the five of diamonds, and the defence was a tempo ahead. Declarer ducked, but Bianchedi won, and correctly reading his partner’s diamond as high, went back to hearts; 10 well-deserved IMPs for Lavazza, and a 19-6 win.

### The Curious Case of the Dog in the Night-time – MH

#### Round 4. ERA v. BLACK

One of the most popular Sherlock Holmes short stories, “Silver Blaze,” focuses on the disappearance of the eponymous race horse (a famous winner) on the eve of an important race and on the apparent murder of its trainer. The tale is distinguished by its atmospheric Dartmoor setting and late-Victorian sporting milieu. It also features one of Conan Doyle’s most effective plots, hinging on the ‘curious incident of the dog in the night-time’.

Gregory: (Scotland Yard detective): “Is there any other point to which you would wish to draw my attention?”  
Holmes: “To the curious incident of the dog in the night-time.”

Gregory: “The dog did nothing in the night-time.”

Holmes: “That was the curious incident.”

(If for some inexplicable reason you are not familiar with the methods of the world’s most-famous consulting detective, the curious incident of the dog in the night-time is easily explained: the dog made no noise, because no stranger was there. As Holmes explains: “I had grasped the significance of the silence of the dog, for one true inference invariably suggests others ... obviously the midnight visitor was someone whom the dog knew well.”

Put yourself in East’s chair and see if you can apply the great man’s methods to this lead problem.

With both sides vulnerable, you see this auction:

|                 |                 |             |                  |
|-----------------|-----------------|-------------|------------------|
| <b>West</b>     | <b>North</b>    | <b>East</b> | <b>South</b>     |
| <i>McIntosh</i> | <i>Brink</i>    | <i>King</i> | <i>Drijver</i>   |
| 2♠ <sup>1</sup> | 3♥              | Pass        | 4♣ <sup>2</sup>  |
| Pass            | 4♦ <sup>3</sup> | Pass        | 4NT <sup>4</sup> |
| Pass            | 5♠ <sup>5</sup> | Pass        | 7♥               |
| Pass            | Pass            | Pass        |                  |

1. Natural, 8-11
2. Cue bid for hearts
3. Last train
4. RKCB
5. Two key cards and the queen of hearts

As East, you hold:

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

What do you lead? At the table, East led the seven of clubs.

Here is how I think Holmes would have tackled the problem: There is no point in leading a spade as it is unlikely the opponents would have bid a grand slam missing the ace of my partner's suit. If partner had the ace of hearts, he would have doubled. With a void in clubs (or the ace), partner could have doubled for the lead of the first suit bid by dummy. Ergo, I lead a diamond.

It actually transpired that dummy, who knew that a key card was missing, had calculated that, because of the five-spade bid, he expected partner to have seven hearts to the ace-king-(jack) at least (missing the queen). South thought it unlikely declarer would show the queen if he were missing the ace or king and thought it unlikely that East would lead a diamond. This was the full deal:

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

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

"Elementary, my dear Watson."

### Sweet Dreams – MH

A nightmare is an unpleasant dream that can cause a strong emotional response from the mind, typically fear, but also despair, anxiety and great sadness. The dream may contain situations of discomfort, psychological or physical terror. Sufferers often awaken in a state of distress and may be unable to return to sleep for some time.

The following match was the stuff of nightmares, featuring as it did some of the most testing deals the players have encountered thus far.

### Round 5. Board 16. Dealer West. EW Vul.

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

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

Would you like to be in six hearts? Clearly the answer is yes, as you will score three club tricks 61.86% of the time (and there are some additional chances, as you will see). This is how things panned out when two of the favourites met:

|               |                 |              |                   |
|---------------|-----------------|--------------|-------------------|
| <b>West</b>   | <b>North</b>    | <b>East</b>  | <b>South</b>      |
| <i>Duboin</i> | <i>Martens</i>  | <i>Bilde</i> | <i>Filipowicz</i> |
| Pass          | 1♣ <sup>1</sup> | Pass         | 1♥ <sup>2</sup>   |
| Pass          | 1♠              | Pass         | 2♣                |
| Pass          | 2♠              | Pass         | 3♥                |
| Pass          | 4♥              | Pass         | Pass              |
| Pass          |                 |              |                   |

1. Polish Club: (i) 12-14 balanced (ii) natural, 15+ HCP (iii) 18+ HCP
2. Four-plus hearts, 8 HCP or more

In his unambitious contract, declarer won the diamond lead in hand, crossed to the ace of spades, ruffed a spade, crossed to dummy with a diamond and ruffed another spade, East pitching a club. A club to the queen lost to the king and East exited with a trump. Declarer won in dummy and tried to cash the ace of clubs but East ruffed, holding declarer to ten tricks.

|                |                 |                |                  |
|----------------|-----------------|----------------|------------------|
| <b>West</b>    | <b>North</b>    | <b>East</b>    | <b>South</b>     |
| <i>Helgemo</i> | <i>Madala</i>   | <i>Helness</i> | <i>Bianchedi</i> |
| Pass           | 2NT             | Pass           | 4♣ <sup>1</sup>  |
| Pass           | 4♠ <sup>2</sup> | Pass           | 5♦ <sup>3</sup>  |
| Pass           | 5♠ <sup>4</sup> | Pass           | 6♥ <sup>5</sup>  |
| Pass           | Pass            | Pass           |                  |

1. Heart slam try
2. RKCB
3. Two key cards, no queen of hearts
4. King ask
5. No kings

West led the five of clubs. Declarer played low from dummy, East winning with the king and returning the six to dummy's queen. Declarer cashed the ace of spades, ruffed a spade and cashed the king of hearts, West pitching the six of spades. A diamond to the king was followed by a spade ruff, but there was now no way to come to more than eleven tricks.



Photo: Francesca Canali

The winners of the 1<sup>st</sup> European Winter Games (l. to r.): Dominik Filipowicz, Tor Helness, Geir Helgemo, Franck Multon, Krzysztof Martens and Pierre Zimmermann, with EBL President Yves Aubrey and FMB President Jean-Charles Allavena

Declarer went wrong in using the diamond entry to dummy prematurely. He should draw trumps, ruffing just one spade in the process. On the trumps, West discards four diamonds or three diamonds and one spade. Then, on the king of diamonds and a diamond to the ace in dummy, West would have been forced to bare the king of spades or the jack of clubs. The squeeze is transparent.

### The Good, the Bad and the Ugly – MH

#### KO Round of 16

*The Good, the Bad and the Ugly* is a 1966 Italian epic Spaghetti Western film directed by Sergio Leone, starring Clint Eastwood, Lee Van Cleef, and Eli Wallach in the title roles respectively. The plot revolves around three gunslingers competing to find a buried cache of Confederate gold amid the violent chaos of the American Civil War. One deal in the third session of the round of 16 could have been ascribed to each of the characters.

#### The Good ...

##### Board 46. Dealer East. EW Vul.

♠ 10 8 2  
♥ 8 4 3 2  
♦ Q 8 3  
♣ 9 4 3

♠ A K J 6 4  
♥ K 7 6 5  
♦ A J  
♣ 8 7

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

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

| West                | North  | East    | South   |
|---------------------|--------|---------|---------|
| Molenaar            | Bessis | Verbeek | Volcker |
| —                   | —      | 1♣      | 1♥      |
| Double <sup>1</sup> | Pass   | 3♣      | Pass    |
| 4♣                  | Pass   | 5♥      | Pass    |
| 6♣                  | Pass   | Pass    | Pass    |
| 1. Spades           |        |         |         |

Whatever message East was trying to convey to West (perhaps: "I have solid clubs and a heart void.") was lost in translation. Or was West answering Exclusion Key Card Blackwood?

| West                | North   | East            | South |
|---------------------|---------|-----------------|-------|
| Klukowski           | Drijver | Gawrys          | Nab   |
| —                   | —       | 1♣ <sup>1</sup> | 2♥    |
| Double <sup>2</sup> | 4♥      | 5♣              | Pass  |
| 7♣                  | Pass    | Pass            | Pass  |

1. Polish Club: (i) 12-14 balanced (ii) natural, 15+ HCP (iii) 18+ HCP
2. Negative (2♠ would not have been forcing)

One tends to forget that in these days of hyper-aggression in the auction, judgement plays an essential role and West exercised his to the maximum. Looking at four hearts it seemed clear that East must be void and he clearly held a powerful club suit. Backing his judgement, West went all in, a brilliant decision that secured plus 2140 and 13 IMPs and must make this a candidate for best bid hand of the year.

#### The Bad ...

| West                | North | East   | South        |
|---------------------|-------|--------|--------------|
| Versace             | Polak | Lauria | v. Overbeeke |
| —                   | —     | 1♣     | 1♥           |
| Double <sup>1</sup> | 3♥    | 5♣     | Pass         |
| 5♦                  | Pass  | 5♥     | Pass         |
| 5♠                  | Pass  | 6♣     | Pass         |
| Pass                | Pass  |        |              |

1. Spades

West must have been sure his partner held a heart void, but perhaps fearing a non-solid club suit (say, missing the queen) he was unwilling to advance.

| West                | North     | East            | South      |
|---------------------|-----------|-----------------|------------|
| Schollardt          | Gierulski | Macura          | Skrzypczak |
| —                   | —         | 1♣              | 1♥         |
| Double <sup>1</sup> | 3♥        | 4♥              | Pass       |
| 4NT <sup>2</sup>    | Pass      | 6♣ <sup>3</sup> | Pass       |
| 7♠ <sup>4</sup>     | Pass      | Pass            | Pass       |

1. Spades
2. RKCB for spades
3. Two key cards and a higher-ranking void, but for clubs
4. East's six-club bid does not make sense if he has agreed spades: he cannot have a club void on the bidding

East intended his four-heart bid to show a solid suit but, as he discovered, the danger was that his partner assumed it showed a spade fit, even though the six-club bid was inconsistent with this. Declarer ruffed the heart lead and played a spade to the jack. He was soon entering plus 2210 onto his score sheet, along with 13 IMPs.

## The Ugly ...

| West                | North            | East             | South          |
|---------------------|------------------|------------------|----------------|
| <i>Combescore</i>   | <i>Lorenzini</i> | <i>Bernard</i>   | <i>Quantin</i> |
| —                   | —                | 3NT <sup>1</sup> | Pass           |
| Pass                | Pass             |                  |                |
| 1. Solid minor suit |                  |                  |                |

With a four-card suit on the side and a void, three notrump is pretty dreadful. Even so, West should have bid six clubs but, when he passed, an even worse fate was in store. South led the queen of hearts, and declarer ducked, North following with the four. The jack of hearts was ducked, North contributing the three, and on the next trick South's ten of hearts left declarer with a nasty guess, which he got wrong, minus 100.

| West                | North           | East          | South        |
|---------------------|-----------------|---------------|--------------|
| <i>Wrang</i>        | <i>Deheeger</i> | <i>Ventin</i> | <i>Labbé</i> |
| —                   | —               | 1♣            | 1♥           |
| Double <sup>1</sup> | Pass            | 3♣            | Pass         |
| 4♣                  | Pass            | 4♥            | Pass         |
| 4♠                  | Pass            | 6♣            | Pass         |
| Pass                | Pass            |               |              |
| 1. Spades           |                 |               |              |

I don't see why East was in such a hurry to bid six clubs – it looks routine to bid five diamonds, after which West would have certainly considered the possibility of a grand slam. East/West could afford to smile – they picked up 16 IMPs.

Before I leave this deal, I must mention what happened in the last of the matches being featured on BBO:

| West         | North           | East             | South           |
|--------------|-----------------|------------------|-----------------|
| <i>Padon</i> | <i>Hallberg</i> | <i>de Botton</i> | <i>Bertheau</i> |
| —            | —               | 1♣               | 1♥              |
| 1♠           | INT!            | Double           | Pass            |
| Pass         | 2♥              | 3♣               | Pass            |
| 6♣           | Pass            | Pass             | Pass            |

What a pity Gunnar Hallberg did not emulate Terence Reese by passing out one notrump doubled. No doubt he would have been minus 1700, but what a story he would have had to tell if his teammates had reached seven clubs. (On the other hand, imagine he was scoring up with the French Juniors: minus 100 in three notrump!)

| West        | North            | East            | South           |
|-------------|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| <i>King</i> | <i>Sandqvist</i> | <i>McIntosh</i> | <i>Townsend</i> |
| —           | —                | 1♣              | 3♥              |
| 3♠          | 5♥               | 6♣              | Pass            |
| Pass        | Pass             |                 |                 |

Nic Sandqvist's brilliantly-timed bid left East/West with no room to manoeuvre and West was unwilling to gamble.

## Down to the Wire – MDS

Vytas was the favourite to win its Round-of-16 match against the mainly Dutch team, Netherlands Blue.

However, the opposition was expected to be tough, and so it proved. After two segments – 40 boards played and 20 more to go – Vytas led 89-80, still anybody's match. Vytas looked to be on the way out after this deal:

### Round of 16. Segment 3.

#### Board 56. Dealer West. EW Vul.

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

| West           | North            | East          | South               |
|----------------|------------------|---------------|---------------------|
| <i>Versace</i> | <i>Polak</i>     | <i>Lauria</i> | <i>v. Overbeeke</i> |
| Pass           | 1♣ <sup>1</sup>  | Pass          | 1♠ <sup>2</sup>     |
| Pass           | INT <sup>3</sup> | Pass          | 3NT                 |
| Pass           | Pass             | Pass          |                     |

1. Two-plus clubs, natural; or 15+ HCP balanced
2. Denies four-card major; requests notrump rebid if balanced
3. 15-17 balanced

Lauria, for Vytas, led the seven of spades. Polak, the Netherlands Blue declarer, put up dummy's jack and ducked West's queen. He won the spade continuation and presented the jack of diamonds for Lauria to contribute an interesting ten. This convinced Polak to win it with the king and to follow with a club to his ace, and a low club to East's queen. A third round of spades saw declarer win and run the nine of diamonds, followed by two more rounds of the suit. Polak continued with the ten of clubs, covered by the jack, and had to decide whether to play for East to hold the ace of hearts or to play the fourth club to endplay West. He chose the latter: bingo!

| West              | North            | East          | South             |
|-------------------|------------------|---------------|-------------------|
| <i>Schollardt</i> | <i>Gierulski</i> | <i>Macura</i> | <i>Skrzypczak</i> |
| Pass              | INT              | Pass          | 3NT               |
| Pass              | Pass             | Pass          |                   |

Macura led the eight of spades. Gierulski ducked it in dummy, five, three, to win in his hand with the ace and play the jack of diamonds, covered by East's queen and won by dummy's ace. Declarer then led a club to the eight and East's queen. A second spade followed: two, jack, queen, four, and then a third round, which declarer won, to lead the nine of diamonds, ten, king, leaving (see top of next page):

Declarer didn't cash dummy's diamond winners – the seven was a potential impediment to that plan.

♠ —  
 ♥ J 6  
 ♦ 6  
 ♣ K 8

♠ —  
 ♥ A Q 5  
 ♦ 7  
 ♣ J 9

♠ 2  
 ♥ 10 7 4 3  
 ♦ 3  
 ♣ —

♠ —  
 ♥ K 9 8  
 ♦ 8 5  
 ♣ 10

In the diagrammed position, declarer tried the clubs, leading the ten to the jack and king. On this trick, East discarded the three of diamonds, revealing that West surely had the seven. Declarer realised that West could not be endplayed in clubs (the defence would have five winners), so led a heart to the king. That was one down and 10 IMPs to Netherlands Blue. With four boards to go, Netherlands Blue led by 2 IMPs, but Vytas outscored them 3-0 over those boards to win by 1 IMP.

### The Best of Enemies – MDS

Very few players, if any, have sat at the same bridge table as many times as Lauria/Versace and the Italian members of the Lavazza Team. Thus, I'm commenting on a match between long-time friends.

#### QF 1. Board 5. Dealer North. NS Vul.

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

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

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

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

| West      | North      | East    | South   |
|-----------|------------|---------|---------|
| Bianchedi | Vainikonis | Madala  | Olanski |
| Lauria    | Bocchi     | Versace | Bilde   |
| —         | Pass       | 1♥      | Pass    |
| 1♠        | Pass       | 2♦      | Pass    |
| 2♥        | Pass       | 3♥      | Pass    |
| 4♥        | Pass       | Pass    | Pass    |

It is rare to see two world champions play a deal very differently, but this is what happened here with Agustin Madala and Alfredo Versace, both members of the winning Italian team in the 2013 Bermuda Bowl. Both received the lead of a top club, ruffed. Madala cashed the ace and king of hearts, then finessed the ten of diamonds. He was doomed by the diamond split, the eight preventing the run of the suit.

Versace played diamonds at trick two, putting up the queen. There was no defense against this move. Declarer won the heart shift in hand, cashed the ace and king of spades and reached dummy with the trump ace. He cashed the queen of spades and ran the ten of diamonds. It didn't matter whether North covered or not, and even with the jack of diamonds offside, East had already secured ten tricks, and 10 IMPs.

*(But what if, at Versace's table, the queen of diamonds had lost to the ace and a diamond had been returned? Then, if declarer ducks and South wins with the jack and plays a third diamond, declarer risks a ruff by North; if instead, declarer rises with the king of diamonds on a diamond back, he risks a ruff by South.*

*Perhaps the best line is to take the king of hearts, the ace and king of spades, the ace of hearts and the queen of spades. Even if the second spade is ruffed, you still have chances in diamonds, especially if the ruff of a spade is from a three-card heart holding. Versace took the ace and king of spades before a second trump anyway. Why not do it first? - Ed.)*

### Your Lead, Partner – MH

We have encountered a number of fascinating lead problems in these Championships and the semifinal between Black and Lavazza produced some more. From the first session of that match, this lead question arose...

#### SF1. Board 4. Dealer West. Both Vul.

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

♠ 9 7  
 ♥ J 9 6 4 3  
 ♦ Q 10 4  
 ♣ 10 7 6

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

♠ 10 8 5  
 ♥ A K 10 8 2  
 ♦ 6  
 ♣ K J 8 2

| West   | North    | East   | South    |
|--------|----------|--------|----------|
| Duboin | Bertheau | Bilde  | Hallberg |
| Pass   | Pass     | 1♣     | 1♥       |
| Pass   | 2♣       | Pass   | 4♥       |
| Pass   | Pass     | Double | Pass     |
| Pass   | Pass     |        |          |

West led the six of clubs. Hallberg won with dummy's ace, cashed the ace of diamonds, ruffed a diamond and played on cross ruff lines, pitching a spade on the king of clubs, soon claiming his contract, for plus 790. I can hear your question – "Should West have found the essential spade lead?"

To which I can reply, once East had not doubled two clubs (the Holmes Theory), West should have looked elsewhere – and a spade is the obvious alternative.

| West  | North  | East      | South     |
|-------|--------|-----------|-----------|
| Black | Bocchi | Whittaker | Bianchedi |
| Pass  | 1♦     | Pass      | 1♥        |
| Pass  | 1♠     | Pass      | 2♣        |
| Pass  | 2♦     | Pass      | 2NT       |
| Pass  | 3♥     | Pass      | 4♥        |
| Pass  | Pass   | Pass      |           |

In *Winning Suit Contract Leads*, David Bird and Taf Anthias show that leading a doubleton can be highly effective. When West led the seven of spades, declarer was doomed from the start. East played four rounds of spades, declarer ruffing with the ten of hearts and West discarding, first a club, then a diamond. That allowed declarer to travel to the ace of clubs, play the ace of diamonds and ruff a diamond, then cash the king of clubs. West had been reduced to his five trumps and could only score one of them for one off, but 13 IMPs to Black.

Then came two more, both of which had a common theme – what to lead against a notrump contract from a five-card suit headed by the ace-king-ten.

### SF2. Board 34. Dealer East. Neither Vul.

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

| West     | North  | East  | South    |
|----------|--------|-------|----------|
| Duboin   | King   | Bilde | McIntosh |
| —        | —      | Pass  | 1♣       |
| INT      | Double | Pass  | Pass     |
| Redouble | Pass   | Pass  | Pass     |

In this age (or for that matter, any age) of light openings, North's double is hardly gilt-edged but, had he led a low diamond, his side would have been ahead in the race for seven tricks.

When North actually tabled the ace of diamonds, the damage was already done, but things got worse when North continued with the ten of diamonds. Declarer won with dummy's jack and played a heart to the queen, followed by a club to the jack and ace. South exited with a spade and declarer cashed four tricks in the suit, followed by the king of clubs. When the ten

appeared from North, Duboin exited with a heart to endplay South – two overtricks and plus 960.

At the other table:

| West  | North           | East      | South     |
|-------|-----------------|-----------|-----------|
| Black | Bocchi          | Whittaker | Bianchedi |
| —     | —               | Pass      | 1♣        |
| Pass  | 1♠ <sup>1</sup> | Pass      | 1NT       |
| Pass  | Pass            | Pass      |           |

1. Denies four-card major; requests notrump rebid if minimum balanced; may have diamonds

West led the four of spades. East won with the nine and returned the six, West winning with the queen and returning the ten to East's king. Now East needed to find a club switch – when he returned the four of hearts, declarer won with the ace and played a diamond to the ten (should West have tried playing the queen?). East won with the jack and belatedly switched to clubs. Declarer ducked and West won with the queen, cashed a spade and exited with a heart to declarer's king. Four diamonds, two hearts and the ace of clubs added up to seven tricks, plus 90 and 14 IMPs to Lavazza.

### SF3. Board 44. Dealer West. Both Vul.

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

| West     | North  | East     | South     |
|----------|--------|----------|-----------|
| Hallberg | Bocchi | Bertheau | Bianchedi |
| Pass     | 1♠     | Double   | 2♠        |
| 2NT      | Pass   | 3NT      | Pass      |
| Pass     | Pass   |          |           |

Bocchi led the ace of spades and when Bianchedi followed with the seven, he continued with the five, declarer taking South's jack with the queen. Hallberg played on diamonds, pleased to see them break, and, on the fourth round, South pitched the five of hearts, while declarer and North threw clubs. Declarer cashed the top hearts and exited with the nine of spades to endplay North – a magnificent plus 600.

Should North have found a low spade lead? Threatened with the loss of four spade tricks, declarer can only play as above, but when he exits with the nine of spades, North wins and puts South in with the seven. After cashing two hearts, South plays a club, securing a fifth trick for the defence.

| West   | North | East   | South    |
|--------|-------|--------|----------|
| Duboin | King  | Bilde  | McIntosh |
| Pass   | 1♠    | Double | 2♠       |
| Double | Pass  | 2NT    | Pass     |
| 3♣     | Pass  | Pass   | Pass     |

King cashed the ace of spades and switched to the nine of hearts. Duboin won, cashed the second heart, played a diamond to the ace and ruffed a heart with the four of clubs. North could overruff, but declarer was in control and soon claimed ten tricks, plus 130 which however represented a loss of 10 IMPs.

### Olé Alejandro – JC

SF3. Board 52. Dealer West. NS Vul.

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

| West   | North | East            | South    |
|--------|-------|-----------------|----------|
| Duboin | King  | Bilde           | McIntosh |
| 1♠     | Pass  | 3♦ <sup>1</sup> | Pass     |
| 4♣     | Pass  | Pass            | Pass     |

1. Limit raise; four-plus spades

King led the jack of hearts. Duboin won with the king in dummy and started on diamonds immediately, leading low to the ten and North's king. With no entry now for a heart trick, even if they had one, King shifted to the seven of clubs. McIntosh tried to cash two clubs, but declarer ruffed the second, drew trumps ending in the dummy and led another diamond, establishing the queen for a discard of dummy's losing heart when South went up with the ace. That was plus 420 for Duboin.

At the other table:

| West     | North  | East    | South     |
|----------|--------|---------|-----------|
| Hallberg | Bocchi | Berthea | Bianchedi |
| 1♠       | Pass   | 3♠      | Pass      |
| 4♣       | Pass   | Pass    | Pass      |

Bianchedi showed that four spades was not impregnable. Bocchi also led the jack of hearts and Hallberg also won with the king in dummy to lead a diamond. Here, however, Bianchedi defended superbly, popping up with the ace to lead a high club. When he received an even-number count signal from Bocchi, South shifted back to hearts, leading the queen to declarer's ace. Hallberg drew

trumps ending in the dummy and led another diamond, to the nine and North's king. Bocchi had a heart to cash for the defence's fourth trick, plus 50; 10 IMPs to Lavazza.

### The Gunner – JC

Final. Segment 3. Board 41. Dealer North. Neither Vul.

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

| West    | North    | East    | South    |
|---------|----------|---------|----------|
| Helgemo | Hallberg | Helness | Bertheau |
| —       | Pass     | 2♦      | Double   |
| Pass    | 3♥       | Pass    | 3♠       |
| Pass    | 3NT      | Pass    | Pass     |
| Pass    |          |         |          |

There is more than one way home in three notrump and Gunnar Hallberg found an elegant path to nine tricks. Helness (East) led the four of clubs. Declarer ducked in the dummy and Helgemo won with his queen and continued with the ten. Hallberg won this in the dummy with the king, unblocked the ace of hearts and crossed to the jack of clubs in hand. When he took the king of hearts, East's jack fell. Hallberg led his spade to the eight, ten and jack. West shifted to his diamond to East's queen and declarer's ace. Declarer took dummy's winning club and played the ace and nine of spades, discarding one heart and two diamonds from hand. West was down to hearts and spades and dummy's spades were high, so West led a heart. Hallberg, with a complete count on the deal, inserted his nine, and the queen of hearts was his ninth trick; plus 400. Well done.

| West | North  | East     | South   |
|------|--------|----------|---------|
| King | Multon | McIntosh | Martens |
| —    | Pass   | Pass     | 1♠      |
| Pass | 1NT    | 2♦       | 3♦      |
| Pass | 3♥     | Pass     | 3♠      |
| Pass | 3NT    | Pass     | Pass    |
| Pass |        |          |         |

Multon had a much easier time of it when McIntosh started with the king of diamonds and, later in the play, King, in desperation, led the queen of clubs. Multon emerged with ten tricks. Hallberg's elegance had lost him an IMP.

Three boards later...

**Final. Segment 3.**

**Board 44. Dealer West. Both Vul.**

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

| West    | North    | East    | South    |
|---------|----------|---------|----------|
| Helgemo | Hallberg | Helness | Bertheau |
| 2♦      | Double   | 3♦      | 4♦       |
| Pass    | 4♠       | Pass    | Pass     |
| Pass    |          |         |          |

Bertheau's aggressive four-diamond call ensured reaching the correct strain, if not the right level. Helness led the five of diamonds to the ten and ace. With a lot of work to do, declarer ruffed a diamond and led a trump, inserting the nine from hand. There was good news and bad news to follow: the good news was that East had to win with the king; the bad news was that East continued spades to West's ace and West then led the ten of spades back. On this trick, Helness refused to provide Hallberg with an inferential count, discarding the king of diamonds rather than his 'idle' fifth heart.

The question for Hallberg now was how to tackle the rounded suits. The percentage play is to cash the ace and king of one of those suits, then, if the queen has not dropped, finesse for the queen in the other suit. There was one little wrinkle, however. On this deal, if he took the ace and king of hearts, not dropping the queen, then the ace of clubs and another club, intending to run it, East might foil that plan by covering with the queen if the suit was not 3-3. With that potential blockage in mind, Hallberg cashed the ace and king of clubs and the king of hearts, then ran the jack of hearts through East. That resulted in a very efficient plus 620. Peter Bertheau resolved to bid game on every deal on which Hallberg was to be the declarer.

| West | North  | East     | South   |
|------|--------|----------|---------|
| King | Multon | McIntosh | Martens |
| Pass | INT    | Pass     | 2♣      |
| 2♦   | 2♠     | 3♦       | 4♠      |
| Pass | Pass   | Pass     |         |

Martens had a bit more reason to contract for game than had Bertheau. The defence against Multon started similarly: McIntosh led a diamond to North's

ace; North ruffed a diamond and led a trump. However, when declarer put up the queen from hand, he was doomed; West took the queen with the king and led another spade. West took his two spade winners and a diamond, then led another diamond (East had also discarded his king of diamonds on the third spade). On these diamonds, East discarded two hearts, retaining three low clubs. Declarer threw clubs from the dummy and played three rounds of hearts to East's queen, making two clubs and a heart at the end. That was two off and 13 IMPs to Black.



Photo: Francesca Canali

FMB BAM Teams winners (l. to r.): Ron Pachtman, Sjoert Brink, Erikas Vainikonis, Bas Drijver, Andrei Arlovich, Piotr Zatorski

**The Breakfast Club – MH**

*The Breakfast Club* is a 1985 John Hughes coming-of-age comedy-drama film which follows five teenagers, each a member of a different high-school clique, who spend a Saturday in detention together and come to realize that they are all more than their respective stereotypes, all the while facing a strict disciplinarian principal.

At a major event it is not unusual to pick up a good story over breakfast, and I collected one from the legendary Gunnar Hallberg here. Coincidentally, it features one of the many talented juniors competing here in Monaco, Sweden's Simon Hult, in the FMB Board-a-Match Teams.

**FMB BAM Teams. Session 2.**

**Dealer East. EW Vul.**

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

| West            | North | East        | South |
|-----------------|-------|-------------|-------|
| <i>Ekenberg</i> |       | <i>Hult</i> |       |
| —               | —     | 1NT         | Pass  |
| 2♥ <sup>1</sup> | Pass  | 2♠          | Pass  |
| 3♦              | Pass  | 4♠          | Pass  |
| Pass            | Pass  |             |       |

1. Transfer to spades

One notrump allegedly showed a good 13 to 16 HCP. South led the jack of clubs. Declarer won with the ace and played a diamond, ducked by South, to the queen, followed by a diamond to the ace. After ruffing a club he played a third round of diamonds and South won and exited with a club. Declarer ruffed in dummy, cashed the ace spades, played a spade to the king and ran the jack of hearts. North won, but was now faced with the prospect of offering up a ruff and discard, or leading away from the nine of hearts. Not a bad way to win a board!



### Ron Klinger, Northbridge, NSW

<http://www.RonKlingerBridge.com>

The Australian National Open Teams is the premier event at the annual Summer Festival of Bridge, held in Canberra each year in January.

In the semifinals of this year's NOT, LAVAZZA (Maria Teresa Lavazza, Norberto Bocchi, Giorgio Duboin, Agustin Madala, Dennis Bilde, Alejandro Bianchedi) defeated NEILL (Bruce Neill, Richard Jedrychowski, Terry Brown, Avi Kanetkar, Peter Fordham, Kim Morrison) by 155-58, and MILNER (Reese Milner, Justin Lall, Hemant Lall, Jacek Pszczola, Ishmael Del'Monte, Nick Jacob) defeated MILNE (Liam Milne, Nye Griffiths, Ashley Bach, GeO Tislevoll, Paul Gosney, Andy Hung) by 158-90.

Those two teams had qualified handily for the knockout portion of the event, LAVAZZA breezing through undefeated and handing MILNER its only loss, and both had won their quarterfinal and semifinal matches in rousing fashion.

On the following deal, one side played in one notrump, the other in three notrump. One side went two down, the other made an overtrick. Nothing unusual there, except it was the side in three notrump that made the overtrick and the declarer in one notrump who went two down!

### Board 26. Dealer West. Both Vul.

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

| West             | North       | East         | South            |
|------------------|-------------|--------------|------------------|
| <i>Del'Monte</i> | <i>Bach</i> | <i>Jacob</i> | <i>Tislevoll</i> |
| 1NT <sup>1</sup> | 2♠          | 3NT          | Pass             |
| Pass             | Pass        |              |                  |
|                  | 1. 11-14    |              |                  |

North leads the five of spades, fourth-highest, three from dummy. What would you play as South?

After the diagrammed auction, North led the five of spades: three, eight, queen – an excellent falsecard – instead of the ten. Declarer played the six of clubs to the queen and a club to the king and ace. North continued spades, leading the king to the ace. West cashed the jack of clubs and led the ten of diamonds, queen, ace, for ten tricks and plus 630.

North might have chosen a non-spade lead, but South could have helped by playing the two of spades at trick one. From the Rule of 11, South could tell that West had two spades higher than the five. North's spades could not have been headed by king-queen-jack, queen-jack-ten or king-jack-ten, as he'd have led an appropriate honour – and so West must have two honours and the spade eight was futile. Had South done that, maybe North would have found the heart switch.

At the other table, it went one diamond – one spade – one notrump – all pass. South led the seven of hearts and the defence took six hearts, a spade and the ace of clubs for two down; East-West plus 200 and 13 IMPs.

In the other match, LAVAZZA played in two hearts North/South, plus 140 and three clubs East/West, plus 110 and plus 6 IMPs.

In the final LAVAZZA defeated MILNER 150-124. Here are a few boards from that very entertaining match:

*Continued on page 14 ...*



# IBPA Column Service

Tim Bourke, Canberra

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

## 797. Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

| West | North | East | South |
|------|-------|------|-------|
| —    | —     | —    | 2NT   |
| Pass | 3NT   | Pass | Pass  |
| Pass |       |      |       |

West led the queen of hearts and declarer took the trick with his king. Declarer's next move was to cash the ace of clubs and the contract could no longer be made. Dummy was unsympathetic when declarer complained about his bad luck in running into an offside 5-0 club break.

"Bad luck had nothing to do with the outcome," said North. "True, you have an uncommon safety play, but all you had to do was form a plan before playing to the second trick. You had seven top tricks and you had to develop the two extra tricks in clubs. As that would have been an easy task if West had started with at least one club, you should have focused on how to overcome West being void in the suit. A little thought would have shown that the way to do that was to lead the two of clubs at trick two, intending to play the ten unless West played the queen."

North continued, "On the given layout, East would have taken the ten of clubs with the queen and returned a heart to your ace. After playing the queen of diamonds to dummy's king, you would then have played dummy's four of clubs to your eight. After cashing the ace of clubs, you would then have returned to dummy with the jack of diamonds to cash the king and jack of clubs. On this suggested approach you would have made at least nine tricks no matter how the cards had lain: two hearts, three diamonds and four clubs."

## 798. Dealer East. Neither Vul.

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

| West | North | East | South |
|------|-------|------|-------|
| —    | —     | 2♥   | 2♠    |
| 4♥   | 5♠    | Pass | 6♠    |
| Pass | Pass  | Pass |       |

North's jump to five spades asked South to bid six if he had a heart control. While South did have a first-round control in hearts, the fact that he was pretty much minimum for his overcall argued against a first-round control-bid of six hearts along the way to the spade slam.

West led the ten of hearts to declarer's ace. Declarer counted ten top tricks with an eleventh available from a heart ruff. The extra trick could come from the club suit or from a winning diamond finesse. Clearly, the club suit should be tested first with the diamond finesse as a fallback.

After drawing trumps with the ace and queen, declarer placed East with eight cards in the majors. As a result, declarer rated the normal play in clubs of ace, king and another as too fragile an approach to the suit – it would lose when West started with queen-ten-to-four or -five. Also, when West did start with four or five clubs in length in the club suit, it became less likely that the secondary chance of a successful finesse in diamonds would succeed.

After some thought, declarer developed a plan that would always bring a twelfth trick as long as East started with six hearts. First, he cashed the ace of clubs, then ruffed dummy's remaining heart. Next he led a low club towards dummy's king-nine. When West followed with a low club, declarer called for dummy's nine and, when that held, he had twelve tricks.

West suggested that this was a lucky play. Declarer retorted, "You should see that this plan succeeds against any club layout. If East takes the nine of clubs with the ten and the suit is 3-3, then dummy's jack of diamonds can be discarded on the thirteenth club. If you began with five or six clubs then this approach will always produce an extra trick in the suit. It also works when East takes the nine with the queen or a doubleton ten: in the latter case, East will be endplayed and forced to concede an extra trick either by leading a diamond into dummy's tenace or to conceding a ruff-and-discard. Finally, if East started with four clubs, then he could have at most one diamond; so, after cashing the ace of diamonds, finessing the jack of diamonds would produce a guaranteed twelfth trick."

**799. Dealer South. Both Vul.**

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

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

After the session was over, North said that he would have bid the grand slam in spades if the auction had been uncontested: on this auction he expected at least one of the black suits to break in an inconvenient manner.

West led the king of diamonds to dummy's ace. Declarer saw that as long as the trumps played without loss he would have twelve top tricks, with a thirteenth available from a diamond ruff. However, his job was to make twelve tricks as safely as possible rather than thirteen somewhat riskily.

The main roadblock to making his contract would be if West had four trumps headed by the jack. In that case, drawing trumps would result in at most 11 tricks.

After some thought, declarer found a way to neutralise that threat: he called for dummy's nine of trumps and ran it when East played low. West won it with the jack of trumps and exited with a club, taken by declarer in hand with the ten. After ruffing a diamond with

dummy's queen of trumps, declarer then drew the outstanding trumps and claimed twelve tricks: he made four trumps, the red aces, a diamond ruff and five clubs.

**800. Dealer South. Both Vul.**

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

| West   | North | East | South |
|--------|-------|------|-------|
| —      | —     | —    | 1♠    |
| Double | 2♠    | Pass | 4♠    |
| Pass   | Pass  | Pass |       |

West led the queen of diamonds. Declarer counted seven winners with an eighth trick to come from a diamond ruff in dummy. As he would make ten tricks if the trumps were 3-2, declarer turned his attention to what could be done against a 4-1 break in the suit. The only option then was to try and elope with his low trumps by ruffing hearts.

As a result, declarer took the queen of diamonds in hand with his ace, cashed the ace of hearts and played another heart. East won the trick with the jack of hearts and shifted to the ten of clubs. Declarer took that trick with the ace of clubs and played the queen of spades and another to dummy's king. Declarer's preparations had put him in a strong position to deal with a 4-1 break in trumps.

After cashing the king of diamonds, declarer ruffed a heart and was pleased to see that East followed. Next, declarer ruffed his remaining diamond in dummy and led dummy's last heart. If East had ruffed this, declarer would have discarded a club and would later have taken two tricks with the ace and eight of trumps, again making his contract. At the table, East discarded a club and declarer ruffed the heart with his eight of trumps. The ace of trumps was his tenth trick.

Note that if West has begun with five hearts, it would have done no good for West to play a third heart himself. If East had ruffed in, declarer would have discarded a club and made the contract easily with five trumps, the ace of hearts, two diamonds, a diamond ruff and the ace of clubs (unless West had five diamonds too). If East had discarded on the third round of hearts, declarer would have played more or less as in the preceding description, making sure to cash the ace of clubs early.

**Board 18. Dealer East. N/S Vul.**

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

| West             | North         | East         | South            |
|------------------|---------------|--------------|------------------|
| <i>Del'Monte</i> | <i>Madala</i> | <i>Jacob</i> | <i>Bianchedi</i> |
| —                | —             | 1♠           | 3♣ <sup>1</sup>  |
| 3♠!              | 6♥            | Double       | Pass             |
| Pass             | Pass          |              |                  |
| 1. Red suits     |               |              |                  |

Played by North, six hearts is unbeatable. East led the seven of hearts, won by the queen. North led the ten of spades. East took the ace and continued with another trump, the eight. Declarer won that with the ace, cashed the jack of clubs, drew the last trump with the king of hearts, and had twelve tricks; plus 1660.

At the other table, however, East opened one spade, South bid two spades, showing hearts and a minor and ended in six hearts after North had cue-bid spades. West led the three of clubs: two, five, jack. How would you plan the play?

A diamond lead would have defeated six hearts by South, but there was no reason West should have chosen that lead. After the club-three lead, won by the jack, a good start for South is to play a spade and set up three spade winners in dummy.

There is little risk in playing a spade at once. With a singleton spade, West would have led it. If East plays anything but a diamond, South can draw trumps, ending in dummy, and discard all the diamonds from hand on the black-suit winners. If East takes the ace of spades and switches to the ace of diamonds, dummy ruffs low and plays a top club. If East ruffs, South over-ruffs and can draw trumps.

In practice, Justin Lall, South, won the club lead with the jack, cashed the ace of hearts and crossed to the queen of hearts. He next played the ace of clubs. East ruffed in with the jack of hearts and South discarded the eight of spades. East exited with a low diamond. South won with the jack and ruffed a diamond in dummy, but he could not avoid going two down for minus 200 and a loss of 18 IMPs.

On the following deal (see *top of next column*), when Jacob chose to play in spades and Madala doubled,

Del'Monte's spade support and controls convinced him to turn the cube.

**Board 31. Dealer West. EW Vul.**

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

| West             | North            | East          | South        |
|------------------|------------------|---------------|--------------|
| <i>Bianchedi</i> | <i>Del'Monte</i> | <i>Madala</i> | <i>Jacob</i> |
| 1♣               | 1♥               | Pass          | 1♠           |
| Pass             | 2♣ <sup>1</sup>  | Pass          | 2♥           |
| Pass             | 3♦               | Pass          | 3♥           |
| Pass             | 3♠               | Pass          | 4♠           |
| Pass             | 4NT              | Pass          | 5♣           |
| Pass             | 6♠               | Double        | Pass         |
| Pass             | Redouble         | Pass          | Pass         |
| Pass             |                  |               |              |
| 1. Strong hand   |                  |               |              |

West led the king of clubs, ruffed in dummy. South cashed three diamonds, discarding a heart and a club. Then came the ace of hearts, a heart ruff, a club ruff and another heart. East ruffed in with the five of spades, but it was not nearly high enough. South overruffed and went to the king of spades to discard his last club on the established hearts. West was able to ruff in, but that was the only trick for the defence; plus 1620, not a number one sees every day.

| West                      | North         | East            | South        |
|---------------------------|---------------|-----------------|--------------|
| <i>J.Lall</i>             | <i>Duboin</i> | <i>Pszczola</i> | <i>Bilde</i> |
| 1NT                       | Double        | 2♣ <sup>1</sup> | 4♠           |
| Pass                      | 6♠            | Pass            | Pass         |
| Pass                      |               |                 |              |
| 1. Clubs and another suit |               |                 |              |

Here, the bidding was more sprightly, so Pepsi was less inclined to double than Madala was after the ponderous auction at the other table. The heart king was led. Declarer won with dummy's ace, took his heart discard on the diamond, ruffed a heart and led a spade to the ten. He was able to establish hearts while drawing trumps to take all of the tricks; plus 1010, but minus 12 IMPs.

With six boards to go, LAVAZZA led MILNER by 132-113. LAVAZZA picked up 3 IMPs on Board 59, but then MILNER moved within striking distance after the next board.

**Board 60. Dealer West. NS Vul.**

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

| West             | North         | East            | South            |
|------------------|---------------|-----------------|------------------|
| <i>Del'Monte</i> | <i>Madala</i> | <i>Jacob</i>    | <i>Bianchedi</i> |
| 1♣               | Pass          | 2♦ <sup>1</sup> | Double           |
| 3♥               | 4♦            | 4♥              | Double           |
| Pass             | Pass          | Pass            |                  |

1. Four spades, five hearts, mild invitation

West's exuberant bidding with his ten-loser hand is explained by the state of the match, desperate times calling for desperate measures. South checked the backs of the cards to make sure everyone was playing with the same deck, then expressed doubt that West could take ten tricks. With such a great hand as dummy, East must have considered redoubling, but contented himself with a pass. North led the four of diamonds, ruffed in dummy. The four of hearts went to the ten and jack and West ruffed another diamond. On the next heart from dummy, South took the ace and returned the queen, North discarding two clubs. West played the jack of clubs: – seven, ace, eight – and another club. West lost a spade, a heart and two clubs for minus 100. With a luckier club position, four hearts might have succeeded.

| West          | North           | East            | South         |
|---------------|-----------------|-----------------|---------------|
| <i>Duboin</i> | <i>Pszczola</i> | <i>Bilde</i>    | <i>J.Lall</i> |
| Pass          | Pass            | Pass            | 1NT           |
| Pass          | Pass            | 2♣ <sup>1</sup> | Pass          |
| 2♥            | 3♦              | 3♥              | 3NT!          |
| Pass          | Pass            | Pass            |               |

1. Majors

Now that is a rare sight. The one notrump opening was passed by responder, then opener later took a shot at three notrump. Did it succeed?

The seven of hearts lead (a black suit might have been better) was won by the ten. South knocked out the ace of diamonds and West switched to the spade nine: ten, jack, king. After a diamond to dummy and a club, East rose with the ace and South had nine tricks: a spade, two hearts, four diamonds and two clubs for plus 600 and 11 IMPs.

MILNER trailed 124-135 with 4 boards to go, but could not get any closer as LAVAZZA won 150-124.



## XV SLAVA CUP

Moscow, February 19-21, 2016

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

For the fifteenth time, bridge stars from across Russia and the rest of the world gathered in Moscow to pay homage to the memory of the talented Slava Grinyuk, who died an untimely death in his thirties. As usual, Organizing Committee Chairman Pavel Portnoy secured the participation of many World and European Champions, who competed in both the Top 8 (teams) and Top 38 (pairs) contests.

In the Top 8 team tournament, a complete round robin, saw four teams qualify for the semifinals. At the same time, the Top 38 pair tournament (featuring both invited pairs and those who had qualified to compete), took place. The Metropol Hotel in Moscow was the venue.

### War & Peace

I have used the title of Tolstoy's masterpiece in a previous edition of the Slava Cup. Nevertheless, I feel compelled to repeat it following the conclusion of the BBC's recent dramatisation. The review in *The Guardian* described it as striking exactly the right balance between drama and wit, action and emotion, passion and humour and I'm hoping that you will find that these reports from the Slava Cup do exactly the same thing.

In Round 2, Iceland met Birman...

**Board 13. Dealer North. Both Vul.**

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

| West       | North           | East       | South           |
|------------|-----------------|------------|-----------------|
| Baldursson | Birman          | Haraldsson | Tarnovski       |
| —          | 1♣ <sup>1</sup> | 1♦         | 1♥ <sup>2</sup> |
| 3♦         | Pass            | Pass       | 4♣              |
| Pass       | 4♠              | Pass       | Pass            |
| Pass       |                 |            |                 |

1. Two plus clubs; natural or balanced 12-14/18-19
2. Spades

East led the ten of diamonds. Declarer discarded a heart from dummy, took North's queen with the ace and cashed the top clubs. With that suit established, he played dummy's ten of spades, covered by the jack, queen and king. East tried to force the dummy with the king of diamonds, but declarer pitched a club from the table. East switched to the ace of hearts and another heart, but declarer won with dummy's king, played a spade to the ace, followed by a spade to the six, for a majestic plus 620.

| West  | North           | East    | South           |
|-------|-----------------|---------|-----------------|
| Brink | Eiriksson       | Drijver | Ingimarsson     |
| —     | 1♣ <sup>1</sup> | 1♦      | 1♥ <sup>2</sup> |
| 3♦    | Pass            | Pass    | Pass            |

1. Two plus clubs; natural or balanced 12-14/18-19
2. Spades

South led the five of hearts and declarer won with dummy's queen and played the eight of spades. North put up the ace and switched to the king of clubs, followed by the ten to South's ace.

Now South would have done best to continue with the jack of clubs, on which North must pitch the two of spades, ensuring two trump tricks for North. If South does not do so, continuing spades for example, declarer can get home by leaving trumps alone for the time being, cashing the ace of hearts, then ruffing a spade and ruffing a heart. Only then does declarer play on trumps, leading the ten of diamonds and overtaking it with dummy's queen. This leaves North with no good move, being down to his four trumps and a losing heart.

Could declarer have found that line? Well, if he believes that North really had two clubs from his defence and that South had three hearts from his lead of the five, South must have been  $4=3=0=6$  initially. So ... it's an unqualified maybe.

However, in real life, South went back to spades and declarer took North's queen with the king and played a diamond to the queen and ace. North exited with a heart and declarer won, ruffed a spade and ran the seven of diamonds. He could pick up the diamonds, but had to lose a spade at the end, one down, minus 100, but still worth 11 IMPs.

## Kismet

Kismet is a power that is believed to control what happens in the future. It is also the title of an American musical film released by Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer in 1955. The film features music from *Prince Igor*, which was composed by the romantic Russian composer, Alexander Borodin. On day one of our event here, the young Swedes had shown that they were serious contenders – could they, emulating one of the songs from the movie, demonstrate that they were not merely *Strangers in Paradise*.

### Board 22. Dealer North. NS Vul.

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

| West       | North           | East       | South    |
|------------|-----------------|------------|----------|
| O.Rimstedt | Marashev        | M.Rimstedt | Tsonchev |
| —          | 1♣ <sup>1</sup> | Pass       | 2♥       |
| Pass       | 3♦              | Pass       | 3♥       |
| Pass       | 4♦              | Pass       | 5♥       |
| Pass       | 5NT             | Pass       | 6♠       |
| Pass       | 7♥              | Pass       | 7NT      |
| Pass       | Pass            | Pass       |          |

1. Precision

East led the eight of hearts and declarer won with dummy's ace and cashed five more rounds of hearts, reducing his hand to ♠A9 ♦AKJ10 ♣A. Meanwhile East had discarded a diamond, but when declarer naturally played a diamond to the jack, the now bare queen was the setting trick, plus 100.

| West     | North           | East     | South            |
|----------|-----------------|----------|------------------|
| Stamatov | Hult            | Danailov | Ekenberg         |
| —        | 1♦              | Pass     | 1♥               |
| Pass     | 3♣              | Pass     | 3♥               |
| Pass     | 4♥              | Pass     | 4NT <sup>1</sup> |
| Pass     | 5♦ <sup>2</sup> | Pass     | 5NT <sup>3</sup> |
| Pass     | 7♥              | Pass     | Pass             |
| Pass     |                 |          |                  |

1. RKCB
2. Three key cards
3. King ask; grand slam try guaranteeing all key cards and the queen of trumps

The Swedes were in a vastly superior contract and, after winning the spade lead, declarer drew trumps and could establish the diamonds for plus 2210 and 20 IMPs.

## The Winner Takes it All

This particular title was one of many major successes for the legendary Swedish pop group ABBA. It reached number one in the UK, Belgium, Ireland, the Netherlands and South Africa.

In a match between Sweden and Breno, in which a decent win for either side would guarantee them a spot in the semifinals and at the same time eliminate the losers, the title seems appropriate for the following deal...

### Board 4. Dealer West. Both Vul.

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

| West       | North  | East  | South |
|------------|--------|-------|-------|
| Lanzarotti | Sylvan | Manno | Wrang |
| Pass       | 1NT    | Pass  | 2♣    |
| Pass       | 2♠     | Pass  | 3NT   |
| Pass       | Pass   | Pass  |       |

East led the two of clubs and West took the ace and returned the ten. With a view toward making things as easy as possible for partner, Manno followed to the second club with the queen as declarer won with the king. Sylvan cashed four diamonds and West returned the favour, discarding the queen of spades. With the jack on view, this could only mean he had the ace, so East was able to discard his ten of spades. Declarer tried the hearts, but it was one down when they failed to divide favourably, minus 100 for very efficient, workmanlike defence.

| West   | North  | East     | South  |
|--------|--------|----------|--------|
| Cullin | Ventin | Bertheau | Hanlon |
| Pass   | 1♠     | Pass     | 1NT    |
| Pass   | 2NT    | Pass     | 3NT    |
| Pass   | Pass   | Pass     |        |

West led the four of spades. Declarer won with the jack, played a heart to the king, followed by a heart to the ace, played a diamond to the ace, cashed the queen, then played the queen of hearts followed by two winning diamonds. He exited with a heart; East won and played a club. West, down to the ace-queen-eight of spades and the ace of clubs, had to win and surrender two tricks to dummy, plus 630 and 12 IMPs to Breno, standing tall as they advanced into the last four. Sweden was out.

## Three Steps to Heaven

*Three Steps to Heaven* is a song co-written and recorded by Eddie Cochran. Released in 1960, it became a posthumous UK number-one hit following Cochran's death in a car accident in the same year. Three sets of 12 deals would determine who would ascend to the winner's podium in the 2016 Slava Cup. The Swedish Juniors started with a carry-over of 9 IMPs.

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

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

| West       | North  | East       | South   |
|------------|--------|------------|---------|
| O.Rimstedt | Auken  | M.Rimstedt | Welland |
| —          | —      | 1♦         | Pass    |
| 1♥         | Double | 3♥         | Double  |
| 4♥         | Pass   | Pass       | Double  |
| Pass       | Pass   | Pass       |         |

These days, people open light and respond with nothing, so North no doubt felt she had to protect her equity by doubling with such a modest hand with most of its values in the opponent's suits. North led the queen of clubs. South overtook it with the ace and switched to the queen of hearts, continuing with the eight when it held. North took the ace and tried a desperate five of diamonds. Declarer won with dummy's ace, ruffed a diamond (North dropping the queen) and ran the ten of spades – one down in a solid one, as we used to say; minus 200.

| West    | North | East             | South    |
|---------|-------|------------------|----------|
| M.Bilde | Hult  | D.Bilde          | Ekenberg |
| —       | —     | 1♦               | Pass     |
| 1♥      | Pass  | 2NT <sup>1</sup> | Pass     |
| 3♥      | Pass  | 4♥               | Pass     |
| Pass    | Pass  |                  |          |

1. Strong, four-card heart raise

North led the queen of clubs and South overtook it and returned the eight of hearts to the king and ace. North tried the five of diamonds, but declarer played three rounds of the suit, ruffing, followed by a heart, and claimed, not needing the double spade finesse. Plus 620 and minus 200 meant 13 IMPs away, instead of 5 in.

## Stalemate

### Board 30. Dealer East. Neither Vul.

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

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

| West           | North             | East         | South             |
|----------------|-------------------|--------------|-------------------|
| <i>Welland</i> | <i>O.Rimstedt</i> | <i>Auken</i> | <i>M.Rimstedt</i> |
| —              | —                 | INT          | 3♦                |
| Pass           | Pass              | Pass         |                   |

West led the jack of hearts and then switched to a club when the jack held the trick.. Declarer won with dummy's ace, took the diamond finesse, cashed the ace of diamonds and then played winning spades for plus 150.

| West            | North          | East        | South          |
|-----------------|----------------|-------------|----------------|
| <i>Ekenberg</i> | <i>D.Bilde</i> | <i>Hult</i> | <i>M.Bilde</i> |
| —               | —              | INT         | 3♦             |
| Pass            | 3♠             | Pass        | 4♠             |
| Pass            | Pass           | Pass        |                |

East led the king of clubs. Declarer won and cashed all his spades. On the last of these East had to discard from the ace-queen of hearts, three diamonds to the king and the queen-seven of clubs. There are many variations, but declarer has an answer, whatever the defence does. In practice, West had come down to the lone jack of clubs and, when East discarded the queen of hearts, declarer finessed a diamond and exited with a club. West won with the jack and led a heart to East's ace. East could cash a club, but then had to lead into the diamond tenace. Very well played for plus 420 and 7 IMPs. To defeat four spades, East must lead an impossible diamond at trick one.

### Board 36. Dealer West. Both Vul.

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

| West            | North             | East             | South             |
|-----------------|-------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| <i>Welland</i>  | <i>O.Rimstedt</i> | <i>Auken</i>     | <i>M.Rimstedt</i> |
| 1♠              | Pass              | 1NT <sup>1</sup> | Pass              |
| 2♣ <sup>2</sup> | Pass              | 2♦ <sup>3</sup>  | Pass              |
| 3NT             | Pass              | Pass             | Pass              |

1. Forcing-to-game relay
2. Five spades and four diamonds
3. Clubs

With one board to go, the match was tied. The last board was worthy of board-a-match competition.

At IMPs, you want to play three notrump from the East seat to protect the queen of hearts. At BAM, you want the king of hearts to be on lead. Auken/Welland accomplished the IMP objective, playing in three notrump from East. South led the jack of hearts. The defenders have four tricks on that lead, but ... declarer ducked the heart to North's king and North continued the suit to declarer's queen. Auken disguised her club holding by leading the queen to the eight (diamond discard) and king. When North continued hearts, Auken had 11 tricks, a total that could be equalled, but not beaten.

If the eight of clubs was intended to convey the information of a potential spade entry, it did not get the job done. Perhaps the ten of hearts at trick two and the ten of clubs at trick three might have worked, although the ten of clubs might look silly if declarer had queen-jack-nine to some number.

| West            | North          | East        | South          |
|-----------------|----------------|-------------|----------------|
| <i>Ekenberg</i> | <i>D.Bilde</i> | <i>Hult</i> | <i>M.Bilde</i> |
| 1♠              | Pass           | 2♣          | Pass           |
| 2♦              | Pass           | 3♣          | Pass           |
| 3♠              | Pass           | 4♣          | Pass           |
| 4NT             | Pass           | Pass        | Pass           |

The Swedes were dangerously high. North led the five of hearts and declarer put up dummy's queen – one hurdle surmounted. The ace of clubs was followed by the queen and, when that was ducked, a third club saw North win with the king. Would he find a match winning spade switch? He returned ... the king of hearts. Declarer won, crossed to the ace of diamonds and cashed the clubs, plus 660 when the queen of diamonds appeared.

The Bildes' convention card states that they play "lots of suit preference on declarer's leads at notrump". Since Morten had played the six of hearts at trick one (low = encouraging) and had followed up the line in clubs, there was no indication to Dennis that he should switch to a spade.

The score finished at 81-81 and four more deals might have been required to determine the winners. However, 'might' was the operative word, since a TD ruling of a 3-IMP procedural penalty was assessed against Sweden for different explanations of an alert

on Board 29 (four hearts doubled; plus 790 for a push), so Auken won the match 84-81.

### Top 8 Results (Teams)

1. Dennis Bilde/Morten Bilde,  
Sabine Auken/Roy Welland
2. Ola Rimstedt/Mikael Rimstedt  
Simon Ekenberg/Simon Hult

3. Alon Birman/Bar Tarnovski  
Sjoert Brink/Bas Drijver

### Top 38 Results (Pairs)

1. Pavel Gomerov/Dmitri Prokhorov
2. Ehud Fridlander/Inon Liran
3. Gennadi Rybnikov/Eugeni Zapadinski



## LETTER FROM NORWAY

Knut Kjærnsrød, Tored, Norway



Our Bridge Festival in Tenerife in January is increasingly popular and, this year, more than 250 players participated. On one occasion, we had 54 tables playing simultaneously.

On the following deal, Knut Kiste managed to land twelve tricks in his contract, despite receiving best defence:

#### Dealer East. Neither Vul.

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

| West | North | East | South |
|------|-------|------|-------|
| —    | —     | 1♥   | Pass  |
| 1♠   | Pass  | 2♣   | Pass  |
| 4♥   | Pass  | Pass | Pass  |

Kiste was East. South led a trump. Kiste won with dummy's king and ducked a club. South won and continued trumps to the knave. Declarer played the ace of clubs, ruffed a club and continued with a spade to the ace, the ace of trumps, a diamond to the queen, the ace of diamonds and a diamond ruff. On the ultimate trump, South had to keep a diamond and North a club, and neither of the defenders could guard the spades.

Kristoffer Hegge is one of our top junior players, and on the this board from a national teams training session reported by Nils Klaveren, he grasped his chance to shine on defence.

#### Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

| West             | North            | East         | South            |
|------------------|------------------|--------------|------------------|
| <i>Mortensen</i> | <i>Livgård</i>   | <i>Hegge</i> | <i>Aa</i>        |
| —                | —                | —            | 1♥               |
| Pass             | 2NT <sup>1</sup> | Pass         | 3♥ <sup>2</sup>  |
| Pass             | 4♣ <sup>3</sup>  | Pass         | 4♦ <sup>3</sup>  |
| Pass             | 4♠ <sup>4</sup>  | Pass         | 4NT <sup>5</sup> |
| Pass             | 5NT              | Pass         | 6♥               |
| Pass             | Pass             | Pass         |                  |

1. Game-forcing heart raise
2. Positive
3. Control bids
4. Roman Key Card Blackwood
5. Zero or three key cards
6. Grand slam try

The queen of clubs was led, and Aa combined his chances. He took the ace, ruffed a club, led a heart to the king and ruffed another club. He then played a diamond to the ace and a second diamond from dummy. If East had played low, South could have ducked the diamond into West's hand, and West would have had to lead away from her king of spades or play a club for a ruff and discard. Hegge, however, rose to the occasion and played his queen of diamonds! Aa took his king and played a third diamond, but had to surrender the setting trick to West's king of spades.



Dealer East. EW Vul.

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

| West | North            | East   | South           |
|------|------------------|--------|-----------------|
| Hop  | Drijver          | Wortel | Brink           |
| —    | —                | Pass   | 1♦              |
| 1♠   | Double           | Pass   | 3NT             |
| Pass | 4♦               | Pass   | 4♥              |
| Pass | 4NT <sup>1</sup> | Pass   | 5♠ <sup>2</sup> |
| Pass | 6♦               | Pass   | Pass            |

1. Roman Key Card Blackwood
2. Two key cards and the queen of diamonds

In this deal from the semifinals of the 2016 Dutch Teams Championship, Sjoert Brink and Bas Drijver reached an ambitious six-diamond contract.

Declarer can make two spade tricks, two hearts, six diamonds and one club. Some end-game magic will be needed to produce the twelfth.

Jacco Hop led the queen of hearts. Brink won with the king, played a diamond to the ace and a diamond to the king, then advanced the king of spades. West took his ace and accurately returned the spade ten (after a heart return a simple spade-club squeeze will develop). Declarer won with the jack and, as he had carefully refrained from drawing the last trump, could cross to his hand by playing a diamond to his queen. Subsequently, he rattled off his trumps, forcing West to abandon hearts. Brink first blanked the ace of hearts in dummy and then discarded the club six on the last diamond, to reach the ending at the top of the next column:

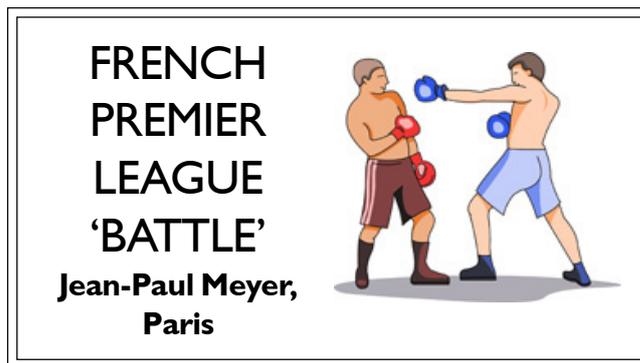
A heart to the ace squeezed West out of his club guard and, when Brink cashed the queen of spades, poor

Meike Wortel, holding a mere ten, nine and eight, had to surrender.

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

Brink gained his team 10 IMPs when the North/South pair at the other table rested in three notrump, making eleven tricks. If Brink had failed to make his contract, he would have lost 11 IMPs, and the match.

It was suggested that West should duck the ace of spades. In that case, declarer could have drawn the last trump and played another spade from hand, which West would have had to duck again. Then, declarer ruffs a spade, runs his diamonds and catches West in a strip-squeeze. Alternatively, he could have secured his contract by ducking a heart.



The French Premier League is a long event. Initially, 12 teams play a full round-robin over three weekends to qualify the top four for a 64-board semifinal and a 96-board final. The last two contestants standing were: ZIMMERMANN (with Multon, Helgemo, Helness and Martens) and RIEHM (with Levy, Volcker, Sebbane, Duguet and Lorenzini). ZIMMERMANN started as favourite, although Cédric Lorenzini seems to win every event he plays nowadays, with any partner!

Hoping for suspense, the spectators were rather disappointed when RIEHM's team was ahead by 65 IMPs with 32 boards to play. But, then, ZIMMERMANN recovered 29 IMPs, but still trailed by 36 going into the final 16-board segment.

Drama hit swiftly with the second board of the set. At one table (see top of next page), North/South bid to six hearts. The lead was the two of clubs, holding declarer to 12 tricks.

**Board 82. Dealer East. NS Vul.**

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

| West   | North     | East    | South   |
|--------|-----------|---------|---------|
| Multon | Lorenzini | Martens | Sebbane |
| —      | —         | 3♦      | 3♠      |
| 5♦     | 6♥        | Pass    | Pass    |
| Pass   |           |         |         |

However, at the second table...

| West    | North   | East | South   |
|---------|---------|------|---------|
| Volcker | Helness | Levy | Helgemo |
| —       | —       | Pass | 1♠      |
| Pass    | 2♥      | Pass | 3♣      |
| Pass    | 3♥      | Pass | 4♥      |
| Pass    | 6♦*     | Pass | 7♦      |
| Double  | 7♥      | Pass | Pass    |
| Pass    |         |      |         |

According to Alain Levy (East), Tor Helness (North) alerted his six-diamond bid to East, explaining that it showed a void. On the other side of the screen, South (Geir Helgemo) said to West (according to Frédéric Volcker), "It is not forcing."

Although he knew that North was void in diamonds, East decided to lead the suit anyway. When the jack of diamonds forced the ace, declarer claimed – his losing club could be discarded on the king of diamonds. The TD was called and West said that if he had been alerted that six diamonds showed a void, he would not have doubled (why double anyway, whatever it meant?). East stated that, with no double, he would not have led a diamond.

Before the ruling became known, it appeared that the ZIMMERMANN team had completely recovered the deficit, winning the last set 58-16 and the match by 6 IMPs.

According to the new procedure, the TD took a poll among top players: 70% said they would, without the double, lead a club, defeating the slam. So, the result was changed to seven hearts making three times out of ten and seven hearts down seven times. That netted a loss of 8 IMPs to ZIMMERMANN instead of a gain of 13. The ruling swung 21 IMPs and gave victory to RIEHM.

On a heart lead, it seems that the mathematicians would have made seven hearts, playing for the drop or ruffing out the queen of spades (3-3 spades, doubleton queen of spades) rather than taking the spade finesse or playing for a squeeze on East.

In the Daily Bulletin of the European Winter Games in Monaco this February, Pierre Zimmermann was eager to state his teammates' point of view. When Tor Helness (North), bid six diamonds over four hearts, he was asked what it meant by his screen mate, Alain Levy (East). "We have no agreement, but I intend to show a diamond void," was his reply. When asked on the other side of the screen by Frédéric Volcker (West), Geir Helgemo (South) made a gesture intended to mean he was not sure. Helgemo said that he never used the words, "not forcing", and never said it promised any number of diamonds, as stated by Volcker in the appeals committee meeting. The fact that Geir Helgemo could not attend the appeal (he had to catch a plane) was certainly not to their (Zimmermann's) advantage.

There are a number of extraordinary things about this affair:

- (i) Some top players (and Helgemo appears to be one of them, at least on this deal) are extremely careless about their approach to alerting and explaining their alerts. The proper procedure demands the use of the Alert Card (and acknowledgement by the opponent) and written (not oral) questions and answers.
- (ii) In trying to be helpful, as Helness was here, one's opponents are sometimes damaged by explanations not actually part of a pair's agreements. Also, it then becomes impossible for the same explanation to be made on the other side of the screen.
- (iii) In appeals and reviews, opponents often disagree in relating what was said at the table (as appears to have happened here, and which is why written explanations are required).
- (iv) Why would West be entitled to the explanation that six diamonds shows a void when it was not part of North/South's agreements? He is not entitled to know what North held, only the pair's agreements.
- (v) It is extraordinary that 70% of polled players stated that they would lead a club from the king against a freely-bid, but perhaps tenuous, grand slam.
- (vi) It appears that the TD did not resolve the issues of (a) what was said by North to East, and (b) what was said by South to West. Why not? Perhaps North's and South's statements (those claimed by Pierre Zimmermann) were not made at the time of the TD call, but later. Otherwise, there would have been a difference in reported fact, of critical importance here.
- (vii) A player of Alain Levy's skill and experience might well wonder, when South raised to seven diamonds, what explanation, if any, his partner had received, and might have suspected that it was different from the one he received. The bid of seven diamonds seems consistent with the belief that six diamonds was a natural bid and pulling it to seven hearts indicates that such was not the case.
- (viii) We make playing to ruff out the queen of spades only one-and-one-half percent better than cashing one high spade, then taking the finesse. Were they so certain that everyone would be able to determine this tiny differential at the table? - Ed.



## Correspondence

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

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

Dear Sir,

On page 3 (of bulletin 613) your correspondent writes: "Similarly, if in the seven-card ending East throws a spade, declarer plays out the ace and king of spades (*from the SOUTH hand*) and then the last trump (*from the NORTH hand*)". You can't do that on the internet, or wherever good bridge is played, but I am certain you can get away with it at my club, as long as you paused at least 12 seconds between cashing the second spade and leading the last trump. Can we call it the Darwin Coup?

Chris Depasquale, Darwin, Australia

PS.: I skipped the article on cheating; was this particular coup included there as well?

*(The Darwin Coup is a distant cousin of the Toronto Cross-Ruff, wherein one defender gives his partner a ruff, say in hearts, then the defender who has taken the ruff gives the other partner a ruff in hearts as well. – Ed.)*

Hi John,

I am in a bit of a dilemma and wanted to know the opinions of experts and particularly teachers of bridge. For the last 40 years I have been teaching "the Informative Double" as part of overcalling theory, i.e., when there is no other overcall available, you resort to the Informative Double. However, when discussing this with various experts, they seem to disagree. In fact, all the bridge books deal with informative doubles in a separate section to overcalls and I personally have always thought that was wrong! Also, it seems the Informative Double was actually called the Informatory Double and that word isn't even in the dictionary. I would appreciate feedback from IBPA members on this subject, who can send me all their ideas to [schogger@haroldschogger.com](mailto:schogger@haroldschogger.com)

Many Thanks, Harold Schogger, London

*(I replied to Harold that the Informative (or Informatory) Double was a term I had heard used only in the U.K. It apparently 'informed' partner that you had an opening bid after an opponent had opened the bidding. Nowadays, though, the double of an opponent's opening bid is more often a 'takeout' double and seems to be more shape-disciplined than previously played, no doubt due to the increased top limit of an overcall.*

*Thus, one seldom hears the comment, "I was too strong to overcall," any longer. – Ed.)*

Hi Barry (*addressed to Barry Rigal, IBPA Awards Chairman, who forwarded it to me*),

I don't know what it takes to be worth a sportsmanship award nomination, but will tell you this story from Canberra in January. It was a 34-pair event over two days before the main events started. At the finish, it was close among several pairs, among them Joan Butts and me. When we got the results in the bar afterwards, two young brothers from Christchurch, James and Sam Coutts had won, finishing a few MPs ahead of us. I did not think much more about it other than I thought our score in the last set was a bit lower than I had hoped for. Everybody had gone somewhere, dinner, bar etc., and there were no score slips available. About three hours later, Joan came looking for me and told she when looking over the scores on the internet and had found a scoring error; our plus 90 in one notrump had been scored as minus 90. The difference that would have made, if scored correctly, was more than the Coutts brothers' winning margin. The organisers were informed about it by Joan the same evening, but they said it was too late to change the scores, even though the prize-giving was set to be the next morning. Rules are rules...

James Coutts (and his brother) did not want to accept this. He said, "If we did not really win, I don't want to accept the prize." He talked to the organisers the next morning, but they did not want to change anything. I was not in the room when the prize-giving happened (I was to play the next event in the room downstairs), but Joan told me when James and Sam were given the first prize, James grabbed the microphone and said he and his brother had decided not to accept the gold medal and the first prize money, and handed it over to swap with Joan. No one got a bigger round of applause in Canberra this year than James and Sam.

(Joan and I decided we did not want to take the first-prize money either and suggested a split of first and second.)

I think the two brothers' behaviour was commendable. They had done nothing wrong themselves, and I am sure some (many?) would have just accepted the win. I think these young players' (there is a fine and growing group of young players in New Zealand and Australia at the moment) attitude is super.

Best regards, GeO Tislevoll, Auckland

## NEWS & VIEWS



### EBL Investigation Developments

The Investigating Committee of the EBL has completed its examination of material relating to the partnerships of Fisher/Schwartz (Israel), Fantoni/Nunes (Monaco) and Piekarek/Smirnov (Germany). After receiving the reports, EBL President Yves Aubry decided to refer these three cases to the EBL Disciplinary Commission.

The Chairman of the EBL Disciplinary Commission, Jurica Caric, has fixed the schedule of the hearings at the Headquarters of the EBL in Lausanne as follows: Piekarek/Smirnov: April 14; Fisher/Schwartz: April 15 & 16; Fantoni/Nunes: May 25 & 26.

At the request of the EBL President, the Investigating Committee of the EBL continues to investigate other pairs. A report concerning Balicki/Zmudzinski (Poland) has been requested by the President for the end of March.

### Eddie Wold

Eddie Wold will be inducted into the ACBL Hall of Fame this summer at the Summer NABC in Washington, D.C.

### Lavazza Team

The new-look Lavazza Team will (after the 2016 Vanderbilt) comprise: Norberto Bocchi and Diego Brenner; Giorgio Duboin and Dennis Bilde; Agustin Madala and Alejandro Bianchedi.

### Bridge in Thailand

Thirty-two Westerners were arrested and detained for 12 hours for playing bridge in Pattaya, a Thai seaside resort city 150 km from Bangkok. More than 40 police, soldiers and local officials disrupted the afternoon session of what they initially portrayed as illegal gambling. However, police later conceded that they found no evidence of money changing hands in the Jomtien and Pattaya Bridge Club that has been holding bridge games since 1994. Club organiser Jeremy Watson said that the police have decided to drop all charges.

### Bridge in the Mainstream USA Press

<http://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2016/03/07/the-cheating-problem-in-professional-bridge>

<http://www.vanityfair.com/culture/2016/02/competitive-bridge-cheating-scandal>

<http://www.rollingstone.com/sports/features/tricks-tics-and-taps-the-cheating-scandal-rocking-professional-bridge-20160309>

### DBV Decision

The German Bridge Federation has reached a decision on the Josef Piekarek and Alexander Smirnov case. The pair has been banned for four years, after which they will be on probation for two more years. Additionally, they may never play together again.

### A Sad Sight

A tournament report of the 2015 Spingold in the March issue of *The Bridge World* displayed a list of the top 16 seeded teams. Fully half of those teams contained players or pairs (15 players in all) who: (i) are currently under investigation for alleged cheating or; (ii) had, in the past, been publicly accused of cheating, or; (iii) at some time in their bridge career, had been suspended or reprimanded for breaches of ethics, but not necessarily collusion.



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# World Bridge Calendar

| DATES           | EVENT  | LOCATION                       | INFORMATION                |
|-----------------|--|--------------------------------|----------------------------|
| <b>2016</b>     |  |                                |                            |
| Mar-Aug         | 5 <sup>th</sup> 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 <sup>st</sup> Canadian Nationals           | Toronto, ON                    | www.unit166.ca             |
| Mar 23-27       | XIII International Festival                    | Casablanca, Morocco            | www.bridge-casablanca.com  |
| Mar 27-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 7-10        | Hotel Senator Tournament                       | Starachowice, Poland           | www.pzbs.pl                |
| 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 BridgeWeek                              | Graz, Austria                  | www.bridgeaustria.at       |
| May 13-17       | 28 <sup>th</sup> International Festival        | Limassol, Cyprus               | www.cyprusbridge.org       |
| 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 <sup>th</sup> Tel Aviv Bridge Festival      | Tel Aviv, Israel               | www.ibf-festival.org       |
| Jun 16-26       | 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 6-10        | India Summer Nationals                         | Bangaluru, India               | www.bfi.net.in             |
| Jul 8-17        | Danish Bridge Festival                         | Svendborg, Denmark             | www2.bridge.dk             |
| Jul 13-20       | 13 <sup>th</sup> European Youth Pairs & Camp   | Liepaja, Latvia                | www.eurobridge.org         |
| Jul 21-24       | Madhava Prasad Memorial Tournament             | Corbett Park, Nainital, India  | www.bfi.net.in             |
| 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    | Norwegian Bridge Festival                      | Fredrikstad, Norway            | www.bridgefestival.no      |
| 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 7-9         | Pesta Sukan                                    | Singapore                      | www.scba.org.sg            |
| Aug 7-13        | 48 <sup>th</sup> International BridgeWeek      | Mautern, Austria               | www.bridgeaustria.at       |
| Aug 19-28       | EBU Summer Meeting                             | Eastbourne, England            | www.ebu.co.uk              |
| Aug 20-29       | World Open Youth Championships                 | Opatija, Croatia               | www.worldbridge.org        |
| Aug 27-Sep 4    | Festival de Bridge de La Grand Motte           | La Grande Motte, France        | www.festivalsdusoleil.com  |
| Sep 2-14        | 55 <sup>th</sup> International Bridge Festival | Pula, Croatia                  | www.pulabridgefestival.com |
| <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              |
| Oct 28-Nov 1    | Festival de Bridge d'Avignon                   | Avignon, France                | www.festivalsdusoleil.com  |
| Oct 29-Nov 6    | Brazilian Open                                 | Bahia, Brazil                  | www.bridge.esp.br          |
| 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               |