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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.

Previously, I had been adamantly opposed to the extermination of appeals committees. I believed that only a panel of expert players could truly understand and come to grips with the subtleties of the decisions top players make at the table and the roadblocks put in their way by misinformation and unauthorised information. However, over the years, a few controversial appeals committee decisions has introduced some doubt in my mind. Some of these well-known (or infamous, depending on one's point of view) committee decisions over the years:

- the JoAnna Stansby "Oh, shit!" Vanderbilt ruling
- the Billy Cohen non-alert of Stayman Vanderbilt ruling
- the Kerry Sanborn "usually" Wagar ruling
- the Tor Helness four or three spades Vanderbilt ruling.

Each of these appeals committee decisions was characterized at the time as the "worst-ever" by at least some expert players. Thus there has been some sentiment among top players that we can do without committees. And, in fact, both the WBF and the EBL have eliminated appeals committees, while the ACBL has announced that future NABC appeals committees will be comprised solely of tournament directors.

This is not to say that appeals committees are solely to blame for poor and/or controversial rulings. Organisations and players are partly to blame as well. For example, the WBF used to feature very unwieldy committees with as many as 17 members, most of them officials who could not be considered expert players. The players were equally at fault since those out for any edge would call the TD at the drop of a hat and, if the ruling were not to their liking, appeal with impunity.

The ACBL had a good idea, forming appeals committee teams (for NABCs) under a leader, with each team responsible to form a committee if required on a particular date. With three teams of 12-15 members, each team needed to be available on only three or four days during any given tournament. This model could have worked well in theory, except for the fact that all committee members were players at the tournament and the team leader or a TD often had to search for a committee late at night, after the evening session. That frequently resulted in less-able committees.

It should have been a simple matter for all of these organisations to construct a permanent or fluid appeals committee of expert players whose duties were appeals, not playing bridge, and who would attend a given tournament as part-time employees. A pool of a couple of dozen players would not have been too difficult to manage. Then, five or seven committee members not planning to attend a particular tournament could have been engaged to attend.

Instead, we are now left with the unsavoury situation in which tournament directors are the sole arbiters (with, it must be said, 'help' from expert players). It should make the players at the table uneasy to receive a ruling where all the evidence has been presented by the TD out of the hearing of any of the players at the table. It seems too much like allowing the police to have powers beyond their mandate (of defence and prosecuting attorneys, judge and jury as well as their normal powers of arrest and detention).

I have a feeling that, years from now, we shall look back fondly on the days when we could appeal a TD's ruling. I hope I'm wrong.

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OZ BRIDGE

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The Force of the Jedi

Take a look at one of Australia's top players, Richard Jedrychowski, affectionately known as Jedi, in action in a rubber bridge game at the Grand Slam Bridge Centre, Double Bay, in Sydney on April 8.

Dealer South. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Callin</i>	<i>Raj</i>	<i>David</i>	<i>Richard</i>
<i>Gruia</i>	<i>Limaye</i>	<i>Conway</i>	<i>Jedrychowski</i>
—	—	—	1♠
Pass	2♠	Double	Pass
3♦	3♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

West led the two of hearts: five-king-three. East shifted to the diamond three: six-king-two. West continued with the five of diamonds, taken by the ace. To defeat three spades, East needed to play another diamond, but he chose the three of clubs. The queen of clubs won and South shifted his attention to trumps: six of spades-two-seven-three; then the eight of spades-diamond seven-ten-four.

South could almost certainly tell West's shape: four spades (known) and four diamonds (indicated by the play so far). As West had led the two of hearts, that would have been from three or four hearts. However, if West had had four hearts, he'd have bid three hearts, not three diamonds. South gave West three hearts, and hence a 4=3=4=2 pattern. West had also shown up with the ace of spades and the king of diamonds. As East won trick one with the king of hearts, South also placed the heart queen with West. East might have

been deceptive with both the queen and king of hearts, but that was unlikely. There was no reason to fool partner here.

After the first six tricks, these cards remained:

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

South has lost three tricks already and will lose to the ace of spades at some point. How can South come to nine tricks?

It would not work to cross to the ace of hearts, discard a heart on the jack of diamonds and ruff a heart. If you continue with a spade, West wins and a diamond gives the defence the fifth trick one way or another. A heart to the ace, jack of diamonds to discard your heart loser and then another club finesse will not work either.

Because it was hopeless if West had started with the queen-ten-two of hearts, declarer, of necessity, placed the heart ten with East. In that case, he could transfer the heart menace to East by leading the jack of hearts at a convenient time. At trick seven, Jedi therefore played the nine of spades. West took the ace, and declarer unblocked the king from dummy as East discarded a heart. If West had played another spade, East throwing the nine of diamonds, South would have won and led the jack of hearts, letting it run if West had played low. If West had covered, the heart ace would have won and the jack of diamonds would have squeezed East in hearts and clubs.

In practice, after taking the ace of spades, West was not so kind as to play another spade. He returned a diamond to dummy's jack. This foiled South's initial plan, since the squeeze position had been destroyed, whether South discards a heart or a club.

Not to worry, Jedi found the solution. He ruffed the jack of diamonds! Ruffing your own winner is not usually a good idea, but here it was essential. Next came the jack of hearts: queen-ace-six. East was down to the ten of hearts and king-to-three clubs while South had the nine of hearts and the ace-jack-four of clubs. The jack of spades simultaneously drew West's last trump and squeezed East. Whichever suit East discarded, South would discard from the other suit and repeat the club finesse. Making three spades.

The Squeeze Is On

The Summer Swiss Pairs, won by Witold Chylewski and John Scotford, was held recently at the New South Wales Bridge Association. Here is a deal featuring Michael Courtney, who finished runner-up in the event with Rose Don.

Session 5. Board 15. Dealer West. EW Vul.

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

There were eleven pairs in three notrump; only three were successful, one of whom was Courtney. Against him, West led the queen of hearts, which held the trick. Next came the heart nine: seven-ten-ace. Declarer played the ace, king and a third diamond. West took the jack of diamonds and East discarded the seven of clubs. West switched to the three of clubs: two-nine-jack. South played the ace of clubs and exited with the eight of clubs to the queen. West cashed the king of clubs and these cards remained, with West on lead:

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

If West had exited with the eight of diamonds, East would have been squeezed in the majors. Instead West played a spade, but that did not help. It went spade eight: jack-two-six. Then came the ten of diamonds. If East had discarded the king of hearts, South would have thrown a heart and made the last two tricks in his hand. So East let a spade go and South dumped the ace of spades. Dummy thus made the last two

tricks with the king and jack of spades and South had nine elegant tricks.

Well and Truly Forked

This was a rather unusual deal from the same pairs event, offering declarer a choice of plays, 3-3 diamonds being one:

Board 24. Dealer West. Neither Vul.

<p>♠ Q J 8 2 ♥ A ♦ A 4 ♣ K 8 7 5 3 2</p> <p>♠ A 9 6 3 ♥ J 9 7 5 2 ♦ 5 3 ♣ J 4</p> <p>♠ K 10 7 ♥ K 10 3 ♦ K Q 9 8 6 ♣ Q 10</p>	<p>♠ 5 4 ♥ Q 8 6 4 ♦ J 10 7 2 ♣ A 9 6</p>
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There were six declarers in three notrump North/South, with three successful. Three Souths received a low heart lead. How would you play it?

David Beauchamp spotted that the situation provided declarer with an opportunity for a Morton's Fork Coup. This is very rare at trick two and almost never seen in notrumps. After taking the ace of hearts, declarer plays a low club and East is fixed. If East rises with the ace of clubs, declarer has five club tricks and ten or eleven tricks. If East ducks, South wins with the queen of clubs and switches to spades, making nine tricks.



The White House Junior Internationals, played in Het Witte Huis in Amsterdam, drew the participation of 24 junior teams from 16 European countries this year. A special feature was the Dutch Junior Pairs Championship, played on March 19, in which 23 foreign pairs participated. On Sunday, March 20, the event continued with a Pro-Am Patton, in which Yves Aubry, president of the EBL, participated. The Junior team tournament ran from Monday, March 21 (qualification, followed by quarterfinals, semifinals and final) till Friday, March 25. On Friday, the non-finalists closed the week in a transnational matchpointed pairs tournament.

WHJI-2016 was the 24th edition of the junior team event in the Netherlands, which started in 1993 in 's-Hertogenbosch, moved for one year (2005) to Twee Klaveren in Amsterdam, eventually finding its way (with the help of the two main sponsors Max Abram and Herman Drenkelford) to Het Witte Huis, becoming the White House Junior event.

Who Needs Aces?

Dealer North. NS Vul.

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

During the match between Denmark and Netherlands Orange, Victor Todd-Moir (a Danish U-20 playing with Søren Christian Bune) showed great fighting spirit.

West	North	East	South
—	Todd-Muir		Bune
Pass	1♠	Double	2♥
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♦ ¹
Pass	6♠ ²	Double	Pass
Pass	Redouble ³	Pass	Pass

1. No aces
2. "I don't need aces."
3. "I really don't need aces."

The lead of the ace of hearts made life easy and resulted in plus 2070 for declarer who, after the board, smartly remarked: "East had only three cards to lead that would defeat the slam." (Either trump or the king of clubs.)

Clever Thinking

Dealer West. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
3♣	Double	3♠	Double
Pass	Pass	3NT	Double
Pass	Pass	4♣	4♠
Pass	6♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

South, Yvonne Wiseman of England, skilfully unmasked the psychic East and followed it up with an inspired line of play. Wiseman believed that East was more likely to have the king of hearts, saying to herself: "Why not psyche three hearts on four or five low hearts?" Thus Wiseman took the king of clubs lead with her ace and ruffed her low club in dummy. The ace and queen of spades revealed the favourable trump split and Wiseman made the winning play of a low heart from the dummy, ensuring that she could get to hand to draw trumps and finesse for the king of diamonds.

The Final: Poland vs. Netherlands Blue

After a close first set of fourteen boards, Poland was leading Netherlands Blue 27-22. Poland played four-handed and for the Netherlands, Bob Donkersloot/Pim Coppens replaced Bas van Engelen/Thijs Verbeek for the second set. The first board of this set created some points of interest.

Dealer South. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Sprinkuizen	Bojarski	Mendes	Chodacki
—	—	—	3♣
Pass	3NT	4♠	Pass
Pass	Double	Pass	Pass
Pass			

The defence started with a heart to the ace and a heart ruff. South took the ace of clubs and led another, ruffed by North with the ace of spades. When North continued with a third heart, declarer ruffed high and lost a trick to the jack of spades for down two, minus 300; not a bad result against the diamond grand slam available to North/South. However...

West	North	East	South
Marks	Donkersloot	Majcher	Coppens
—	—	—	3♣
Pass	3NT	4♠	Pass
Pass	4NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

East led the king of spades, ducked by declarer, after which East switched to the king of hearts, ending all hope for declarer; 9 IMPs to Poland, who led 36-22.

A couple of boards later, the Dutch struck back and levelled the match at 36-36. That was, however, one of the last Dutch scores of any importance and Poland ran away to a well-deserved victory (110-72 over 42 boards). Congratulations to Marcin Bojarski, Max Chodacki, Alex Majcher, Rafal Marks with coach Marek Markowski. Sweden and Norway were joint third.

Friday's pairs event was won by Ami Zamir and Danny Loonstein of Israel.



My first deal was played at our Winter Teams Championship, held in the city of Bursa in the first week of February, with 192 teams participating. At game all your hand is:

♠ K 7
♥ 6
♦ A K 10 5 4 3 2
♣ Q 7 3

Your LHO deals and passes. The bidding continues...

West	North	East	South
<i>You</i>		<i>Partner</i>	
—	Pass	2♦ ¹	2♥
3♦ ²	3♥	Pass	Pass
3♠	4♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			

1. Weak two in either major (5-8 HCP) or 20-22 HCP, balanced
2. To play

Rightly or wrongly, you tried three spades, but when your LHO bid four hearts, it was passed out. You lead the ace of diamonds and see:

♠ 9 6 5
♥ A Q 7 5
♦ 8
♣ 10 9 6 5 2

♠ K 7
♥ 6
♦ A K 10 5 4 3 2
♣ Q 7 3

Partner follows with the jack of diamonds and declarer plays the nine. When you shift to the king of spades,

partner plays the eight (standard carding) and declarer the two. How do you continue?

West, Metin Eksioglu continued with a low diamond. Declarer ruffed with the queen of hearts. This was the full deal:

Dealer North. Both Vul.

♠ 9 6 5
♥ A Q 7 5
♦ 8
♣ 10 9 6 5 2

♠ K 7
♥ 6
♦ A K 10 5 4 3 2
♣ Q 7 3

♠ A Q 10 8 4 3
♥ 8 3 2
♦ J
♣ J 8 4

♠ J 2
♥ K J 10 9 4
♦ Q 9 7 6
♣ A K

Declarer could no longer make the contract. He needed hearts 2-2, or the eight of hearts to drop singleton, or for it to be on his left in order to be able to ruff three diamonds in the dummy. If he chose to draw trumps, then he'd also have needed an extra club trick. In practice, the eight of hearts was the setting trick. The only way to defeat four hearts was to force dummy to ruff high prematurely.

My second deal is from the Istanbul Pairs Championship, in which 284 pairs competed over 102 boards.

Dealer North. Neither Vul.

♠ 4
♥ A J 9 5
♦ 4 2
♣ K Q 10 7 4 3

♠ A Q 10 3 2
♥ Q 10 6 3 2
♦ 9 7
♣ 5

♠ 9 6
♥ 7 4
♦ A K Q 8 6 5 3
♣ J 8

West	North	East	South
<i>Ozby</i>		<i>Öztürk</i>	
—	1♥	1♠	2♦
4♠	Pass	Pass	5♦
Pass	Pass	Double	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Tolga Ozbay, West, led his singleton club. His partner, Bircan Öztürk, won with his ace and gave Ozbay a club ruff with the two of clubs (suit preference for hearts). West returned the six of hearts (deceptive count – they play third from an even number and lowest from an odd number). Declarer took the heart shift with

the ace in dummy and discarded his losing heart on a high club. Ozbay ruffed and played the three of hearts – declarer ruffed with the five of diamonds, retaining the three. How should declarer have played from here?

If the remaining diamonds were divided 1-1, declarer could have drawn them, then used the three of diamonds to cross to the four in dummy and discarded both spades on the clubs, thus going only one off for minus 100. If the remaining diamonds were 2-0, however, declarer would have needed to concede a spade and ruff his second spade in the dummy for down two and minus 300. If he tried to draw a trump first, then found out the remaining diamonds were 2-0, he'd go three down for minus 500. The defence had given declarer a losing option.

Because of the deceptive carding in hearts, declarer decided to play West for 5=4=3=1 distribution. However, when he played a high diamond, then a spade, East took the trick and returned his last trump. Three down for plus 500 brought East/West 97% of the matchpoints.

GROSVENOR ALIVE AND WELL ... AND LIVING IN NEW ZEALAND

Richard Solomon, Tuakau, NZ

Truth is so much weirder than fiction

I have to give you a defensive problem. You are East and below is the dummy, your hand and the auction so far:

Board 19. Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
—	—	—	INT ¹
Pass	2♥ ²	Pass	2♠
Pass	5♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			
1. 12-14			
2. Transfer to spades			

Your partner, West, led the ace of hearts. With nothing better to suggest, you encouraged, and the

continuation of the two of hearts was won by dummy's queen, declarer following with the four and seven. At trick three, declarer called for dummy's jack of spades, won by your ace, with South and West following with low spades. Which card do you lead to trick four?

The club suit appeared to be hopeless for the defence. Declarer had to hold the king of hearts and presumably the queen of spades and maybe even the queen of clubs since South was in no rush to be in hand at trick two. At the table, East exited with the ten of diamonds. It's time to reveal all...

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

South won the diamond switch with the ace, discarding a club, and discarded a second club on the king of diamonds. All that remained was to play trumps for no further losers.

Let's just suppose you were South in five spades on the ace-of-hearts lead. You have rather limited entries to the declarer hand. Therefore, when the second heart is played, it seems normal to overtake, discard a couple of clubs on high diamonds and then try to guess the trump position correctly. You had to hope that neither defender held queen-to-three spades, as when the bare ace scores, the defence simply puts you back in dummy for down one!

Our hero had managed to put the defence off the scent by his extraordinary plays at tricks two and three. The only legitimate way the five-spade contract could now be beaten was for East to switch to a club and for West to just cover South's card in the suit. Did you find that switch, honestly?

Oh, I did say "legitimate" way. Before South's play is nominated for any brilliancy award, I have to complete the actual play. After playing the king of diamonds, South did indeed return to trumps, playing the low one and hesitating for some time after West contributed the seven. Declarer's choice? Why, the king, of course! Down one.

The silence was deafening!



POT POURRI

Mark Horton, Sutton Benger, Wilts., UK
Brian Senior, Nottingham, UK
Barry Rigal, NYC, USA
Francesca Canali, Padova, Italy

Here are a few of the more noteworthy deals from the IMSA Elite Mind Games (Beijing), the Gold Coast Congress (Australia) and the Reno Spring North American Championships (USA).

2016 IMSA Mind Games

Against All Odds (Horton)

Board 9. Dealer North. EW Vul.

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

1. Heart support, invitational-plus
2. Splinter

Seeing little point in leading a club, South attacked with the queen of diamonds and, like so many players before her, discovered that it cost a trick. (I recommend you study the excellent chapter on this topic in Blackwood's classic *Complete Book of Opening Leads*.) Declarer won in hand, cashed the ace of hearts and continued with a heart. North won, cashed a second heart and exited with a diamond. Declarer did not locate the queen of spades, so she was plus 620.

West	North	East	South
D'Ovidio	Zhang	Frey	Wang
—	Pass	1♥	2♣
4♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

Here, South led the king of clubs, which declarer won with dummy's ace. How should declarer have played?

One option was to take the optimum line in the trump suit, playing low to the nine, which offered a 57.34% chance of scoring four tricks in the suit and left elimination lines in play even with a second trump loser. However, declarer went for the tempting alternative of ruffing a club and playing the ace of hearts and another heart. North won, cashed a second heart and exited with the four of diamonds, declarer taking South's jack with the king and then running the nine to South's queen. The diamond exit left her to guess the location of the queen of spades and, when she started the suit by cashing the ace, she was one down for minus 100 and 12 IMPs the poorer.

Open Pairs (Senior)

Board 8. Dealer West. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Sylvan	Starkowski	Wrang	Golebiowski
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♣ ¹
Pass	1♥ ²	Pass	1♠ ³
Pass	1NT ⁴	Pass	2♦ ⁵
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♥
Pass	3NT	Pass	4♦
Pass	4♥	Pass	Pass

1. Three-way Polish Club: (1.) 12-14 balanced; (2.) Natural; (3.) Any 18+ HCP
2. 8+ HCP, 4+ hearts
3. (1.) Weak notrump with 4 spades; (2.) Natural, 4+ spades, 18+ HCP
4. To play opposite a weak notrump with 4 spades
5. Strong, natural

Wrang led the queen of diamonds, giving the defence a chance. Starkowski won with the ace and returned a low diamond to Sylvan's eight. Sylvan shifted to a heart to dummy's nine and Starkowski ruffed a diamond with the king of hearts, led a heart to the queen and ruffed another diamond with his jack of hearts, establishing the suit. Declarer crossed to the ace of spades and cashed the heart ace, then played a diamond. Wrang could ruff and lead a club to his

Continued on page 10...



IBPA Column Service

Tim Bourke, Canberra

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

805. Dealer East. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
—	—	1♠	2♦
2♠	5♦	Pass	Pass
Pass			

West reasoned that North's leap five diamonds was a distributional effort and began with the ace and another trump. The lead and continuation meant that if South were to make his contract, he would have to establish dummy's club suit. So, after winning the second trick, declarer cashed dummy's ace of clubs and ruffed a low club, felling East's king. If the king of clubs were a true card from a doubleton, declarer saw that he would be one entry short to establish and enjoy the clubs. Declarer found a neat solution to this problem by playing the king of spades next. If East had taken the king of spades with the ace, the queen of spades would have provided a third entry to the dummy. When East let the king of spades hold, declarer cashed the ace of hearts and ruffed a heart. Next, he led dummy's jack of clubs and threw the four of spades from his hand. Declarer ruffed the spade shift from West and dummy was high.

806. Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

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

West led the king of clubs. As declarer did not favour a shift, he won the lead with dummy's ace of clubs. He saw that if trumps were 3-2, ten tricks would be easy. So, he turned his mind to what could be done if trumps were 4-1. If West had four trumps, declarer would need East to have a singleton queen or jack: after cashing the ace of trumps, he would lead a low trump towards dummy's ten.

If East had four trumps, declarer saw that he could pick up the suit for one loser only if West had a singleton nine, jack or queen. When one of those cards fell under the ace declarer could continue with a low trump to dummy's ten. After East took this with an honour, declarer could finesse for East's remaining high card.

Declarer saw one further danger: East holding four trumps and a singleton diamond. East could win the second round of trumps and return his only diamond. Declarer would then need to use trumps as transport, for otherwise East could organise a diamond ruff. Accordingly, declarer called for the eight of trumps from dummy at trick two. When West's nine of trumps fell under his ace, declarer continued with a low trump to dummy's ten and East's jack. East continued with the ace and king of hearts. Declarer ruffed the second heart, then crossed to dummy with a diamond to the queen and led the six of trumps to the seven, drew trumps and claimed.

807. Dealer South. Neither Vul.

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

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

West led the ten of spades. Declarer won this in hand with the king and led a club to the ten and king, which held the trick. Declarer continued with dummy's queen of clubs. East took this with the ace and noted that West discarded the two of spades, suggesting that continuing spades was hopeless. East also read the two as preferring a shift to diamonds – if West had wanted a heart shift he would have discarded a higher spade. East duly shifted to a diamond and declarer's king held the trick. Declarer could do no better than play the jack and another club. Upon winning his second club trick, East played another diamond and West made three diamond tricks to defeat the contract.

“All you had to do was let the ten of clubs hold the second trick,” said the ever-unsympathetic dummy. “Thanks to your pips in the red suits, no continuation could have harmed you. You would have won the continuation and played on clubs. You would have made three spades, three clubs and at least three tricks in the red suits.”

808. Dealer South. NS Vul.

♠ 10 5
 ♥ A J 5
 ♦ Q 9 4 3
 ♣ A K 5 2

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

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

♠ Q J 7
 ♥ 9 8 3
 ♦ A K 6 2
 ♣ Q 6 4

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

West led a fourth-highest four of spades. After winning the first trick with his jack of spades, declarer cashed the ace of diamonds and was somewhat taken aback when East discarded a heart. After checking that East did indeed have a void in diamonds, declarer cashed the queen, ace and king of clubs. He was not surprised when West threw a diamond on the third round of clubs.

Reflecting on the bidding and the opening lead, declarer placed West with five spades headed by the ace and king and an original 5=1=5=2 shape. So,

declarer cashed the ace of hearts before leading the seven of spades. West cashed his four spade winners but then had to lead away from the jack-ten-eight of diamonds, which allowed declarer to take the last three tricks.

“Maybe I should have led the ace, king and another spade,” offered West,. “However, that would have meant that I had no entry to the good spades.”

“It would not have mattered what you'd led,” declarer replied. “After three rounds of spades, I can test the diamonds and cash the top clubs ending in dummy. Again you'd have been counted with 5=1=5=2 shape and East with an original 3=6=0=4 distribution. Then I would have endplayed East with a club and hoped he had the king and queen of hearts. As a low heart would have given me a second heart trick immediately, East could have done no better than to try a high heart, which I'd have allowed to win. After that, the jack of hearts would have been my ninth trick.”



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partner's ace, but that was all for the defence. Starkowski was home with ten tricks for plus 420. Well played. That proved to be worth 73%.

The Gold Coast Congress

Open Pairs Final (Rigal)

Board 13. Dealer North. Both Vul.

♠ K 6 2
♥ 9
♦ Q 10 7 6
♣ J 9 8 6 5

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

♠ J 5 4
♥ K J 10 7 6 2
♦ 8 2
♣ Q 2

West	North	East	South
<i>Bach</i>	<i>Zatorski</i>	<i>Cornell</i>	<i>Kowalski</i>
—	Pass	Pass	2♦ ¹
2NT	Pass	3NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. Weak two in either major

Ashley Bach had a nice example as declarer of obtaining a progressive count on the suits. Bach took the first heart (riskier against some than others!) and played a spade to the queen, running the nine to the king on the way back. Zatorski shifted to the nine of clubs. Bach won with dummy's king and finessed in diamonds. Zatorski took his queen and deceptively returned the seven from ten-seven-six, but Bach could now win in hand, cash the ace of clubs to get the count of that suit, and follow up with the ace of spades.

Then, knowing that his RHO was 3=6=2=2, the diamond finesse was guaranteed to work – but had Bach been feeling like needling his opponents he could have rejected the finesse and endplayed Zatorski with the fourth diamond to give him the ten of clubs at trick 13. Half the field went down in game here.

Open Pairs Final (Rigal)

Board 14. Dealer East. Neither Vul.

♠ J 7 3
♥ 6 5 2
♦ 10 9 6 4 3 2
♣ J

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

♠ A 10 6 2
♥ 10 4 3
♦ J 8
♣ 10 8 7 3

West	North	East	South
<i>Klukowski</i>	<i>Foster</i>	<i>Morawiecki</i>	<i>Weston</i>
—	—	2♦ ¹	Pass
2NT ²	Pass	3NT ³	Pass
6NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. (1.) Weak 2 in either major; (2.) Balanced 20-22
2. Inquiry
3. Balanced 20-22

Klukowski went for the big prize. He won the diamond lead and led a spade to his king, trying to steal the overtrick if clubs broke. Then came four rounds of hearts, the king of clubs and a club to the ace. Here we were:

♠ J 7
♥ —
♦ 10 9 6
♣ —

♠ 8 4 ♠ Q 9
♥ — ♥ —
♦ — ♦ K Q
♣ Q 6 5 ♣ 9

♠ A 10
♥ —
♦ J
♣ 10 8

In that end position, Klukowski pitched a club on the diamond king, and then advanced the queen of diamonds and awaited Weston's discard. If he pitched a spade, Klukowski would pitch a club and duck a spade to the now-bare ace; if a club, Klukowski's clubs would be good. This wasn't a top – we shall not divulge the name of the defender who led a 'safe' club seven and brought the whole suit in. The usual deal: a cheque made out to 'bearer' please.

Open Teams Final (Rigal)

Board 24. Dealer West. Neither Vul.

♠ A Q J 10 9 5 4 2
♥ 10 9 3
♦ K Q
♣ —

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

♠ K 3
♥ K J 4 2
♦ J 9 8
♣ J 6 4 3

West	North	East	South
<i>Kanetkar</i>	<i>O'Shea</i>	<i>Neill</i>	<i>Doecke</i>
Pass	1♠	2NT	Pass
4♣	4♠	5♣	Pass
Pass	5♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

West	North	East	South
Gold	Gumby	Haffer	Lazer
Pass	4♠	4NT	Pass
5♣	Pass	Pass	Pass

Jenner-O'Shea's solo effort bought a spectacularly-suitable dummy. He won the club lead (Neill could work out that if his side had a club trick he didn't need to take a heart ruff) and played the king of diamonds from hand. Neill ducked – nice defence! Declarer now drew one round of trumps and needed to draw the second before playing on diamonds. Instead, he played a second diamond, and Neill won with his ace to play a third diamond, killing the discard when Kanetkar ruffed. The queen of hearts was the setting trick in the fullness of time. Neill's play was worth IMPs, but only reducing his loss on the board from 13 to 8, since five clubs on a diamond lead could not be defeated.

On a heart lead against five clubs, declarer would have had to play a complete cross-ruff and never touch trumps, a possible, if unlikely, line. After a diamond lead and a trump to the ace revealed the bad news, declarer led a second diamond. The defenders played two rounds of spades, declarer ruffing the second in dummy. Declarer then ran the ten of clubs, ruffed a diamond, unblocked his trump honour and went to the ace of hearts to draw trumps. He claimed the rest with good diamonds.

Reno Spring NABC

Alfredo's Latest Artwork (Canali)

"Learn the rules like a pro, so you can break them like an artist." (Pablo Picasso)

The final of the Friday-Saturday KO Bracket I was thrilling. Team Cayne (Jimmy Cayne, Lorenzo Lauria, Michael Seamon, Antonio Sementa, Mustafa Cem Tokay, Alfredo Versace) won by 7 IMPs over Team Schwartz (Richie Schwartz, Huub Bertens, Boye Brogeland, Allan Graves, Daniel Korbel, Espen Lindqvist). A board from the final set made the difference. Versace, West, held:

Dealer North. Neither Vul.

♠ A 10
♥ 8 4
♦ A 7 4 3 2
♣ Q 7 5 2

West	North	East	South
Versace	Korbel	Lauria	Bertens
—	1♥	Pass	2♣ ¹
Pass	3♦ ²	Pass	3NT
Pass	5♣	Pass	Pass
Pass			

1. Natural, game-forcing
2. Club support, short in diamonds

Have you ever dreamt about taking a trip inside a bridge artist's mind? Let's go.

Versace: "Dummy is very likely to be strong, with five cards in hearts and five cards in clubs, including the ace and king. That's to say that I can't see more than these two aces for us. I have to create a trick."

Alfredo led a low club. Obviously, declarer could not figure out what was happening (how could he think of a lead from the queen of trumps?). After that lead, Bertens did not try a finesse he was sure would lose. Instead, he cashed the top clubs . . . down one. The full deal:

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

That was 10 IMPs for the Cayne team because in the other room Sementa/Tokay played in three notrump, making. The touch of the artist was instrumental in taking team Cayne to the victory.

For Deep Thinkers Only (Rigal)

Apolinary Kowalski posed this interesting problem in percentages to me. I admit in advance that I don't know the answer.

♠ Q 10 4
♥ A 10 8 2
♦ K Q 8 3
♣ K Q

♠ A 7
♥ K 7 3
♦ A J 10 6 4
♣ A 6 3

After a strong notrump auction, you do well to reach six diamonds rather than six notrump. At the table, on a diamond lead, declarer drew trumps and led the ace and another spade, hoping to guess the suit. This was essentially a 50% line, and it failed. Can you do better?

One simple improvement is to play a spade up at trick two, planning to put in the ten if West ducks smoothly. You retain your 50% chance, but will also make when hearts are 4-2 (or worse) or the queen and jack of hearts are together and you have a major-suit squeeze. This is roughly 30% of the balance, I believe. Maybe a 65% line in total.

Of course, you could play on hearts first. A simple line is low to the ace, low to the king and a third heart. This works when hearts break or East has a singleton or doubleton honour or when West has queen-jack, queen-nine or jack-nine doubleton. Let's call that about 60% in hearts. But if hearts don't behave, you have virtually no chance.

Another intriguing line is to pull trumps, cash the clubs, then lead up to the ace of hearts and play a heart back to the seven if East plays low. If East plays an honour, you win with the king and play a third heart. If West plays an honour on the first trick, play him for shortness and lead back to the seven. If West plays the nine, play him for honour-nine. If hearts are 3-3, you are home, and if West has honour-fourth or four low cards you have the twelfth trick. What if West has the doubleton? If he has either honour-low or nine-low, he must win the heart and lead spades for you – and that gives you the contract 50% of the time. You are also home if he has the bare queen or jack. The combined chances come to about 66% ... maybe.

If that wasn't enough to make your head spin, you might cash two diamonds, then play the ace and king of hearts. If an honour appears to your right, play on hearts. If not, and you judge the hearts to be 4-2, cash the clubs in dummy, cross in diamonds, pitch a heart on the ace of clubs and exit in hearts for a possible endplay.

How good a line is this? It wins outright when East has the queen-doubleton or a singleton honour or queen-jack doubleton or queen-jack-nine (say 20% of the time), and it also wins when West has queen-jack doubleton, honour-nine or queen-jack-nine.

Even if you never tried to guess when hearts were 3-3, you'd be up to 26% and the 50% spade shot gets you to half of the rest, or 63%.

Conclusion: Either my math is wrong or you have a choice of equivalent lines – or maybe I've just missed the best line altogether!

The Good Fight (Rigal)

Dealer South. NS Vul.

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

West	North <i>Danailov</i>	East	South <i>Stamatov</i>
—	—	—	1 ♣ ¹
Pass	1NT ²	Pass	2 ♣
Pass	2NT	Pass	3 ♣
Pass	3NT	Pass	4 ♦ ³
Pass	4♥ ⁴	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♥ ⁵	Pass	5NT
Pass	6NT ⁶	Pass	7 ♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. Strong, artificial and forcing
2. Balanced, 12+ high-card points
3. Cuebid
4. Cuebid showing controls in clubs and hearts
5. Two key cards without the trump queen
6. No other kings (♣K already shown) but some additional fillers

When the final round of the 0-10,000 Swiss Teams began, the top three teams were fighting it out for the major honours. Jerry Stamatov and Diyan Danailov had their chance to lock up second place on this board.

The opening lead of the ten of diamonds was taken by Stamatov in hand. When he cashed the ace of spades, West played the jack. On the king of spades, West discarded a low diamond.

To time the trump coup, Stamatov played three rounds of clubs, ruffing the third as East followed suit. Stamatov then played a diamond to dummy's ace, East following with the queen. Stamatov ruffed a diamond, East pitching a heart. The king of hearts was next, followed by a heart to dummy's ace, Stamatov holding his breath awaiting East's play. When East followed this was the end position:

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

When Stamatov presented the jack of diamond, East had no answer. If he discarded, Stamatov would still be in dummy to pick up East's trumps; and if East ruffed, Stamatov would overruff, cash the high trump and the queen of hearts.

At the other table, the contract was seven notrump down three for minus 300. The 21-IMP gain helped Stamatov's team solidify their runner-up spot.

Don't Trust to Luck (Rigal)

My favourite deal of the tournament so far was relayed to me by David Gurvich. It's from the second-round Vanderbilt Knockout Teams match between Mahaffey and the Texan Aces. This is the deal (spots approximate):

Dealer South. Neither Vul.

♠ Q 4 3
♥ J 9 6 4 2
♦ K Q
♣ Q J 5

♠ K 7
♥ A 8 7 3
♦ A 8 6 4 3
♣ A 6

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

The lead of the jack of diamonds goes to the queen and an unreadable five of diamonds. Plan the play.

At the table, both declarers trusted to luck, playing the ace of hearts and another heart, a line that would succeed unless hearts were 3-1 with no singleton honour to the right – and the club finesse was working.

Today, the card gods would punish you for hubris. The full deal shows the lie of the cards you need to protect against.

♠ Q 4 3
♥ J 9 6 4 2
♦ K Q
♣ Q J 5

♠ J 9 8 5
♥ 10
♦ J 10 9 7
♣ K 9 8 4

♠ A 10 6 2
♥ K Q 5
♦ 5 2
♣ 10 7 3 2

♠ K 7
♥ A 8 7 3
♦ A 8 6 4 3
♣ A 6

A more cautious approach is to lead a heart from dummy, covering East's five. Sure, you could lose to two ruffs and the ace of spades, but why should you? When West wins with the ten of hearts, he returns a diamond. When East follows, you can put a foolproof line into effect. Play a heart to the ace, West discarding, and ruff a diamond in dummy. It does East no good to overruff because you have entries back to hand to pitch clubs on the good diamonds. Assuming East does not overruff, play a third trump and win the club return to discard dummy's two clubs on your good diamonds.

P.S. I'm told both declarers went down.

Exit Here (Rigal)

This deal came from the Vanderbilt Knockout Teams round-of-16 match between the Bart Bramley and Ruo Yang Lian teams.

Dealer South. Neither Vul.

♠ Q 5 3 2
♥ K 7 4 2
♦ 9 4
♣ K J 4

♠ J 10 9
♥ A J 10 8 3
♦ Q 7
♣ 10 6 5

♠ K 8 7 6
♥ Q 9 6
♦ K 10 2
♣ Q 3 2

♠ A 4
♥ 5
♦ A J 8 6 5 3
♣ A 9 8 7

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

Both tables played in three diamonds, but in one room East had simply raised to two hearts and declarer misguessed the queen of clubs to go down.

At the other table, on the auction shown, Bramley led the jack of spades to the queen, king and ace. The declarer, Poon Hua, led a heart up at trick two. Bramley won with the ace, cashed the ten of spades and continued with the nine of spades. Declarer ruffed and guessed well to lead the ace and another diamond. This was the position at that point, Bramley having won the previous trick with the queen of diamonds:

♠ 5
♥ K 7 4
♦ —
♣ K J 4

♠ —
♥ J 10 8 3
♦ —
♣ 10 6 5

♠ 8
♥ Q 9
♦ K
♣ Q 3 2

♠ —
♥ —
♦ J 8 6
♣ A 9 8 7

In the diagrammed position, West exited in hearts. Declarer won with the king, ruffed a heart, led a club to the king and ruffed dummy's last heart, East pitching his spade, before exiting in diamonds. In the two-card ending, East had to lead a club round to dummy's jack for declarer's ninth trick.



Correspondence

The Editor reserves the right to abridge and/or edit correspondence. Email: ibpaeditor@sympatico.ca

John,

Regarding three-year bans in bridge versus Olympic sports...

When comparing three-year bans to a total career, you are forgetting one thing: when a 100-metre runner is the best in his era, he can win two Olympic medals, but he does not have to contend with all the other "bests in their era". I recently saw a documentary in which the bronze medallist of the World Championship at 100 metres was asked to run in the shoes and on the track used by Jesse Owens – he did not even come close. So while a three-year ban in bridge does not prohibit you from winning several more World Championships, it does reduce your chances. The IOC uses a three-year ban on all sports (athletics careers are not the shortest), including equestrianism, shooting and sailing, where careers are far longer.

And the psychological effect of a ban for reasons of cheating should not be considered small either. That is carried all their lifetimes.

Herman De Wael, Wilrijk, Belgium

I don't understand this argument at all. Firstly, no matter what your sport, at the top, you compete against the best of the era, whether the era is eight years long or 50 years long. Whether current players would be able to compete successfully against those from any other era is irrelevant. If we put Usain Bolt in Jesse Owens' track shoes, sure he would do worse – technology, training, tracks and athletes' bodies have all improved by leaps and bounds since 1936. Similarly, forcing today's Lavazza team to use Ely Culbertson's bidding methods would also result in poorer performance. That proves nothing. Finally, the cheats are sociopathic, so the psychological effects on them of a ban are minimal. The only regret they have is getting caught. Sociopaths do not have 'normal' consciences. - Ed.

An opposing view...

Dear John,

Good editorial! An interesting notion would be to allow professional players adjudged guilty of illicit signalling to be barred for only a limited time frame (three years does seem awfully short for that sort of misbehaviour), but with a proviso that, to be readmitted, they must repay all money earned as professional players (salaries, bonuses, prize money, Calcutta winnings of those who bet on them in Cavendish type events, etc.). The money obviously cannot be returned to sponsors or other competitors directly (accounting nightmare, plus they

are not the real victims), so the funds should be paid to the WBF (for WBF events in which they were involved), NCBOs for like events, and an international charitable organization (chosen by the WBF or a group of NCBOs) for events not sponsored by an NCBO or the WBF (like the Cavendish), used to fund anti-cheating investigations, analysis, rule changes, etc. There would be a presumption that such cheaters have always cheated; the burden would be on them to establish, by clear and convincing evidence, that the cheating began at some later date than their first foray into competitive bridge.

The details are probably irrelevant, because there is no chance in hell that such people would ever be able to repay the full amount of what they have stolen in fees and prizes, but we would require affidavits from all "clients" as to how much they were paid (prizes are easily tracked), just in case someone attempted repayment. By this stratagem, any exclusion would be effectively for life. Note that I propose this only for the use of illegal signals; which the Proprietaries have always deemed the worst possible offense, because it requires two like-minded wrongdoers to conspire, and a sociopathic attitude that other people simply do not matter, only one's own goals and desires count for anything. Other kinds of cheating are reprehensible, to be sure, but in those cases I can see the argument for potential redemption and rehabilitation, even if I'm skeptical.

Obviously, it does not work to move other pairs up in the standings of events where a cheating pair worked its evil ways – how do we know how the event was affected? So I propose that the cheaters, their clients and teammates (unfortunate, but innocence is not a *passpartout* – if you found a bag of stolen money, you would be expected to return it, not retain it) be docked all masterpoints won in harness with cheats, and that pairs or teams below the cheats be promoted I place in terms of masterpoints only. Imagine how clients will be extra careful in choosing a pro partner or teammate – anyone with a hinky reputation may represent money down the drain (here, I am assuming that if, say, A and B cheated as a pair, whenever either played with another partner for money, he indulged in some form of unethical behaviour to maximize their prospects, whether by "clocking" hands or results or some other method, and thus that results achieved with other partners must also be regarded as tainted beyond salvage); imagine, correlatively, how pros who want to remain in business will try to be purer than Caesar's wife so their reputation is impeccable and they have the broadest market for their services.

For KO team events, either leave any vacated titles vacant, or declare the second-place team and the team defeated in the semi-final by the cheats to be co-

winners (not perfect, but not bad, and better than just declaring the losing finalist the winner, as happened in the WBF Senior Teams after Elinescu and Wladow were outed and Germany disqualified *ex post facto*). Move up each team knocked out by the cheats one position (i.e., a team defeated by the cheats in the Round of 32 gets credit for 9-16 instead of 17-32). Leave it to NCBOs to decide what to do about corresponding seeding points (if others besides ACBL use them for special events), and whether to recognize a title for other purposes (such as Grand Life Master), given that the new “winners” did not actually win.

Given that drawing and quartering, boiling in oil, and similar fates are out of fashion, no solution is going to be perfectly satisfying, but the foregoing strikes me as possibly the foundation for a workable standard.

Regards, Allan Falk, Okemos, MI

While I like the idea of forcing the convicted cheats to return the money, it would be an accounting and an administrative nightmare. Revoking all titles would also be a huge headache for the governing bodies – what about those instances where the cheats did not actually win, but come second or worse? We'd have to change the results of every event in which they played – impossible. Let's just reanimate Judge Roy Bean and hang them.

How about simply having a rule that states something like, “If you're ever caught colluding with your partner, your name will be stricken from all records. No titles, no master points, nothing.” All players would have to agree to the rule before being allowed to play. – Ed.

Hi John,

I understand (and this may be widely known; I do not follow WBF matters) that the WBF has adopted a “comfortably satisfied” standard of proof.

I am very concerned about this insofar as it relates to accusations of dishonesty. Such accusations, particularly where they involve collusive cheating, are very serious matters. If proved, the names of perpetrators are published and their reputations permanently tarnished (rightly so if guilty). In the case of professional players, this will almost certainly impact severely upon their earning capacity.

I do not think it right to have a standard of proof which is lower than that which applies in criminal cases in this country (and I gather in Canada also). Beyond reasonable doubt is a concept with which we are familiar here and which has served us well. I do not see that the concept of comfortable satisfaction which the WBF uses (the WBF is governed by Swiss law and Switzerland is a civil law jurisdiction; that is, its criminal proceedings are conducted on an inquisitorial, not an adversarial, basis) is appropriate in cases which are liable to have serious repercussions for those found guilty.

This first came to my attention when I saw that the Board of the English Bridge Union has proposed that the WBF line should be followed.

Best wishes, Richard Fleet, Sidmouth, UK

Richard is correct. The WBF Disciplinary Code, in effect from January 1, 2016, states, in part:

6.12.1 The Disciplinary Tribunal must be comfortably satisfied (a standard of proof that is stated to be lower than the criminal standard of beyond reasonable doubt, but higher than the civil standard of balance of probabilities) on clear and convincing evidence that the accused person has engaged in Reprehensible Conduct within the meaning of article 4 above. Circumstantial evidence will be admissible and hearsay evidence may be admissible.

The phrase “comfortably satisfied” leaves me uneasy as well. That being said, the WBF has, in practice, used this standard successfully for decades, beginning with Reese and Shapiro – the WBF banned them from 1965 onwards, while the Foster Commission, using legal standards, exonerated them. Nevertheless, this ‘not guilty’ judgement was not agreed with or honoured by the WBF – they used the Credentials Committee to prevent Reese, even as late as 1988, from being the Great Britain NPC. Proving that A and B colluded can be certain in bridge players’ minds – proving it in a court of law to non-bridge players is quite another matter. – Ed.

NEWS & VIEWS



Anthony Moon

Anthony Moon, author of the 2015 Book-of-the-Year nominee *Guard Squeezes*, died late last month. Moon, although a UK resident and citizen, had spent many years in Colombia and represented that country at the 1974 South American Championships. He had spent the last 12 years preparing his series of books on squeezes, of which five have been published to date. Five more were in draft form.

The Bridge Journal

The Bridge World has announced the publication of *THE BRIDGE JOURNAL*, The Complete Collection CD. *The Bridge Journal* was a short-lived bridge magazine for experts published by a group of New York-area players and edited by Jeff Rubens in the 1960s. Additional information is available at: www.bridgeworld.com.

World Bridge Calendar

DATES	EVENT	LOCATION	INFORMATION
2016			
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.confisudbridge.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 17-21	10 th "Riga Invites to Jurmala"	Jurmala, Latvia	www.rigainvites.lv
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 26-28	Kibic Budapest Open	Budapest, Hungary	www.kibicbridge.com
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 21-27	Bermuda Regional	Southampton, Bermuda	www.bermudaregional.com
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 13-19	Cavendish Invitational	Monte Carlo, Monaco	www.cavendish.bridgemonaco.com
Feb 17-25	56 th Gold Coast Congress	Surfer's Paradise, Australia	www.qldbridge.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