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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.*

Capital crimes in most countries are of two types: crimes against the state (treason, etc.) and crimes against persons (murder, etc.). A third category of crimes, those against property, are not generally considered capital offenses. Some countries, such as Norway, have introduced maximum prison sentences (21 years) with the goal of reintegrating the convicted criminal back into society, recognizing that the propensity to criminal activity decreases sharply with age and maturity. Others, such as Thailand, have no such sentiments, having recently imposed a 142,000-year sentence on a person convicted of more than 16,000 counts of corporate fraud.

Bridge crimes are also typically of three types. Broadly speaking, and escalating in severity, these are unethical behaviour (such as taking advantage of a hesitation), solo cheating (such as copping results for unplayed boards) and collusion (with partner or teammates) to signal illegally. Collusion is our capital offense and should be treated as such. Repeated cheating in this fashion is our equivalent to society's serial killer.

Thus, collusion should be treated as the heinous offense it is, and not, as it is now viewed, as some minor little irritant that we wish would go away. Cheats need to be eliminated from the game. Collusion indicates a particular mindset that must be eradicated if bridge is to be cleaned up and stay clean.

It is astonishing that recent 'sentences' for convicted cheats have been three, four, or five years. And, in what amounts to nothing more than a slap on the wrist, the convicted pairs are forbidden to play with each other ever again. Imagine serial killers Kenneth Bianchi and his cousin Angelo Buono (the "Hillside Strangler") being sentenced to five years in prison for their 15 murders and then, upon their release, being forbidden to associate with one another. What a punishment!

Recently, a top player (a former World Champion) confided to me, I hope tongue-in-cheek, that he wished he had begun cheating in his early years. "I could have made millions," he said, "and so what if they caught me now via video? Five years later I'd be back." This was from a person in his sixties of heretofore impeccable ethics. It gives one pause for thought. Is this the kind of environment we wish to encourage and develop? One in which a pair can weigh the pros and cons of collusion and come to the conclusion that it is to their great advantage to cheat. Because that is one consequence of the light sentences now being handed out.

Cheats are our sociopaths and must be treated as such. They know right from wrong, it's simply that they have no conscience and their own gratification must be achieved no matter the cost to others. They need to be banned, not coddled. A 21-year sentence is sufficient, there is no need for 142,000 years. Like Norway, we are civilized after all.

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# PALACE CUP 2016

Marek Wójcicki, Przemysl, Poland



The venue: the Primate's Palace in Warsaw

The Palace Cup pairs and teams tournament, organized for the third time by the Bridge24.pl Foundation, was held from March 29 to April 3 at the Primate's Palace in Warsaw.

Once again, many top world and European players came to the event:

- Runners-up in the 2016 European Winter Games 2016, BLACK (Andrew Black/ Willie Whittaker, Phillip King/Andrew McIntosh, Peter Bertheau/ Gunnar Hallberg)
- Team ZIA (Zia Mahmood/David Bakhshi, Artur Malinowski/Jacek Pszczola)
- The DE BOTTON team, with Geir Helgemo/Janet de Botton, Thor-Erik Hoftaniska/Tomas Charlsen, Tom Townsend/Nick Sandqvist
- Winners of the 2015 Reisinger, VAINIKONIS (Vytautas Vainikonis/Wojciech Olanski, Boguslaw Gierulski/Jerzy Skrzypczak, Andrej Gromov/ Aleksander Dubinin).

Many of the top Polish players also participated, so we expected a tough battle from the ten teams.

The last round of the Robin Round was decisive, and the top four teams advancing to the playoffs were:

1. ZIA (Zia/Bakhshi, Pszczola/Malinowski) 229.21
2. VAINIKONIS (V.Vainikonis/Olanski, Gromov/Dubin, Gierulski/Skrzypczak) 201.75
3. BRIDGE24.PL 'A' (Gawel/Jagniewski, Nawrocki/Wiankowski) 193.94
4. MARKOWICZ (Kowalski/Klukowski, Grzelak/Romanski, Lasocki/Russyan) 191.11

Non-qualifying teams continued in the pairs tournament.

The winners of the Robin Round could choose their semi-final opponent. ZIA picked the Polish Senior team, MARKOWICZ. As often happens, the choice was not lucky. The first 12-board segment of the semi-final was won by ZIA 26-17, but MARKOWICZ won the

second by 2 IMPs and the third 39-10, winning the match 85-70.1 (including carryover) and sending the ZIA players to the pairs tournament. The second semi-final was a tough battle between VAINIKONIS and BRIDGE24.PL. VAINIKONIS won the first set 31-3 and kept the advantage 'til the end, winning 69.1-33.

The 48-board final was a seesaw battle. VAINIKONIS won the first stanza 45-22. The Seniors recovered 1 IMP (12-11) in the second, and after the third, which the Seniors won 30-0, they took over the lead. After Board 45, VAINIKONIS led 69-64. The match was decided on Board 46. With both sides vulnerable:

West	North	East	South
Dubin	Klukowski	Gromov	Kowalski
—	—	Pass	1♦
1♠	Pass	2♠	Pass
3♦	Pass	3NT	Pass
4♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

Julian Klukowski, North, well-known for his perfect opening leads (I hope some of you remember 1976 Monte Carlo Olympiad where there was an article in the Daily Bulletin entitled, "Polish Expert Leads the Way"), was on the lead with:

♠ 9 7 4  
♥ J 10 9 7 2  
♦ A 5  
♣ 9 6 5

He made a disciplined choice of partner's suit but, taking into account the three-notrump bid, he expected some diamond values in the dummy, so did not lead the ace, but the five. Dummy had queen-nine-eight-seven of diamonds and Kowalski had king-ten-six-two: seven from dummy, deuce from Apek! This was the complete deal:

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

Declarer took the first trick, played three rounds of trumps and guessed clubs to make the contract. At the other table East/West scored plus 100 for three hearts down one and there was 11 IMPs for VAINIKONIS. If Klukowski had led the ace of diamonds, it would have been 5 IMPs for MARKOWICZ and the match score would have been 71-70 for MARKOWICZ instead of 81-66 for VAINIKONIS.

So VAINIKONIS – Vitas Vainikonis, Wojciech Olanski, Boguslaw Gierulski, Jerzy Skrzypczak, Aleksander Dubinin, Andrej Gromov – had won the PALACE CUP teams tournament for the second year in a row.

One of the boards from the Robin Round showed the difference between players and PLAYERS.

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

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

1. Splinter
2. Control bid
3. Two key cards without the trump queen

North leads the club ace. South follows with the queen and North continues with a low club, ruff, low from South, and...

The obvious move is the ace of trumps – South follows with the nine, North the four. What now? Do you play for the trumps 3-2, or do you finesse the ten, playing for jack-to-four with North? The odds favour a 3-2 split, and the line of defence is obvious – during the bidding West has shown the diamond ace and the trump king.

What about table presence? Slam was made at only two tables of seven, where the final contract was six spades, as the spades were indeed 4-1:

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

Who were the successful declarers? Geir Helgemo and Artur Malinowski. After ruffing the club and cashing the spade ace, they crossed to hand with the diamond queen and finessed for the jack of trumps, playing low to the ten.

I asked Artur what were the clues. He answered, “North had played a second club so quickly. Besides, I was playing on Bridge Base Online and those hundreds of kibitzers deserve something!”

The pairs tournament started with 21 pairs, and was joined by pairs from the eliminated teams (instead of the play off for the third place, the losing semi-finalists joined the A Final of the pairs tournament. Pszczola/Malinowski rebuilt their morale and won the A final, followed by Jaszczak/Niajko and Martens/Filipowicz.

A Pro-Am event was also played on the day before the main event, where some bridge lovers could play with the stars of Palace Cup. The winners were Ryszard Jaskiewicz and Piotr Tuszynski.



## THE SCHAPIRO SPRING FOURSOMES

Stratford, April 29-May 3, 2016

**Brian Senior, Nottingham, UK**  
(With an assist from)

**John Carruthers, Kingsville, ON**  
(where noted)

The Spring Fours, held each year in Stratford, has become second only to the Gold Cup in terms of prestige and significance to the players. It has a unique and unusual format – it is a double knockout, but with a couple of twists.

This year, 55 teams entered and were divided into two main groups, referred to as ‘Triangles’ and ‘Head-ons’. In the nine Triangles, each of the three teams played against the others in Rounds 1 and 2 – the top team in each Triangle received entry to the ‘Undefeated Teams’ bracket whilst the bottom two went into the ‘Once-Defeated’ bracket. Thus it was possible for a once-defeated team that won its group to advance to the Undefeated bracket whilst a twice-beaten team could join the Once-Defeated bracket. The other 28 teams played two head-on matches, with the seven winners of two matches going to the Undefeated bracket, while the 14 once-defeated teams dropped into their eponymous bracket and the seven twice-defeated teams were, sadly, eliminated from the competition. For Round 3, that meant an Undefeated bracket of 16 teams; for the Once-Defeated bracket, 32 teams.

The double knockout format continued (all matches were of 32 boards in four sets of eight) until the semifinals, where a single undefeated and three once-defeated teams remained. The undefeated team got to choose its semifinal opponent. For the final, if the undefeated team had won its semifinal match, the rules allowed it to claim an extra eight-board segment if it was behind in the match and so desired.

That claim for an extra eight boards used to be the case for the semifinal as well, but it was felt that an extra eight boards disadvantaged a once-defeated team that was leading in the match and, more often than not, won the match anyway. Thus, if two once-defeated teams met in the final, one of them could have been disadvantaged by having had to play an extra eight boards while the other team was resting and had received this advantage through no effort of its own.

Perhaps a small IMP carryover should be granted to the undefeated team in its semifinal match. Even half an IMP would be reasonable, ensuring that they'd win a tied match and that there would be no extra boards in any case. Such a carryover scheme is used in the NEC Cup in Yokohama.

### A Point of Theory

We missed a good slam in Round 2 that was duly bid and made at the other table in our match. These were the hands and our auction:

<p>♠ A Q 6 2 ♥ K 4 3 2 ♦ K ♣ A 10 7 6</p> <p><b>West</b> — 1♥ 2♠ 3NT</p>	<p>♠ 8 5 ♥ Q J ♦ A Q J 9 2 ♣ K Q J 3</p> <p><b>East</b> 1♦ 2♣ 3♠ Pass</p>
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Obviously, you would like to play in six clubs or, even better, six notrump – it would be nice to be able to play it from the West hand to protect the spade position, but slam is still good if played by East. My question to you is who should have done more?

It seems that the answer is dependent on the meaning of East's three-spade bid over the game-forcing fourth-suit bid. Does three spades promise extra values, in which case West is worth four clubs rather than three notrump; or is three spades what you would bid whenever you didn't have any more descriptive bid you wanted to make? For example, what should East's third bid be, holding something like the following hand?

♠ 8 5
♥ 7 6
♦ A J 6 5 3
♣ A K 4 2

If three spades promises extra values, then this example presumably has to bid three diamonds over two spades. However, if three spades merely denies any more descriptive bid and does not necessarily promise extras, then this hand bids three spades over two spades. And perhaps if three spades does not promise anything above a minimum opening, then it is East who

needs to do more at his next turn and go on over West's three notrump.

So, does your partnership know whether this raise of fourth suit shows extras or is merely a non-committal bid with something like the 12 HCP example above?

### Avoidance Play

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

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Plackett</i>	<i>Bakhshi</i>	<i>Jourdain</i>	<i>Gahan</i>
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	1♥	Pass	1NT
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Sometimes it is crucial to keep one opponent off lead. Doing so often involves a technique called an avoidance play. Thirteen-year-old Liz Gahan showed that she is already familiar with this technique, bringing home her thin notrump game on this deal from Round 3.

Eleven-year-old Jasmine Bakhshi opened one heart then invited the notrump game and Gahan accepted. The lead was a diamond to the ace and Patrick Jourdain returned the jack to declarer's king. Gahan took the club finesse, the jack losing to the king, and Jourdain cleared the diamonds. Now Gahan led the nine of hearts and ran it. Jourdain won with the king rather than the jack, a thoughtful play – if West held the queen-eight he would be able to win the second defensive heart trick and gain the lead to cash the thirteenth diamond – and returned a low spade. Declarer misguessed, her jack being beaten by the queen. She won the ace and cashed three rounds of clubs then led the ten of hearts and again ducked the trick to East. The three-three heart split meant that Gahan had nine tricks and her contract. Not everyone managed to make nine tricks on this deal, those falling short including at least one sometime English international player.

### Round 3

The third set of Round Three featured a number of interesting deals. Nevena Senior got the following one right to earn a big swing for her side.

**Board 21. Dealer North. NS Vul.**

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

Senior was declarer as South in six diamonds on the lead of the nine of hearts. She won with the bare king and crossed to hand by playing a diamond to her king. The four of clubs went to the eight, king and ace, and back came a trump. She won in hand, drew the missing trump while remaining in hand, and led the nine of clubs. West followed with the five and now came the key moment of the deal.

If West had started with four clubs to the jack, running the nine would be the winning action, while if East had begun with ace-jack to four, the pips were such that going up with the queen, then taking a ruffing finesse, would bring home the contract. The third option was to win the queen then ruff a club, succeeding when the suit was three-three or East had ace-jack doubleton and, if this did not establish the clubs, to fall back on bringing in four spade tricks.

The combination play may be superficially attractive, but spades three-three with the queen onside is only a little over a one-in-six chance. Senior decided to trust West's club peter as an honest count signal. She went up with the queen and continued with the ten, running it when East played low. When that proved to be the winning club play, there was no longer any need for the spade finesse and the slam was home.

This next one proved to be too difficult for me, but perhaps it should not have been.

**Board 23. Dealer South. Both Vul.**

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

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

Playing Acol, I had a comfortable two-club response to the one-diamond opening, and East doubled to show the majors but then declined West's invitation to game.

I led the king of clubs, getting a reverse-count three from partner. I continued with two more rounds of clubs to promote a trick for partner's queen of hearts, but declarer discarded a spade on this trick and we had only one spade trick to come; just made for minus 140. The winning defence is to switch to a spade at trick two. South must cash a second spade trick, then switch back to clubs, and now the third club promotes the queen of hearts into the setting trick.

North should get it right by thinking of what did not happen in the bidding as well as what did. The key is South's pass over two clubs doubled. Surely she would have rebid a six-card diamond suit? Once South is placed with only five diamonds, she is virtually marked with her actual 4=2=5=2 shape – we must assume that West has four hearts for his jump response to the double. And once South is marked with 4=2=5=2 shape, the importance of cashing whatever spade tricks are available before playing the third round of clubs becomes clear.

Despite the mis-defence, the board had a happy ending for us as this was the auction in the other room:

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

North/South were playing two-over-one and North responded with an ugly one notrump. When his opponents got to four hearts, he felt obliged to bid again and saved in five clubs. That was doubled and four top tricks in the red suits followed by a third round of diamonds promoted a trump trick for down three and minus 800.

**Semifinals**

The semifinals and final of the Spring Fours are played on the Tuesday, after all the rest of the teams have gone home to lick their wounds. In two close-fought semifinals, Allfrey defeated Gidman by 53-39 IMPs, while Moran beat Sinclair (the undefeated team) by 51-41.

**The Final**

The final was between the Irish Open team (Tom Hanlon, Hugh McGann, Rory Boland, Mark Moran, John



West	North	East	South
Forrester	Garvey	Bakhshi	Carroll
—	—	—	2NT
Pass	3♣ <sup>1</sup>	Pass	3♦ <sup>2</sup>
Pass	3♥ <sup>3</sup>	Double	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. Puppet Stayman
2. No five-card major
3. Spades

Forrester led a heart as requested. Carroll knew that he could not afford to play on diamonds as there had to be at least four heart losers established once he lost the lead. Instead, he won the heart king and cashed out the spades before trying a club to the jack. When that lost he was two down instead of the one down he'd have been had he played on diamonds, but either one or two down was minus 13 IMPs.

Should Carroll have bid three notrump after the double of three hearts? Perhaps a pass would have allowed them to scramble into the four-three spade fit and they might have been able to come to ten tricks to almost flatten the board, but it was not clear to play four spades. It was clear that these two boards had moved the score to 39-11 in favour of Allfrey and the Irish team never actually got up to 39 IMPs in the match.

(The next three boards are reported by John Carruthers.) Halfway through the match and down 56-18 with 16 boards to play, the match was not by any means irretrievable for Moran, but there was little margin for error. Four boards in, there'd been three pushes and a 5-IMP swing to Allfrey. The fifth board of the set presented a lead problem for John Carroll and Andrew Robson, South. They held:

**Board 21. Dealer North. NS Vul.**

♠ J
♥ 5
♦ Q 8 6 4 3
♣ Q 10 9 8 5 3

Carroll, South, saw this auction:

West	North	East	South
Gold	Garvey	Bell	Carroll
—	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♥	Pass
3♥	Pass	4♣	Pass
4♠	Pass	5♣	Pass
6♣	Pass	6♥	Pass
Pass	Pass		

At the other table, Andrew Robson saw:

West	North	East	South
McGann	Allfrey	Hanlon	Robson
—	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♣ <sup>1</sup>	Pass	2♥ <sup>2</sup>	Pass
2NT <sup>3</sup>	Pass	3♦ <sup>4</sup>	Pass
3♥ <sup>5</sup>	Pass	3♠ <sup>6</sup>	Pass
4♥ <sup>7</sup>	Pass	6♥	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. Artificial game force
2. Natural
3. Relay
4. 5/5, 10-13; or 6/4, 10/13; or 6/4, 14-16
5. Relay
6. 5/5 10-13
7. Slam try; four diamonds would have commanded four hearts

The first auction was wholly natural. Your choice? Does the second auction make your choice any easier?

At the table, Carroll chose a diamond and Robson led his jack of spades. If you were a betting person, would you wager on Carroll or Robson?

Here's the answer:

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

Hanlon found himself down at trick two on the spade ruff.

At the other table, Bell won with the diamond ace over the king, drew two rounds of trumps with the king and queen, took two diamond pitches on the clubs, ruffed a diamond and drew the last trump. When declarer led a spade to the jack, king and ace, Garvey had only spades and a diamond left and could not prevent Bell from running the spade suit or discarding the six of spades and ruffing a diamond exit in the dummy. That was a cool 14 IMPs to Allfrey. Had North had a third club instead of a third diamond at the end, Bell would have been down as well and would have regretted that needless diamond ruff.

**Board 26. Dealer East. Both Vul.**

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

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
Gold	Hanlon	Bell	McGann
—	—	Pass	1♣ <sup>1</sup>
Pass	1♦ <sup>2</sup>	Pass	3♦ <sup>3</sup>
Pass	3NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

1. (i.) Strong, artificial, forcing, 17+ HCP; or (ii.) 11-13 balanced
2. (i.) 0-7 HCP; or (ii.) 22+ HCP
3. Natural, game forcing

After 24 boards of the 32-board final, Allfrey led Moran by 75-29. The situation was dire for the Irish. The first board of the last set was a routine push in three notrump. Then came this little item ...

Bell did not find the club lead, choosing instead the jack of spades. Hanlon rose with the ace, ran the diamonds and cashed the ace of hearts. With nine tricks in, he took the heart finesse and made 12 tricks (Gold had discarded one heart to keep two clubs) for plus 690. Everyone thought that a plus position for Ireland, but ...

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
Carroll	Bakhshi	Garvey	Forrester
—	Pass	Pass	1♦
3♣	Double	4♣	6♦
Pass	Pass	Pass	

David Bakhshi momentarily regretted his aggressive negative double when Forrester leapt majestically to slam. Carroll led the king of clubs and, having received encouragement from Garvey, continued indiscreetly with the seven of clubs to the nine, ace and a ruff. Forrester drew trumps, played the ace of hearts and another to the jack, came to the ace of spades and ran the trumps, squeezing Carroll in hearts and clubs. That was plus 1370 and 12 IMPs for Allfrey when it might have been 12 to Moran. That was the death knell for the Irish.

Had Carroll continued with a high club at trick two, allowing Garvey to guard the suit later, Forrester would have needed to divine the heart position to make six diamonds.

Matters went from bad to worse for Moran, not, as one might think, from swinging wildly, but from poor luck. They failed to gain a pair of double-digit swings when the following two poor results occurred:

- i. ♠AK1042 opposite ♠Q86 could not be played for no losers and they misguessed a two-way finesse for the queen of hearts; and when
- ii. ♣AK10854 opposite ♣J97 did not provide six winners in three notrump when the defenders guessed to lead a once-stopped bid suit rather than their twice-stopped bid-and-supported suit.

Then, Mike Bell made a very thoughtful bid, a responsive double on ♠107654 ♥2 ♦A63 ♣KQJ2 rather than bid spades, allowing his side to reach six diamonds with a solid trump suit and discards for spades when David Gold held ♠AKJ8 ♥4 ♦KQJ984 ♣A9. Garvey/Carroll reached six spades and misguessed the queen of trumps to go one off.

The final score of 128-33 to Allfrey, with over half the margin coming in the final set, was not reflective of the relative play of the two teams. On a different day, despite the margin of 95 IMPs, the Irish could have triumphed.



Nineteen teams entered the Trials for the right to represent the USA at the World Bridge Games in Wroclaw, Poland late this summer. The GORDON team (Gordon/Rajadhyaksha, Sontag/Berkowitz, Pszczola/Rosenberg) was the top seed and had a bye to the Quarterfinals. DIAMOND (Diamond/Platnick, Hampson/Greco, Lall/Bathurst) and FIREMAN (Fireman/Wolpert, Demuy/Kranyak, Wooldridge/Hurd) were the second and third seeds respectively, and had byes to the Round of 16. The remaining 16 teams played a two-day Round Robin to qualify another 12 teams to the Round of 16. The seven Round-of-16 winners then joined GORDON in the Quarterfinals. The knockout matches were all 120 boards in length.

### Round of 16

The top ten seeds made it through to the Round of 16.

### 7 WOLFSON v. 10 GUPTA

**Board 2. Dealer East. NS Vul.**

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

West	North	East	South
Zia	Miller	Kamil	Gupta
—	—	Pass	Pass
1♣	1♠	Double	Pass
1NT	Pass	2NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		

North led the three of spades to South's nine and declarer's jack. Zia ran the clubs, then led a diamond to the queen. When this lost to the ace and a spade was continued, declarer had eight tricks for plus 120.

West	North	East	South
Schermer	Wolfson	Chambers	Silverman
—	—	Pass	Pass
1♣	1♠	Double	Pass
1NT	Pass	3NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Schermer also received a fourth-best spade lead around to his jack. He had to assume five club tricks and needed (i) a favourable location for the ace of hearts or the jack of diamonds; or (ii) both red aces with North. If both red aces were with North, declarer must lead a diamond first since, if he leads a heart, North can rise with the ace and continue spades, making three spades and two aces. If North has only one red ace, declarer needs it to be the ace of hearts (assuming no finesse of the ten of diamonds), so must lead a heart first. Finally, and independently of the location of the red aces, declarer can simply lead a diamond to the ten, making two diamond tricks when the jack is onside.

The diamond jack onside, while an even-money proposition a priori, is actually worse than that based on available spaces after the overcall, 11 or 12 with South and seven or eight with North. Placing either red ace with North is better than 50%, based on his vulnerable overcall (North is not Italian). Does it seem more likely that North has both red aces for his overcall or just one? Schermer chose the former and led a diamond to dummy's queen. When that lost to South's ace and he had a second spade, declarer was doomed. Minus 50 and Zia's plus 120 added up to 5 IMPs for WOLFSON.

Later in the set, a delicate game and an even-more-delicate slam put in an appearance on the same deal:

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

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

West	North	East	South
Zia	Miller	Kamil	Gupta
—	—	Pass	Pass
1♦	Double	Pass	1♥
Pass	4♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			

The one-heart advance seems just plain weird with a respectable four-card club suit and an ace. Neither the declarer play nor the defence was optimal either. Zia led the ace of diamonds and continued with a low one. Declarer might have discarded to her advantage, but, not being able to see all the cards, she ruffed it in the dummy. She took the ace and king of spades, then the ace of hearts. When declarer tried to cash the queen of spades for a diamond discard, West ruffed and led another high diamond. Gupta did well on this trick, discarding dummy's losing spade – that was the third trick for the defence. 'Knowing' now that declarer was 2=4=4=3, Zia played Kamil for the jack of clubs, necessary to beat the contract with that distribution, and led a club, denying (he thought) declarer an entry to hand to take the heart finesse. Little did he know that Kamil had the precious ten of hearts, enough to beat the contract had West continued with diamonds. Nevertheless, declarer won the club shift in dummy with the ace and cashed the king of hearts, making a trick out of Zia's queen for down one; minus 100.

West	North	East	South
Schermer	Wolfson	Chambers	Silverman
—	—	Pass	Pass
Pass(!)	1♣	Pass	1♦
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♣
Pass	4NT <sup>1</sup>	Pass	5♦ <sup>2</sup>
Pass	6♣	Pass	Pass
Pass			

1. Key Card Blackwood
2. One key card

Schermer's third-seat pass was extraordinary, especially so since he opened one club at this vulnerability, in third chair, with a worse suit and a worse offensive hand (eight losers, as opposed to the six losers here) than on Board 2. One can only assume that he either mis-sorted his hand or that he was momentarily distracted. The pass allowed North/South a free run. Despite Silverman's lack of encouragement, Wolfson ploughed on to the tenuous six-club contract.

Chambers found the effective trump lead, choosing the four. Wolfson won in hand with his ace, crossed to the ace of spades and led a diamond toward the closed hand. West went up with the ace and continued with his second trump. Declarer was able to win in the dummy, cross to the king of spades, take the ace of hearts and lead the queen of spades. When West



# IBPA Column Service

Tim Bourke, Canberra

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### 809. Dealer North. EW Vul.

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

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

West led the jack of hearts. East took the trick with the ace and returned a heart to declarer's king. Declarer saw that if the trumps were at worst 3-1 he could ruff his fourth club in dummy if required. So declarer cashed the ace of trumps at trick two. The 4-0 break complicated things, making the idea of relying solely on the club suit for the extra trick unattractive.

Declarer saw that a safer plan was to play on diamonds, reversing the dummy, so he cashed the ace and king of diamonds and ruffed a diamond in hand. A trump to dummy's ten was followed by a second diamond ruff. Declarer then overtook the queen of trumps with dummy's king. After drawing East's last trump with the jack, declarer had the three top clubs left.

### 810. Dealer North. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
—	1♣	Pass	1♥
Pass	2♥	Pass	6♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

West led the jack of spades after this agricultural auction. Declarer won the first trick with the ace of spades and then cashed the two top trumps. Next he took dummy's three club winners, discarding a diamond from hand. When the clubs were revealed to be 4-2, declarer ran the queen of diamonds. West produced the king of diamonds for down one.

"That was unlucky – my line had at least an 85% chance of succeeding," said declarer.

"It was a pity you didn't find a better plan," proffered dummy. "After everybody follows to the ace of trumps at trick two, you should cross to dummy with a club to lead a trump, planning to cover East's card if he follows. On this layout the jack would win and you would have had twelve certain tricks."

Dummy continued, "Even if the jack of trumps lost to the doubleton queen you would still be still well placed. You could win the return and cash the three top clubs, claiming the rest if the suit proved to be 3-3. If the clubs turned out to be 4-2, you would ruff a club high and re-enter dummy by playing the four of trumps to dummy's six to cash the established club as your twelfth trick. Finally, if the clubs were 5-1 or worse you would then fall back on the diamond finesse."

### 811. Dealer North. Both Vul.

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

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

Both tables in a team match had identical auctions. The opening lead, the three of clubs, which both declarers assumed to be a singleton, was also the same.

After winning the first trick with the queen of clubs, the first declarer decided to rely on trumps being 3-2. So he cashed the ace and king of trumps. Unfortunately, as the trumps were 4-1, this declarer could do no better than draw trumps and cash out for nine tricks.

At the other table, the opposing declarer also won the first trick in hand with the queen of clubs and then cashed the king of trumps. However, instead of playing a second trump at trick three, this declarer led the six of clubs toward the table. West saw that it would not profit him to ruff, so he discarded a diamond and dummy's king of clubs won the trick. East followed with the jack, indicating some values in hearts.

Declarer continued by ruffing a low club with a high trump, then played the four of trumps to dummy's jack. He threw a low diamond on dummy's ace of clubs. West ruffed and, thanks to his partner's play in the club suit, shifted to a heart. East won the trick with the ace and switched to the queen of diamonds, hoping that his partner held the ace of diamonds. However, it was the declarer who took this trick with the ace.

Declarer then drew West's remaining trump with dummy's ace. All that remained was to throw a diamond and a heart on dummy's two established club winners; declarer had made five trumps, a diamond and four clubs, for ten tricks in all.

**812. Dealer North. Both Vul.**

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

♠ K J 3  
♥ J 9 8  
♦ A 10 4 2  
♣ 8 4 2

West	North	East	South
—	2♣	Pass	2NT <sup>1</sup>
Pass	4NT	Pass	6NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. 8-10 HCP, balanced

West led the nine of diamonds. Declarer played low from dummy, winning with the ace over East's jack. When declarer led a club to the king, East discarded a heart and declarer was in trouble. Regretfully, he saw that even if the spade finesse won, he would still only make eleven tricks. So, he played on clubs and made a sure eleven tricks.

"You didn't need to make four diamond tricks," said a disappointed dummy. "You needed five club tricks. If the clubs were at worst 3-1, then any normal play in clubs would have produced five tricks. However, if the clubs were 4-0, as here, you could only have done something about it by winning the opening lead with the queen of diamonds and playing the king of clubs. West would have taken this with the ace of clubs and could have done no better than to play a heart to dummy's ace. You could then have entered hand by leading the eight of diamonds to your ace to lead the eight of clubs. West would have covered this with the nine and dummy's jack would have won."

"However, thanks to winning the first trick in dummy, you could then have re-entered your hand with the king of spades to lead your last club: dummy would have won the trick by covering West's card. As a result, you would have had twelve tricks: two spades, two hearts, three diamonds and five clubs."



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showed out but was unable to ruff, declarer ruffed his losing spade in the dummy and took the heart finesse. When that also passed off successfully with no ruff, he ruffed the heart loser, ruffed a diamond back to hand, drew the last trump and claimed plus 1370 with the king of hearts. That won them 16 IMPs.

## Quarterfinals

The seven higher-seeded teams all won their matches to qualify for the Quarterfinals. Of particular note was the fourth-seeded NICKELL (Nickell/Katz, Weinstein/Levin, Rodwell/Meckstroth) team's win by the astounding score of 414 to 38, a margin larger than in any previous match within memory. Furthermore, their opponents conceded after 90 of the scheduled 120 boards.

### 4 NICKELL v. 5 FLEISHER

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

	♠ K 3		
	♥ Q J		
	♦ 8 7 6 4 2		
	♣ 10 9 6 2		
♠ Q 7 2		♠ A 8 5 4	
♥ 6 4 2		♥ A K 9 7	
♦ K Q		♦ J 10 3	
♣ Q J 7 5 3		♣ A 8	
	♠ J 10 9 6		
	♥ 10 8 5 3		
	♦ A 9 5		
	♣ K 4		
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Rodwell</i>	<i>Grue</i>	<i>Meckstroth</i>	<i>Moss</i>
<i>Willenken</i>	<i>Katz</i>	<i>Del'Monte</i>	<i>Nickell</i>
—	Pass	INT	Pass
3NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

Both Souths led the Rusinow ten of spades. Covering with the queen ensures a second spade stopper. However, the second spade trick may come too late if the queen is topped by the king, as it did when Del'Monte covered the ten of spades with the queen and won with his ace when the king was played by Katz, North. Declarer played the ace and a second club. Nickell won with his king and shifted to a low heart to the jack and king. When Del'Monte played a spade toward the seven, won by Nickell's nine. Nickell knew where every high card was. He played a second heart; Del'Monte won Katz's queen with his ace and played a diamond, but Nickell won with his ace and had a winning spade and heart to take for one off.

Contrast that with the play at the other table. Meckstroth ducked the spade in dummy and won with his ace. He played the ace and another club, Moss winning and continuing spades to Grue's king (a heart is no better), Meckstroth again ducking in the dummy. Grue shifted to the queen of hearts, which Meckstroth

won to play a diamond. Moss won with his ace and continued hearts, but Meckstroth ducked North's jack.

With only diamonds and clubs left in the North hand, the defence could manage only one trick in each suit.

There were several amusing incidents on the following deal from the second set of the Quarterfinals ...

Firstly, consider how you'd handle the North cards after Pass-Pass-One Spade to you, as happened at six of the eight tables. The choices seem to be either four hearts or double, do they not? The subsequent action was varied. Let's see how the combatants fared ...

#### Board 18. Dealer East. NS Vul.

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

### 1 GORDON v. 8 COREN

West	North	East	South
<i>Garner</i>	<i>Gordon</i>	<i>Coren</i>	<i>Rajadhyaksha</i>
—	—	2♦ <sup>1</sup>	Pass
2♠	4♥	4♠	5♥
5♠	Pass	Pass	Pass
1. Weak 2			

Richie Coren committed a weak two in diamonds. When the double fit came to light, Steve Garner was prepared to go higher. Mark Gordon led the ace of hearts. Garner ruffed in dummy, discarding a diamond from hand. That allowed him the later combination play of playing off the king and ace of diamonds and, if no queen had appeared, taking the club finesse. When the queen of diamonds did indeed drop, the three clubs went away on the established diamonds for plus 450. It would have done no good for Gordon to cash the ace and king of spades on lead – he'd still have been employed to surrender the contract at trick three.

West	North	East	South
<i>Pszczola</i>	<i>Ekeblad</i>	<i>Rosenberg</i>	<i>Granovetter</i>
—	—	Pass	Pass
1♠	4♥	4♠	Pass
Pass	Double	Pass	5♥
5♠	Double	Pass	6♥
Double	Pass	Pass	Pass

Granovetter had the choice of giving up 650 in five spades doubled or 500 in the six-heart 'save'. Minus 500 cost just 2 IMPs.

## 2 DIAMOND v. 7 WOLFSON

West	North	East	South
<i>Bathurst</i>	<i>Cohler</i>	<i>Lall</i>	<i>Cohen</i>
—	—	Pass	Pass
1♠	Double	4♠	Pass
Pass	Double	Pass	5♥
5♠	6♥	Pass	Pass
6♠	Double	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Cohler took the two high spades and played a heart. Bathurst needlessly took the club finesse for two off, minus 300.

West	North	East	South
<i>Zia</i>	<i>Platnick</i>	<i>Kamil</i>	<i>Diamond</i>
—	—	Pass	Pass
1♠	4♥	4♠	Pass
Pass	Double	Pass	5♥
5♠	Double	Pass	6♥
6♠	Double	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Platnick also led the two top spades and shifted to a high heart. Zia ruffed in dummy, discarding a diamond from hand. When the king and ace of diamonds dropped the queen, the need for the club finesse was obviated; down one, 5 IMPs to WOLFSON.

## 3 FIREMAN v. 6 SCHWARTZ

West	North	East	South
<i>Demuy</i>	<i>Passell</i>	<i>Kranyak</i>	<i>Compton</i>
—	—	Pass	Pass
1♠	3NT	4♠	Pass
Pass	4NT	Pass	Pass
Double	Pass	Pass	Pass

Mike Passell undoubtedly had more fun on this deal than any other player. His three-notrump call was not made by anyone else and was designed to sow confusion. When he bid on to four notrump and was doubled, he boldly, but perhaps injudiciously, stood his ground. We spectators awaited Kranyak's lead with mounting excitement. Kranyak finally emerged from his cogitation with ... the ten of spades! Passell was minus 200 when it could have been minus 2000.

West	North	East	South
<i>Cheek</i>	<i>Wolpert</i>	<i>Bertens</i>	<i>Fireman</i>
—	—	2♣ <sup>1</sup>	Pass
2♦ <sup>2</sup>	Double	Pass	2♥
2♠	4♥	4♠	Pass
Pass	5♥	Pass	Pass
5♠	Double	Pass	Pass
Pass			

1. Weak 2 in diamonds or normal 2♣ opener
2. Pass if weak 2♦ or correct if strong

Bertens exhibited a toy the Dutch are rather enamoured of, and Cheek, perhaps unfamiliar with the method, squeaked a pass-or-correct two diamonds. That may seem inadequate, but he got a chance to bid spades at a minimum level next time and the big double fit was eventually revealed. He was prepared to keep bidding until the opponents stopped doing so and was pleasantly surprised that they let him play five spades doubled.

Wolpert took the king and ace of spades on lead and, leery of discards on the diamonds, shifted to the king of clubs. That resolved the minor suits for Cheek, who made a note to himself to add the Bertens toy to his everyday arsenal. That plus 650 resulted in 10 IMPs to SCHWARTZ.

## 4 NICKELL v. 5 FLEISHER

West	North	East	South
<i>Moss</i>	<i>Levin</i>	<i>Grue</i>	<i>Weinstein</i>
—	—	Pass	Pass
1♠	Double	4♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Levin produced a rather extraordinary sequence. Having doubled the first time, he was concerned that Weinstein would not have enough information to make a winning decision if he, Levin, doubled a second time – that auction would hardly describe Levin's hand. Also, double, followed by five hearts over the expected five-of-a-minor response would portray a better hand than he had. A five-heart call at his second turn was, he thought, unilateral with this much defence and might have turned a sure plus into a minus. So he took the prudent, if pusillanimous, approach and passed. It was a dangerous course, but so was everything else.

The play was cute. Levin led the ace of hearts and was flabbergasted when Moss ruffed in the dummy and discarded a club from hand! Moss wanted to give his brother-in-law a bit of a pang of regret for not leading a club. An overtrick was the most the discard could cost. No matter. When Moss led a spade to Levin's king, Levin, wise to Moss's ways, shifted to a diamond rather than a club. That resolved the minor suits for no losers anyway; plus 450 to FLEISHER.

West	North	East	South
<i>Nickell</i>	<i>Martel</i>	<i>Katz</i>	<i>Fleisher</i>
—	—	Pass	Pass
1♠	4♥	4♠	5♥
5♠	Double	Pass	6♥
Double	Pass	Pass	Pass

Martel produced the modern classic, pre-empting, then doubling to show the desire to bid on. Fleisher was enthusiastic in jumping on the heart bandwagon. The defence took its three minor-suit winners early for plus 500, a gain of 2 IMPs for NICKELL. Levin was chuffed at surrendering 'only' 450, gaining IMPs.

It is often noted that the toughest opponents are the ones who pressure you in the bidding. Less often is it remarked that a good declarer puts pressure on the defenders as well. On the following deal, declarer had two ways to apply pressure to the defenders.

#### 4 NICKELL v. 5 FLEISHER

Board 68. Dealer West. Neither Vul.

♠	Q J 10 7 6 2
♥	Q J 7 4
♦	A 3
♣	5

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

♠	5 3
♥	K 10 3 2
♦	K 8 7
♣	9 7 3 2

West	North	East	South
Rodwell	Grue	Meckstroth	Moss
1NT	2♥ <sup>1</sup>	Pass	2♠
3♣	Pass	3NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. Spades

Rodwell might have essayed two notrump for the minors at his second turn, but, with such good clubs, that's a trifling quibble. Having shown spades, Grue led a heart, the four. Rodwell had to duck that, else the defence would have taken the top diamonds and three heart tricks. When Moss won with his king of hearts and shifted to a spade (the three), Rodwell won with the ace (over Grue's deceptive/descriptive queen) and was in with a chance.

Declarer needed Moss (South) to have at least one of the two top diamonds, which was evident from the opening lead anyway (Grue would have led a spade with two entries). There were two ways declarer could apply pressure:

- (i.) Lead a diamond from the dummy – if North could be induced to win the first of the defence's diamond winners and South had no more than two spades, probable on the bidding, North could be left with entryless spade winners.
- (ii.) Run clubs – the defence can easily falter when declarer runs his long suit. The 'long' suit need not even be so long, as here.

Rodwell decided to run the clubs, so North had to abandon one of the majors. If he gave up hearts, he had to keep both of his diamonds so that South could win the first diamond and continue the attack on spades. If North let go spades to keep hearts, he could have thrown a diamond as long as South kept all of his hearts. Essentially, the defence had to keep enough major-suit winners in the hand with the second

diamond entry. Thus, if North won the defence's first diamond trick, South had to keep all four hearts.

As noted, it was quite complicated. At the table, Grue (North) discarded the two, six and seven of spades, then the three of diamonds. Since this forced him to win the first diamond, it was essential that Moss (South) keep his heart winners along with the second diamond entry. Alas, South pitched the deuce of hearts, making the contract unbeatable as the cards lay. This was the position:

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

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

With the defence needing three tricks, North exited with the queen of hearts. Had Rodwell ducked that, the defence would have been restricted to two more tricks and only four in total. Instead, misreading the position, declarer won with dummy's ace of hearts and played a second diamond. Moss won that and led his remaining heart to Grue's two winners in the suit for one off.

We can see that, even at the top level, the bridge is not perfect and there are chances for big gains.

At the other table, it was considerably easier for the defence:

West	North	East	South
Willenken	Katz	Del'Monte	Nickell
1♣	1♠	1NT	Pass
3NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

Nickell led a spade, won the first diamond and led his remaining spade for one off. Easy peasy.

Five players declared three notrump; only two declarers made it; only Geoff Hampson won the spade lead in the dummy and led a diamond immediately. South ducked.

Both sides bid well on the following deal from the eighth stanza:

#### 2 DIAMOND v. 7 WOLFSON

(See top of next page.) Kamil (East) led the six of diamonds (the artificial two-spade response had made North the declarer). Bathurst won with his ace, played the queen of spades and a spade to the ace, ruffed a diamond, cashed the jack of spades, came to hand with a heart, drew the last trump, ran diamonds, and cashed

the other high heart. He had the queen of hearts and the ace of clubs in hand for his twelfth and thirteenth tricks; plus 1510.

**Board 112. Dealer East. EW Vul.**

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

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

♠ A K 7 4  
♥ A K  
♦ K Q J 4 3  
♣ J 7

West	North	East	South
Zia	Bathurst	Kamil	Lall
—	—	Pass	1♣ <sup>1</sup>
Pass	2♠ <sup>2</sup>	Pass	2NT <sup>3</sup>
Pass	3♦ <sup>4</sup>	Pass	3♠ <sup>5</sup>
Pass	4♣ <sup>6</sup>	Pass	4NT <sup>7</sup>
Pass	5♠ <sup>8</sup>	Pass	5NT <sup>9</sup>
Pass	6♠ <sup>10</sup>	Pass	7♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. Strong, artificial, forcing; 17+ HCP balanced, or 16+ HCP unbalanced
2. Any 4-4-4-1; 12+ HCP
3. Enquiry
4. 4=4=1=4
5. Sets trumps
6. Control
7. Roman Key Card Blackwood
8. 2 key cards and the queen of trumps
9. King ask
10. No kings

It appeared that this would be a routine push, but Geoff Hampson had watched the auction very closely, noting South's failure to make a control-showing bid in clubs.

West	North	East	South
Hampson	Cohler	Greco	Cohen
—	—	Pass	1♦
Pass	1♥	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♥
Pass	4NT <sup>1</sup>	Pass	5♣ <sup>2</sup>
Pass	5NT <sup>3</sup>	Pass	6NT <sup>4</sup>
Pass	7♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

1. RKCB
2. 0 or 3 key cards
3. King ask
4. I can count 12 top tricks in notrump

Cohen/Cohler had a terrific mostly-natural auction to the top spot with South being the declarer. The

problem was that Hampson found the brilliant lead of a low club, removing dummy's late entry to the queen of hearts. Cohen won with dummy's ace of clubs, cashed the ace of diamonds and led the queen of spades and another to his ace, getting the bad news. The good news came when declarer cashed the king and queen of diamonds, discarding clubs, to find that suit breaking. This was his situation:

♠ J 8  
♥ Q 7 6 5  
♦ —  
♣ 8

♠ 10 9  
♥ 4 3  
♦ —  
♣ K 10 4

♠ —  
♥ J 10 9 8  
♦ 8  
♣ Q 9

♠ K 7  
♥ A K  
♦ J 4  
♣ J

In the diagrammed position, Cohen led the jack of diamonds. Hampson ruffed and was overruffed in the dummy. Now, however, there was no way for Cohen to score the queen of hearts for the club discard so he was one off for minus 50 and a loss of 17 IMPs.

Cohen needed to cash the king of spades and his two top hearts in the diagrammed position, then play the jack of diamonds. Hampson could ruff that, but dummy could then overruff and cash the queen of hearts. Cohen would have been left with a trump and a good diamond in hand to make the contract.

COREN, DIAMOND, FIREMAN and FLEISHER were the victorious quarterfinal teams. Most of the players to reach the semifinals were graduates of various Junior programs (11 from the U.S. team, three from the Canadian team and one from the New Zealand team). The members of the COREN team were all grizzled veterans.

**Semifinals**

**2 DIAMOND v. 3 FIREMAN**

**Board 34. Dealer West. Both Vul.**

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

♠ 10 7  
♥ A J 2  
♦ K 10 8 2  
♣ A K 10 2

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

♠ K Q 5 3  
♥ Q 3  
♦ J 4  
♣ Q J 7 5 4

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Hurd</i>	<i>Hampson</i>	<i>Wooldridge</i>	<i>Greco</i>
INT	4♥	4♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Geoff Hampson caused Joel Wooldridge to display excellent declarer-play skills on this board from the third segment.

Eric Greco led the queen of hearts. Wooldridge won with dummy's ace, throwing a diamond from hand, and led a spade to the jack and queen. Greco shifted to the jack of diamonds, covered by dummy's king. Hampson ducked the ace, encouraging with the six. Wooldridge realized that with normal play, i.e., the ace and another spade to South, a diamond to the ace would then result in a diamond ruff for one down. Wooldridge found an effective counter: he led the nine of clubs and ran it when Greco followed with a low one! Two more clubs for a diamond discard allowed declarer to ruff the third round of diamonds with a high enough trump to prevent Greco from scoring a third trump trick. That was a virtuoso performance.

The board was a push when Gavin Wolpert did not duck the king of diamonds on a similar defence.

DIAMOND won handily while FLEISHER won a very tight match with COREN, 278-267.

### The Final

#### 2 DIAMOND v. 5 FLEISHER

##### Board 53. Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Bathurst</i>	<i>Del'Monte</i>	<i>Lall</i>	<i>Willenken</i>
—	—	—	1♠
2♥	2♠	3♥	4♣
4♦	4♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

At the other table, at the point where Bathurst bid four diamonds, Moss had bid five diamonds, had been doubled, and had gone down one for minus 200, so if Willenken could make four spades, FLEISHER would win 9 IMPs; if he went down, DIAMOND would win 7 IMPs, so a lot was riding on the play and defence.

Suppose West leads the top two hearts and shifts to the jack of diamonds. There being no reason to finesse, declarer would win with dummy's ace and draw trumps, fortuitously finding them 2-2. However, on the ace of clubs, West would show out, putting the contract in jeopardy. Declarer counters by playing a club to any card in dummy, and East is endplayed. At this point, declarer has no choice but to play East for the king of diamonds and thus that player is endplayed, with the eight of spades coming into its own as an entry to the queen of diamonds if East exits with the king of that suit. Otherwise, declarer discards a club on a low diamond exit from East. That results in plus 620 for North/South and 9 IMPs to FLEISHER for Moss' enterprise.

Is that what happened? Not on your life! Bathurst, looking at, he thought, at most two red-suit tricks and maybe a black-suit trick, tried a sneak attack with the six of hearts. He was hoping for two heart entries with East and a couple of club ruffs for one down. Chris Willenken may be young, but he was not born yesterday, and he put up the queen of hearts, glancing surreptitiously at his screenmate Bathurst when Lall followed with the five. Willenken drew trumps and took a diamond finesse for what he thought was an overtrick, with no risk. Lall won with his king and collected a heart and a club for minus 620 and the projected 9-IMP loss.

##### Board 105. Dealer South. NS Vul.

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

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Grue</i>	<i>Lall</i>	<i>Moss</i>	<i>Bathurst</i>
—	—	—	Pass
1♦ <sup>1</sup>	Pass	1♠ <sup>2</sup>	Pass
INT <sup>3</sup>	Pass	2♦ <sup>4</sup>	Pass
3♥ <sup>5</sup>	Pass	4♥ <sup>6</sup>	Pass
5♣ <sup>7</sup>	Pass	6♣	Pass
Pass	Pass		

- (9)10-15 HCP; 2+ diamonds
- Natural, but not 4 hearts unless GF
- 10-13 (usually) balanced
- GF relay
- Precisely 1=4=3=5; minimum
- Key card ask in clubs
- Two key cards, no queen of trumps

Lall led the eight of diamonds, not a bruising start for Grue. Declarer won with his jack of diamonds and misguessed clubs by leading the king. He followed by cashing the ace, king and queen of spades, delighted to see South follow with two low ones and the jack. By continuing with the established spades, declarer could nullify South's low trumps. In any case, he had a high diamond for a discard of dummy's heart loser. Plus 920.

Things were dramatically different at the other table.

West	North	East	South
<i>Greco</i>	<i>Fleisher</i>	<i>Hampson</i>	<i>Martel</i>
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	Pass	1♣ <sup>1</sup>	Pass
1♥ <sup>2</sup>	Pass	1♠ <sup>3</sup>	Pass
2♣ <sup>4</sup>	Pass	4♦ <sup>5</sup>	Pass
4NT <sup>6</sup>	Pass	6♣	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. Strong; 16+ HCP unbalanced/17+ balanced
2. 8-11 HCP; not 5 spades; GF
3. Natural, 5+ spades
4. 5+ clubs
5. Key card ask in clubs
6. Two key cards, no queen of clubs

Unlike Lall, Martel as South had a routine heart lead from his hand. Hampson won with his ace of hearts and also misguessed clubs, leading to the king. Without the extra diamond trick for a heart discard, he was in a spot of trouble.

Hampson needed either five spade winners to discard hearts from the dummy (one for the ace, one for South's ruff and three for heart discards), or three diamond winners to discard a heart from hand. Furthermore, he had to find the extra tricks before knocking out the queen of clubs. There were two possible lines of play:

- (i.) Play spades from the top. If the jack did not fall, but they were 4-3, ruffing one to set up the fifth would do no good as South could ruff it low to prevent the third heart discard. In that eventuality, a diamond finesse and at least three diamonds with South would be required.
- (ii.) Take a first-round finesse of the ten of spades. If that were successful, the spade winners would be good enough to discard three hearts from the dummy unless North had five spades.

The combination play of spades from the top, then the diamond finesse is somewhat seductive and succeeds here. As we can see, the spade finesse leads to two down. Superficially, vacant spaces tells us that North is quite a bit more likely to hold the spade jack than South – South has shown up with four clubs and presumably at least two hearts, the lead of the king being from a putative king-queen combination. North had shown up with one heart and one diamond. Thus South had seven vacant spaces for the jack of

spades and North 11, making the immediate finesse of the ten of spades initially attractive.

There were, however, further considerations. Even if the finesse succeeded, declarer needed South to hold at least three spades to allow the appropriate number of heart discards (three) before South could ruff in with the queen of clubs and cash a heart. Suppose, for example, that South had a doubleton low spade and North jack to five. Declarer finesses and begins to run the high spades. He discards one heart, but South ruffs the third spade with the queen of clubs and is able to cash a heart.

There were other factors at work as well. Firstly, there was no way North would have discarded a diamond on the first club with fewer than four cards in the suit; he would have kept parity with the dummy. Secondly, North should have had at least two hearts, since South, with presumably king-queen to some number of hearts, couldn't have six of them and have passed over a strong club. Picture South with 6-4 in hearts and clubs and with the king-queen of hearts and the queen of clubs. Martel may be conservative, but he is no shrinking violet. A case could have been made that South couldn't even have 5-4 in hearts and clubs, although this case would have been tenuous since he was vulnerable against not. Additionally, North's first discard on the king of clubs was not a heart, so he might not have had five cards in that suit.

Summing up, it appeared that North had at least four diamonds and two hearts, South four clubs and at least two hearts. Thus the spade finesse, which at first blush seemed attractive when the 4-0 club break came to light, now seemed less so. All in all, after this lengthy analysis, spades from the top then the diamond finesse seems the better shot.

Whatever those considerations were, Hampson did lead a spade to the ten at trick three and was two off for a loss of 14 IMPs, giving FLEISHER a little hope. "Little" was the operative word as DIAMOND powered to a 287-253 win.

Congratulations to Kevin Bathurst, John Diamond, Eric Greco, Geoff Hampson, Justin Lall and Brian Platnick on an impressive performance. They won their Round-of-16, Quarterfinal and Semifinal matches in runaways and never trailed in any match later than the third segment. They will definitely be one of the favourites in Wroclaw.

## TRIAL DEFENCE

**Phillip Alder, Hobe Sound, FL**

Here is perhaps the best defence from the open world championship team trial, held in Denver in May. It occurred in the Quarterfinal match between NICKELL and FLEISHER, two of the fancied teams.

**Board 36. Dealer South. NS Vul.**

**North (Dummy)**

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

**East (You)**

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Partner</i>	<i>Dummy</i>	<i>You</i>	<i>Declarer</i>
—	—	—	INT <sup>1</sup>
Pass	3NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			
I. 14-16 points			

Try the defensive problem for yourself first:

Your partner leads a fourth-highest spade five: three, deuce, seven. Declarer leads the diamond jack from his hand, which wins the trick, and continues with the diamond seven, which partner takes with his ace. You play the eight and six as suit-preference signals for hearts. Getting the message, partner shifts to the heart nine: jack, queen, seven. What would you do now?

This was the full deal:

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

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

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

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Fleisher</i>	<i>Rodwell</i>	<i>Martel</i>	<i>Meckstroth</i>
<i>Weinstein</i>	<i>Willenken</i>	<i>Levin</i>	<i>Del'Monte</i>
—	—	—	INT <sup>1</sup>
Pass	3NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			
I. 14-16 points			

The bidding was the same at both tables. The early play was similar, the difference being that Del'Monte led a diamond to dummy's queen at trick two and returned a diamond to his king and West's ace, while Levin led the jack of diamonds and another to West's ace.

The East defenders, Martel and Levin, had to hope that partner had a timely entry, presumably in spades, so

that he could lead another heart and give the defence five tricks via that entry, three hearts and the diamond ace.

Declarer, on the other hand, who knew that spades were 5-1 when East did not lead one at trick five, was hoping to use his wonderful heart spots to set up a trick in that suit to join two spades, three diamonds and three clubs. However, he needed to be careful with his entries.

At trick five, Levin switched to a club, which did not seem to hurt, but watch what happened. Del'Monte took the trick with his king and ran the heart eight. East won with his queen and played another club in this position:

♠ 9 6  
♥ K 6  
♦ 10  
♣ A 7

♠ K J 8 4  
♥ 2  
♦ 3  
♣ 9

♠ —  
♥ A 4  
♦ 8  
♣ J 6 3 2

♠ A Q 10  
♥ —  
♦ J 9  
♣ Q 10

Del'Monte won with dummy's ace and drove out the heart ace. With a diamond entry to the board and a club entry to his hand, declarer claimed his contract.

At the other table, Martel found the killing defence, leading his last diamond at trick five to remove a vital dummy entry. Meckstroth took his two tricks in that suit before running the heart eight to give:

♠ 9  
♥ K 6  
♦ —  
♣ A 7 5

♠ K J 4  
♥ 2  
♦ —  
♣ 9 8

♠ —  
♥ A 4  
♦ —  
♣ J 6 3 2

♠ A Q 10  
♥ —  
♦ —  
♣ K Q 10

South needed five of the last six tricks, but could not get them when East exited with a club. Declarer took his three tricks in that suit (West carefully discarded another spade) but could not avoid going down.

That was excellent defence by Martel, aided by Fleisher's accurate duck on the first round of diamonds and heart shift. The FLEISHER team gained 12 IMPs on the board.

Lastly, did you notice South's winning line? If he had run the heart eight at trick two, he would have been one step ahead in the race.

In the other three matches broadcast on Bridge Base Online, every declarer went down one in three notrump. The Martel-Fleisher defense was duplicated by Gavin Wolpert (East) and Paul Fireman (West). Kevin Bathurst (East) and Justin Lall (West) almost copied it, but with the slight variation that Lall held up his diamond ace until the third round. At the other four tables, South could have made his contract, but did not find a winning line.

## VIRTUE UNREWARDED (YET AGAIN)

**Michael Akeroyd, Guiseley, Yorks., UK**

In the April bulletin (page 7) Peter Gill noted a deal in which Peter Boyd and Steve Robinson bid to an excellent grand slam which went one down. Gill commented, "An extraordinarily well-bid deal to an excellent contract which fails does not usually garner the acclaim it deserves." Boyd and Robinson's reward was 11% of the match points.

In the example I am going to consider, there is a difference of opinion as to how excellent the final contract was (from *English Bridge*, February 2015, page 37 and *English Bridge*, April 2015, page 35). The heroes (or villains?) were Piotr Gawrys and Michal Klukowski, gold-medal winners in the 2014 Rosenblum and the 2015 Bermuda Bowl.

### Dealer West. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Pass	1♣!	Double	Pass
1NT	Pass	2NT	Pass
3NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. Could be a two-card suit if balanced

The contract went one down despite a 3-3 break in hearts. Gawrys' two-notrump call came in for heavy criticism from some commentators. Nevertheless, I believe that there are a lot of inferences from the bidding to justify Gawrys' action:

1. Klukowski cannot hold a four- or five-card major, so the chance that he is 3-3 in one or both majors is much higher than the raw mathematical odds would suggest.

2. The chance that North/South also have flat hands is, again, much higher than the raw mathematical odds would suggest. This implies that there is no obvious danger suit for North to lead.
3. The chance that North holds a balanced 12-14 points is also much higher than the raw odds value, thus giving Klukowski more opportunities in the play of the deal.
4. All of the above suggests that the chance that the heart suit or the spade suit will break 3-3 is higher than the theoretical 36%.
5. East/West were vulnerable at IMP scoring, meaning that a game contract with a 37.5 % probability of success is at the break-even point of the IMP odds.
6. As a winner of the Olympiad, the Bermuda Bowl and the Rosenblum, the 'Triple Crown' of world teams bridge, two other World Championships and three European Team Championships, Gawrys may be said, without demur, to have excellent bridge judgement.

So, virtue was unrewarded yet again.

## NEWS & VIEWS



### Accused Pairs Updates

Guilty verdicts and sentences have been handed down in three cases before various tribunals in the partnership collusion scandals. They are:

- Smirnov/Piekarek: four years by the German Bridge Federation (DBV)
- Fantoni/Nunes: three years by the Italian Bridge Federation (FIGB)
- Fisher/Schwartz: five years by the European Bridge League (EBL).

Fantoni/Nunes and Fisher/Schwartz have appealed their rulings. Smirnov/Piekarek have admitted to 'unethical actions'. A fourth pair, Balicki/Zmudzinski, is under review.

Bamberger Reiter Bridge Club, second in the 2014 European Champions Cup, have returned their silver medals and prize money to the EBL. Piekarek/Smirnov were members of the team. We applaud the other team members, Michael Gromöller, Jörg Fritsche, Andreas Kirmse and Helmut Häusler.

According to an article published in the Israeli newspaper *Haaretz*, three Israeli experts have refined the Per-Ola Cullin findings on Fisher/Schwartz's methods. The three assert that the placement of the board relates to the absolute compass directions North, East, South and West and not to the individual players, as postulated by Cullin. They claim this makes the correspondence between actual holding and desired lead 100% accurate.

# World Bridge Calendar

<b>DATES</b>	<b>EVENT</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>INFORMATION</b>
<b>2016</b>			
Jun 16-26	53 <sup>rd</sup> European Team Championships	Budapest, Hungary	<a href="http://www.eurobridge.org">www.eurobridge.org</a>
Jun 25-Jul 7	Australian National Championships	Brisbane, Australia	<a href="http://www.abf.com.au">www.abf.com.au</a>
Jul 6-10	India Summer Nationals	Bangaluru, India	<a href="http://www.bfi.net.in">www.bfi.net.in</a>
Jul 8-17	Danish Bridge Festival	Svendborg, Denmark	<a href="http://www2.bridge.dk">www2.bridge.dk</a>
Jul 13-20	13 <sup>th</sup> European Youth Pairs & Camp	Liepaja, Latvia	<a href="http://www.eurobridge.org">www.eurobridge.org</a>
Jul 21-24	Madhava Prasad Memorial Tournament	Corbett Park, Nainital, India	<a href="http://www.bfi.net.in">www.bfi.net.in</a>
Jul 21-31	ACBL Summer NABC	Washington, DC	<a href="http://www.acbl.org">www.acbl.org</a>
Jul 26-31	Hong Kong Inter-City	Hong Kong, China	<a href="http://www.hkcba.org">www.hkcba.org</a>
Jul 29-31	Goa Bridge Festival	Goa, India	<a href="http://www.bfi.net.in">www.bfi.net.in</a>
Jul 29-Aug 7	Norwegian Bridge Festival	Fredrikstad, Norway	<a href="http://www.bridgefestival.no">www.bridgefestival.no</a>
Jul 29-Aug 7	22 <sup>nd</sup> Swedish Bridge Festival	Örebro, Sweden	<a href="http://www.svenskbridge.se">www.svenskbridge.se</a>
Jul 30-Aug 4	Chairman's Cup Teams	Örebro, Sweden	<a href="http://www.svenskbridge.se">www.svenskbridge.se</a>
Aug 3-13	World Youth Team Championships	Salsomaggiore, Italy	<a href="http://www.worldbridge.org">www.worldbridge.org</a>
Aug 6-7	Gold Mine Pairs	Örebro, Sweden	<a href="http://www.svenskbridge.se">www.svenskbridge.se</a>
Aug 7-9	Pesta Sukan	Singapore	<a href="http://www.scba.org.sg">www.scba.org.sg</a>
Aug 7-13	48 <sup>th</sup> International Bridge Week	Mautern, Austria	<a href="http://www.bridgeaustria.at">www.bridgeaustria.at</a>
Aug 17-21	10 <sup>th</sup> "Riga Invites to Jurmala"	Jurmala, Latvia	<a href="http://www.rigainvites.lv">www.rigainvites.lv</a>
Aug 19-28	EBU Summer Meeting	Eastbourne, England	<a href="http://www.ebu.co.uk">www.ebu.co.uk</a>
Aug 20-29	World Open Youth Championships	Opatija, Croatia	<a href="http://www.worldbridge.org">www.worldbridge.org</a>
Aug 26-28	Kibic Budapest Open	Budapest, Hungary	<a href="http://www.kibicbridge.com">www.kibicbridge.com</a>
Aug 27-Sep 4	Festival de Bridge de La Grand Motte	La Grande Motte, France	<a href="http://www.festivalsdusoleil.com">www.festivalsdusoleil.com</a>
Sep 2-14	55 <sup>th</sup> International Bridge Festival	Pula, Croatia	<a href="http://www.pulabridgefestival.com">www.pulabridgefestival.com</a>
<b>Sep 3-17</b>	<b>World Bridge Games</b>	<b>Wroclaw, Poland</b>	<b><a href="http://www.worldbridge.org">www.worldbridge.org</a></b>
Sep 9-18	Confiance Guernsey Congress	Guernsey, Channel Is.	<a href="http://www.ebu.co.uk">www.ebu.co.uk</a>
Sep 23, 25	Worldwide Bridge Contest Final	Beijing, China	<a href="http://www.worldbridge.org">www.worldbridge.org</a>
Sep 24-Oct 1	NZ National Congress	Wellington, NZ	<a href="http://www.nzcba.nz">www.nzcba.nz</a>
Sep 30-Oct 4	International Azores Festival	Azores Is., Portugal	<a href="http://www.fpbridge.com">www.fpbridge.com</a>
Oct 5-11	EBU Overseas Congress	Cardone, Lake Garda, Italy	<a href="http://www.ebu.co.uk">www.ebu.co.uk</a>
Oct 28-Nov 1	Festival de Bridge d'Avignon	Avignon, France	<a href="http://www.festivalsdusoleil.com">www.festivalsdusoleil.com</a>
Oct 29-Nov 6	Brazilian Open	Salvador, Bahia, Brazil	<a href="http://www.bridge.esp.br">www.bridge.esp.br</a>
Nov 7-13	Madeira International Festival	Madeira, Portugal	<a href="http://www.fpbridge.com">www.fpbridge.com</a>
Nov 10-12	3 <sup>rd</sup> Marbella International Tournament	Marbella, Málaga, Spain	<a href="http://www.marbellabridge.com">www.marbellabridge.com</a>
Nov 10-20	22 <sup>nd</sup> Red Sea Bridge Festival	Eilat, Israel	<a href="http://www.bridgeredsea.com">www.bridgeredsea.com</a>
Nov 14-20	WBF Women's Online Festival	BBO	<a href="http://www.worldbridge.org">www.worldbridge.org</a>
Nov 24-Dec 4	ACBL Fall NABC	Orlando, FL	<a href="http://www.acbl.org">www.acbl.org</a>
<b>2017</b>			
Jan 10-22	Summer Festival of Bridge	Canberra, Australia	<a href="http://www.abf.com.au">www.abf.com.au</a>
Jan 19-22	IV Copenhagen Invitational	Copenhagen, Denmark	<a href="http://www2.bridge.dk">www2.bridge.dk</a>
Jan 21-27	Bermuda Regional	Southampton, Bermuda	<a href="http://www.bermudaregional.com">www.bermudaregional.com</a>
Jan 23-Feb 1	76 <sup>th</sup> International Tournament	St. Moritz, Switzerland	<a href="http://www.bridge.stmoritz.ch">www.bridge.stmoritz.ch</a>
Feb 2-8	EBU Bridge Overseas COngress	Lisbon, Portugal	<a href="http://www.ebu.co.uk">www.ebu.co.uk</a>
Feb 7-12	21 <sup>st</sup> NEC Festival	Yokohama, Japan	<a href="http://www.jcbl.or.jp">www.jcbl.or.jp</a>
Feb 13-19	Cavendish Invitational	Monte Carlo, Monaco	<a href="http://www.cavendish.bridgemonaco.com">www.cavendish.bridgemonaco.com</a>
Feb 17-25	56 <sup>th</sup> Gold Coast Congress	Surfer's Paradise, Australia	<a href="http://www.qldbridge.com/gcc">www.qldbridge.com/gcc</a>
Mar 9-19	ACBL Spring NABC	Kansas City, MO	<a href="http://www.acbl.org">www.acbl.org</a>
Apr 28-May 9	USBF Open Trials	Schaumburg, IL	<a href="http://www.usbf.org">www.usbf.org</a>
May 3-8	67 <sup>th</sup> South American Championships	Santiago, Chile	<a href="http://www.confisudbridge.org">www.confisudbridge.org</a>
May 3-9	USBF Women's Trials	Schaumburg, IL	<a href="http://www.usbf.org">www.usbf.org</a>
May 9-13	7 <sup>th</sup> South American Transnationals	Santiago, Chile	<a href="http://www.confisudbridge.org">www.confisudbridge.org</a>
May 17-25	USBF Senior Trials	Schaumburg, IL	<a href="http://www.usbf.org">www.usbf.org</a>
May	29 <sup>th</sup> CACBF Championships	Guatemala	<a href="http://www.cacbf.com">www.cacbf.com</a>
May 27-Jun 7	50 <sup>th</sup> Asia Pacific Championships	Seoul, South Korea	<a href="http://www.abf.com.au">www.abf.com.au</a>
Jul 3-7	Yeh Bros. Cup	Tokyo, Japan	<a href="mailto:cpc2013228@gmail.com">cpc2013228@gmail.com</a>
Jul 20-30	ACBL Summer NABC	Toronto, ON	<a href="http://www.acbl.org">www.acbl.org</a>
<b>Aug 12-26</b>	<b>World Team Championships</b>	<b>Lyon, France</b>	<b><a href="http://www.worldbridge.org">www.worldbridge.org</a></b>
Aug 19-26	World Youth Team Championships	Lyon, France	<a href="http://www.worldbridge.org">www.worldbridge.org</a>
Nov 23-Dec 3	ACBL Fall NABC	San Diego, Ca	<a href="http://www.acbl.org">www.acbl.org</a>