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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.

On September 16, 2015, the Italian Bridge Federation (FIGB) announced that an investigation into Fulvio Fantoni and Claudio Nunes' alleged illegal exchange of information had commenced. The European Bridge League later announced its own investigation into Fantoni-Nunes and two other pairs, scheduling a hearing in Lausanne for Fantoni-Nunes on May 15-16, 2016. The pair had already been suspended by the ACBL pending the outcome of the hearings. They were scheduled to play for Monaco last October in the 2015 Bermuda Bowl until Monaco voluntarily withdrew.

On April 6, 2016, the online Neapolitan Club (www.neapolitanclub.altervista.com) reported that the FIGB had made its decision, and that Fantoni and Nunes have been individually banned for three years and have been forbidden to play together for life. According to the Dutch IMP Magazine (www.imp-bridge.nl), the judgement conforms to the guidelines of the Italian Olympic Committee, which specifies a maximum of a three-year ban for a first offence and life only for a second offence.

In an Olympic event such as its flagship race, the Men's 100 metres, the career of its participants is very short. Since the modern Olympics began in 1896, only three sprinters have won the race twice, all in successive Olympics. No one has ever won the race eight years or longer after winning it for the first time. Furthermore, the youngest Olympic 100-metre champion was 19 years old (Reginald Walker, of South Africa, 1908), and the oldest, 32 (Linford Christie of Great Britain in 1992). Notwithstanding that, Usain Bolt of Jamaica could become the first to win three successive gold medals in the 100 metres this summer in Rio.

Contrast those records with those of bridge: the youngest Open World Champion has been Michal Klukowski of Poland, who won the Rosenblum in 2014 at 18 years of age; the oldest Open World Champion was Waldemar von Zedtwitz, who won the World Mixed Pairs in 1970 at the age of 74. (A curiosity: the two were born almost exactly 100 years apart.)

A three-year ban in athletics can thus effectively finish a career; a three-year ban in bridge is a drop in the bucket. Just as performance-enhancing drugs in athletics are mostly irrelevant to bridge and sanctions need to be individualised for the sport, so penalties for cheating convictions need to be designed specifically for bridge. Whereas a career as a top-level sprinter might extraordinarily last for ten years and would usually be much shorter, a career as a top-level bridge player might last for 50 years. Let's make the punishment fit the environment as well as the crime.

Bridge organisations such as the WBF, the EBL and the ACBL need to do a better job of educating sports authorities such as the IOC and WADA about the game, and convincing them to legislate accordingly. Uniform rules are not appropriate.

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THE 2016 LEDERER MEMORIAL

Andrew Robson, London

The Lederer Trophy is now settled in its grand new venue at The Royal Automobile Club in Pall Mall. The event is sponsored by Simon Gillis and hosted by the London Metropolitan Bridge Association. Due to a crowded fall schedule, the event has been moved to early in the year, this time the last weekend in February.

In addition to the 'usual suspects' from Great Britain, this edition featured a handful of Norwegians, a couple of Swedes, a Dane, the usual Irish, an Italian and even an Australian, as well as our resident Anglo-American Pakistani.

Ten teams played a complete round robin of 10-board matches, with hybrid scoring – part IMPs and part point-a-board, with a total of 50 VPs available per match. The results were:

- | | |
|----------------------|-----|
| 1. England Open | 293 |
| 2. Ireland | 254 |
| 3. Chairman's Choice | 249 |

England Open won all of their nine matches, albeit three by 26-24 and one by 27-23. They were represented by Alexander Allfrey, David Bakhshi, Tony Forrester, David Gold and Andrew Robson.

Here was one that got away from the victorious team.

Dealer North. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Sinclair</i>	<i>Robson</i>	<i>Crouch</i>	<i>Allfrey</i>
—	1♥	1♠	2♦
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♦
Pass	4♠ ¹	Pass	6♦
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. Splinter

South might have played for penalties of the one-spade overcall, but decided to go in search of bigger things. Although two diamonds was not forcing to game, North's three-club rebid was game-forcing.

West led the eight of spades to the knave and ace. Declarer adopted a simple and very reasonable approach. He ruffed a spade, cashed the ace of diamonds (East following with an ominous knave) and ruffed a low heart. He cashed the king-queen of diamonds (winning when the 4-1 split was revealed) and gave West her trump trick. West switched to a club and, with a sinking feeling, declarer had to try the finesse. East won with the king and that was down one.

You cannot really fault declarer's line, which essentially boils down to either diamonds three-two or the club finesse. However, the king of clubs is likely to be with the vulnerable bidder and if (as you might) you lead to the ace of diamonds at trick two and see East's knave fall, you might (treating the knave as singleton) try an alternative approach.

That approach would entail leading a diamond to the ace, then the ace of hearts, discarding a club, then the ace of clubs and would mean that you've played your four aces to the first four tricks like a rank beginner. Now you show you're not. You lead the queen of clubs for a ruffing finesse, intending to discard a spade if East plays low. Say East covers. You ruff, ruff a low spade with dummy's remaining low diamond, then lead the promoted ten of clubs, discarding a spade. The 3-3 club split revealed, you now lead a winning fourth club and discard your last low spade. West ruffs, but you ruff his heart return, draw his trumps and cash the king of spades. Slam made.

Look at the club suit on our second Lederer deal.

Dealer East. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>To</i>	<i>Allfrey</i>	<i>Cliffe</i>	<i>Robson</i>
—	—	Pass	1♥
Pass	2NT ¹	3♦ ²	Pass ³
Pass	4♥	Pass	Pass

1. Game-forcing heart raise
2. Lead-directing (but at what cost?)
3. Not the worst hand
4. Control-showing

Declarer won the knave of diamonds lead with the ace and drew trumps in three rounds. The key suit was clubs,



The Royal Automobile Club, Pall Mall, London

where declarer would like a fourth trick for a diamond discard (remember the scoring method). The normal play is to cash the clubs from the top, but declarer saw a chance to win the board.

East, a passed hand, had made an adverse vulnerability three-level overcall. He had to have shape – likely six diamonds and four spades. That left him with two clubs to West's four. Declarer therefore cashed the king of clubs, then led and passed the ten (had West had covered with the knave, South would have won with the queen, crossed to the ace of spades and led a club to the eight). The ten was not covered, however, and held the trick. That play enabled declarer to discard a diamond, losing just one spade, for 12 tricks, winning only 1 IMP but, more importantly, winning the board.

Here is a fabulous bid-and-made slam by my teammates David Gold and Tony Forrester in our match against the Gillis team.

Dealer East. NS Vul.

♠ J 10 6 2
♥ A J 9
♦ K Q 7 6
♣ K 4

♠ 7 5 4 3
♥ 8 4
♦ 9 5 2
♣ 9 8 3 2

♠ A K 9 8
♥ K 10 7 6 5
♦ 4 3
♣ Q 6

♠ Q
♥ Q 3 2
♦ A J 10 8
♣ A J 10 7 5

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

Forrester did well not to blast three notrumps immediately, realising that he could always have bid three notrumps at his next turn if all Gold could have done had been to rebid clubs. North loved the news that South had four diamonds, five or six clubs and extra values. Forrester also guessed his partner had some heart length, given that hearts were neither supported nor rebid, and so concluded that there was not more than one spade opposite. Perfect.

Gold received the eight of hearts lead, annoyingly through dummy's ace (yes, six diamonds would have played better by North). Declarer rose with dummy's ace and started on clubs (normal practice to broach the side-suit before drawing trumps). The king and a second club saw East's queen delightfully appear.

Declarer drew trumps in three rounds, then cashed the knave-ten-seven of clubs, discarding two hearts and a spade from dummy. Confident from his opening bid that East held both top spades plus the king of hearts, at trick ten declarer exited with the queen of spades. East won with the king but was endplayed. If he had led a second spade (whether low or the ace), dummy's knave would have been promoted. If East had led a heart, declarer's queen would have been promoted. In practice, East led the king of hearts. Declarer ruffed in dummy, ruffed a spade back to hand and cashed the queen of hearts for his twelfth trick.

The West international was disappointed not to have found the correct defence on our final Lederer deal.

Dealer North. Both Vul.

♠ A Q 9 6 4
♥ K J
♦ 8 5
♣ Q 10 5 3

♠ 5 2
♥ 8
♦ K Q 10 9 6
♣ A K J 9 4

♠ K J 10 7 3
♥ Q 6 4
♦ J 7 3 2
♣ 2

♠ 8
♥ A 10 9 7 5 3 2
♦ A 4
♣ 8 7 6

West	North	East	South
Townsend	Robson	Sandqvist	Allfrey
—	1♠	Pass	2♥
2NT ¹	Pass	3♦	3♥
Pass	4♥	Double	Pass
Pass	Pass		
1. 5+/5+ in the minors			

West led the ace of clubs and, after much huffing and puffing, switched at trick two to the king of diamonds. Declarer won with the ace, crossed to the king of hearts and ran the knave, the finesse being a nigh-on-certainty given West's two-notrump bid, East's double

and West's failure to lead or shift to a spade. The knave held and declarer played the ace of spades, ruffed a spade, cashed the ace of hearts, felling East's queen, then led up a second club. West could win with his king and cash the queen of diamonds, but that was all. Plus 790.

It is no better for West to cash the king of clubs, then give his partner a ruff, for declarer would have played dummy's ten on the third round. In that case, declarer

could have won East's diamond return with the ace, drawn trumps, then crossed to the ace of spades to cash the queen of clubs to shed his diamond loser. The winning defence is for West to lead a *low* club at trick two. East would have ruffed and returned a diamond, but dummy would not have had a club winner to discard South's second diamond and declarer would thus have lost four tricks.

East was left muttering to himself.



Major Event Winners at the Reno Spring NABC

Vanderbilt KO Teams

Alejandro Bianchedi/Agustin Madala
Norberto Bocchi/Diego Brenner
Giorgio Duboin/Zia Mahmood

Open Swiss Teams

Huub Bertens/Daniel Korbel
Boye Brogeland/Espen Lindqvist
Allan Graves/Richie Schwartz

Women's Swiss Teams

Ida Grönqvist/Cecilia Rimstedt/Sally Meckstroth,
Marion Michielsen/Mieke Wortel

Platinum Pairs

Eric Greco/Geoff Hampson

Open Pairs

Jeff Meckstroth/Eric Rodwell

North American Pairs

Peter Boyd/Steve Robinson

IMP Pairs

Kevin Dwyer/Stan Tulin

Fast Pairs

Gil Cohen/Marty Nelson

Mixed Pairs

Jenni Carmichael/Greg Humphreys

Women's Pairs

Victoria Gromova/Tatiana Ponomareva

Silver Ribbon Pairs

Dave Westfall/Craig Zastera

2016 VANDERBILT FINAL

Maurizio Di Sacco, Pisa

LAVAZZA vs. CAYNE

The six Bermuda Bowl World Champions from Bali played in this match, but they were split between the two teams: Bocchi, Duboin and Madala were playing for LAVAZZA, and Lauria, Sementa and Versace for CAYNE.

Bianchedi/Madala and Brenner/Bocchi play the highly-artificial (after a mostly natural start) homemade system "Big Bang", based on transfer responses over one club, an unbalanced one diamond opening, and several artificial features. Duboin/Zia on one side, and Cayne/Seamon on the other, play a basic two-over-one system, with a few special arrangements. Finally, Lauria/Versace and Tokay/Sementa play a five-card major, four-card diamond approach, with many artificial features.

Board 4. Dealer West. Both Vul.

♠ 10 7
♥ 6 4 2
♦ K 7 5 3
♣ A 4 3 2

♠ K Q
♥ A K Q 10 9
♦ A 10
♣ Q 10 9 6

♠ A 5 4 3 2
♥ 8 5 3
♦ J 9 6 2
♣ 5

♠ J 9 8 6
♥ J 7
♦ Q 8 4
♣ K J 8 7

West	North	East	South
<i>Brenner</i>	<i>Cayne</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Seamon</i>
2NT	Pass	3♥ ¹	Pass
3NT ²	Pass	4♣ ³	Pass
4♦ ⁴	Pass	4♥ ⁴	Pass
4♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. Spades
2. Not three spades
3. Shortage
4. Unclear

Bocchi/Brenner had a bidding misunderstanding, and landed in four spades. Cayne led a diamond, dooming the defence, since declarer could set up the suit, but any other lead (with the exception of the ace of clubs) would have beaten the contract eventually (with some care required by the defenders).

West	North	East	South
<i>Versace</i>	<i>Madala</i>	<i>Lauria</i>	<i>Bianchedi</i>
1♥	Pass	2♥	Pass
3♣ ¹	Pass	4♥	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. Very strong game try

Lauria/Versace's style does not include opening two notrump with West's cards, and ending in four hearts was inevitable.

Double dummy, four hearts is unbeatable, but Versace couldn't peek at his opponent's cards. He got the most testing lead of a trump, which he won in hand to advance the queen of clubs. North won with the ace and persisted with another trump. Versace won, cashed king and queen of spades, ruffed a club and led the ace of spades. Madala ruffed that and the contract was down one, for 13 IMP to LAVAZZA.

Versace's line needed 3-3 spades or the spade length with the last trump, very reasonable on the defence he received. However, South's club holding would have allowed West to produce a winning ending, if he had decided to play for it.

Once he won the second trump, declarer could have ruffed a low club without cashing the king and queen of spades, then got back to hand with a spade to run the trump suit, reaching:

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

Having taken six tricks, when West tables the last trump, throwing a diamond from dummy, South's goose is cooked: a spade would allow declarer to make two tricks in the suit, while a club or a diamond would allow West to set up an extra trick in the suit South discards.

Other interesting double-dummy variations occur if North allows South to win the first club.

Board 21. Dealer North. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Sementa</i>	<i>Duboin</i>	<i>Tokay</i>	<i>Zia</i>
—	Pass	Pass	INT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

When Tokay, East, passed in second seat, East/West allowed Zia to declare in one notrump, a contract with no hope. South made one heart, three diamonds and one club for minus 200.

At the other table, however, East did open...

West	North	East	South
<i>Brenner</i>	<i>Cayne</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Seamon</i>
—	Pass	1♣ ¹	INT
Double	Redouble ²	Pass	2♣
Double	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. Could be two-card suit if balanced outside the INT opening range
2. Forces two clubs; various hand types

Two clubs proved to be unbeatable, with three of either major on for East/West. CAYNE was plus 9 IMPs.

The only other major swing of the quarter was...

Board 23. Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Brenner	Cayne	Bocchi	Seamon
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	Pass	1♦	Pass
1♥	2♣	3♥	Pass
Pass	Pass		

After Cayne's decision to go conservative and not to open with North's cards, East/West managed to stop in three hearts. There, Brenner suffered a diamond ruff, after taking the heart finesse, to go one off for minus 100.

That result paled in comparison to the action in the other room...

West	North	East	South
Sementa	Duboin	Tokay	Zia
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	1♣	1♦	1♠
2♦	2♠	Double	Pass
2NT	Pass	3NT	Double
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Tokay overbid and was heavily punished by Zia's double and the very unfriendly layout. Duboin led a high club and shifted to a spade. Zia won with his ace and returned his other club. North ran his clubs, then led a heart to dummy's by-then-bare ace. When Sementa led a spade to his hand, Zia was squeezed in the red suits for down only three. LAVAZZA had collected plus 800 for a gain of 12 IMP.

Board 34. Dealer West. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Tokay	Madala	Sementa	Bianchedi
1♦	Pass	1♥	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♦	Pass	3♦	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♥	Pass
5♣	Pass	5♦	Pass
Pass	Pass		

West	North	East	South
Zia	Lauria	Duboin	Versace
Pass	Pass	1♥	Pass
2♦	Pass	3♦	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♦	Pass
5♦	Double	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Double dummy, five diamonds is unbeatable if declarer gets the trump suit right, and Lauria's double "on the auction" could have talked Zia into the winning line. Both declarers started the same way after the same lead, the six of spades. They ducked in dummy, winning South's queen with the ace, played a heart to dummy's ace and led the jack of hearts, ruffing out South's king. A spade to dummy's king followed. Here, the declarers' paths diverged (they needed to play on trumps, guessing the queen, to make the contract).

Tokay ruffed a low heart, cashed the ace and king of trumps and ruffed another heart, then trumped a spade and presented the last heart, finishing down one when he lost two club tricks.

Zia did better, running the ten of hearts, but even this line should have led to defeat. However, when Lauria won the ten of hearts with his queen, he led the ace and another club to West's king. Zia guessed diamonds to make 11 tricks and plus 750, winning 12 IMPs.

Even after Lauria took the ace of clubs, leading his fourth heart would have promoted a trump trick for Versace.

Board 37. Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Zia	Lauria	Duboin	Versace
—	—	—	INT
Pass	3♦ ¹	Pass	4♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. Five spades/four hearts, invitational

Three notrump looks to be a better contract, but four spades was hard to avoid.

West led the king of clubs, won in hand. Versace immediately played back a club and Zia won, then found the effective switch of the jack of hearts, ducked. Declarer won the heart continuation, and to make the contract, had to finesse the jack of diamonds either immediately or after a spade to the king and another to the jack. When he played the king of spades and another to the ace instead, he went one down.

West	North	East	South
<i>Tokay</i>	<i>Madala</i>	<i>Sementa</i>	<i>Bianchedi</i>
—	—	—	INT
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦
Pass	3♣ ¹	Pass	3♦ ²
Pass	3NT ³	Pass	4♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. A low doubleton in a minor
2. I am interested in a contract other than 3NT
3. Five spades/four hearts

Bianchedi also received the king of clubs lead. He won with the ace and played on spades, cashing the king and finessing the jack on the way back. He gave up a club, won the club return with his ten, discarding a heart from dummy, then finessed the jack of diamonds. A spade to the ace and the king of diamonds ensured 10 tricks and 12 IMPs for LAVAZZA.

LAVAZZA won handily 164-111 after a big third set and three close ones.

MARKET MAKER

Oren Kriegel, Chicago

When a defender can see that declarer will succeed on his chosen line of play, it does the defender well to make a market for, and sell, a different line. In this deal from the 2016 Vanderbilt Quarterfinals, Lavazza vs. Fleisher, Brad Moss, a former options trader, made a market for a different holding than the one he held.

Board 11. Dealer South. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Moss</i>	<i>Madala</i>	<i>Grue</i>	<i>Bianchedi</i>
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	1♣ ¹	Pass	1♥ ²
2♦	Pass ³	3♦ ⁴	4♥
Pass	4♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

1. 2+ clubs (2 only if 12-14 or 18-19 balanced)
2. Spades
3. Support doubles would have been beneficial
4. Taking into account partner's passed-hand status – even two diamonds is in jeopardy

Only in bridge could you and an opponent have been playing against one another for 25 years, as Brad Moss and Alejandro Bianchedi have done, and still be considered young men in your sport. They first met at the 1991 World Junior Team Championship in Ann Arbor, Moss for USA and Bianchedi for Argentina. Joe Grue played for the US Juniors a little later, and Agustin Madala was already in the Argentine Open Team in 2004 while still a teenager.

Here Grue, East, led their suit, diamonds. Madala ruffed in dummy and drew trumps with the ace and king. He could see that he had two chances for his contract: (i) the ace of clubs onside and (ii) holding his heart losers to one. He decided to play on hearts first as that would give his opponents the chance to make an error and play clubs for him. If the ace of clubs were offside, he was hoping for one or another of the few heart holdings that would allow him to make the contract: king-queen doubleton with either opponent; honour-ten-doubleton with West or doubleton-ten with West.

Accordingly, Madala played a low heart off dummy at trick four. Moss made a market for the honour-ten-doubleton by playing the ten. Grue won with his king and led another diamond. Madala ruffed in dummy and, his mind made up about the hearts, led a club to the king and ace. Grue continued the diamond force on dummy. With no entry to hand other than his remaining trump, Madala did what he was going to do anyway, drop Moss' queen of hearts. When the ace of hearts gathered only low ones, he was one off.

At the other table, Roy Welland opened the South hand with one spade, reaching game with alacrity, and made it easily on the ten of hearts lead; 10 IMPs to Fleisher.

VIRTUE UNREWARDED

Peter Gill, Sydney

An extraordinarily-well-bid deal to an excellent contract that fails does not usually garner the acclaim it deserves. Here is one such deal from the Platinum Pairs in Reno, bid by Peter Boyd and Steve Robinson.

Board 21. Dealer North. NS Vul.

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

Continued on p. 10...



IBPA Column Service

Tim Bourke, Canberra

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

A characteristic of any good declarer is to look for alternatives when the normal approach is unlikely to work. Such was the case here:

801. Dealer East. NS Vul.

♠ K Q 10 9

♥ K Q 9 8 4

♦ 2

♣ A Q 2

♠ 2

♥ 10 6 3

♦ Q J 10 3

♣ K 9 5 4 3

♠ A 6 5 3

♥ A J 7 5

♦ A 9 6

♣ J 7

♠ J 8 7 4

♥ 2

♦ K 8 7 5 4

♣ 10 8 6

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

While North's raise to game was an overbid, the final contract did have only three top losers. West led the queen of diamonds. East took this with his ace and continued with the ace and another trump, West discarding a club on the second round.

Declarer noted that West had already indicated three points in diamonds with his opening lead. Also, if the contract was to have any chance, declarer needed West to have the king of clubs. If this were the case, East would require the ace of hearts to have an opening bid.

If all this came about, declarer saw that playing a heart to the king would only succeed if both the jack and ten of hearts fell in three rounds, a rather unlikely possibility. Instead, declarer adopted a different approach to developing the heart suit: after winning the second round of trumps in hand with the jack, declarer led a heart towards dummy and finessed the eight. (Declarer's plan was to pin the jack or ten third with West on the third round hearts or to find East with exactly ace-jack-ten of hearts. East won

the first heart trick with the jack and played another trump to dummy's queen.

Declarer continued with the king of hearts, which East covered with the ace. Declarer ruffed this with his last trump and played the king of diamonds, throwing the two of clubs from dummy. Declarer then took the club finesse. When that was successful, declarer drew East's remaining trump and cashed the queen of hearts. His careful play was rewarded when West followed with the ten. South took the two remaining tricks with the nine and four of hearts. As a result, he had ten tricks – three trumps, a heart ruff, three hearts, one diamond and two clubs.

802. Dealer South. Both Vul.

♠ K 10 2

♥ 10 6 5 2

♦ 7 6 3

♣ K Q 2

♠ 8 7 6 5 3

♥ Q 9

♦ A K J 9

♣ 8 6

♠ —

♥ K J 8 7 3

♦ 10 8 4 2

♣ 10 5 4 3

♠ A Q J 9 4

♥ A 4

♦ Q 5

♣ A J 9 7

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

This deal came up in a teams match. After identical auctions, both defences began with the ace, king and jack of diamonds.

The declarer for one team ruffed the third round of diamonds and cashed the ace of trumps. When East discarded a heart, declarer saw that he could still make his contract if West had begun with at least three clubs and one heart. In that case, declarer could cash three clubs and the ace of hearts and then ruff his remaining club in dummy for the tenth trick. Alas, West ruffed the third club. As declarer still had to lose a heart trick, he finished with only nine tricks.

At the second table, declarer saw that the main danger to his contract was a 5-0 trump division. As there was no way to avoid a heart loser, he discarded the four of hearts on the jack of diamonds. Now the defence would prevail only if West could give East a club ruff, a much-less likely chance than a 5-0 trump break. (There was no chance of a heart ruff on the auction, for surely West would have overcalled with seven hearts as well as his advertised diamond honours.)

West shifted to the queen of hearts at trick four. Declarer won with his now-bare ace, drew trumps and claimed.

One of the dangers of a two-suited overcall is that it may indicate to declarer a winning, but unusual, order of play.

803. Dealer South. Neither Vul.

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

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

1. 5+-5+ in the minors
2. Limit raise or better in spades

West led the king of clubs. Declarer paused to consider his options before winning with the ace of clubs. If trumps were 3-2, he could draw two rounds and run the hearts, throwing a club from dummy. Then, after conceding a club and ruffing a club with dummy's jack he would have twelve tricks.

Declarer saw, though, that if trumps were 4-1, East would be able to ruff the second round of clubs and play another trump, to leave declarer a trick short. However, as West had ten cards in the minors and at most three in the majors, he was far more likely to have one trump than two as there were more hearts outstanding than trumps. So, declarer decided to play for trumps to be 4-1.

There was still a trap to be avoided: cashing one of dummy's trump winners too early since South needed to make the low trumps in hand when trumps were indeed 4-1. So, declarer cashed the ace of diamonds at trick two, throwing a club from hand, and ruffed a diamond. A trump to the king was followed by another diamond ruff. Next declarer played four rounds of hearts, throwing a club from table. Only then did he concede a club. Declarer was left with the ace-queen of spades and a club; dummy held the jack-nine of spades and a diamond. East held the ten-eight-six of trumps, but declarer could ruff West's exit with the jack of spades and make the ace-queen at the end.

You should note than any variation in the timing would have seen East make a trump trick.

804. Dealer West. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
1♠	Double	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

West led a fourth-highest six of spades and declarer paused to make a plan. Although there were only four top tricks, declarer saw that he could develop extra tricks in both hearts and clubs. The danger was that West might be able establish his spades before declarer had knocked out both of the aces in West's hand. Declarer saw that if he played low from dummy at trick one, West would win the race to establish three winners in the spade suit. Consequently, declarer took the first trick with dummy's ace of spades and led a low heart to his ten and West's ace.

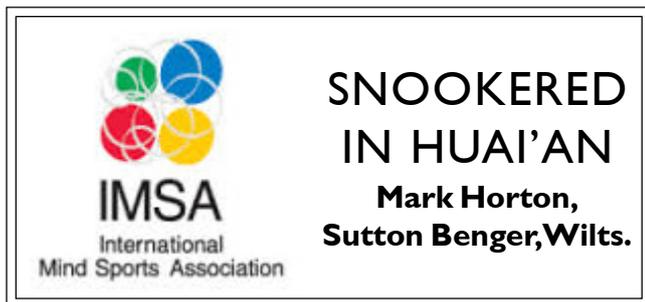
West exited with the five of spades and East produced the ten. Declarer followed through on his plan by allowing East to hold this trick. Now the defence was finished: the best that West could do was to take his ace of clubs and king of spades. Declarer would have always made at least nine tricks.

West	North	East	South
Robinson	Gill	Boyd	Doub
—	Pass	2♣	Pass
3♣ ¹	Pass	3NT ²	Pass
4♣ ³	Pass	4♠ ⁴	Pass
5♥ ⁵	Pass	6♣ ⁶	Pass
7♣ ⁷	Pass	7♥ ⁸	Pass
7♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. 4 controls
2. Forcing, balanced
3. Puppet Stayman
4. 5 spades
5. Slam try in spades
6. Grand slam try
7. A decent club suit
8. With the possibility for five club tricks with no need to ruff one, bid 7NT

The best contract was thus reached, minus one, of course, when the clubs broke badly and the diamond finesse then lost. Despite the result, I thought that was a good auction to seven spades.

Boyd and Robinson's reward for reaching this (approximately) 75% contract was 11% of the matchpoints.



It sometimes happens that the cards are distributed in such a fashion that a defender cannot avoid his fate. However, it may take exceptional play by declarer to take advantage of this. That was the case on this deal from the third-place play-off between Bulgaria and China in the IMSA Elite Mind Games Open Teams in Huai'an, China (Poland defeated Sweden for top honours).

Board 20. Dealer West. Both Vul.

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

In the other room, East/West had stopped in three notrump, taking twelve tricks on the lead of the four of spades. Here...

West	North	East	South
Sun	Stamatov	Kang	Danailov
INT ¹	Pass	3♣ ²	Dble
3♦	Pass	3NT	Pass
4♣ ³	Pass	6♦	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. 13-15
2. Diamonds
3. Control bid

North led the five of clubs. Declarer took South's queen with the ace and cashed six rounds of diamonds, followed by the ace and queen of hearts. When he played the jack of hearts, these cards remained:

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

South, forced to keep the jack of spades guarded, pitched the nine of clubs and North, obliged to protect the king of spades, parted with the two of clubs. Declarer exited with the six of clubs and South won and returned the six of spades. Shaolin Sun completed his masterpiece by playing the ten, a stunning plus 1370 to earn 12 IMPs and the bronze medal by 6 IMPs.



Consider this declarer play problem:

Dealer East. EW Vul.

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

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

This deal occurred in a high-stakes rubber-bridge game in New York City.

West led the diamond ten. As declarer, I had plenty to worry about, with both black suits being rather weak. Due to the fragile club holding, I could not venture to play trumps in the early stages but, luckily, a cross-ruff was suggested by the shapes. From the bidding, I was pretty confident that West held six hearts and that East had started with the ace-king of clubs and the king of spades.

So, focusing on the most likely shapes, I needed to decide if RHO was 3=3=4=3 or 2=3=5=3. After winning the diamond lead with the ace over dummy's jack and East's queen, I cashed the heart ace, then played the king of diamonds and another diamond. If West had followed suit, I was prepared to ruff in dummy, ruff a heart, ruff my last diamond (overruffing West if necessary), ruff another heart back to hand, cash the spade ace and exit with a trump to the queen and East's king. Reduced to a spade and the ace-king-third of clubs, East would be endplayed.

In practice, West discarded a heart, so I ruffed on the table and led a club from there. East took the king (as West contributed the eight), and returned the nine of hearts. After ruffing, I played my last diamond, ruffing in dummy when West pitched the club jack, and followed by leading another club. East rose with the ace (West pitching a heart) and continued clubs with the ten. I covered with the queen, but West ruffed with the deuce and exited with the king of hearts. I ruffed in hand, giving this position, where I needed two of the last three tricks:

	♠ Q 9	
	♥ —	
	♦ —	
	♣ 7	
♠ ??		♠ K ?
♥ Q		♥ —
♦ —		♦ 9
♣ —		♣ —
	♠ A 7	
	♥ —	
	♦ —	
	♣ 9	

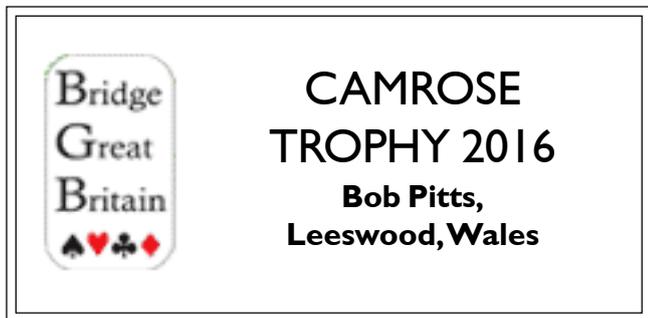
As it turned out, I did have a complete shape count at that point, but I still had to decide how to proceed to achieve my target. If West's remaining trumps were jack-ten, I would have had to lead the club nine at trick 11. West would be forced to ruff, but no matter what he returned, I would score the last two tricks one way or the other. However, since East's lower spade was more likely to be an honor, I decided to focus on this end-position instead:

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

As I was assessing my final play options, I suddenly realized that if my assumptions were correct, I was facing the Sidney Lenz "world's smallest double-dummy problem." What an amazing occurrence! (See the article with the same title by Mike Lawrence at <http://www.michaelslawrence.com>). Leading the club or the ace of spades would not have worked here because, if I led my club, West would ruff and East would have a trump trick. If, instead, I led the spade ace then a club, West would ruff in and East would take trick 13, while two rounds of trumps would leave East with a side winner. But when I played the spade seven from hand, the defense was helpless. West needed to follow suit and all I had to do was to cover cheaply in dummy. In practice, the trick went: spade seven, eight, nine, ten, but then East was in an impossible situation at trick 12. The full deal:

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

A cute old ending resurfacing after so many years...



The Camrose Trophy is awarded to the winner of the UK and Ireland Home International series. Each year England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland and Ireland compete against each other over two weekends to see which nation is the best. In order that no team sits out for a match, whoever is hosting the second weekend is allowed to enter an extra team. This year that privilege fell to Wales. This 'B' squad was designated as the WBU team. My partner Barry Jones and I were lucky enough to be selected as part of the WBU squad; we played on the first weekend. IBPA President Patrick Jourdain and Tony Ratcliff replaced us for the second weekend. England ran away with the event, winning nine of their ten matches, only losing to a fighting Wales team in the final round, a result that allowed the 'A' team to overtake my team for second place. We finished third.

Top of the cross-imping on the second weekend were Mike Pownall and Richard Plackett of the Wales team. Mike did well on this deal against Ireland; four of the other five declarers went off.

Board 9. Dealer North. EW Vul.

	♠ 6 5 3		
	♥ K 3		
	♦ Q 7 4 3		
	♣ J 10 6 4		
♠ A 9		♠ Q 8 4 2	
♥ Q 7 6 5 2		♥ A 9	
♦ K J 8 2		♦ A 9 5	
♣ K 7		♣ A 8 3 2	
	♠ K J 10 7		
	♥ J 10 8 4		
	♦ 10 6		
	♣ Q 9 5		
West	North	East	South
<i>Plackett</i>	<i>Coyne</i>	<i>Pownell</i>	<i>McAonghusa</i>
—	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♦	Pass	2♥	Pass
3NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

South led the diamond ten to the jack, three and five. Declarer played a heart to the ace and another back to the queen, losing to North's king. North shifted to

the club four, which was won by the king in dummy. Declarer continued hearts; South won and played the queen of clubs, ducked all round.

South now had a problem. If he played:

- (a) a spade other than the king, declarer would duck it to the queen; the king would attack declarer's entries, but an endplay later against North would allow a fourth diamond trick via a stepping stone
- (b) a diamond would subsequently result in an endplay against South to lead away from the king of spades
- (c) a club would result in the same endplay as a diamond exit, declarer cashing the appropriate number of minor-suit tricks before exiting from dummy with a heart.

After that analysis, South cashed the heart ten first, before playing another club. Pownell won with the ace, played a spade to dummy's ace and cashed the fifth heart. This squeezed North, who had to release a diamond to retain his club guard, so declarer came home with four diamonds, two hearts, two clubs and one spade.

On the following deal, Colin Simpson and David Price for England reached a good diamond slam against Wales, whilst everybody else was missing the top spot.

Board 7. Dealer South. Both Vul.

	♠ K 3		
	♥ J 9 5 3 2		
	♦ Q J 10		
	♣ A 3 2		
♠ Q 8		♠ J 10 7 4	
♥ A K Q 6		♥ 10 8 4	
♦ 8 5		♦ 9 7	
♣ J 8 7 6 5		♣ Q 10 9 4	
	♠ A 9 6 5 2		
	♥ 7		
	♦ A K 6 4 3 2		
	♣ K		
West	North	East	South
<i>Pownell</i>	<i>Price</i>	<i>Plackett</i>	<i>Simpson</i>
—	—	—	1♦
1♥	2NT	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♥
Pass	6♦	Pass	Pass
Pass			

West led the king of hearts and shifted to a trump, but with no dreadful breaks in spades or diamonds, the slam was easily made by ruffing two spades in the dummy.

Justin and Jason Hackett also outbid the field on the following deal in England's match against Northern

Ireland. This is a possible contender for auction of the year as it is beautifully logical.

Board 30. Dealer East. Neither Vul.

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

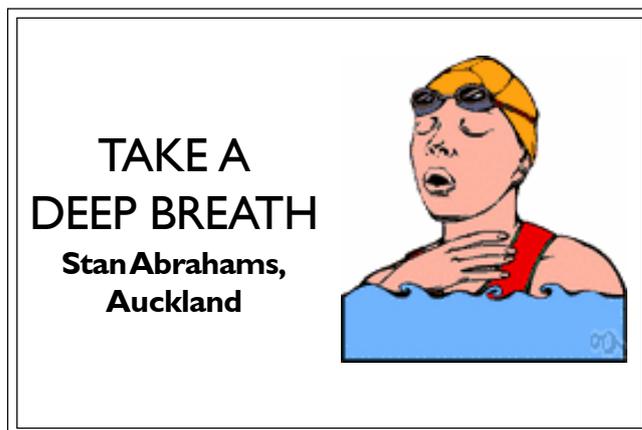
West	North	East	South
Jason	Greenwood	Justin	Anderson
—	—	1♦ ¹	Pass
2♣ ²	Pass	2NT ³	Pass
3♦ ⁴	Pass	3NT	Pass
5NT ⁵	Pass	6♦ ⁶	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. Playing five-card majors, at least four diamonds, unless specifically 4=4=3=2
2. Natural and game forcing
3. Balanced 12-14, but suggests that East does not have a good five-card suit, as with that he would have rebid two diamonds
4. Usually a decent three-card holding. With four in each minor the first response would have been two diamonds (inverted).
5. The key bid. With five clubs and four diamonds Jason would have bid four clubs here. With a running club suit he would have jumped to six notrump. Five notrump invited Justin to pick the right slam.
6. And he did.

South led a trump and continued with another after the heart finesse lost, but a heart ruff in dummy produced the twelfth trick. Every other East played in six notrump with only two getting home, although the contract could have been made by leading a heart to the queen and later endplaying South

The final VP scores were:

England	145.22
Wales	105.92
WBU	103.59
Ireland	100.98
Scotland	76.99
Northern Ireland	67.30



At the Canberra Summer Festival of Bridge, GeO Tislevoll had to make a couple of big decisions early in the defence of the following deal:

Board 8. Dealer West. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Yumin	GeO	Ferenc	Ashley
Li	Tislevoll	Budai	Bach
Pass	1♠	2♦	Pass
3♦	4♣	4♥	5♣
5♦	Pass	Pass	Pass

Ashley Bach found the only lead to give the defence a chance to beat five diamonds, a trump. Declarer won in the dummy, led a heart to the ace and ruffed a heart. Before ruffing the second heart in dummy, however, East had to concede a trick in a black suit. Accordingly, declarer led a spade from the dummy, hoping that either North would duck the ace or that he would be unable to lead a second trump and would be unwilling to underlead whatever clubs he held to allow South to lead a trump.

Tislevoll won with his ace of spades and had to decide how to continue when declarer's king fell. It was not long before the seven of clubs emerged, allowing Bach to win with his jack and continue with a trump. Declarer was left with a heart loser, being able to ruff just two of them in the dummy.

On a club lead from dummy at trick four, North's problem is essentially the same, the jack of clubs being less to play for than the king of spades.



The former penitentiary on Alcatraz Island, San Francisco Bay

CRIME OF THE CENTURY?

Brent Manley, Arlington, TN

The clear-cut winner of the defence of the year award for 2016 can be announced already. It will go to the president of the Alcatraz Bridge Federation (sorry, I mean Australian...or do I?) Bruce Neill with Best Supporting Award going to Avi Kanetkar.

Before I show you what happened, consider the fate of six spades here, from the Gold Coast Congress in Surfer's Paradise, Australia.

Dealer West. Neither Vul.

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

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

Declarer has a losing heart when the king is not singleton – but he also has a club finesse to take on which the heart loser can be discarded. Can you construct a sequence of plays whereby a highly competent declarer could fail to take 12 tricks?

Give it your best shot...it is hard to find a losing squeeze option isn't it? Well, Ziggy Konig and Jim Wallis bid to six spades – a sensible auction such as the one diagrammed would do the trick. Avi Kanetkar put the jack of hearts firmly on the table, giving declarer an additional winning option – but one that no sensible person would ever take. Konig rose with ace of hearts and drew trumps but, in the process, on the third

round, Bruce Neill as East revoked, discarding the five of hearts. He caught his revoke, but the heart was now on the table as a major penalty card.

This gave Konig as declarer an additional option. Instead of relying on the club finesse he led a second heart himself, knowing Bruce would have to follow low. So he did – but when Kanetkar produced the king of hearts and led to Neill's ace of diamonds, the barefaced robbery had been completed and the thieves had got clean away.

The Alcatraz Coup was so-named because it was an act that deserved incarceration on The Rock. The Coup was attempted in situations such as the following:

Dummy	Declarer
♠ A J 10	♠ K 3 2

With declarer needing three tricks in spades, he leads the jack of spades from dummy; East follows low; declarer revokes, playing (say) the two of clubs, and awaits West's play. After West plays (not noticing the revoke), declarer then 'discovers' his revoke and corrects it (declarer cannot have an exposed card), following suit with the king or a low spade, depending on whether West has played the queen or a low spade. - Ed.



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Dear John,

In case you think your readers might be interested – I have uploaded a series of ethics videos here:

<https://www.larryco.com/bridge-learning-center/category/50>

Regards, Larry Cohen, Boca Raton, FL

Hi John,

I've just seen your editorial (regarding the poor sportsmanship of declining to play the bronze-medal match in the European Winter Games) and couldn't agree more.

I can see the case for and against third-place play offs (personally, I would give both teams a bronze medal). However, if the regulations state that a match will be held, then it must go ahead.

I disapprove strongly of having regulations but not enforcing them (and I've just spent a weekend at the Camrose and saw NO-ONE follow the alerting regulations!).

Richard Fleet, London

Hi John,

In my article in the March issue of the IBPA Bulletin, on the first deal, I criticized GeO for his defence in not playing third-hand low. It transpires that the opening lead, although it was the fourth-highest card, was an attitude lead and so the same inferences did not follow.

Cheers, Ron Klinger, Northbridge, NSW

NEWS & VIEWS



FANTUNES UPDATE

According to the online Neapolitan Club and the Dutch magazine IMP, the Italian Bridge Federation has sentenced Fulvio Fantoni and Claudio Nunes to a three-year suspension. Additionally, they will never be allowed to play together again. The decision had not been made public by the Italian Bridge Federation at press time.

The suspension raises a couple of interesting questions for other bridge organisations such as the WBF, EBL and ACBL:

- Will they follow the FIGB's lead or will they issue their own, presumably stiffer, sentences?
- What, if anything, is to be done about the playing records and wins of the pair?

Another interesting question will be posed to other bridge players when, and if, Fantoni and Nunes return to competitive bridge: who will play with them? Two opposing attitudes are possible – (a) they are treated as pariahs, or (b) potential partners and teammates believe they have served their time and deserve another chance.

APRIL FOOLS

BridgeWinners produced surprise, confusion, amusement and consternation when they announced on April 1 that their website had been taken down in response to a lawsuit from members banned from commenting. The 'lawsuit' alleged First Amendment (freedom of speech) violations. Even after the site was restored, some members believed the joke to be true. Many were appalled that Bridge Winners would joke about such a serious topic. Those people need to lighten up a little.

2016 WORLDWIDE BRIDGE CONTEST

A revised Worldwide Bridge Contest, organised by the WBF in cooperation with the Chinese Contract Bridge Association and Beijing Lianzhong Interactive Network Inc., is coming for 2016. The contest has a prize of qualification for 13 pairs to a three-day Final in Beijing, China from September 23–25. Travel expenses and B&B accommodation will be covered and there will be a prize fund of \$US20,000 in the final.

The new contest will comprise six simultaneous pairs events to be held on:

- Tuesday, April 26
- Thursday, April 28
- Monday, May 9
- Wednesday, May 11
- Friday, June 3
- Saturday, June 4

Clubs may run any number of the events.

From these events, 13 pairs will qualify for a final in Beijing, joining a further seven pairs from China, to play the final, which will be played using BBO software.

The 13 qualifying pairs will be selected as follows:

- the winning pair from each of the six simultaneous pairs heats, then
- the winners from each continent not having won an individual session, provided they have scored over 55%, then
- the highest scoring pairs from any session to complete the required number of pairs in the final.

More details can be found at www.ecatsbridge.com.

World Bridge Calendar

DATES	EVENT	LOCATION	INFORMATION
2016			
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 26, 28	Worldwide Bridge Contest	Clubs Everywhere	www.worldbridge.org
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 9, 11	Worldwide Bridge Contest	Clubs Everywhere	www.worldbridge.org
May 12-16	Grazer Bridge Week	Graz, Austria	www.bridgeaustria.at
May 13-17	28 th 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.confsubridge.org
Jun 3, 4	Worldwide Bridge Contest	Clubs Everywhere	www.worldbridge.org
Jun 3-9	50 th Tel Aviv Bridge Festival	Tel Aviv, Israel	www.ibf-festival.org
Jun 16-26	53 rd European Team Championships	Budapest, Hungary	www.eurobridge.org
Jun 25-Jul 7	Australian National Championships	Brisbane, Australia	www.abf.com.au
Jul 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 th 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 nd Swedish Bridge Festival	Örebro, Sweden	www.svenskbridge.se
Jul 30-Aug 4	Chairman's Cup Teams	Örebro, Sweden	www.svenskbridge.se
Aug 3-13	World Youth Team Championships	Salsomaggiore, Italy	www.worldbridge.org
Aug 6-7	Gold Mine Pairs	Örebro, Sweden	www.svenskbridge.se
Aug 7-9	Pesta Sukan	Singapore	www.scba.org.sg
Aug 7-13	48 th International Bridge Week	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 th International Bridge Festival	Pula, Croatia	www.pulabridgefestival.com
Sep 3-17	World Bridge Games	Wroclaw, Poland	www.worldbridge.org
Sep 9-18	Confiance Guernsey Congress	Guernsey, Channel Is.	www.ebu.co.uk
Sep 23, 25	Worldwide Bridge Contest Final	Beijing, China	www.worldbridge.org
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 10-12	3 rd Marbella International Tournament	Marbella, Málaga, Spain	www.marbellabridge.com
Nov 10-20	22 nd Red Sea Bridge Festival	Eilat, Israel	www.bridgeredsea.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
2017			
Jan 10-22	Summer Festival of Bridge	Canberra, Australia	www.abf.com.au
Jan 19-22	IV Copenhagen Invitational	Copenhagen, Denmark	www2.bridge.dk
Jan 23-Feb 1	76 th International Tournament	St. Moritz, Switzerland	www.bridge.stmoritz.ch
Feb 7-12	21 st NEC Festival	Yokohama, Japan	www.jcbl.or.jp
Feb 17-25	56 th Gold Coast Congress	Surfer's Paradise, Australia	www.qldbbridge.com/gcc
Mar 9-19	ACBL Spring NABC	Kansas City, MO	www.acbl.org
Apr 28-May 9	USBF Open Trials	Schaumburg, IL	www.usbf.org
May 3-9	USBF Women's Trials	Schaumburg, IL	www.usbf.org
May 17-25	USBF Senior Trials	Schaumburg, IL	www.usbf.org
May	29 th CACBF Championships	Guatemala	www.cacbf.com
May 27-Jun 7	50 th Asia Pacific Championships	Seoul, South Korea	www.abf.com.au
Jul 20-30	ACBL Summer NABC	Toronto, ON	www.acbl.org
Aug 12-26	World Team Championships	Lyon, France	www.worldbridge.org
Aug 19-26	World Youth Team Championships	Lyon, France	www.worldbridge.org
Nov 23-Dec 3	ACBL Fall NABC	San Diego, Ca	www.acbl.org