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October 5, 2016



OPEN TEAMS CHAMPIONS: THE NETHERLANDS



L. to r. (with trophies): Bob Drijver, Sjoert Brink, Bart Nab, Simon de Wijs (obscured), Bauke Muller, Anton Maas (NPC), Bas Drijver, Ton Bakkeren (Coach, obscured). In front: Koos Vrieze, NBF President

WOMEN'S TEAMS CHAMPIONS: USA



L. to r.: Kerri Sanborn, Tobi Sokolow, Janice Seamon-Molson, Beth Palmer, Sylvia Shi. In front: Lynn Deas. Missing: David Sokolow (NPC)

MIXED TEAMS CHAMPIONS: THE NETHERLANDS



L. to r.: Richard Ritmeijer, Magdaléna Ticha, Aida Jansma, Jan Jansma

SENIOR TEAMS CHAMPIONS: USA



L. to r.: Reese Milner, Jeff Meckstroth, Petra Hamman (NPC), Hemant Lall, Bob Hamman, Chip Martel, Jacek Pszczola (Coach), Zia Mahmood

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Igor Khazanov & Maria Lebedeva

2016 World Bridge Games

ROLL OF HONOUR

Open Teams

Gold: NETHERLANDS – Sjoert Brink, Bas Drijver, Bob Drijver, Bauke Muller, Bart Nab, Simon de Wijs, Anton Maas (npc), Ton Bakkeren (coach)

Silver: MONACO – Jean Charles Allavena, Geir Helgemo, Tor Helness, Krzysztof Martens (pc), Franck Multon, Pierre Zimmermann, Dominik Filipowicz (coach)

Bronze: POLAND – Piotr Gawrys, Krzysztof Jassem, Jacek Kalita, Michal Klukowski, Marcin Mazurkiewicz, Michal Nowosadzki, Piotr Walczak (npc), Stanislaw Golebiowski (coach)

Women's Teams

Gold: USA – Lynn Deas, Beth Palmer, Kerri Sanborn, Janice Seamon-Molson, Sylvia Shi, Tobi Sokolow, David Sokolow (npc)

Silver: FRANCE – Bénédicte Cronier, Catherine D'Ovidio, Nathalie Frey, Vanessa Reess, Sylvie Willard, Joanna Zochowska, Laurent Thuillez (npc)

Bronze: CHINA – Huang Yan, Liu Yan, Lu Yan, Shen Qi, Wang Nan, Wang Wenfei, Wang Jianxin (npc), Wang Xiaojing (coach)

Senior Teams

Gold: USA – Bob Hamman, Hemant Lall, Zia Mahmood, Chip Martel, Jeff Meckstroth, Reese Milner, Petra Hamman (npc), Jacek Pszczola (coach)

Silver: FRANCE – Nicolas Déchelette, Pierre-Yves Guillaumin, Georges Iontzeff, Jean-Jacques Palau, Pierre Schmidt, Philippe Toffier, Eric Gautret (npc)

Bronze: DENMARK – Knud-Aage Boesgaard, Jørgen Hansen, Hans Christian Nielsen, Dorthe Schultz, Peter Schultz, Steen Schou, Peter Magnussen (npc), Jytte Ibsen (coach)

Mixed Teams

Gold: NETHERLANDS – Aida Jansma, Jan Jansma, Richard Ritmeijer, Magdaléna Tichá

Silver: RUSSIA – Alexander Dubinin, Anna Gulevich, Andrey Gromov, Victoria Gromova, Georgi Matushko, Tatiana Ponomareva

Bronze: BULGARIA – Victor Aronov, Diana Damanova, Georgi Karakolev, Miriana Mitovska, Ivan Nanov, Marta Nikolova

Open Pairs

Gold: Sabine Auken – Roy Welland (GERMANY)

Gold: Ashley Bach – Michael Cornell (NEW ZEALAND)

Bronze: Keyzad Anklesaria – Sunit Chokshi (INDIA)

Women's Pairs

Gold: Hila Levi – Adi Asulin (ISRAEL)

Gold: Marina Pilipovic – Nikica Šver (CROATIA)

Bronze: Gu Ling – Zhou Tao (CHINA)

Senior Pairs

Gold: Göran Selldén – Björn Wenneberg (SWEDEN)

Silver: John Carruthers – Joey Silver (CANADA)

Bronze: Badal Chandra Das – Aloke Sadhu (INDIA)

Mixed Pairs

Gold: Maria Lebedeva – Igor Khazanov (RUSSIA)

Silver: Anna Kowalska – Marek Tyran (POLAND)

Bronze: Marta Sikora – Adam Walczynski (POLAND)

THE WORLD BRIDGE GAMES

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Jean-Paul Meyer, Paris

Barry Rigal, NYC

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OPEN TEAMS

Round 4. Italy v. Israel (RS)

Board 18. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

♠ A 9 7 2

♥ K Q J 8 2

♦ 10 2

♣ 7 5

♠ K 8 3

♥ 6 5

♦ Q J 9 7 6 3

♣ J 9

♠ J 6 4

♥ A 10 3

♦ K 4

♣ Q 8 6 4 3

♠ Q 10 5

♥ 9 7 4

♦ A 8 5

♣ A K 10 2

West	North	East	South
Versace	O. Herbst	Lauria	I. Herbst
—	—	Pass	1♣
1♦	1♥	Double	Redouble
2♦	2♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Despite having a textbook hand for a weak jump overcall, both Wests overcalled at the one level. Lauria's double showed a maximal passed hand with some diamond help. Ilan Herbst's redouble showed three hearts.

East led the king of diamonds and declarer played spades to his best advantage to score plus 170.

West	North	East	South
Barel	Di Franco	Zack	Manno
—	—	Pass	1♣
1♦	Double	Redouble	1♥
2♦	2♠	Pass	3♦
Pass	4♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Di Franco's double showed hearts and Manno's voluntary one heart showed three of them. Thus the bidding up to two diamonds was essentially the same as in the other room, but Di Franco assessed his side's prospects much more optimistically, driving towards game with a natural two-spade bid.

Barel led the queen of diamonds and Zack played the king on it. Manno did well to duck this trick (otherwise after winning his ace of hearts, East would have played another diamond and received a trump promotion). Declarer won the next trick with the ace of diamonds and led a heart to the king. Zack also did well to duck this, enticing declarer to use a club entry to play another trump toward dummy.

Thus Manno no longer had the entries for a double finesse in spades, and he had to guess – low to the ten or low to the queen? With West's one-diamond overcall and East's pass in first chair, but having had already shown up with the ace of hearts and the king of diamonds, Manno came to the conclusion that West held the king of spades and played the suit successfully. Plus 620 to Italy.

Round 5. Poland v. USA (BM)

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

♠ A J 9 7 2

♥ A 8 7 6

♦ 10 3 2

♣ A

♠ —

♠ 10 8 6 5 3

♥ J 10 4 3

♥ K 5

♦ Q 8 6

♦ K 7 5 4

♣ K Q 9 8 7 6

♣ 10 4

♠ K Q 4

♥ Q 9 2

♦ A J 9

♣ J 5 3 2

West	North	East	South
Hampson	Gawrys	Greco	Klukowski
—	1♠	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♥	Pass	4♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Greco led the five of diamonds, Hampson playing low on dummy's nine. Gawrys won in hand with the ten and played a low heart toward dummy's queen, Greco ducking the king. A heart to the ace was followed by a heart to the nine and Hampson's ten. Hampson exited with a low club to declarer's ace. On the eight of hearts from Gawrys, Greco ruffed with the five of spades, forcing declarer to overruff with the queen. Gawrys cashed the king of spades, seeing Hampson show out, and ruffed a club with the spade seven. Greco had discarded his second club on the third heart, so he was able to overruff with the eight, but Gawrys was in control. He won the diamond continuation with the ace and pulled trumps. He lost a diamond, a heart and a spade for plus 420. At the other table:

West	North	East	South
Kalita	Lall	Nowasadzki	Bathurst
—	1♠	Pass	4♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Nowosadzki started with the ten of clubs to Lall's ace. Nowosadzki won with the heart king when Lall played a low one from hand at trick two. A second club was ruffed by Lall, who played a diamond to dummy's nine and Kalita's queen. Lall ruffed the king of clubs with the spade seven and was overruffed by the eight. Nowosadzki exited with a diamond to dummy's jack. Lall ruffed a club with the jack of spades and cashed the ace of spades, getting the bad news, then tried a low heart. Nowosadzki ruffed and exited with a spade to dummy. Lall had the rest but had lost a heart, a diamond and two ruffs for minus 50 and 10 IMPs to Poland.

France v. India (JPM)

Board 6. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

♠ K Q 6 3

♥ A J 4

♦ A 6 4

♣ K Q 6

♠ 9

♥ 9 7

♦ 10 9 8 5 3 2

♣ J 9 8 7

♠ A J 7 5 4 2

♥ 10 3 2

♦ K J

♣ A 5

♠ 10 8

♥ K Q 8 6 5

♦ Q 7

♣ 10 4 3 2

West	North	East	South
Nadar	Rombaut	Narayana	Combesure
—	—	1♠	Pass
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♦
Pass	3♥	Pass	3NT
Pass	4♡	Pass	Pass
Pass			

In the other room India had played in an easy three notrump for plus 430, so Rombaut had to make four hearts to avoid a heavy loss. The defenders accurately led the ace and another spade, but East erred when he played a low spade at trick two (a high spade for a diamond shift would have sunk declarer). When West shifted to a club, Rombaut made his first nice play by ducking. East won with his ace, and back came a third spade, ruffed high in the dummy. Declarer drew two rounds of trumps, finding East to be 6=3 in the majors and West to be 1=2. Now came the ace of diamonds in case the king was singleton, then the queen of spades to pitch the queen of diamonds. Declarer had reached the position at the top of the next column.

With an inferential count of the deal (East had to have the king of diamonds for his opening bid and had to have another club for his defence, otherwise he would have cashed the ace at trick two to ensure a ruff, the queen of hearts was sure to ruin West).

♠ —
♥ 4
♦ 6 4
♣ K Q

♠ —
♥ —
♦ 10 9
♣ J 9 8

♠ J 7
♥ 10
♦ K
♣ 5

♠ —
♥ Q 8
♦ —
♣ 10 4 3

When West pitched a diamond on the queen of hearts, Rombaut crossed on a club and ruffed a diamond to make his hand was high. Had West pitched a club the clubs would have set up with a diamond ruff as the entry to the established club ten. Bien joué.

Round 11. Italy v. Germany (RS)

Board 12. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

♠ K Q 9 8
♥ J 10 4 2
♦ K Q
♣ 10 9 4

♠ 10 6
♥ K 7 5 3
♦ 10 9 6 2
♣ A 8 5

♠ 7 3 2
♥ 6
♦ J 8 7 4 3
♣ Q 7 3 2

♠ A J 5 4
♥ A Q 9 8
♦ A 5
♣ K J 6

West	North	East	South
Versace	Auken	Lauria	Welland
Pass	Pass	1♦	Double
2♦	Double	3♦	Double
Pass	4♦	Pass	4♡
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Expert bridge players like to 'do something' after two passes at favourable vulnerability. Lorenzo Lauria didn't shy away from opening one diamond with three HCP, and he even added a (preemptive) three-diamond bid at his next turn. The Germans repeatedly doubled and then cue-bid before settling for four hearts – a good contract (even though four spades would have been easier to handle).

Versace led a diamond, and Welland finessed in trumps, Versace winning the king on the second round and returning another diamond. This created some problems as declarer would have lost control if he drew trumps immediately. Therefore, Welland entered dummy with a spade and led a club. He thought Lauria had to have something for his one-level opening, however light, and misguessed by playing the club king from hand. Versace was quick to exploit his opportunity by leading a second spade. Now there was nothing

declarer could do: drawing trumps was still insufficient without a club trick, so Welland played a club and conceded a spade ruff for a cruel minus 100.

West	North	East	South
Gromöller	D'Avossa	Fritsche	Di Bello
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♣
Pass	1♦	Pass	3♥
Pass	4♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			

At the other table, the bidding was far more orthodox (North's one diamond being a transfer to hearts), and the play to the first four tricks was identical. With his opponents silent during the bidding, Di Bello went for the finesse in clubs (running the ten). He was rewarded with an overtrick and a 13-IMP swing.

Board 15. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

♠ J

♥ J 10 7 6 3 2

♦ A 7 4 3

♣ K 6

♠ 10 9 3

♥ A K Q 9

♦ K J 10 6 2

♣ 5

♠ A Q 7 5

♥ —

♦ 9 5

♣ A Q 10 8 7 4 2

♠ K 8 6 4 2

♥ 8 5 4

♦ Q 8

♣ J 9 3

West	North	East	South
Versace	Auken	Lauria	Welland
—	—	—	1♣
1♦	Double	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♥	Pass	3♣
Pass	Pass	Pass	

North's double showed hearts, and her subsequent bid showed a weak hand with six hearts. That did nothing to excite South, and despite his remarkable distribution he was satisfied with a non-forcing three-club call. Thus an excellent vulnerable game was missed – Germany plus 150. The events at the other table were far more dramatic:

West	North	East	South
Gromöller	D'Avossa	Fritsche	Di Bello
—	—	—	2♣
Double	2♥	2♠	Double
Pass	3♣	Pass	4♦
5♦	Double	Pass	5♠
Pass	6♣	Pass	Pass
Double	Pass	Pass	Pass

Di Bello/D'Avossa play a natural system when vulnerable and a strong-club system when not vulnerable. However, their two-club opening is the same (Precision) in both systems and their vulnerable

convention card indicates transfers over the opponent's takeout double. Yet D'Avossa thought that his two-heart bid was natural, whereas for Di Bello, two hearts showed spades, and he thought that his opponent's (naturally-intended) two-spade bid was some sort of a cue-bid or a psych. Therefore he doubled it and followed up by bidding four spades.

Gromöller (on the same side of the screen as Di Bello, received the correct explanation, so misinterpreted his partner's bid) saved at five diamonds, and Di Bello happily removed his partner's double, bidding five spades! When this was corrected to six clubs by his partner and doubled by West, he realized that something had gone awry.

However, this was Italy's match, and even at the height of despair, good things happened. First of all, West led a normal ace of hearts, helping declarer with his future trump coup. Declarer ruffed this, played a diamond to the ace and played the jack of spades. Now Fritsche had to cover with the king to prevent the trump coup from operating, but it was a difficult play, as declarer clearly had four spades, and unless West held both the ten and nine, covering would have helped declarer to make either his third or fourth spade good. So East played low on the jack, and Di Bello envisioned the complete distribution and played perfectly: heart ruff, spade ruff, another heart ruff, spade ruff with the king of clubs and a fourth heart ruff, which led to this end position, with South having an equal number of trumps as East.

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

Declarer drew West's sole trump, cashed the ace of spades and exited with a diamond. His ten and queen of clubs took the final two tricks. What a brilliant way to score plus 1540!

Of course, the TD was alerted to the fact that there had been a problem during the auction: North had forgotten that two hearts was a transfer to spades and had given an incorrect system explanation to East, which explains East's two spades and South's four spades and five spades. The score was adjusted to North/South plus 200. However, that in no way detracts from South's brilliant performance in the play.)

Round II Monaco v. Poland (DS)

Board 8. Dealer West. Neither Vul.

♠ A K 8 6 4

♥ A 8

♦ K 2

♣ 10 8 4 3

♠ Q 2

♥ Q 6 4 2

♦ A 10 8

♣ A Q 9 5

♠ J 10 5 3

♥ J 7 3

♦ 9 6 5

♣ J 6 2

♠ 9 7

♥ K 10 9 5

♦ Q J 7 4 3

♣ K 7

West	North	East	South
Kalita	Multon	Nowosadzki	Zimmermann
1♣	1♠	Pass	INT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

West	North	East	South
Helgemo	Gawrys	Helness	Klukowski
1♣	1♠	Pass	INT
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

In one room, Zimmermann won the heart lead, forced out the ace of diamonds, cashed his winners and attempted to endplay West in spades, thereby restricting himself to two spades, two hearts and four diamonds.

Some players like to push the boat out when they know where the points are located because of an opening bid or overcall, and this appeared to be the case in the other room, where Gawrys could certainly have had a touch more for his two-notrump invitation.

Klukowski won the opening heart lead with the ace, played the king of diamonds and, when that was ducked, he cashed the ace and king of spades before turning his attention back to the diamond suit. Upon winning with the ace of diamonds, West exited with the ten of diamonds and declarer cashed his remaining two diamonds to reach this position.

♠ —

♥ 8

♦ —

♣ 10 8 4 3

♠ —

♥ Q 6 2

♦ —

♣ A Q

♠ J 10

♥ J 7

♦ —

♣ 6

♠ —

♥ K 10 9

♦ —

♣ K 7

Reading the ending perfectly, Klukowski exited with the king of clubs. West won and continued hearts to the jack and king, thereby allowing declarer to promote an extra heart winner for his ninth trick. Well played indeed. Poland plus 400 in this room and minus 120 in the

other for 7 IMPs. Both defenders had to retain three clubs in the diagrammed ending to defeat three notrump.

Round II France v. Russia (MM)

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

♠ 9 3

♥ K Q 4 3

♦ 8 6 4 3

♣ J 10 9

♠ K J 8 7 5 2

♥ 10

♦ A J 2

♣ 4 3 2

♠ 10 6 4

♥ 7 5

♦ K 9 5

♣ A Q 8 7 6

♠ A Q

♥ A J 9 8 6 2

♦ Q 10 7

♣ K 5

West	North	East	South
Khiuppenen	Bessis	Bavchine	Volcker
—	—	—	1♥
1♠	3♥	3♠	4♥
4♦	Pass	Pass	Pass

West	North	East	South
Lorenzini	Vorobei	Quantin	Sliva
—	—	—	1♥
2♠	3♥	3♠	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

In one room, Bessis kicked off with the king of hearts, which held the trick. Bessis shifted to a very helpful six of diamonds for declarer, which went to the nine, queen and declarer's ace. Khiuppenen then played as if he could see all four hands. He led a club to the ace and a spade towards his hand. South went in with the ace of trumps and returned the ten of diamonds. Declarer won with the king, pulled all the trumps and finally put a club on the table. The ten appeared from North and declarer went into the tank ... after a while, calling for a low one from dummy. When South now produced the king, declarer could claim his ten tricks. Very well read by Khiuppenen.

At the other table, Sliva not only managed to buy three notrump in the other room, but was also allowed to make it! With only eight tricks on a diamond or club lead, that really looked like Mission Impossible, but with some help from the defenders, you never know what might happen. What did happen was that Lorenzini led the ace of diamonds and continued with the jack when partner played the nine, (a club shift was essential at trick two as the cards lay). East won with the king of diamonds and returned the ten of spades. Declarer now tried the finesse, which lost to West's king but it was all too late. Declarer had one spade, six hearts and, when diamonds was 3-3, he got two tricks from that suit. That was 14 IMPs to Russia.

Round 14. Lithuania v. New Zealand (MM)

Board 20. Dealer West. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Gierulski	Cornell	Skrzypczak	Bach
1♦	1♥	Double	Pass
2♣	Pass	3NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Skrzypczak did well to reach the notrump game, which was unbeatable, provided you were allowed to play at double dummy. But would declarer be able to make it at single dummy? South started with the queen of spades. Declarer won with the king, and had a lot of work to do. A diamond to the ten followed and, when that held, declarer simply played a heart to the king, bringing down South's singleton jack!

Declarer now had a lot of information about what was going on with the help of North's overcall. Skrzypczak repeated his diamond finesse, played a spade to the ace and again finessed in diamonds and cashed the ace. Declarer had two spades, one heart and four diamond tricks in the bag, and now exited with dummy's second heart. North won with the queen and tried a hopeful king of clubs, but declarer ducked, leaving North to play. There was no way for the defence to avoid giving declarer either two club tricks or two heart tricks for nine in all.

West	North	East	South
Brown	Arlovich	Whibley	Vainikonis
1♣	1♥	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♣	Double	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Whibley led his queen of clubs, which ran to declarer's king. The ace of hearts and a heart ruff followed. Declarer was in dummy with little to do but to play a spade. East won with the king and shifted to a diamond through dummy. Declarer tried the king, which lost to West's ace. Brown cashed the ace of clubs, pulling the last trump from dummy and, with only the jack of clubs left for declarer to score, it was four down and plus 1100 to New Zealand. That meant a huge swing to their account of 11 IMPs.

Round 16. Spain v. Sweden (MM)

Both teams were at the top of the rankings in this second-to-last round robin match.

Board 16. Dealer West. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Goded	Nyström	Sabate	Upmark
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♣ ¹
Pass	1♠ ²	Pass	INT ³
Pass	2♦ ⁴	Pass	2♥ ³
Pass	3♥ ⁵	Pass	4♦ ⁶
Pass	4♥	Pass	Pass

1. Strong
2. Artificial, FG promises 5-7 zz (A=3, K=2, Q=1), and some singleton (4-7 zz by a passed hand)
3. Relays
4. 5 hearts
5. 4=5=3=1
6. Puppet to 4 hearts.

Upmark got the four of diamonds lead from West: six, queen and ace. Carefully eyeing the situation, Upmark set up the plan and found a beautiful elimination and endplay against West. The queen of hearts was played at trick two. When that was ducked, declarer played a diamond to the king, ruffed a diamond and played his last trump. West won and continued with diamonds, forcing declarer to ruff in dummy. The jack of hearts followed, pulling West's last trump.

Upmark then called for the three of clubs from dummy and simply covered what East played to throw in West, who had to lead into one of declarer's tenaces. He would have made the contract even if West had held the ace-queen-ten of spades.

At the other table, the Spanish declarer was at the helm in three hearts. Declarer there also got a diamond lead and eliminated the red suits. Declarer then played a spade to the jack, losing two spades and a trump for ten tricks. Still, it was a game swing and an elegant elimination and endplay by Upmark.

Round 16. Austria v. Monaco (RS)

Making the slam (see top of next page) depended on how declarer played the clubs. Declarer won the three-of-hearts lead with his jack, drew trumps in four rounds by finessing against North's jack, played the ace of hearts and entered dummy with a heart to the ten to lead the queen of clubs, which worked on the actual layout.

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Helgemo	Simon	Helness	C. Terraneo
—	—	1♠	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♦	Pass
4♥	Pass	6♣	Pass
6♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

Had the queen of clubs lost to the king, South would have had to put declarer back in the dummy with his exit card. At worst, Helness needed either the king or jack of clubs with North.

West	North	East	South
F. Terraneo	Multon	Bieder	Martens
—	—	1♣ ¹	Pass
1♠ ²	Pass	2♠	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♣	Pass
4♦	Pass	4♥	Pass
4NT ³	Pass	5♣	Pass
5♥	Pass	5♠	Pass
6♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. Strong club (16+)
2. 3 controls (A=2, K=1)
3. Forward-going - still interested in slam

Bieder also found a more-or-less 75% line of play in the club suit by leading a low club toward the queen after drawing trumps, and when that failed he finessed against North's jack. This ensured a push on the actual layout.

Round of 16. Netherlands v. Russia (MM)

Board 17. Dealer North. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Khiuppenen	Bob Drijver	Bavchine	Nab
—	1♦	2♥	2♠
Pass	2NT	Pass	4♣
Double	Pass	Pass	Pass
West	North	East	South
Brink	Vorobei	Bas Drijver	Sliva
—	1♦	3♥	3♠
Pass	3NT	Pass	4♥
Pass	5♦	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Sliva's four hearts should have worked out better than it did, having given his partner the choice between playing in spades or diamonds, especially given what happened in the other room. Perhaps Nab should have removed himself to five diamonds when he got doubled in four spades. However, never argue with success. When Khiuppenen led the ace of hearts it was all over. Declarer ruffed, pulled one trump and played a diamond to the ace to cash his hearts, pitching clubs from hand, just losing the three trump tricks for plus 590.

Vorobei declared in five diamonds, a contract that at first sight looks (and in fact is) solid – with just two club losers. East led a spade. Declarer went up with the ace and had to choose his destiny. Vorobei went for a reasonable game plan when he played a diamond to the ace and took the ruffing finesse in hearts, expecting East to have the ace. When that lost and West returned another trump, it was all over, given the bad spade break. Had declarer ruffed a spade high in hand at trick two to see what was going on, that would have put him on the right track to making the contract.

One off resulted in 12 IMPs to the Netherlands.

Round of 16. England v. Israel (MH)

On this deal from the second session of the round of 16, declarer faced a tough assignment:

Board 22. Dealer East. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Bakhshi	Birman	Gold	Padon
—	—	Pass	Pass
1♣ ¹	Pass	1♠	Pass
INT	Pass	Pass	Pass
1. Natural or 12-14/18-19 balanced			

Twenty-three points is usually enough to generate seven tricks, but watch what happened: North led the ten of hearts to the king and ace and declarer played a spade to the king and a diamond, ducking when the king appeared. He won the heart return and played the nine of diamonds, North winning with the ten as South pitched the two of clubs. A third heart cleared the suit and the queen of clubs was covered by the king and ace. A club to the nine saw North win with the jack and return the eight of spades. When declarer put in dummy's ten South was delighted to win with the jack and cash two hearts for one down, minus 100 East/West.

West	North	East	South
I. Herbst	Hinden	O. Herbst	Osborne
—	—	Pass	Pass
INT	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♦	Pass	3NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		
1. (14+) 15-17			

Having climbed considerably higher, you might expect declarer to struggle even more, but ... North led the nine of hearts and declarer took South's king with the ace. Ilan Herbst played a spade to the king and a diamond to the king and ace. A spade to the queen (perhaps North should put up the ace and exit with a spade), South following with the jack, was followed by a diamond to the nine and ten, South pitching the nine of spades. North exited with the ten of hearts and declarer won, cashed a heart, pitching a club from dummy, and exited with a spade to endplay North. Her club exit ran to declarer's nine and dummy's ace of clubs and ten of spades were the game going tricks, plus 600 and 12 IMPs.

Round of 16. Italy v. Canada (JJ)

Board 23. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Fergani	Di Franco	Pollack	Manno
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	INT	Pass	2♥
Pass	2♠	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

East led the two of hearts to Di Franco's ace. Declarer continued the ace and eight of spades. Having seen

West's ten fall, declarer might well have let the eight ride, ensuring nine tricks unless the defence could take four club tricks and West's putative nine or jack of spades. Thus East was forced to cover the eight with the nine and dummy won with the queen, West throwing a heart (the first small, but not critical, error, since a club would have clarified things for the defence). At this point, if declarer runs the club eight and ducks a heart, the defence can prevail only by playing a third heart. Declarer wins and ducks a club, and now East must not cash his heart winner to squeeze his partner, but must exit in diamonds. In fact, though, at trick four declarer's next move was to duck a heart. West covered the nine of hearts with the jack and was allowed to hold it.

Rather than continuing hearts, West exited with the jack of diamonds, which gave declarer the slim chance of finding an endplay against either opponent. Di Franco won with the king in dummy and led a club to his nine and East's ten. Had East cashed king of clubs and got out with a diamond, the defenders would have been in control. Instead, at the table, East exited with a heart, but it did not help him. Declarer won, cashed his ace of diamonds and exited in clubs. Poor East could cash a heart but would then have to present declarer with two spade tricks in the end. Alternatively, West could overtake the club king but would then have to give two diamond tricks to dummy at the end. Just made, Italy plus 600. No one ever said defence was easy.

West	North	East	South
D'Avossa	N.Gartaganis	Di Bello	J.Gartaganis
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	INT	Pass	2♥
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♦
Pass	3NT	Pass	Pass
		Pass	

When declarer, after an almost identical auction and lead, won the first heart and immediately ran the eight of spades to West's ten, he could no longer make the contract ... Italy another plus 100 and 12 IMPs to them.

Round of 16. France v. New Zealand (DS)

Board 25. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Combescure	Tislevoll	Rombaut	Ware
—	1♥	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦
Pass	2NT	Pass	4♣
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Combescure, West for France, led a diamond, removing the diamond entry from dummy and putting an end to any chance that declarer could find a heart discard for his losing club or diamond. Losing a trick in each suit meant down one.

In the other room, Lorenzini for France believed that this hand was not worthy of an opening bid and subsequently explained that playing Gazilli would create rebid complications for a hand of this type and that is why he elected to pass in first chair.

West	North	East	South
Brown	Lorenzini	Whibley	Quantin
—	Pass	Pass	4♣
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Here, however, the defence had to be deadly accurate after West elected to lead a trump. Declarer won with the jack with the ace and immediately played a heart towards dummy's king-queen, West ducking. Declarer crossed back to the ace of clubs and tried a second heart, which West won. West then cashed the king of clubs and exited with a diamond. Declarer won with the ace and tried the king of hearts to pitch his losing diamond. East had other ideas however, ruffing with the queen of spades, on which declarer pitched his losing diamond. Whibley continued the good work by playing the queen of clubs to promote the eight of spades into the setting trick. Well done.

Round of 16. Russia v. Netherlands (JJ)

Board 60. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Semenov	Bas Drijver	Kholomeev	Brink
2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♣	3♠
4♦	Pass	4♥	Pass
4♣	Pass	6♣	Pass
Pass	Pass		

After a Precision-style auction, the Russians ended up in an iffy slam. However, Brink's bold vulnerable-against-not three-spade bid changed things for declarer, as Kholomeev was quick to prove. He won the king-of-spades lead and immediately led a heart to dummy's ace and ruffed a heart in hand, thus starting the elimination process. Declarer played a club to the jack, ruffed another heart, led a club to the king and ruffed dummy's last heart.

By now, Kholomeev knew that South had four hearts, one club and seven or eight spades. The rest was 'plain sailing'. South could not hold more than one diamond. So declarer cashed the ace and king of diamonds and exited in spades, forcing South to give a ruff and discard. Very well done, Russia plus 920 and 10 IMPs to them when the Dutch stayed quietly in three notrump, making two overtricks, on the following auction:

West	North	East	South
De Wijs	Khiuppenen	Muller	Bavchine
2♣	Pass	2♦	3♠
3NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

Quarterfinals. Poland v. Sweden (MM)

Board 13. Dealer North. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Sylvan	Jassem	Wrang	Mazurkiewicz
—	Pass	1♠	Pass
INT	Pass	3♣	Pass

West	North	East	South
Klukowski	Nyström	Gawrys	Upmark
—	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♥	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♦	Pass	3♥	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♦	Pass
4♣	Pass	Pass	Pass

Both declarers played in four spades. Wrang received the ten-of-diamonds lead. He won with the ace and immediately tried a heart to the king and North's ace. Jassem realized the danger that declarer would be able to ruff clubs in dummy and therefore returned the ten of spades. Declarer won in dummy, unblocked the

Continued on page 14...



IBPA Column Service

Tim Bourke, Canberra

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825. Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
—	—	—	INT
Pass	6NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

West led the eight of diamonds. After winning this with the jack of diamonds, declarer took stock and saw that if spades were 3-2, he would make twelve tricks by conceding a heart to the queen: he would make four spades, three hearts, four diamonds and one club. If spades were 4-1 though, he would need to make four heart tricks.

Good declarers have a simple rule for playing suit combinations when there are no pointers from the bidding or play: tackle the suit in a way that doesn't waste pips. In this case, cashing the ace of hearts would waste the ten. So, declarer played a low heart to the ten at trick two. When that held, he cashed the ace and king of spades, getting the bad news that the suit was 4-1. So, he crossed back to hand with a diamond to the queen and led a second low heart to dummy's jack. When that also held, he cashed the king of hearts and returned to hand by playing the nine of diamonds to the ace, cashed the ace of hearts, crossed to the table with a spade to the queen and cashed the king of diamonds. Declarer took three spades, four hearts, four diamonds and one club.

826. Dealer South. EW Vul.

(See top of next column.) As the auction suggested that North had four spades, West led a fourth-highest three of diamonds to East's jack. Declarer counted six top winners and saw that he could develop a club trick, bringing the total to seven tricks. He realised that the main chance of developing the two extra game-going tricks in time was to play hearts for four tricks.

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

West	North	East	South
—	—	—	INT
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♥
Pass	3NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

If the hearts were 3-3 then any sensible play would have brought in a total of four tricks. However, echoing the thoughts of the declarer on the previous deal, this declarer saw that if he played the king of hearts followed by the nine he would be wasting the nine whenever West had a doubleton honour or four hearts to the queen-jack. (If East had a doubleton honour-low, then no play would have gained the extra tricks in hearts).

So, as he did not want a club shift, declarer took the first trick with his king of diamonds and led a low heart to the eight, nine and queen. East exited with the nine of diamonds. After West overtook this with the ten, declarer won the trick with dummy's ace and cashed the king of hearts. When West followed with the jack of hearts the contract was safe. Declarer continued by leading a club to his queen and West's ace. While West could cash two diamond winners, declarer had nine tricks: two spades, four hearts, two diamonds and one club.

827. Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

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

West led the king of diamonds and declarer paused to form a plan. He saw that if trumps were 3-2, he would make twelve tricks in a canter. Consequently, he turned his mind to protecting against a 4-1 trump break. As West was likely to have the king of hearts, declarer saw that he would need to keep the ace of diamonds as protection against this. So, before he played low from dummy at trick one and ruffed with the eight of hearts, declarer was struck by the thought: What can be done if West has only one trump and four hearts to the king?

Declarer came up with the winning, no-guess solution to making the contract on the above layout. He ruffed the opening lead with the queen of trumps, led the eight of trumps to dummy's ten and ruffed a second diamond with the ace of trumps. Next, he overtook the jack of trumps with the king and drew East's remaining trumps with dummy's ten and seven, throwing two low clubs from hand. Finally, he ran the ten of hearts, which held. The nine of hearts came next and West could do no better than win with the king and return a heart. As declarer had had foresight to ruff two diamonds his hand was high: he had the three top hearts and the ace-king of clubs remaining.

Notice that if declarer had failed to ruff two low diamonds in hand, he could have made 12 tricks on the above layout only by guessing West's distribution accurately. Declarer would have had to avoid the possibility of West taking the king of hearts on the second or third round of the suit and endplaying the South hand with a club or a heart, leaving declarer with a club loser. Ruffing two diamonds in the South hand took all the guesswork out of the equation.

828. Dealer East. EW Vul.

♠ A 10 4

♥ 7 5

♦ A Q J 5 3

♣ Q 6 5

♠ 7

♥ Q J 9 3

♦ 10 8 7 4

♣ 9 4 3 2

♠ Q J 9 6 5 2

♥ 8 2

♦ K 9 6

♣ A J

West	North	East	South
—	—	—	1♠
3♥	4♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			1. Pre-emptive

West led the queen of hearts. East overtook this with the king to shift to the two of diamonds. As this looked suspiciously like a singleton, declarer paused to consider what he could do to prevent a diamond ruff. He saw that playing the ace and another trump would succeed if trumps were 2-2. However, he suspected that East had three trumps to the king and that approach would see the defenders take a trump, two hearts and a diamond ruff.

So declarer decided to try and cut the transportation between the defenders' hands. He won the second trick in dummy with the jack and led a low club to his jack. When that held, declarer cashed the ace of clubs, led a low trump to dummy's ace and played the queen of clubs. East covered that with the king but, instead of ruffing, declarer threw the eight of hearts from hand. East tried to put West in by leading a low heart, but declarer ruffed and continued by leading the queen of trumps. East could take the king of trumps, but that was the end for the defence: declarer made five trumps, two clubs and three diamonds for a total of ten tricks.



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king of clubs, ruffed a diamond, cashed the ace of clubs and tried to ruff a club. However, South could ruff in front dummy with the six of spades to return another round of trumps. After that, there was no way for declarer to make his contract and he had to concede one down.

At the other table, Gawrys chose a better line after also receiving a diamond lead. He won with his ace and played a club to the king, ruffed a diamond, cashed the ace of clubs and tried to ruff a club. South ruffed in with his six, which forced declarer to overruff with the king.

Gawrys followed by drawing trumps, on which North had to make three discards. He chose the queen of diamonds, the seven of hearts and, finally, a club, baring the jack. Gawrys tried to throw Nyström in with the jack of clubs to force a heart lead, but when North could exit with a low diamond to South's king for him to play hearts through dummy it was all over there as well – one down and again great play all around.

Quarterfinals. Poland v. Sweden (MM)

Board 55. Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Sylvan	Gawrys	Wrang	Klukowski
Jassem	Warne	Mazurkiewicz	Bergdahl
—	—	—	Pass
INT	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♦	Pass	3NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Gawrys led the king of clubs and South pitched the four of hearts, Lavinthal. That made Gawrys shift to diamonds. A ping-pong battle started where declarer played clubs and the defence diamonds. Klukowski eventually discarded a low spade. But that was it, and when declarer took the finesse in spades, North could cash the established diamond for one down.

Jassem also got the king of clubs lead. Here Bergdahl discarded the fatal ten of spades. If declarer now could read the situation correctly, he could take advantage of it – and he did! Warne continued with the ace, queen and a fourth round of clubs. Declarer won with the jack and now cashed out the king and ace of hearts

and the ace-king-queen of diamonds. Jassem cashed the ace of spades and put the jack on the table. When North didn't cover, Jassem ran it, and when the queen did not appear from South, declarer had nine tricks and 12 IMPs.

Semifinals. Spain v. Monaco (JJ)

Board 4. Dealer West. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Helgemo	F Goded	Helness	Lantaron
Pass	Pass	1♣	1♥
Double	2♦	2♠	4♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Once North could produce a noise, South had to bid game. A trump lead beats it out of hand as declarer cannot get to dummy in time to run the queen of spades and ruff one later. When Helgemo led a club to Helness' ace, the latter did in fact return a trump but he chose the eight – enabling Lantaron to make the daring play of running it to dummy's ten. Once that came off, declarer could continue with the queen of spades, covered and won by the ace. He ruffed a spade, ruffed a club, drew trumps and had to guess diamonds for his contract. When he played a diamond to dummy's king, neither defender had kept clubs, so there was an established club in the dummy for an eleventh trick. That was a great plus 650 for Spain.

At the other table, South's one-heart overcall was passed out for plus 200 and 10 IMPs to Spain.

Semifinals. Poland v. Netherlands (MM)

Board 12. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Nab	Jassem	Bob Drijver	Mazurkiewicz
Pass	1♣	Pass	1♥
Pass	1♠	Pass	INT
Pass	2♠	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♥	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Mazurkiewicz got the four of clubs lead and scrutinized the situation carefully. With seven sure winners, he needed to set up two more tricks. Declarer went up with the ace of clubs, played a heart to the king and put the ten of spades on the table. When West didn't cover South played dummy's queen, and that lost to East's king. East unblocked the king of clubs and exited safely with a diamond, which declarer let go to dummy's ace. With a newly-created double spade stopper with East and only one entry to dummy left, it was now impossible for declarer to get the needed tricks from the spade suit. He tested hearts, but when they were not 3-3, he was two down.

West	North	East	South
Kalita	Bas Drijver	Nowosadzki	Brink
Pass	1♠	Pass	INT
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♦
Pass	3♥	Pass	3♠
Pass	3NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Brink was faced with the same task at the other table. He also got the four of clubs opening lead, which went to the seven, queen and his three. Nowosadzki shifted to a diamond, which declarer won in dummy. Brink knew his suit combinations, calling for a low spade from dummy. That gave him three chances in four of making three tricks from the suit and is superior to any other line of play. When the ten of spades held the trick, Brink played a spade toward dummy and covered West's nine with the queen. East won with his king, but declarer had no problem entering dummy to set up the last spade for nine tricks and a very well-deserved 13 IMPs to Netherlands.

There was a similar outcome in the Spain–Monaco semifinal, with the Spanish declarer, Lantaron, going off when he led a spade to the queen, while the Monégasque declarer, Martens, made three notrump by starting spades away from the ace-queen.

The Results

Round Robin

Group A

1.	France	248.46
2.	Italy	238.90
3.	Russia	215.42
4.	Israel	212.58
5.	Switzerland	200.54
6.	India	194.48

Group B

1.	Poland	239.28
2.	England	225.30
3.	Japan	223.67
4.	USA	221.29
5.	Monaco	207.93
6.	Argentina	187.74

Group C

1.	Netherlands	236.37
2.	Austria	232.30
3.	Spain	217.77
4.	Sweden	213.81
5.	New Zealand	212.67
6.	Canada	201.71

Knockouts

Round of 16

New Zealand	167	France	150
Spain	183	USA	149
Monaco	242	Austria	147
Canada	214	Italy	173
Netherlands	236	Russia	189
England	182	Israel	137
Sweden	178	Japan	92
Poland	185	Switzerland	81

Quarterfinals

Spain	201	New Zealand	148
Monaco	244	Canada	77
Netherlands	207	England	112
Poland	167	Sweden	144

Semifinals

Monaco	182	Spain	176
Netherlands	201	Poland	123

Third-Place Playoff

Poland	105	Spain	92
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Final

Netherlands	155	Monaco	134
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WOMEN'S TEAMS

Round 6. Norway v. Brazil (MH)

When she is not engaged in other activities, my *au pair* likes to follow the championships. She sent an email about this deal from Round 6 of the Open and Women's series.

Board 31. Dealer South. NS Vul.

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

Enjoying a cup of tea with our cleaner, the *au pair* and the cleaner had bid as follows:

North	South
—	1♥
2NT ¹	3♦
4♦	4NT ²
5♥ ³	5NT ⁴
6♠ ⁵	7♦
Pass	

1. Game-forcing heart raise
2. RKCB for diamonds
3. 2 key cards + diamond queen
4. King ask
5. King of spades

She wanted to know how many pairs had missed the grand slam in diamonds? After checking the results it transpired that the only pair in the entire Open and Women's fields to rise to the occasion was Norway's Liv Grude and Bodil Oigarden. This is how they accomplished it:

North	South
Grude	Oigarden
—	1♥
2NT ¹	3♦ ²
3♥ ³	3♠ ⁴
4♦	4NT ⁶
5♥ ⁷	5NT ⁸
7♦	Pass

1. Game forcing heart raise
2. Natural
3. Shortage ask
4. Singleton spade
5. Cue bid
6. RKCB in hearts
7. 2 key cards + heart queen
8. King ask

For South to bid five notrump, she must hold at least the ace, king and queen of hearts, the king of diamonds and the ace of clubs. If she were 1=5=5=2, then seven hearts would be virtually laydown, but just in case she was 1=5=4=3, North she offered her partner a choice of contracts. Beautifully done.

As you have doubtless guessed, the *au pair* is Norwegian.

SENIOR TEAMS

Round 1. Egypt v. Norway (MM)

In round one of the Senior Teams, Samir Salib for Egypt was one of the heroes of the championships. Playing against Norway, Egypt won 17.86-2.14, thanks in no small measure to Salib's brilliant declaring (from the North hand) on the following board.

Board 12. Dealer West. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
H. Mæsel	Salib	R. Mæsel	Makram
Pass	1♥	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♥	Pass	3♥
Pass	4♥	Pass	Pass

How would you plan the play in four hearts on the queen of diamonds lead? Are there any threats? At first glance, it looks like we have one loser in hearts, one in diamonds and one or two in clubs. If spades are evenly distributed we might be able to set up the suit for some discards. The problem is that we don't have a lot of entries to dummy to do everything. For example, how to play trumps? Normally you would like to play a low trump towards the king because the only 4-0 distribution you can cope with is when West holds all of them.

Salib realized that he needed to save entries to dummy, so he went for the following line of play: he won the lead of the diamond queen in hand with the ace and played the jack of hearts. When East discarded, declarer saw that he had two trump losers. West won with the ace and returned a second diamond. Salib went up with the king, cashed the ace of spades, played a spade to the king and ruffed a spade, then played a heart to

the king followed by a second spade ruff, setting up the fifth spade in dummy. Salib then cashed his queen of trumps and exited with his last trump, throwing West in with only clubs left in his hand. Poor Helge Mæsel could do nothing but cash his ace of clubs, allowing declarer to make his contract and later take note of 13 IMPs out when his teammates had gone two down in the same contract.

It is worth noting that the only way in theory to defeat the contract is to lead a club or a high diamond. So why didn't the defenders prevail after the lead of the queen of diamonds? After winning with the trump ace, West had to return the jack, ten or nine of clubs instead of his second diamond to avoid the endplay and establish an entry for partner so he will be able to collect the established diamond before the spades are set up for a discard. Secondly, if West ducks the jack of hearts, declarer needs more than a miracle to make it since he may continue with his plan of establishing spades, but declarer will be one entry short to dummy. West can also duck when the queen of hearts is played later.

Only five declarers managed to make four hearts; 11 went down! Well done by Salib, who realized the problems with entries if the cards were badly placed.

Quarterfinals. USA v.Australia (BR)

Bob Hamman occasionally has the air of a grizzled veteran at the table, and that is hardly surprising given his 52 years of competing in world championship events. When dummy came down on this deal from the Senior series match against Australia, Hamman appeared to have momentarily closed his eyes, as if dozing. The iconoclastic junior Vugraph commentator wondered if he was falling asleep on the job. Not so; the old master was ready to impress, yet again.

Board 88. Dealer West. Neither Vul.

♠ 10 4

♥ J 10 9 4

♦ A J 10 7

♣ K J 10

♠ K Q J 8 6 3

♥ 6

♦ 9 5

♣ 9 6 5 4

♠ 7 5

♥ A Q 8 7 3

♦ K Q 6 4 3

♣ A

♠ A 9 2

♥ K 5 2

♦ 8 2

♣ Q 8 7 3 2

West	North	East	South
Lorentz	Meckstroth	Burgess	Zia
2♦	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♦	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

The contract of four spades was played from different sides in the last segment of the Seniors quarterfinal. A diamond lead seemed to help Stephen Burgess, but the play and defence became extremely complex thereafter. Meckstroth took the ace of diamonds to play back a club. Burgess won his ace and tried to cash two diamonds – Zia ruffing in with nine of spades to force the jack. Declarer ruffed a club to hand and now needed to lead a fourth diamond to elope with dummy's low trumps. Instead he played the ace of hearts and ruffed a heart, ruffed another club, and had reached this ending.

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

Now Burgess did well (in a sense) to lead a diamond. To defeat the contract legitimately, South must pitch a heart, but Zia ruffed low and Burgess overruffed in dummy, then exited in clubs. Zia won and played a fifth club and, when Burgess ruffed low, Meckstroth scored the ten of spades for down one. Burgess could have made the contract by exiting with his low trump to Zia's then-bare ace.

West	North	East	South
Hamman	Lavings	Martel	Krochmalik
3♠	Pass	4♠	Pass
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Hamman received the normal lead from North of the jack of hearts and now had to tread carefully. He played the ace of hearts, unblocked the ace of clubs, then cross-ruffed clubs and hearts for four tricks to bring down the king of hearts. When he led the queen of hearts from the dummy, Krochmalik discarded a diamond, preparing for the ruff. Hamman pitched his sure loser, the club, leaving this position:

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

A diamond lead from dummy at this point would have been fatal – the defence get their diamond ruff then can promote the ten of spades with continued club leads. Instead, Hamman led the fifth heart and pitched a diamond to start weakening the defender's trump holdings. In practice, North ruffed in and cashed the ace of diamonds and played another diamond for South to ruff with the nine of spades. Hamman overruffed and led the king of spades to pin the ten and prevent the trump promotion. Contract made and 10 IMPs for USA.

MIXED TEAMS

Round 9. Netherlands v. Israel (JvC)

In his home country, Jan Jansma is nicknamed 'Houdini' because he is quite often able to escape the forces arrayed against him and land improbable contracts. Check out these two deals from the round robin.

First, a slam from the Netherlands v. Israel in Round 9.

Board 7. Dealer South. Both Vul.

♠ J 9 8 6 4
♡ K 9 8 6
♢ K 9 6
♣ K

♠ A	♠ K 7
♡ 3	♡ A Q J 4 2
♢ Q 8 4 3	♢ A J 5
♣ A Q 10 9 8 7 5	♣ 6 4 3

♠ Q 10 5 3 2
♡ 10 7 5
♢ 10 7 2
♣ J 2

West, Jan Jansma, having shown a club suit of six cards or longer and shortness in hearts, had become declarer in six clubs. North kicked off with a tricky nine of hearts. Declarer won with the ace, finessed in clubs, losing to the king, won the spade return, cashed a top club, returned to dummy by overtaking the five of clubs with the six, pitched a diamond on the king of spades, ruffed a low heart in hand, played a diamond to the jack and advanced the queen of hearts.

It was decision time. Should declarer pitch another diamond? Jansma decided to ruff and run his clubs. Eventually North was squeezed in the red suits and Houdini duly took plus 1370.

The second board was against Hungary in Round 15 (see top of next column). It was the last board of the match and, after the bidding, dummy, Aida Jansma, asked her partner, husband Jan, if it would take long. "Might be a while," was the answer. Mrs. Jansma had heard enough. She left the playing area to buy a refreshment. On the way, she ran into Zia Mahmood, who asked what contract Jan was playing. "Diamonds," said Aida.

"Hopefully not in slam as trumps are 4-1 and spades 5-1."

Board 12. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

♠ 10 9 8 7 2	♠ A J 5 4 3
♡ K Q J 9	♡ A 10 7 4
♢ Q	♢ K 6 3
♣ 7 6 5	♣ K
♠ K 6	♠ Q
♡ 8	♡ 6 5 3 2
♢ A 10 9 8 7	♢ J 5 4 2
♣ A J 10 8 2	♣ Q 9 4 3

West North East South

J.Jansma	Bodis	A.Jansma	Fischer
----------	-------	----------	---------

1♦	Pass	1♥ ¹	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♦ ²	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♦	Pass
3♠ ³	Pass	4♣ ⁴	Pass
4♣ ⁵	Pass	4NT ⁶	Pass
5♥ ⁷	Double ⁸	6♦	Pass

Pass Pass

1. 4+ spades
2. 4th -suit forcing
3. Doubleton spade
4. Club control
5. Spade ace or king
6. RKCB
7. 2 key cards, no diamond queen
8. Anticipating and forestalling a possible notrump contract played by East

Now Aida regretted bypassing three notrump. Meanwhile, Jan won the lead of the king of hearts and cashed the king of clubs and the ace of spades. Despite the drop of the queen of spades, he still played another spade. South ruffed and switched to a trump: nine, queen, king. Jansma ruffed a heart, cashed the ace of clubs, ruffed a club, ruffed a heart and ruffed the fourth club. At this point, declarer was left with the ace-ten of diamonds and a high club. When declarer advanced the jack of spades from dummy, South was helpless. Whatever card he played, the slam was home.

Round 11 (PDA & BM)

Once in a while, a deal comes along that results in excitement at every table. There was one such example during Round 11 of the Mixed and Senior events. Before we get to the full deal, though, here is a bidding problem. With only your side vulnerable, you pick up:

♠ A Q 8 7 6 2
♡ A Q 8 7 5 2
♢ —
♣ 10

Partner opens three notrump, showing a solid seven- or eight-card minor and no side ace, king or void. What would you do now? (Four clubs is pass or correct; four diamonds asks for a singleton; four of a major is to play; four notrump and five notrump ask for partner's minor, and five or six of either minor is pass or correct.)

It is certainly not obvious what to do. Which minor does partner hold? If you bid four clubs and he passes, you will wish you were in game. But if he corrects to four diamonds, that could easily be high enough. I think I would have bid five clubs, hoping partner passes. To bid five diamonds, planning to play there or in six clubs, seems a tad optimistic. This was the full deal:

Board 5. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

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

In one Mixed Teams match, South guessed to respond four hearts to three notrump, reaching the major-suit game that could not be defeated. But this was the most exciting auction that I heard:

West	North	East	South
—	2♣ ¹	Pass	2♦ ²
3♦	Pass	4♦	6♦
Pass	7♣	Pass	??
1. Precision-style			
2. Relay			

South decided to gamble on six of a major, and this pushed his partner into the 'laydown' seven-club contract. But South now ran to seven hearts! Note that you will make seven clubs, even on a trump lead to stop a diamond ruff. You must assume East has the king of hearts, and then, whether you risk the spade finesse or play the ace of spades and a spade ruff, you will take four spades, two hearts and seven clubs.

In another match, the non-playing captain of a team that will remain unnamed reported this auction by the opponents:

West	North	East	South
—	2♣ ¹	Pass	2♦ ²
Pass	3♣ ³	Pass	3♣ ⁴
Pass	4♣ ⁵	Pass	4♥ ⁶
Pass	5♣ ⁷	Pass	5♦ ⁸
Pass	5♠ ⁹	Pass	6♦ ¹⁰
Pass	7♣ ¹¹	Pass	Pass
Pass			

See next column for alert explanations

1. Precision: natural, limited
2. Relay: asking for further description
3. Only clubs
4. Natural, forcing
5. Still only clubs
6. Natural
7. What else can I say?
8. Reported on one side of the screen as a cuebid for clubs, on the other side (by the five-diamond bidder) as "pick a major."
9. Reported on one side as a cuebid, on the other side as a "preference" for spades.
10. We have found our fit
11. Maybe not

Said the NPC, "It's the unluckiest hand of the tournament." For one side, anyway.

The defending side would indeed be unlucky if declarer took the suggested line of play on a trump lead. Given that the heart king must be onside, the suggested line requires spades to be 3-3 (35.53%); or 4-2 with a doubleton king (16.15%); or 5-1 with a singleton king (2.42%). That totals 54.10%. On the other hand, playing for 3-2 hearts (draw trumps, heart to the queen, ace of hearts, ruff a heart) is a much better play (67.83%). Nevertheless, if the opening leader guessed to lead a diamond, declarer would be forced into the winning line – that would have been truly unlucky! – Ed.

Playoff USA v. Bulgaria (PDA)

In the 48-board bronze-medal match, the United States Mixed Team lost comprehensively to Bulgaria, by 142 IMPs to 59. Admittedly, a chunk of those IMPs came from trying to recover a 44-point deficit in the last session. But in that set, Georgi Karakolev played one of the deals of the tournament.

This was the full layout, with both East-West pairs using the Precision Club, so the one-spade openings were limited to 15 high-card points.

Dealer East. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Nanev	Picus	Nikolova	Ornstein
—	—	Pass	Pass
1♠	Double	2♣ ¹	Pass
2♦	3NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			
1. Diamonds			

Declarer took two spades, three hearts, three diamonds and two clubs to come home with an overtrick. There was more ambition at the other table.

West	North	East	South
B. Moss	Mitovska	Winestock	Karakolev
—	—	Pass	Pass
1♠	Double	Pass	2♥
3♣	3♠	Pass	4♥
Pass	4NT ¹	Pass	5♦ ²
Pass	5♥	Pass	6♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. RKCB

2. No key cards

When Miriana Mitovska signed off in five hearts, Karakolev realized that he had five points more than he had promised, and that the 1430 Roman Key Card Blackwood reply had stopped his partner from asking for the trump queen. So he bravely raised to six hearts.

If Brad Moss had led a spade honour or his diamond, he would have disrupted declarer's timing and would have ruined a good story. Instead, he chose the club jack. Declarer paused for quite some time, then put in the club queen and played a diamond to his queen. When the jack appeared on his left, South thought some more. Then, with his plan prepared, he led the heart queen, which was covered by the king and ace. Declarer cashed dummy's club ace, played a heart to his jack, and ruffed his last club to reach this position:

♠ A K 6

♥ 5

♦ A K 8

♣ —

♠ Q J 9 8 5

♥ —

♦ —

♣ K 10

♠ 10 7 4 3

♥ 8 6

♦ 9

♣ —

♠ 2

♥ 10

♦ 10 7 6 4 3

♣ —

Having a complete count on the deal, South cashed dummy's spade ace and exited with a trump to endplay East in diamonds. Karakolev took two spades, three hearts, four diamonds, two clubs and the club ruff in the dummy, winning 11 IMPs in the process.

COMPUTER BRIDGE CHAMPIONSHIP

'Bots Battle to the Last Byte (AL)

The 20th OurGame World Computer-Bridge Championship concluded with WBridge5 (France) narrowly defeating Micro Bridge (Japan), 162-156, in the final. Both semifinal matches were very close as

well, with WBridge5 defeating Shark Bridge (Denmark) by the margin of the carryover, 140.6 - 131 and Micro Bridge defeating Bridge Baron (USA) 144-138. Wbridge5's play on Board 4, also played in the quarterfinals of the 'human' team championships, contributed to its semifinal win.

Board 4. Dealer West. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Shark	WBridge5	Shark	WBridge5
1♥	Pass	1♠	2♦
2♠	Dble ¹	Pass	3♥ ²
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♦ ³
Pass	6♦	Pass	Pass
Pass			

1. Values with 4+ clubs
2. Spade stopper, looking for heart stopper for notrump
3. 1 ace

West led the queen of clubs. With West long in hearts, without the club king, and therefore the spade ace and heart king, a heart-spade squeeze without the count was the indicated play. Two diamond entries to the South hand were required, one to take a heart finesse and one to run the diamonds. For success, diamonds had to be 2-2 or 3-1 with a stiff honour with West. So, WBridge5 won the opening lead with the club ace and led the diamond queen, overtaking it with the ace, to cater to both possibilities. The play proceeded: heart finesse, diamond finesse (employing Restricted Choice), run diamonds and on the last diamond West has no safe discard:

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

At the table, West discarded the queen of spades, so declarer led the low spade. West won with the ace and had to return a heart – plus 1370 and 15 IMPs to WBridge5 since Shark Bridge was in three diamonds at the other ‘table’ for plus 150.

It is interesting to note that the play must be similar in five diamonds to that in six diamonds, declarer needing two entries to hand. The best contract, given only the North/South hands, is three notrump by South, which has nine top tricks unless diamonds are 4-0.

Of the 32 times this deal was played in the human team championships (Open, Women, Mixed and Seniors), the best contract, three notrump by South, was played 17 times. Other contracts were: three notrump by North, down (twice); three diamonds (seven times); three spades by East (twice); five diamonds, down one (twice) and making an overtrick (once); and six diamonds making (once).

NEWS & VIEWS



Bridge in the 2018 Asian Games

Azwerul Haque, President of BFAME, has announced that bridge will be included as one of the non-Olympic sports in the 18th Asian Games, to be held in the cities of Jakarta and Palembang, Indonesia, from August 18 till September 2, 2018. The Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) made the decision to approve bridge at their General Assembly meeting on September 25, 2016.

Mark Blumenthal 1942 -2016

Mark Blumenthal, silver medalist in the 1973 and 1974 Bermuda Bowls and a former member of the Dallas Aces bridge team created by Ira Corn, died on September 2, in Portland, OR. Blumenthal won his first major event, the Reisinger, at just 23 and soon followed that success with two wins in the Vanderbilt. Then, in 1977, he underwent open-heart surgery where faulty anaesthesiology resulted in brain damage, effectively ending his burgeoning professional bridge career.

Felicity Beale

Two weeks before the World Bridge Games, Felicity Beale passed away after a brief battle with cancer. During a bridge career which spanned more than four decades Felicity played on the Australian Women’s Team 27 times. This included four wins in the Asia Pacific Championships. Felicity was blessed with an outstanding mind; her quick wit was coupled with an extraordinary zest for life, loyalty and great charm.

Margaret Bourke

2016 IBPA Awards



IBPA Personality of the Year

George Rosenkranz

Master Point Press Book of the Year

The Abbot, the Parrot and the Bermuda Bowl
by David Bird

Alan Truscott Memorial Award:

Betsy Lerner for “The Bridge Ladies” &
Julian Laderman for “Bumblepuppy Days”

John Simon Sportsmanship Award

James & Sam Coutts

Keri Klinger Memorial

Declarer Play of the Year:

Richard Jedrychowski (Australia)

Article: Oz Bridge: The Force of the Jedi,
by Ron Klinger (Australia)

Event: Rubber Bridge, Sydney

Source: IBPA Bulletin 616, May, 2016, p. 2

Gidwani Family Trust

Defence of the Year

Dennis Bilde (Denmark)

Article: Glittering Bridge Stars by Måns Berg (Sweden)

Event: The Swedish Bridgefestival 2015

Source: IBPA Bulletin 608, September, 2015, p. 3

Yeh Bros. Best Bid Deal of the Year:

Michael Rosenberg and Zia Mahmood (USA)

Article: Changing Horses in Mid-Stream
by John Carruthers (Canada)

Event: 2015 d’Orsi Bowl

Source: IBPA Bulletin 608, January 2016, p. 6

Richard Freeman

Junior Deal of the Year:

Leen Stougie and Mark Stougie (Netherlands)

Article: Saving the Best until Last
by Phillip Alder (USA)

Event: 16th World Youth Team Championships

Source: IBPA Bulletin 620, September 2016, p. 4

The full text of the 2016 IBPA Awards Summary document can be found on the IBPA website or by following the link: http://www.ibpa.com/archive/Awards/2016_IBPA_Awards.pdf

Editorial

The World Bridge Federation has acted brilliantly, decisively and quickly in awarding dual sets of gold medals in the recently-completed Open Pairs and Women's Pairs in Wroclaw. Gold medallists in the Open Pairs are Sabine Auken/Roy Welland (Germany) and Michael Cornell/Ashley Bach (New Zealand); in the Women's Pairs they are Adi Asulin/Hila Levi (Israel) and Marina Pilipov/Nikica Šver (Croatia).

By now, unless you've been incommunicado for the past several weeks, you'll be aware of the fallout from the scoring errors in the finals of those two events. The cases are different, but they have similarities.

In the Women's Pairs, a player's mechanical scoring error in Session 1 of Day 1 of the final was reported to the directing staff the morning after it had occurred, with one day left to play in the two-day final. Although both pairs agreed on the correction, they were told it was too late to make the change, the correction period having expired. Had it been made, the change would have dropped the winners to second place, *if the results of all other boards (52) had remained the same after the correction had been made.*

In the Open Pairs, the situation was even messier. Midway through the 102-board final, a pair went to the wrong table and began bidding their cards. When their mistake was discovered, they were sent to the correct table, and according to the Howell movement employed, were supposed to sit in the opposite compass directions to the ones whose cards they'd already seen. No problem, a compass-direction switch was (erroneously) agreed to by the TD at the request of the players. There is some doubt over the correct procedure – apparently, average plus and average minus was not appropriate if a bridge outcome was possible. Additionally, in the rush to complete the round, the score was entered incorrectly and validated. That mistake was not caught by the TD, nor by the scoring system, nor by the person assigned to review scores, nor by the players themselves after the session. The reviewer did not catch the error because, for this session, he had been sent to perform other tasks (solving a BBO problem, but what could be more important than ensuring correct scores?). So Auken and Welland received plus 450 rather than minus 450 on the board. The day after the Championships concluded, a member of the wrong-way pair posted his version of what had happened on the Internet at www.bridgewinners.com and the cyclone gathered momentum. Unfortunately, the differential in the match-point score would have dropped Auken/Welland to second (60% on the board rather than the 100% they received) and elevated Cornell/Bach to first, *had all results after that board remained the same*, an iffy proposition at best. In this case, Auken/Welland were (almost) blameless and Cornell/Bach could not possibly have been aware that anything was amiss.

We applaud the WBF for its actions in this affair, but further review and changes should also be made in the following areas:

- (i) the WBF should improve this scoring system, which is guaranteed to generate scoring errors of this kind
- (ii) the WBF should revise its score-correction time limits
- (iii) the organisers should ensure that every board for every session is reviewed either electronically or manually
- (iv) the TDs should review and perhaps revise the pair movements employed.

Let's look at these four points in turn.

(i) The scoring system flags suspect scores, making available a printout of possible problem scores. BridgeMates do not allow manifestly-incorrect scores such as 725. What is needed is a link with GiB, which defines how many tricks can be taken by either side in each denomination. Suppose East/West can make 10 tricks in notrump. A competent scoring system should flag any result that shows North/South making any number of tricks in notrump. This should not be too difficult since the hand records of all sessions include the GiB double-dummy number of tricks available in each denomination. Existing flags are based solely upon a comparison of scores, not a comparison of tricks.

Furthermore, when entering a score in the BridgeMate in the wrong compass direction, a question such as the following should pop up: "You have entered a score indicating that East/West made 11 tricks in spades. Are you sure? According to GiB, North/South can make 11 tricks in spades, not East/West." Already, some BridgeMate protection is incorporated. For example, if you enter the wrong board number, you receive a message to that effect, so this enhancement should not be too difficult.

(ii) The existing score correction procedures were designed for a two-session-per-day event with two or three hours between sessions. In Wroclaw, instead of two sessions per day, the pair events were divided into five (usually) 10-board sessions per day, with about 15 minutes between session 1 and 2 and between sessions 3, 4 and 5. There was a longer break between sessions 2 and 3 to allow for lunch. It is too onerous to mandate a half-

hour correction period under these circumstances, especially when the players are playing bridge 15 minutes after completing the previous session.

While the partial-Barometer in place was rather more enjoyable than two sessions per day, accommodation needs to be made for correcting scores. In effect, the WBF has extended the correction period with its decision on the gold medals. A further note on this: the ACBL allows for extensions of correction periods when the score correction is not the fault of the players. The WBF should examine the ACBL's policy.

(iii) In the old days, with pick-up slips or rubber-bridge scoring, it was more difficult to enter an incorrect score in the wrong direction because your plusses were on the left and your minuses on the right. No such visual protection is available in the BridgeMates. Yes, the positive North/South scores are entered as "450", for example, and the negative scores as "-450", but that minus sign is very tiny (especially to ageing eyes). So, in addition to BridgeMate flags, we do need scoring system flags and TD reviews to ensure correct scores.

Additionally, the organisers should impress upon the players the importance of checking their scores and the procedure for doing so. This was not done in Wroclaw and we only knew about it from previous experience or learned about it by observation or word-of-mouth.

(iv) Every pairs session in Wroclaw was conducted under a Howell movement. With players switching direction, or not, after every two-board round and, with their minds on other things, the players were guaranteed to make scoring errors. The well-publicized errors in the Open Pairs and the Women's Pairs are just the tip of the iceberg: there was an average of 20 scoring errors per 10-board session and a minimum of four scores not entered for the last board in every session. This is unacceptable. A Mitchell movement, in which the players are always North/South or always East/West for a complete session would be preferable, in that it would be less error-prone. In all-play-all pairs events, only one session need be a Howell as long as there is a number of tables divisible by four.

One last point: if there were about 20 scoring errors corrected per 10-board session (that's about 200 in the four 10-session finals in play!), how many scoring errors went undetected?



THE FORMAT OF THE 2016 WORLD BRIDGE GAMES

There were eight events in four categories: Open, Women's, Seniors and Mixed. In each category there were Teams and Pairs. The four team events were run in parallel and as close in structure to each other as possible: a Round Robin followed by Knockouts, beginning with the Round of 16. The four Pairs events were also run similarly to one another, beginning after the Teams events completed their Round Robins. There were Qualifying (three days), Semifinal (two days) and Final (two days) stages in each Pairs event, with dropins from eliminated teams allowed.

Fifty-four teams entered the Open; 35 the Women's; and 24 each in the Seniors and Mixed. The Open and Women's were thus divided into seeded groups, three groups in the Open and two in the Women's. Those events played 16-board matches in their Round Robins while the 24 teams in each of the Seniors and Mixed played a complete Round Robin of 12-board matches. Top-ranked teams were made to choose their opponents from the lower-ranked teams. Matches from the Quarterfinals onward were predetermined by rank.

Pairs on non-qualifying teams could enter their respective Pairs event or any other for which they were qualified. Teams losing in the Round of 16 or the Quarterfinals were allowed to drop in to the Semifinal stage of the appropriate Pairs event. There was no carryover into any knockout match or from one stage of the Pairs events to another.

All KO matches were 96 boards in length played over two days, except for 48-board bronze-medal matches. All the Pairs events played the same boards, approximately 50 per day. It was as close to a perfect format as was possible.

World Bridge Calendar

DATES	EVENT	LOCATION	INFORMATION
2016			
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 22-Nov 5	Hainan Bridge Festival China 2016	Sanya, Hainan, China	www.ccba.org.cn/hainan2016
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	Beijing, Torino, Seattle	www.imsaworld.com
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	VBF 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, WI.	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 18-25	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	Kansas City, MO	www.acbl.org
Mar 26-31	25 th White House Junior International	Amsterdam, Netherlands	kornelijstammens@gmail.com
Mar 26-Apr 1	XXX International Bridge Festival	Puerto de la Cruz, Tenerife	www.asociacioncanariabridge.com
Apr 5-9	Amazing Bridge Festival	Bangkok, Thailand	www.thailandbridgeleague.com
Apr 11-16	122 nd Canadian Nationals	Toronto, Ontario	www.unit16.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.confsudbridge.org
May 3-9	USBF Women's Trials	Schaumburg, IL	www.usbf.org
May 9-13	7 th South American Transnationals	Santiago, Chile	www.confsudbridge.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 28-Aug 6	Swedish Bridge Festival	Örebro, Sweden	www.svenskbridge.se/festival-2017
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