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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.

According to the USBF website:

“Mark Lair has withdrawn from the Senior Team that won the Senior USBC and was nominated to represent the USBF in the 2016 World Bridge Series in Wroclaw, Poland. In accordance with USBF General Conditions of Contest requirements, when a player withdraws, the USBF Credentials Committee and USBF Board have reaffirmed the nomination of the remaining members of the team as the USA team for the Senior Teams in Wroclaw and has (*sic*) also approved the team's request to add Chip Martel to the team, to play with Bob Hamman.”

Lair's withdrawal came about because of an incident at a Denver Regional tournament Swiss Teams in which two opposing teams sat in the wrong compass directions, for which ACBL regulations require that both teams receive 0 VPs. However, the teams turned in a score of 0-0 IMPs, and initially received 10 VP each. The score was changed to 0VP each when the facts were discovered by the TD. Additionally, an ACBL Ethical Oversight Committee meeting was scheduled for the Fall NABC in Orlando, even though the incident took place in May. The delay produced a separate controversy.

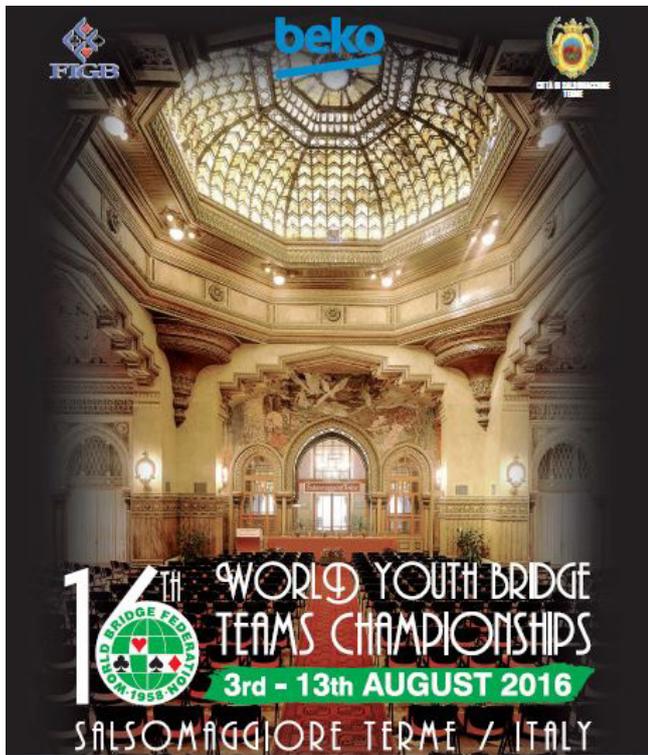
In the early days of Swiss Teams in the ACBL, if two teams played in the wrong direction, a draw was allowed. Then it was discovered that some professional teams were manipulating the results of events by deliberately reporting ties which had not occurred in play. It was looked upon as 'professional courtesy' (help us this week and we'll help you next week), unethical as the practice was – it was cheating the rest of the field. The ACBL moved to end the practice by creating the 0-0 VP rule. So, draconian as the rule may be, there are solid historical and logical reasons for it.

Lair is being lauded in some circles for acting unselfishly, with class and in the best interests of his USA Senior Team. However, here is another interpretation: there was a very good chance that Lair would not have been allowed to play in Wroclaw anyway. Firstly, he'd have had to get his partner, Bob Hamman, and his teammates to reaffirm his status on the team. Secondly, he'd have had to receive approval from the USBF. And finally, he'd have had to pass WBF Credentials Committee scrutiny. There must be some doubt that all three of those bodies would have validated his participation.

Note that the facts of the 0-0 IMP tie having been reported are not in dispute – it's a question of which of the ten players involved knew about it and what the sentence for the guilty parties will be. One of the teams was six-handed, and it appears that two of the six were not privy to the transaction, having been elsewhere at the time.

Two more things: (i.) the ACBL might have acted more promptly to avoid the suspicion of favouritism, and; (ii.) Dan Morse, the ACBL Director for District 16, was a member of one of the teams involved in Denver. His resignation from the Board of Directors, whether voluntary or forced, is imperative immediately.

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Phillip Alder, Hobe Sound, FL
Barry Rigal, NYC

The 2016 World Youth Bridge Team Championships, now comprising Juniors, Youngsters, Kids and Girls events, was held from August 3 to 13 in the Italian Bridge Capital of Salsomaggiore, southeast of Milan.

Medal winners in the four Championships were:

Junior Teams (U-26)

Gold: **POLAND** – Marcin Bojarski, Maksymilian Chodacki, Wojciech Kazmierczak, Michal Klukowski, Kamil Nowak, Justyna Zmuda, Marek Markowski npc

Silver: **CHINA** – Yanfeng Chen, Sili Liu, Shiyu Sun, Zhi Tang, Yong Tao, Hongji Wei, Jun Ji npc & coach

Bronze: **SWEDEN** – Simon Ekenberg, Mikael Grönkvist, Daniel Gullberg, Simon Hult, Mikael Rimstedt, Ola Rimstedt, Martin Löfgren npc, Tom Gards coach

Girls Teams (U-26)

Gold: **NETHERLANDS** – Natalia Banas, Merel Bruijnstee, Magdalena Ticha, Maaike van Ommen, Esther Visser, Janneke Wackwitz, Anneke Simons npc, Aarnout Helmich coach

Silver: **AUSTRALIA** – Jessica Brake, Renee Cooper, Kirstyn Fuller, Francesca Mcgrath, Ella Pattison, Ian Thomson npc, Justine Beaumont coach

Bronze: **NORWAY** – Katarina Ekren, Thea Hove Hauge, Thea Lucia Indrebø, Agnethe

Hansen Kjensli, Sofie Grasholt Sjødal, Sven Olai Høyland npc, Elisabeth G. Sjødal coach

Youngsters Teams (U-21)

Gold: **ITALY** – Francesco Chiarandini, Alvaro Gaiotti, Gianmarco Giubilo, Andrea Manganello, Federico Porta, Sebastiano Scatà, Gianni Medugno npc, Dario Attanasio coach

Silver: **NETHERLANDS** – Youp Caris, Pim Dupont, Oscar Nijssen, Sven Overvelde, Leen Stougie, Marc Stougie, Niek Brink npc, M. Schollaardt coach

Bronze: **HONG KONG** – Chris T. H. Chan, Alfred Lam, Niko Man, Jackson Tsang, Sam Tseng, Michael Wu, Hing L.C. Lee npc

Kids Teams (U-16)

Gold: **ISRAEL** – Aviv Zeitak, Nir Khutorsky, Gilad Lifshitz, Gal Matatyahou, Tomer Loonstein, Danny Loonstein, Shahar Dank, Gilad Ofir (npc)

Silver: **CHINA 2** – Cheng Deng, Yizhou Liu, Yunpeng Chen, Xinyao Ruan, Penghao Wang, Ruizhe Wang, Xiaochen Kong (npc), Liping Wang (coach)

Bronze: **FRANCE** – Maxence Fragola, Romaric Guth, Hugo Rabourdin, Clement Teil, Christophe Oursel (npc), Benoit Deveze (coach)

Joan Gerard

Sportsmanship Awards:

Junior: Mikael Grönkvist, Sweden

Girls: Susanna Broccolini, Italy; Renee Cooper, Australia; and the Indonesian Team: Gabriela Bindi Desai Eva, Yunita Fytry, Fransisca Tri Martanti, Elsy Saktia Ningtias, Erniss Sefita, Fortina Mora Sibuea

Youngsters: The Bermuda Team: Gianluca Cacace, Ruskin Cave, Tyler Irby, William Peniston

Kids: Isis Lundqvist, Sweden

Blocking the Harbour (Alder)

Try this problem ...

Dealer East. Neither Vul.

Dummy (North)

♠ A 6 3

♥ Q 10 6

♦ 9

♣ Q J 6 5 3 2

West (You)

♠ K 9 2

♥ 8 4 3 2

♦ A 7 6 4

♣ K 10

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

- 19-20 points
- Puppet Stayman
- Three spades and five hearts
- Transfer to hearts
- Control-bids, expressing slam interest in hearts

Since partner seems not to have much, you lead a low trump: two, six, five, seven. Declarer cashes his ace of clubs and plays another club to your king while partner signals an odd number of clubs. What now?

Answer: this was the full deal ...

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

Clearly, declarer is threatening to draw trumps and run the clubs. But, given the bad trump break, he will need a dummy entry, which is the ace of spades. To eliminate that entry, Oscar Nijssen of the Netherlands Youngsters team shifted to the king of spades. If South had ducked, West would have cashed the ace of diamonds to defeat the contract. And, when South won the trick with dummy's ace, he drew one round of trumps with dummy's ten, dismayed to see East discard a diamond.

Now declarer had to guess the diamonds, hoping to establish one winner there and ruff another in the dummy. As you will have surmised, South tried a diamond to his king, but Nijssen took the trick and led another trump. When declarer pitched a diamond on the queen of clubs, West ruffed and played a spade. East still had to collect the queen of diamonds, so the contract went two down.

Nijssen had executed a Merrimac Coup, named after the American steamship Merrimac, which was sunk in the harbour of Santiago de Cuba during the Spanish-American War in 1898 in an attempt to bottle up the Spanish fleet.

A Gem from the Quarterfinals (Rigal)

This deal occurred during the second stanza.

Board 19. Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

In their quarterfinal match against Norway, Mikael and Ola Rimstedt bid this to three notrump, as follows:

West	North	East	South
<i>C. Bakke</i>	<i>O. Rimstedt</i>	<i>H. Eide</i>	<i>M. Rimstedt</i>
—	—	—	1♦
Pass	1♥	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♦	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

One diamond was natural and semibalanced or unbalanced, two notrump extras with long diamonds, and three diamonds suggested a minimum hand with only four hearts.

Christian Bakke led a low spade; declarer took the spade in hand (eight, jack, ace) and led a spade to the ten, Harald Eide contributing the seven. Next came a diamond finesse, East's two being upside-down count.

When Bakke won with the king of diamonds, he decided that declarer rated to be 3-6 in the pointed suits. Obviously, the defenders needed to run hearts now, and the question was whether to play partner for either the ace-queen-to-three hearts (when a low heart would let him cash out easily); or queen-nine-third and the ace of clubs, in which case again a low heart was necessary; or, finally, if declarer had a singleton honor, the heart king was necessary to cater for the stiff queen. Bakke decided that with eight hearts and six clubs visible in the two hands, declarer rated to be 1-3 more often than 2-2, so he shifted to the king of hearts to defeat the game. This was worth a 10 IMP pick-up when three notrump made in the other room.

Anticipating the Future (Alder)

One important bridge skill is anticipating what will happen. Being able to alter an opponent's future is harder to achieve, but fun when it happens. This deal occurred during the first session of the semifinals.

Board 11. Dealer South. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Cooper	Sefita	Pattison	Fytry
—	—	—	2♠
Double	3♠	Double	Pass
5♦	Pass	Pass	Pass
West	North	East	South
Ningtias	Brake	Sibuea	Fuller
—	—	—	2♠
3♠ ¹	4♠	Double ²	Pass
6♦	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. Asking partner to bid three notrumps with a spade stopper
2. Card-showing

At every other table where diamonds were trumps, South either played the ace and king of spades at the first two tricks, or won with the king of spades and shifted to a club.

Every declarer realised that if South had the ace and king of spades, (s)he could not also have the king of diamonds. So they all cashed the ace of diamonds and dropped North's king. This happened in the Open Room of the Girls semifinal between Australia and Indonesia. So Renee Cooper took twelve tricks.

Only Kirstyn Fuller from Australia anticipated this future. To change it, she won trick one with the ace of spades and immediately switched to the nine of clubs. Now the declarer, Elsy Saktia Ningtias from Indonesia, thought that Jessica Brake (North) had the king of spades. This made it more likely that South had the king of diamonds, and as long as North was not void in trumps, dummy's seven of diamonds would be an invaluable second dummy entry.

So, West won with her ace of clubs, cashed the ace of hearts, played a heart to dummy's king, and returned a low diamond to her queen. If that had held the trick and both opponents had followed suit, declarer would have cashed the ace of diamonds, led a diamond to dummy's seven, and hoped to discard her remaining clubs on the hearts. However, the finesse lost. Brake (North) then cashed her king of clubs and gave her partner a club ruff for three down and 11 IMPs to Australia.

That was timely anticipation by Kirstyn Fuller.

Saving the Best Until Last (Alder)

With only the opponents vulnerable, you (South) hold:

♠ 10 8
 ♥ A Q 9 6
 ♦ A K J
 ♣ K 9 7 3

The bidding goes:

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

What would you lead?

Often, at the end of a long tournament, the standard of play deteriorates because the players are tired. But surely the best defence of these championships, and perhaps of the year, occurred on the fourth board of the last set in the Youngsters final between Italy and the Netherlands.

This was the full deal:

Dealer East. EW vul.

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

The bidding was identical at both tables.

In the Open Room, Sebastiano Scala made the 'normal' lead – the ace of diamonds. After seeing the dummy, he switched to the ten of trumps . . . too late. Pim Dupont won in his hand and led another diamond. South played his jack and Andrea Manganella (North) overtook with his queen to lead a second trump, but declarer won with his nine and ruffed a diamond in the dummy. After that, East had only two losers in the rounded suits, so made his contract for plus 140.

In the Closed Room, Leen Stougie (South) found the trump lead at trick one! The declarer, Federico Porta, won with his spade nine and led a diamond. South took that trick with his king and led another spade. East won with his queen to lead another diamond, but South played the jack and his brother, Marc Stougie, overtook with his queen to play a third trump and kill the diamond ruff in the dummy. Now declarer had to lose one heart, three diamonds and one club to go one down.

That brilliant defence gained 5 IMPs for the Netherlands. But it proved to be too little too late, with Italy taking the title by 217 imps to 175.



6º Sudamericano Transnacional de Bridge

Sábado 27 de Mayo a Sábado 4 de Junio

SOUTH AMERICAN JUNIOR AND YOUNGSTERS CHAMPIONSHIPS

Medellin, May 26, 2016

Ana Roth & Fernando Lema, BA

The South American (Zone 3) qualifier for the World Youth Championships in Salsomaggiore, Italy, was held from May 24-26 during the VI Campeonato Sudamericano Transnacional de Bridge Medellin 2016.

Three teams participated in the Under-21 category: Brazil, Chile and Uruguay. They played a 120-board Round Robin, divided into sets of 12 boards each. The Chilean team, with an outstanding performance from Sofia Gerstmann, showed their supremacy. The final standings were:

Chile	199.98 VP
Brazil	147.21 VP
Uruguay	132.81 VP

Chile and Brazil earned the right to participate in the World Youth Championship in the Youngsters category (U-21).

In the U-26 Category, where seven teams participated, the Round Robin consisted of 12-board matches. At the end of the Round Robin, the semi-finals were Argentina vs. Chile and Colombia vs. Uruguay, 60 boards in sets of 12.

Argentina vs. Chile

In the first 12 boards, neither team managed a significant advantage, the set ending 21-19 in favour of Argentina. In the second set, Argentina managed to distance itself. At the end of this stanza, Argentina led 54-27. In the third and the fourth sets, Argentina scored enough swings that Chile could no longer recover; Argentina finally won by more than 100 IMPs.

Colombia vs. Uruguay

In this semifinal, Colombia won the first set by 50 IMPs. Uruguay never managed to recover and Colombia ended up winning the match by 117 IMPs.

Thus Argentina and Colombia contested the final; it was played over three sets of 12 boards each. After the first 12 boards, Argentina had a comfortable lead of about 27 IMPs, which did not last long. In the second set, thanks to several errors, Argentina went on to lose its lead to trail by 13 IMPs. In the third set, Argentina

had to bring out all its artillery to win the U-26 championship by 83 to 72.

This was the best deal of the Under-26 Championship:

Board 10. Dealer East. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Cruzisio	Valenzuela	da Rosa	Correa
—	—	1♦ ¹	Pass
1♠	Pass	2NT ²	Pass
3♣ ³	Pass	3♠ ⁴	Pass
4♣ ⁵	Pass	4♦ ⁵	Pass
4♥ ⁵	Pass	4NT ⁶	Pass
5♣ ⁷	Pass	5♦ ⁸	Pass
5♠ ⁹	Pass	6♦ ¹⁰	Pass
6♠	Pass	6NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		

- Five-plus diamonds or an unbalanced hand
- Various strong hands
- Relay, asking for more information
- Six good diamonds and three spades
- Control bids
- Asking for more information (not RKCB)
- Ace and king of clubs
- Forward-going, asks anything to add?
- Nothing more to say
- Intended as the final contract

The decision to play six notrump was a very good one since both six diamonds and six spades can be defeated. However, in the other room Colombia played six diamonds, and with no spade lead, made 12 tricks. That was only 2 IMPs for Argentina.

The qualifiers for Salsomaggiore were:

Under-26 (Juniors)

Argentina: Maximo Cruzisio, Rodrigo Garcia da Rosa, Martin Maglio, Federico von Brudendorff, Juan Cruz Etchepareborda, Maximiliano Salvador, Carlos Pellegrini (Coach), Sergio Capozzi (NPC).

Colombia: Dania Cardenas, Nicolas Correa, Joan Valenzuela, Juan Cuervo, Jose Zamora, Carlos Hoyos (NPC & Coach).

Under -21 (Youngsters)

Chile: Sofia Gertsmann, Lenin Cuevas, Nicolás Dávila, Bastian Perez, Hanoi Rondon (NPC & Coach).

Uruguay: Sofia Kozloviz, Ignacio Miguez, Juan Ochoa, Leonardo Vieira, Agustin Texeira, Juan Tarigo, Luis Cristar (NPC & Coach).



JUST ANOTHER FLAT BOARD

Herman De Wael, Wilrijk, Belgium

In the early rounds of the teams tournament in Mautern, Austria, boards were dealt at the table, so only eight players saw the following 'flat board'.

Board 27. Dealer South. Neither Vul.

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

At one table, South decided to try to show his hand immediately and opened four notrump.

West also wanted to show his two suits, and he started at what 'seemed' the lowest level: four spades. Then North also decided to keep the level low, so he accepted and bid four notrump. East decided to join in the fun and he contributed another four spades.

At that point, as Tournament Director, I was called. Once we stopped laughing, I asked if they wanted a real ruling. They did. So I told South that he could accept East's bid. If he did not, East would be allowed to bid five spades without penalty. I neglected to ask whether four spades or five spades would have been natural – who has a system covering three insufficient bids?

South decided the level was low enough to warrant yet another acceptance, and bid five spades. Now I suggested that someone might try one club next, but they all had had enough fun, and the bidding then proceeded rather sedately:

West	North	East	South
—	—	—	4NT
4♠ ¹	4NT ¹	4♠ ¹	5♠ ¹
Double	5NT	Double	6♣
6♥	Double	Pass	Pass
Pass			

1. All insufficient bids accepted

One down, plus 100 to North/South; a seemingly par result.

At the other table, South felt that showing one suit was enough, and so opened five clubs. West, however, did show two suits with six clubs. North doubled and East bid six diamonds. He understood that partner's correction to six hearts showed the spade suit as well, but was happy with hearts. South went all in with seven clubs, still not showing his extreme distribution, and when East went to seven hearts, North did not feel confident enough to rate his majors worth a trick, and the contract remained seven hearts undoubled.

West	North	East	South
—	—	—	5♣
6♣	Double	6♦	Pass
6♥	Pass	Pass	7♣
Pass	Pass	7♥	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Two down, plus 100 to North/South, flat board!



ANOT FINAL 2016

John Carruthers, Kingsville, ON

The final of the 2016 Australian National Open Teams in Adelaide featured two of the pre-tournament favourites, MILNE (Andy Hung/Paul Gosney, Liam Milne/Nye Griffiths) and HANS (David Beauchamp/Tom Jacob, Sartaj Hans/Michael Ware). These teams, comprised mostly of young men, are representative of the new breed of Australian bridge player.

The match produced more than its fair share of swing deals, amusement and curiosities. MILNE streaked off to an early lead but was soon pegged smartly back by HANS. Here are a few of the key deals ...

Board 1. Dealer North. Neither Vul.

♠ A K 8 3
♥ K 10 5 4 3 2
♦ Q
♣ A 7

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

♠ 10 9 7 5
♥ 6
♦ K 5 3
♣ J 9 8 5 4

West	North	East	South
Beauchamp	Hung	Jacob	Gosney
—	1♥	Pass	Pass
1♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

West	North	East	South
Milne	Ware	Griffiths	Hans
—	1♥	Pass	Pass
2♥ ¹	Pass	2NT ²	Pass
3♦	Pass	4♦	Pass
5♦	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. Spades and a minor
2. Asks minor

While Beauchamp contented himself with a simple balancing overcall, Milne was able to show his two-suiter immediately, then accept Griffiths' game try.

One-level contracts are the most difficult to defend. North led his third-from-an-even-number five of hearts. Declarer won with the singleton ace and led the queen of clubs. North won and switched to the queen of diamonds. That seemed like a good idea to Beauchamp, so he won with his ace and returned a diamond to South's king, North discarding his remaining club. South gave North a diamond ruff and North exited with a low heart to dummy's queen. On this trick, South declined to ruff, pitching a club, so declarer also threw a club. No one wanted those poor clubs. When declarer tried to cash the king of clubs, North ruffed and exited again with a heart. This time, South ruffed with the nine of spades, overruffed by declarer's queen. This was the position:

♠ A K	♠ —
♥ K 10 4	♥ J 9
♦ —	♦ 10
♣ —	♣ 10 6

♠ J 6 4 2
♥ —
♦ J
♣ —

♠ 10 7 5
♥ —
♦ —
♣ J 9

Each side had taken four tricks. Declarer led the two of spades to North's king and another heart was ruffed and overruffed. That all meant that the ace and ten of spades came crashing down together at the end. Declarer remained with the thirteenth trump and a good diamond. Plus 80. That was a lot of work for what Beauchamp felt was probably a small loss against a diamond partscore making nine or ten tricks. Hah!

At the other table, despite the auction and his hand calling for a trump lead, Ware made the injudicious lead of the ace of spades. Milne ruffed in dummy and led the king of clubs. North won with the ace and exited with his queen of diamonds. Too late! Declarer won with the ace and ruffed another spade. He came to the ace of hearts and tried the queen of spades, which was covered and ruffed in dummy. The 4-4 break meant that declarer's spades were now high – he led a trump to South's king, won the club return and drew the last trump, claiming 11 tricks and a magnificent, and unexpected, plus 400. Eight IMPs to MILNE.

Had Ware led his queen of diamonds, declarer would have been hard-pressed to take ten tricks, let alone 11. Ten tricks could have been made double dummy, but the play was not intuitive and nine tricks was the most likely result.

After 24 of the scheduled 56 boards, MILNE had surged to a 90-29 IMP lead, which was to be their high-water mark.

Board 25. Dealer North. EW Vul.

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

♠ A 10 9 8 7
♥ 10 4 2
♦ 3 2
♣ 10 7 6

West	North	East	South
Hans	Hung	Ware	Gosney
—	1♣ ¹	Pass	1♥ ²
2♥	3♠	Pass	Pass
Double	Pass	4♥	4♠
Pass	Pass	Double	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. 2+ clubs
2. 4+ spades

Sartaj Hans defended very well here. Ware led a low heart to Hans' king and West switched to the five of clubs, third best from an even number. Declarer

Continued on page 10 ...



IBPA Column Service

Tim Bourke, Canberra

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

821. Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
—	—	—	1♠
3♥	4NT	Pass	5♦
Pass	5♥	Pass	6♣
Pass	6♦	Pass	7♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

After West's pre-emptive jump overcall, North enquired about key cards, assuming spades would be trumps; South promised one key card. North asked about the queen of trumps and South promised that card and the king of clubs. When North asked for help in diamonds with six diamonds, South knew what to do.

West led the king of hearts. Declarer counted twelve top tricks and saw that, if trumps were not 4-0, a thirteenth would come from a club break or a club ruff. He also saw that an immediate heart ruff could do no harm.

So, declarer took the first trick with the ace of hearts, ruffed a heart and cashed the queen of trumps. West's discard of a heart was not a total surprise.

While declarer saw that he could still rely on the clubs running, he was reluctant to do so, and he came up with a better plan. As it was significantly more likely that East had been dealt a singleton club than a singleton diamond (a void was unlikely due to the absence of a Lightner Double), declarer cashed the king and queen of diamonds. Next, he ruffed the six of diamonds. It was then a simple matter to draw East's remaining trumps and claim the last four tricks with the ace of diamonds and the three top clubs. Declarer made four trumps, four tricks in the red suits, three in clubs and two ruffs in hand.

822. Dealer North. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
—	1♣	2♥	2♠
Pass	3♠	Pass	6♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

On this deal, East/West were sensibly playing intermediate jump overcalls at unfavourable vulnerability but, once North raised spades, South was not deterred from making an enthusiastic leap to slam.

West led the ten of hearts and declarer could count ten top tricks. As an eleventh would come from a diamond ruff, declarer focussed his attention on avoiding the club finesse as East was likely to hold the king of clubs. However, East was also almost certain to have both the ace and king of hearts. So, declarer formed a plan on that basis.

At trick one he called for a low heart from dummy and ruffed in his hand. Then, after drawing trumps with the ace and king, he cashed the king and ace of diamonds, then ruffed the ten of diamonds in dummy. Next he played the queen of hearts from dummy. East played the ace of hearts and declarer threw a club from hand. East exited with a low heart, but declarer was not put off his original plan. He threw a second club from hand and dummy's jack of hearts won the trick. Declarer made seven trumps, a heart, two diamonds, a diamond ruff and a club for a total of twelve tricks.

Notice that if declarer had covered the opening lead with one of dummy's honours, the contract would have failed.

823. Dealer East. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
—	—	3♦	4♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

This deal came from a teams match and both East players opened with three diamonds and their left-hand-opponents both leapt to game in spades. At both tables, West began with three top hearts. Both declarers ruffed the third heart with the nine of trumps to preserve the chance of getting to dummy with a trump.

West took the continuation of the king of spades with the ace and played the ten of hearts. Again both declarers retained the two of trumps and took the trick by ruffing with the ten. After drawing West's remaining trump with the queen, both declarers crossed to dummy by leading the two of trumps. However, at this point, their paths diverged.

The first declarer ran the ten of clubs successfully and then led the queen of clubs. Alas, East covered the latter with the king in the hope that declarer had started with only three clubs. As a result, this declarer had to lose a diamond trick and so finished one trick short of his contract.

The second declarer avoided this trap by leading the queen of clubs on the first round of the suit. When East followed with a low club, this declarer made his second good play, unblocking his jack of clubs. When the queen of clubs held, declarer led the ten of clubs. It did not matter whether East covered this: whichever option East took, declarer would have made three club tricks and would have been in a position to take the winning diamond finesse for his contract.

824. Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

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

1. Limit raise or better in hearts

West led the queen of diamonds and declarer paused a moment to regret not being in the cold (from his side) three notrump. However, the job at hand was to make four hearts and declarer saw that the main problem in this contract was that the ace of spades was almost surely wrong. Consequently, he was in danger of losing two spades and a trick in each minor.

Declarer's first move was to play low from dummy to prevent East gaining the lead profitably. East saw that if he took the first trick with the king of diamonds declarer would be able to take an extra trick in the suit by finessing the ten. So East withheld the king and instead played an encouraging card in diamonds. West led the eight of diamonds next and declarer took the trick with dummy's ace then ruffed the ten of diamonds, eliminating that suit.

After drawing trumps with the ace and king, declarer took the only chance for his contract by playing the ace, king and another club. All this needed for success was for West to have either five clubs or both the queen and jack of clubs. Declarer's luck was in when the latter proved to be the case and West found himself on lead, forced to either lead a spade or concede a ruff-and-discard by playing a minor suit. Declarer then claimed, for no matter what choice West made, he would have his tenth trick.



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needed the king of spades onside to have a chance at a make and also had to set up either a club for a diamond discard or a diamond for a club discard. On the club shift, he thought that West was more likely to have neither club honour than both, so he won the shift with his ace, led the queen of spades for a finesse, then led another spade to dummy, West discarding hearts.

Hung led a diamond from the dummy and won it with his ace when Hans split his honours with the king. Another diamond went to Hans' queen and West exited with the queen of clubs to declarer's king. As planned, declarer took a club pitch on the jack of diamonds and, still needing to ruff a heart in hand, led the nine of hearts to the seven, four and jack. Hans completed a fine performance by playing the jack of clubs, which allowed Ware to discard the queen of hearts. East was then in a position to overruff declarer in hearts and beat four spades doubled one trick for plus 100.

Despite this defence, declarer could have prevailed by timing the play a little better. When the queen of spades held the trick, declarer had to lead a heart. West could have won and led the queen of clubs (or king of diamonds, no matter), but declarer would have won, finessed a spade to dummy, ruffed a heart with the jack of spades and taken another spade finesse. Finally, declarer would have drawn the last trump and led whichever suit West had played at trick five, setting up a minor-suit winner to discard the minor-suit loser. West might, however, have tested declarer with another low club play after winning the second heart trick.

West	North	East	South
Milne	Beauchamp	Griffiths	Jacob
—	INT	Pass	2♥ ¹
Double	3♠	Pass	Pass
3NT ²	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. Transfer to spades
2. Intended as takeout

No one felt inclined to remove three notrump. Milne feared that double at his second turn might be construed as penalty, but why he thought three notrump should be for takeout is not clear. "Three notrump ends all auctions," is not quite a commandment, but is viewed as such by some players. With ten tricks available to the defence, they managed to take their five spade tricks and the ace, ace-king for four off, plus 400. That was 11 IMPs to HANS and started a 27-0 run to end the quarter down 34 after having been down 61 a few boards earlier. Had Hung made four spades doubled, he'd have won 5 IMPs instead of losing 11.

Two boards later (see top of next column) ...

Ware (East) wisely refrained from showing his clubs and, this time, it was Hung and Gosney who were not on the same wavelength.

Board 27. Dealer South. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Hans	Hung	Ware	Gosney
—	—	—	1♣ ¹
Pass	1♥ ²	2♦	Double ³
Pass	4♦ ⁴	Pass	4♥ ⁵
Pass	5♣	Pass	5♥
Pass	6♠	Pass	Pass

1. 2+ clubs
2. 4+ spades
3. 3 spades
4. Splinter in support of spades
5. Last Train

The four-heart and five-heart bids seem to have convinced Hung of the ace and king opposite. That meant, assuming the ace of spades for the Last Train bid, that all he'd have to do would be to restrict his club losers to one to make six spades.

Ware led a low diamond and Hung took a straightforward line. He won with the ace of diamonds, drew trumps and led the ace of hearts. It was then a simple matter to set up a heart for a club discard; plus 980. With what went on at the other table, that expected gain turned into a small loss for MILNE ...

West	North	East	South
Milne	Beauchamp	Griffiths	Jacob
—	—	—	1♣
Pass	1♠	2NT ¹	Pass
4♥	4♠	Pass	Pass
5♥	Double	5NT	Double
6♦	Double	Pass	Pass
Pass			

1. Intended as showing the minors; interpreted as showing hearts and diamonds

Milne and Griffiths had another bidding misunderstanding, this time with two notrump. Declarer lost the obvious six tricks to go for 1100, losing 'only' 3 IMPs.

HANS made an astonishing turnaround. Having been down 90-27 after 24 boards, by the close of Board 38, they led 103-97.

Board 52. Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Gosney	Jacob	Hung	Beauchamp
—	—	—	1♣
1♥	3NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Hung eschewed partner's suit, leading the seven of clubs to declarer's queen. Jacob led a diamond to dummy to play the ten of hearts, ducked all around. Declarer led a low spade from the dummy. Gosney won with his jack and continued with the king, revealing the layout of the suit to declarer. Jacob won the second spade with dummy's ace, cashed all of his minor-suit winners and exited with the ten of spades to West. Gosney could cash the thirteenth spade, but then had to give North a second heart trick, his ninth, for plus 600. Well done.

West	North	East	South
Ware	Milne	Hans	Griffiths
—	—	—	1♣
1♥	3♥	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

It appears that three hearts directed three notrump from South, perhaps to take advantage of any positional value the South hand may have had. All it succeeded in doing was allowing West to find the killing king-of-spades lead. Declarer won the third spade with the ace and led a club to the jack, queen and king. That was the third defensive trick and West still had the ace of hearts and a good spade for one down and 12 IMPs to HANS.

HANS won the match 148-123.



TRUMP MAGIC

Tim Bourke, Canberra

Senior events all over the world continue to become tougher. World Champions were abundant in the recent USBF Senior Trials. Here are two dazzling deals from that event ...

Hamman vs. Pollack – The Quarterfinals

One might think that the loss of Michael Rosenberg would irreparably damage a team's chances. No, last year's World Champions, Milner (this year Hamman), replaced Rosenberg with Jeff Meckstroth, just coming of age as a Senior, to play with Zia. Here is Zia in action:

Board 87. Dealer South. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Feldman	Meckstroth	Friedland	Zia
Hamman	Pollack	Lair	Cohen
—	—	—	2♥
2♠	4♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Mark Feldman struck gold with the king-of-clubs lead. When it held, he continued with the jack of clubs to Peter Friedland's ace. Friedland led a third club to kill the queen and create a trump trick for himself. Zia overruffed West's two of hearts with dummy's queen, then set about making the all of the trumps in his hand. He played the ace of spades, discarding a diamond, ruffed a spade, East discarding a club, led a heart to the ace, and ruffed another spade, East again discarding a club. Declarer then played the ace and king of diamonds and ruffed a third spade. He'd reduced his hand to the king-ten of hearts and a losing diamond. He exited with the losing diamond and put in the ten on East's forced heart lead. Plus 420.

Mark Cohen also did well at the other table. Bob Hamman led the king of clubs but, when it held, shifted to the king of spades. Cohen won with dummy's ace, discarding a club from hand, drew two rounds of trumps with the ace and queen, came to hand with a spade ruff and drew the last trump. He then led a diamond to the king and a diamond to the nine, executing a perfect safety play in the suit. We can see that virtue had to be its own reward in this case: it was a flat board.

Hamman went on to win 152-128.

Hamman vs. Wolfson – The Final

The two favourites (Hamman/Lair, Lall/Milner, Meckstroth/Zia and Berkowitz/Sontag, Martel/Rosenberg, Silverman/Wolfson) managed to wend their way to the final. Eleven of the 12 players were reigning or past World Champions. One of those, Chip Martel shone on the following deal ...

Board 89. Dealer North. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Martel	Meckstroth	Rosenberg	Zia
—	Pass	1♦	1♥
1♠	3♥	Pass	4♥
Double	Pass	4♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Four spades looked hopeless. Martel won the opening lead of the nine of diamonds with dummy's ace, came to the king of clubs and led the queen of spades. When Zia's jack fell under it, Martel led another spade to the ten and cashed the ace, Zia discarding hearts. Declarer led a heart toward the king and South rose with the ace, cashed the king of diamonds and led the queen of diamonds. Martel ruffed and Meckstroth discarded a heart. With a very strong inferential count that Zia was 1=5=5=2, Martel led a club to the ten, securing ten tricks and his contract. That was very well done indeed.

At the other table ...

West	North	East	South
Hamman	Berkowitz	Lair	Sontag
—	Pass	1♦	1♥
1♠	3♥	3♠	Pass
4♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

With four trumps, David Berkowitz preferred to seek a forcing game. He led the jack of hearts to Alan Sontag's ace and Sontag continued the suit to Bob Hamman's king. Hamman led a spade to the ace and a spade to the queen and king. Berkowitz continued spades to dummy's ten. Sontag discarded one heart and one diamond on the spades. With the distribution unrevealed, Hamman led a club to the king and another to the ace. When South discarded on the third club,

Hamman lost two spades, one heart, one diamond and one club for two off and 13 IMPs out.

It is not often that anyone outplays Bob Hamman by two tricks, however much tougher the defence Hamman receives.

Petra Hamman has a chance now to enhance the unique record she and husband Bob own – each has captained the other to a World Championship, Petra shepherding Bob to the 2015 Senior world title, while Bob was the NPC of Petra's Women's Olympiad Teams-winning squad in 2000.



The following deal is from the match between Australia and Poland at this year's Girls' World Championship, held in Salsomaggiore, Italy, this past summer.

Board 25. Dealer North. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
—	1♥	1♠	2♣
Double	3♣	3♥	5♣
Double	Pass	Pass	Pass

West leads the king of spades: three – jack – two. How would you continue?

When dummy has a singleton and plenty of trumps, there is little point in signalling attitude or count. Most top players give a suit-preference signal in this situation. East's jack of spades, an unnecessarily high card, should therefore be a request for a shift to hearts. This was the full deal:

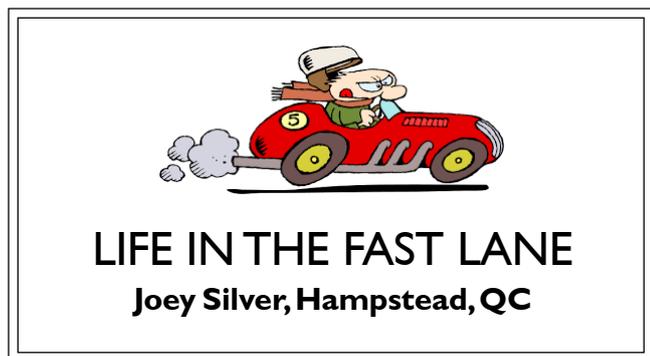
♠ 3	
♥ K J 9 4 2	
♦ A Q J	
♣ 9 8 7 2	
♠ K 7	♠ A J 6 5 4
♥ A Q 7 6 5	♥ 3
♦ 10 9 7 6 5	♦ K 8 4 3 2
♣ 3	♣ K J
	♠ Q 10 9 8 2
	♥ 10 8
	♦ —
	♣ A Q 10 6 5 4

After the diagrammed auction, Renee Cooper led the king of spades and Ella Pattison, East, played the jack. Cooper switched to the ace of hearts and continued with the five of hearts. East ruffed, one down, East/West plus 100.

West	North	East	South
—	Brake		Fuller
	1♥	1♠	2♣
Pass	3♣	Pass	5♣
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Cooper's double at the other table, showing diamonds and tolerance for spades, was much better than West's conservative pass here.

West led the king of spades: three – six – two, and switched to the diamond nine: jack – king – club four. South ruffed a spade, pitched the heart losers on the ace and queen of diamonds, and finessed the queen of clubs. After a spade ruff, heart ruff, and another spade ruff, she had eleven tricks, plus 400 and 11 IMPs. Australia beat Poland 41-31.



Usually, my “Life in the Fast Lane” articles are about my own forays into the “Twilight Zone”. This time, however, they feature my partner, John Carruthers, playing in the Montréal Regional to practice with our team for the upcoming World Bridge Series in Poland. On the first of my deals, at favourable vulnerability, Carruthers had some fun, holding:

♠ K 4
♥ J 9 7 4
♦ A K 7 3
♣ 10 6 2

In a very close knockout match, I opened three diamonds in first position and the next player, Ed Zaluski, passed. What would you bid?

It seems to me that the book bid is a simple five diamonds, although opposite one of my preempts you might want to bid only four diamonds, which is what happened at the other table. An advantage of four diamonds is that it does not bully your opponents beyond four of a major.

Another possibility, since this is the fast lane after all, is to psych three notrump or three of a major.

Carruthers, however, found the master fast-lane bid of four spades(!), to play. This was not quite a home run (maybe a ground-rule double!) as the full deal was:

Dealer North. EW Vul.

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

East/West can make six clubs, but getting there is problematic on any auction. At the other table, after three diamonds-pass-four diamonds, West bid four spades and East, with two losers in diamonds, passed.

Meanwhile, back at our table, what was West supposed to do over four spades? He passed. Double would have been for takeout, although East/West may have revised their system by now. Perhaps double should be a takeout of only diamonds and four notrump a rounded-suit takeout. Four spades was passed out.

My queen of hearts was a disappointment to declarer. West, John Zaluski, was even less enamoured of the outcome, which was eight off, minus 400. It gained 6 IMPs for our team against the 650 at the other table.

Carruthers had no fun on my second deal, just stress:

Dealer North. Both Vul.

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

Firstly, at our teammates' table ...

West	North	East	South
Daigneault	J. Bowman	Baran	B. Bowman
—	1♠	Pass	2♥
Pass	2♠	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

NOTE 1: “Ground-rule double” is a baseball term, referring to a batted ball which bounces into the stands after having first hit the ground. The batter is placed on second base and any baserunners advance exactly two bases. - Ed.

Pierre Daigneault led his fourth-best club, ducked to declarer's jack. Billy Bowman tried a spade to the jack and Boris Baran's king. Baran continued clubs to dummy's king. With no clues from the bidding, declarer led a heart to his ace and a spade to dummy's jack and Baran's ace. At that point, the contract was always makeable. If East plays a heart, declarer must finesse the jack, cash the ace and king of hearts, then play the ace and another club to West, who would have been down to diamonds at that point. As long as declarer plays for split diamond honours, he'd come home with nine tricks.

When, in practice, Baran cashed one more spade, forcing a diamond discard from West, the position was:

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

On a heart exit, declarer must finesse, cash the high heart, then endplay West in clubs. When Baran cashed his fourth spade (heart from West) and exited with a heart, declarer decided to rise with the king, cross to the ace of clubs and cash the thirteenth spade. That squeezed East in hearts and diamonds and West in clubs and diamonds. East and West were rather unhappy about that turn of events.

At our table, I nudged Carruthers into the fast lane:

West	North	East	South
Siegrist	Silver	Morgan	Carruthers
—	1♠	Pass	2♥ ¹
Pass	2♠	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	Double	Pass
Pass	Redouble	Pass	Pass
Pass			
1. Forcing to game			

Since we don't play the more-sophisticated "Doubt Redouble", my redouble was intended to teach someone a sharp lesson. That that person may have been me was irrelevant – it would not have been the first time.

The double got West off to a spade lead, the three (Polish-style, low from a doubleton): jack, king, six. (Whatever your lead conventions, high from a doubleton in this situation should be mandatory, since a high spot-card lead through dummy's suit could be crucial.) Carruthers could count six tricks and mentally calculated down three as minus 1600.

Nevertheless, when Morgan shifted to a heart at trick two, declarer, with no hope otherwise, hopefully put in the jack, perking up a bit when West followed with the five (as discouraging as he felt he could be). Declarer was up to seven tricks.

At that point, declarer could have played the ace-king and another heart, but what should he have discarded from the dummy? Instead, he played a low heart, West playing the ten to hold the trick for another spade lead. East's nine won the trick. East played another heart to declarer's ace (club from dummy). When Carruthers ran the hearts (up to eight tricks!), he could safely discard the then-not-needed spades from dummy. West let go a diamond and a club and East a spade. The ending at our table was:

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

Now certain of the distribution, Carruthers played the ace-king and another club, West had to exit with a diamond. He chose the queen and, playing for split honours, Carruthers won with dummy's ace and ran the ten to make his contract. Plus 1000 and 9 IMPs to the good guys. Did I hear you say my redouble was nuts?

Had West discarded two diamonds to keep all four clubs, declarer would have cashed the ace of diamonds, then ducked a diamond to West to force a club lead away from the queen. However, a club shift from East when he won his second spade trick would have beaten three notrump.

NEWS & VIEWS



HCL Championship

The Bridge Federation of India and Hindustan Computers Limited (HCL) have announced joint sponsorship of the 14th HCL International Bridge Championship in New Delhi, October 19-23, 2016. In order to attract overseas teams, the tournament will offer US\$180,000 in prize money. The tournament will be held at the JW Marriott Hotel, New Delhi Aerocity.

The tournament format will feature Gold and Silver teams events with a Swiss League qualifying on Days 1 and 2, followed by full-day knockout matches for quarterfinals, semifinals and final. Teams not making it to the quarterfinals and teams knocked out in the quarterfinals and semifinals will have pairs events (IMPs and matchpoints) to play in. All events have substantial cash prizes through at least 16 places. The winning team in the Gold division will receive ~\$30,000 (2,000,000 rupees converted to \$US at the day's prevailing rate).

For more information, go to www.hcl-bridge.com or contact Subhash Gupta, Organizing Secretary, on sgupta07@rediffmail.com.

ACBL Notice

Josef Piekarek, Player No. 9739661, and Alexander Smirnov, Player No. 9739696, have been suspended for four years, beginning June 14, 2016, and given a lifetime ban from playing together as a pair in all ACBL-sanctioned events. In accordance with the Code of Disciplinary Regulations 2.2.3 (f), the CEO is honoring the discipline imposed by the European Bridge League (<http://www.eurobridge.org/Data/Sites/1/media/Piekarek-Smirnov.pdf>).



Correspondence

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

Hi John,

There is only one record that I know of as to how the game called "Berich" or "Biritch" is pronounced. It was printed in *The Redwood Journal* (Ukiah, California) on Friday, February 28, 1936: "CONTRACT HIGHLIGHTS" by Z. (Zeryl) V. Smith. The column states:

An old San Francisco player, who, though unknown in tournaments play, is one of the best in the country, says: "I was born in Constantinople of English parents. My family had long been engaged in the rug trade. I was told that the card game we played had been the popular diversion in Turkey from time immemorial. It was called 'berich' (pronounced bay-reech, both syllables unaccented). When the dealer could not make a trump he merely said: 'Berich!'"

About 10 years ago I sent a copy of this column to the best bridge historian I know, Thierry Depaulis. As my copy of the above column is some 600 km away in the State Library of Victoria, Thierry kindly supplied me with the above text. He reminded me that he was

able to confirm the identity of the "old San Francisco (bridge) player" above as George Noel Baker (b. Constantinople 1884 – d. Sacramento, CA 1962), a nephew of G.P. (George Percival) and J. (James) Baker, the founders of the celebrated British furnishings company, Baker Furniture, founded in Constantinople in 1886.

If you want any truly accurate information on the origins of bridge, Thierry is your man.

Regards, Tim Bourke, Canberra

Mario Dix 1942-2016



We are deeply saddened to learn of the death of Mario Dix who passed away on Friday, August 19. Mario was Treasurer and Membership Secretary of the IBPA from 2005 until 2009.

Mario Dix was a founding member of the Malta Bridge Association when it was formed in 1993. He served as its president and was still a member of the board at the time of his death. In 1999 he organised a successful EBL Team Championships in Malta.

Mario Dix participated in all EBL events for 20 years as a player and administrator, playing most recently in the Open European Championships in Tromsø, Norway and the European Small Federations Championship in Cyprus in 2015. He attended all EBL seminars, Officers, Teaching and TD courses. Mario served the EBL as a member of the Small Federations Committee for eight years and was awarded the EBL Bronze Medal in 1999.

We send our condolences to all members of Mario's family.

World Bridge Calendar

DATES	EVENT	LOCATION	INFORMATION
2016			
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 16-18	Grand Prix of Madrid	Madrid, Spain	www.granprixdemadrid.com
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. 19-23	14 th HCL International Championships	New Delhi, India	www.hcl-bridge.com
Oct 28-Nov 1	Festival de Bridge d'Avignon	Avignon, France	www.festivalsdusoleil.com
Oct 29-Nov 6	Brazilian Open	Salvador, Bahia, Brazil	www.bridge.esp.br
Oct 31-Nov 2	1 st Yeh Online Invitational World Cup	Online	TBA
Nov 2-4	9 th European Small Federations Ch.	Dubrovnik, Croatia	www.ebu.co.uk
Nov 7-13	Madeira International Festival	Madeira, Portugal	www.fpbridge.com
Nov 10-12	15 th European Champions Cup	Zagreb, Croatia	www.eurobridge.org
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 21-16	UAE National Day Bridge Festival	Dubai, UAE	amr.mekky@hotmail.com
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 2-8	EBU Overseas Congress	Lisbon, Portugal	www.ebu.co.uk
Feb 7-12	21 st NEC Festival	Yokohama, Japan	www.jcbl.or.jp
Feb 13-18	26 th Sun, Sea & Slams Tournament	Christ Church, Barbados, W.I.	www.cacbf.com
Feb 14-16	Cavendish Invitational Teams	Monte Carlo, Monaco	www.cavendish.bridgemonaco.com
Feb 17-19	Cavendish Invitational Pairs	Monte Carlo, Monaco	www.cavendish.bridgemonaco.com
Feb 17-25	56 th Gold Coast Congress	Surfer's Paradise, Australia	www.qldbridge.com/gcc
Feb 22-26	Cannes Festival	Cannes, France	www.festivalsdusoleil.com
Mar 9-19	ACBL Spring NABC	Cansas City, MO	www.acbl.org
Mar 26-31	25 th White House Junior International	Amsterdam, Netherlands	kornelistammens@gmail.com
Apr 11-16	122 nd Canadian Nationals	Toronto, Ontario	www.unit166.ca
Apr 17-23	Gatlinburg Regional	Gatlinburg, TN	www.gatlinburgregional.org
Apr 21-30	Lambourne Jersey Festival of Bridge	Jersey, Channel Is.	www.ebu.co.uk
Apr 28-May 2	Schapiro Spring Foursomes	Stratford-upon-Avon, England	www.ebu.co.uk
Apr 28-May 9	USBF Open Trials	Schaumburg, IL	www.usbf.org
May 3-8	67 th South American Championships	Santiago, Chile	www.confssudbridge.org
May 3-9	USBF Women's Trials	Schaumburg, IL	www.usbf.org
May 9-13	7 th South American Transnationals	Santiago, Chile	www.confssudbridge.org
May 17-25	USBF Senior Trials	Schaumburg, IL	www.usbf.org
May 19-Jun 1	Festival de Bridge de Côte d'Azur	Juan-les-Pins, France	www.festivalsdusoleil.com
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
Jun 10-18	19 th German Bridge Festival	Wyk-auf-Föhr, Germany	www.bridge-verband.de
Jun 10-24	8 th Open European Championships	Montecatini, Italy	www.eurobridge.org
Jun 30-Jul 2	English Riviera Congress	Torquay, England	www.ebu.co.uk
Jul 3-7	Yeh Bros. Cup	Tokyo, Japan	cpc2013228@gmail.com
Jul 20-30	ACBL Summer NABC	Toronto, Ontario	www.acbl.org
Jul 30-Aug 5	49 th International Bridge Week	Mautern, Austria	www.bridgeaustria.at
Aug 12-26	World Team Championships	Lyon, France	www.worldbridge.org
Aug 19-26	World Open Youth Championships	Lyon, France	www.worldbridge.org
Aug 18-27	EBU Summer Meeting	Eastbourne, UK	www.ebu.co.uk
Aug 19-26	World Youth Team Championships	Lyon, France	www.worldbridge.org
Sep 8-17	Guernsey Congress	Guernsey, Channel Is.	www.ebu.co.uk
Oct 9-15	EBU Overseas Congress	Halkidiki, Greece	www.ebu.co.uk
Nov 23-Dec 3	ACBL Fall NABC	San Diego, Ca	www.acbl.org