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Anna Maria Torlontano

1930 - 2016

Anna Maria Torlontano Di Toro Jannucci was the leading light in the development of women's bridge for the Italian Bridge Federation, the European Bridge League and the World Bridge Federation. She was among the most important people in world bridge over the last 40 years. In 2003, Torlontano was awarded the

Gold Medal of the World Bridge Federation; in 2007, she was named an Honorary Vice-President of the EBL Executive Committee; in 2014, she was named a Member of the WBF Honour Committee.

Torlontano's life was extraordinary. She spent her entire life in Pescara, Italy, advancing the cause of women in many fields. Among her accomplishments, she:

- studied Law at the University of Rome
- created a very successful school of Classical Dance in 1958, endorsed by the Ministry of Education and continuing to this day
- was a member of the International Inner Wheel Club of Pescara (the association of Rotarian Wives) as International Service Organiser
- was one of only two women members of the Italian Cooking Academy, Pescara delegation
- was a member of the Executive Committee of the Music and Theatre Academy of Pescara.

And then came bridge. Her serious involvement with bridge started in 1975, when she was elected President of the Bridge Association of Pescara. In 1978, she was elected to the Board of the Italian Bridge Federation and was appointed to manage the Women's sector and to take on the role of Captain of the Italian Women's Team. During the late 1970s and early 1980s, Torlontano created a program specifically for Italian women players and worked to convince as many women as possible to participate, more than quadrupling participation in Italian Women's Pairs and Team events.

Continued on page 19 ...

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John Carruthers, Kingsville, ON

Kiran and Shiv Nadar of Hindustan Computers Limited have been supporters and sponsors of Indian bridge for many years. This year, they decided to bolster the prize fund of the HCL International Tournament to \$180,000, thus hoping to attract a glamorous and attractive international field. They were very successful in that the Lavazza team and teams from Poland, the USA, Bulgaria and Russia committed to compete, as did the usual top Indian teams, led by Dhampur Sugar Mills, Texan Aces and Kiran Nadar's own Formidables.

The venue was the luxurious, ultra-modern JW Marriott Hotel at New Delhi Aerocity, near to Indira Gandhi International Airport.

Forty-one teams entered the Gold section of the Teams (there was a less-formidable Silver group). They played a 12-board, 10-round Swiss to qualify 12 teams for a 'Super League'. Those 12 teams were divided into two sections according to their finish in the Swiss Qualifying. The teams in each section then played a 12-boards-per-match Round Robin within their own group, the top two in each section qualifying for the 56-board Knockout Semifinals, with first in A playing second in B and vice versa.

Here are some of the more interesting deals.

The Swiss Qualifying

Swiss Q1. Bridge24pl A v. Mango
Board 9. Dealer North. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>P. Mukherjee</i>	<i>Jagniewski</i>	<i>Majumder</i>	<i>Gawel</i>
—	Pass	1♣	Pass
1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♦	Pass	2♥	Pass
4♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

The dilemma facing Mukherjee in four hearts is fairly common: how to handle non-solid trumps when the prospect of a defensive ruff is looming. Jagniewski led the six of spades (low from a doubleton). Gawel won with his ace and continued the suit with the five, indicating no preference for diamonds or clubs.

When North followed to the second trick with the nine of spades, declarer must realise from the defence's carding that North has two and South four, since North would not have led the six from nine-seven-six-three and would not have played the nine from an original holding of nine-six-three (that sequence of plays would have shown a doubleton in the Polish methods). Additionally, South would have continued with the three of spades had he held the ace of clubs.

All of these considerations are much easier sitting in my office, with plenty of time for reflection, than they are at the table. Mukherjee could afford a heart loser, but could not afford a heart loser and a spade ruff. He was a little unlucky to suffer a loss to the king of hearts, then a spade ruff after he played the ace and another heart at tricks three and four. Either a club lead or a diamond to dummy and a heart to the jack would have secured the contract. As it was, minus 100 was West's punishment.

West	North	East	South
<i>Nowak</i>	<i>Parasrampur</i>	<i>Janiszewski</i>	<i>Mango</i>
—	Pass	1♣	Pass
1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♦	Pass	2♥	Pass
4♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

Nowak also received a spade lead from North, the nine in his system. South again won with his ace and continued the suit, this time with the three. Having unblocked the queen at trick one, West overtook the ten with the jack, finessed the jack of hearts and, when the ace of hearts dropped South's king, was chuffed to make an overtrick, plus 650 and 13 IMPs to Bridge24pl A.

With no fast entry, perhaps ducking the spade would have been a better play: declarer cannot have king-queen-ten to four of them on the bidding.

Swiss Q2. Lavazza v. Alpha

(See top of next page.) Roy led the king of spades. Zia ruffed and played four rounds of diamonds from the top, observing three spade discards from East. Declarer led the king of hearts from hand. West won and continued with spades, South again ruffing as East discarded the eight of clubs.

Board 20. Dealer West. Both Vul.

♠ J 10 2
♥ 7 6 4
♦ 7 5
♣ K 10 6 5 3

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

♠ —
♥ K Q 9 5
♦ A K J 10 8 6 3
♣ A J

West	North	East	South
S.Roy	Duboin	Acharya	Mahmood
2♠	Pass	3♠	Double
Pass	4♣	Pass	5♦
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Declarer had lots of chances: hearts 3-3, doubleton ace-jack or ace-ten with West, doubleton queen of clubs in either defender's hand.

Zia ducked a heart to East's eight and won the continuation of the jack of hearts with his queen. When West showed out, declarer had a complete count. He played the last trump and claimed: either West had a doubleton queen of clubs or East would have to come to a doubleton queen to guard the hearts, Plus 600 for a very competently-played deal.

West	North	East	South
Bilde	Santra	Bocchi	Bhattacharjee
1♠	Pass	3♠	Double
Pass	4♣	Pass	5♦
Pass	Pass	Pass	

At this table, declarer played on clubs prematurely, after ruffing the spade lead and drawing trumps. He ruffed the third round of clubs and exited from hand with a low heart. When East won with the eight and continued with the two of hearts, declarer misguessed (miscounted?) and played the queen, creating a third loser in the suit. Minus 100 cost Alpha 12 IMPs.

**Swiss Q2. Trump v Formidables
Board 22. Dealer East. EW Vul.**

♠ 8 7 2
♥ 5
♦ A K 6
♣ J 10 7 6 5 4

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

♠ A J 10 9 5
♥ A 10 4
♦ Q J 7
♣ Q 2

West	North	East	South
Chokshi	Krishnan	Anklesaria	Kulkarni
—	—	1♣	1♠
Double	Pass	INT	Pass
2♥	2♠	3♥	Pass
4♥	4♠	Double	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Both the defence and declarer play are delicate in four spades, doubled or not. West led a fifth-best heart. Declarer beat East's queen with his ace and started on clubs, leading the queen. It was too tempting for East to play the king, ace and another club. Declarer ruffed with the jack, was overruffed by the king and later took a spade finesse against the queen, despite the fact that West tapped the dummy with a heart when in with the king of spades. Dummy's clubs provided discards after the trumps were gone; plus 590 for Kulkarni.

West	North	East	South
Chopra	Satyanarana	Srinivasan	Nadar
—	—	1♣	1♠
3♥	4♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

At this table, West began work on dummy's entries with the five-of-diamonds lead. Nadar won with dummy's ace to run the eight of spades to West's king. West shifted to the suit-preference two of hearts. Declarer won with her ace, ruffed a heart, picked up the trumps and began clubs. The defence took its two clubs and a heart for one down and 12 IMPs to Trump.

In theory, any lead but the six of spades beats four spades, but the defence has to be careful not to try to give West club ruffs to maintain its advantage.

**Swiss Q3. Lavazza v. Shri Radhey
Board 30. Dealer East. Neither Vul.**

♠ 10 9
♥ 9 5 3 2
♦ A 10 4 3
♣ 10 6 3

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

♠ K 5
♥ A 10 8 7 6 4
♦ Q 9
♣ K Q J

West	North	East	South
Mahmood	Sridharan	Duboin	Dhakras
—	—	Pass	1♥
1♠	3♥	3♠	4♥
4♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

This was another touch-and-go four-spade contract. Sridharan led the three of hearts. Zia ruffed in the

dummy and led a diamond to the king, well on the way to going off. Eager not to allow a club discard on the diamonds, North shifted to the three of clubs, ducked to South's jack. Dhakras continued with the king of clubs. Zia won with dummy's ace and ruffed a club, establishing the suit.

When declarer next led a diamond and ducked it to South's queen, the defence was on life support. A heart shift would have allowed declarer to win a heart and ruff a heart, then pick up trumps. Equally, the king of spades would have allowed declarer to draw trumps ending in the dummy. The only card South had that would have defeated the contract when he was in with the queen of diamonds was the five of spades, a very counter-intuitive play.

To ensure the contract at trick one, declarer had to play double-dummy, discarding on the heart, finessing in trumps, eliminating the majors and endplaying South.

West	North	East	South
Samant	Bocchi	Agrawal	Bilde
—	—	Pass	1♥
1♠	3♥	3♠	4♥
Double	Pass	4♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Ironically, at the other table, Samant did discard on the heart lead and played double-dummy for a few tricks: South won with his ace of hearts and shifted to the queen of clubs. Declarer won with dummy's ace, finessed the jack of spades and cashed the ace. He then ruffed a good heart to lead a diamond to the king. The defence had two diamond tricks and one club trick to come, for down one.

Had declarer cashed the two top hearts, then led a club, the defence would have been endplayed: South could have conceded a ruff/sluff; set up dummy's clubs, or; led a diamond allowing declarer to guess the suit for one loser. Still, it was 10 IMPs for Lavazza.

Swiss Q8. Promise v. Arun Jain Board 15. Dealer South. NS Vul.

♠ A Q J 4 3
♥ 8
♦ 7 5
♣ K 8 7 6 4

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

♠ 6 5
♥ K Q 9 5
♦ K 4
♣ Q 9 5 3 2

West	North	East	South
S.Karmarkar	Sarkar	M.Karmarkar	Das
—	—	—	Pass
1♥	1♠	2♠	Pass
3♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

Three hearts might fail, but it takes some doing, especially after the first three tricks at this table. North led a diamond, ducked to the king, and South led a second round of the suit. Declarer unblocked the queen, won trick two in the dummy and led a heart to the jack. With South having shown the king-queen of hearts and the king of diamonds, it was almost a certainty that North held the ace of spades, and a spade toward the king would have ensured the contract. However, declarer cashed the ace of hearts, essentially banking on 3-2 trumps. When North showed out, declarer ruffed a club and played on diamonds. South ruffed and played a club. Declarer won with his ace and played a spade; North went in with the ace and cashed the king of clubs. There was still a trump to come for one down.

West	North	East	South
M.Mukherjee	R.Somani	S.C.Gupta	A.Somani
—	—	—	Pass
1♥	1♠	4♥	Double
Pass	Pass	Pass	

At this table, not knowing who could make what, Gupta just blasted into game. South expressed doubt that the contract would succeed. This time, the diamond lead was won with the ace and declarer led a heart to the ten. When that passed off successfully, declarer led the queen of diamonds. South won with his king and shifted to the six of spades, North winning with the ace and continuing with the queen. Declarer won with dummy's king and led the jack of diamonds – it was the moment of truth for South. A ruff with any of his trumps and a trump switch would have led to the contract's defeat. However, when South discarded a club, apparently not knowing the location of the nine of diamonds, declarer seized his chance: he led another diamond, discarding a club when South did likewise. Declarer then ruffed a good diamond (South discarded another club), played the ace of clubs and ruffed a club, South following suit helplessly. Declarer was in the dummy at trick 11 with the ace-jack-four of hearts left in his hand; South had the king-queen-nine of hearts left. Declarer was up to the task of ducking South's heart queen, making the jack and ace at tricks 12 and 13 for plus 590 and 12 IMPs to Arun Jain.

Swiss Q8. Texan Aces v. Silverman Board 21. Dealer North. NS Vul.

♠ K Q 10 7 5
♥ Q 5
♦ A 9 8
♣ Q 3 2

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

♠ A 2
♥ A J 8 2
♦ Q J 6 5
♣ A 6 4

West	North	East	South
Patchman	Prabhakar	Garner	S.Banerjee
—	1♠	Pass	2♣
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Prabhakar/Banerjee arranged to play in three notrump from the North side of the table, a much better proposition than from South. Garner tried to find his partner with a diamond lead, choosing the four. Prabhakar ducked in dummy to ensure three tricks in the suit and took Pachtman's ten with his ace. When declarer continued diamonds, West won with his king and shifted to clubs, declarer winning the third round of the suit. Garner had played, in order, the five, encouraging, the king on the queen and the jack to the ace; Pachtman had played the ten, nine and seven in that order, so the location of the eight was still unknown. Declarer took the two established diamonds and the three top spades, leaving a three-card ending in which he knew that West had the jack of spades. Since he was pretty certain that East would have led from a five-card heart suit, that left West with two hearts, so declarer exited with the ten of spades, endplaying West to lead into the heart tenace.

West	North	East	South
Sridhar	Silverman	Sundaram	Wolfson
—	1♠	Pass	2♦
Pass	2♠	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Here, it was all over very quickly as Sridhar led the Rusinow nine of clubs to declarer's ace. Declarer led the queen of diamonds to the king and ace, cashed the three top spades and ran the nine of diamonds to West's ten. The defence took its jack of spades and three club tricks for one off and 12 IMPs to the Texan Aces. Four rounds of spades immediately would have made three notrump.

Swiss Q10. Dhampur Sugar Mills v. Silverman Board 5. Dealer North. NS Vul.

♠ K J 8 7 6
♥ Q 8 7 5 4
♦ 9 6
♣ A

♠ 10 9
♥ K J 10 9
♦ 10 5 4 2
♣ Q 7 6

♠ Q 4 2
♥ A 6
♦ A 3
♣ K J 10 5 3 2

♠ A 5 3
♥ 3 2
♦ K Q J 8 7
♣ 9 8 4

West	North	East	South
Smith	Majumder	Garner	S.Mukherjee
—	Pass	1♣	1♦
1♥	1♠	2♣	2♠
3♣	3♥	Pass	3♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Neither North nor South felt they had anything extra for their bidding, so they stopped in three spades, a contract that, single-dummy, could well go down. As it was, the layout was not unfriendly: declarer won the club lead, led a diamond to the king, ruffed a club and led a diamond to East's ace. East tapped declarer with another club, so North played the king and ace of spades, then played winning diamonds. East could ruff at will, but the defence had just two heart tricks to come, for plus 140 to North/South.

West	North	East	South
Padhye	Silverman	Kushari	Wolfson
—	1♠	2♣	2♦
Double	Pass	2NT	3♠
Pass	4♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Silverman/Wolfson were rather more ambitious, overbidding slightly to the less-than-secure spade game. The defence started well for declarer with the ace of hearts and a club shift. Silverman won with his ace and led a diamond, Kushari in turn winning his ace and attempting to cash a club. Declarer ruffed that and, keeping the bidding in mind, led the king and jack of spades, pinning poor Padhye's ten-nine. East covered the jack of spades with his queen in case declarer did not have a second diamond to reach the dummy, but it was not to be. That was plus 620 and 10 IMPs to Silverman.

The top 12 teams in the Swiss Qualifying were:

RANK	TEAM	SCORE
1	Lavazza	151.10
2	Hemant Jalan	126.56
3	Dhampur Sugar Mills	125.39
4	Bulgaria	122.67
5	Russia	122.19
6	Bridge24.pl A	120.38
7	Aggarwal	118.11
8	Shri Radhey	115.04
9	Baneet	113.60
10	Arun Jain	113.33
11	Shree Cement	113.29
12	Aristos	109.05

Failing to qualify were such fierce teams as Formidables, Bridge24pl B, Texan Aces, Bangur Cement, Silverman and Poddar Housing. No one would have been surprised had some or all of them made it through.

Super League

The Super League comprised two groups. Group A consisted of the teams finishing in positions 1, 4, 5, 8, 9, and 12. The remainder comprised Group B. Each team played the other five teams in its group, with carryover. The matches were played in the order of top team vs. bottom team, then top team vs. second-bottom, and so on.

Group B, Match 1:
Shree Cement v. Hemant Jalan
Board 7. Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

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

♠ K 9 3
 ♥ Q 7 5
 ♦ Q 5 4 3
 ♣ 9 3 2

West	North	East	South
<i>Thakral</i>	<i>Bapat</i>	<i>Bhand</i>	<i>Goenka</i>
—	—	—	Pass
1♣ ¹	Pass	1♦ ²	Pass
1♥ ³	Pass	1♠ ⁴	Pass
1NT ⁵	Pass	3NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		

- 17+ HCP
- 0-7 HCP
- Natural or strong, balanced
- Forced
- 19-20 HCP

Bapat led the two of spades to the king and ace. Thakral ran the ten of diamonds to the queen and Goenka continued with the nine of spades, ducked all 'round. Declarer won the third spade with his queen and ran the diamonds. When North pitched three clubs, declarer led a club to establish his ninth trick, plus 600. That seemed pretty straight-forward since a club toward the king would provide a ninth trick anyway, but ...

West	North	East	South
<i>R.Roy</i>	<i>B.Kaustubh</i>	<i>A.Banerjee</i>	<i>N.Kaustabh</i>
—	—	—	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♣ ¹	Pass
3♦ ²	Pass	3NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		

- Puppet Stayman
- No 5-card major

Here, Kaustubh eschewed the "worst lead in bridge", that from four to the jack, to lead a third-best four of hearts. He struck gold when declarer went with his two-to-one chance of playing the jack rather than the eight. South covered with his queen and Roy ducked. The heart seven was won by declarer's ace and the ten of diamonds was won by South's queen. South shifted to the three of spades to the ten and jack and, with a spade trick in the bank, North went back to hearts, driving out the king. Declarer ran the diamonds and, as at the other table, North ditched three clubs. Since it looked like North was protecting spades,

declarer led a club. North gratefully took the ace and cashed the thirteenth heart for one off, whereas a spade to the queen would have netted nine tricks; 12 IMPs to Hemant Jalan.

Group A, Match 3: Bulgaria v. Shri Radhey
Board 29. Dealer North. Both Vul.

♠ 10 7 5 3
 ♥ —
 ♦ 10 7 5 4 2
 ♣ 8 7 3 2

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

♠ J 4
 ♥ K Q 10 9 7 4
 ♦ K J 9 3
 ♣ 6

West	North	East	South
<i>Sridharan</i>	<i>Stamatov</i>	<i>Dhakras</i>	<i>Danailov</i>
—	Pass	1♦	3♥
3NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

Nothing much happened here. North found the diamond lead, but declarer played the six from dummy, ensuring the contract as South was known to hold all the missing hearts. Declarer finished with ten tricks for plus 630, but could have made another by squeezing South in the red suits.

However, the goings-on at the other table were extraordinary ...

West	North	East	South
<i>Vanchev</i>	<i>Lal</i>	<i>Bossev</i>	<i>Bhiwandkar</i>
—	—	1♦	1♥
Double	Pass	1♠	2♥
Double	Pass	3♣	Pass
4♣	Pass	5♣	Pass
6♣	Double	Pass	Pass
6NT	Pass	Pass	Double
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Lal led a calamitous seven of spades: two, jack, ace. Vanchev continued with the eight of spades, ducked by North and by dummy: three, six, four. Declarer led a third spade to dummy's king and cashed three rounds of clubs, ending in the dummy and retaining the king on the table. South discarded two hearts and one diamond. When West came off the dummy with a low heart, South played the king and was allowed to hold it. That player exited with the ten of hearts, won by declarer's jack. Declarer cashed his queen of spades and led a club to the king, South being forced to part with the nine and jack of diamonds to protect the hearts. Vanchev was not to be denied, cashing the ace of diamonds to drop the king and establishing the queen of diamonds for his twelfth trick. That was a stupendous plus 1680 and 14 IMPs to Bulgaria.

SUPER LEAGUE RESULTS

RANK	GROUP A		GROUP B	
1	Lavazza	160.57	Hemant Jalan	146.09
2	Russia	148.51	DSM	134.07
3	Bulgaria	121.32	Shree Cement	130.13
4	Shri Radhey	109.30	Bridge24.pl A	112.82
5	Baneet	103.78	Arun Jain	107.47
6	Aristos	96.70	Aggarwal	99.66

SEMIFINAL SCORES

	1	2	Cum	3	Cum	4	Tot
Lavazza	44	50	94	14	108	35	143
DSM	19	12	31	21	52	17	69
H. Jalan	23	55	78	48	126	10	136
Russia	37	25	62	46	108	48	156

Most observers would have pegged Lavazza as one of the finallists; Russia would certainly have been among those fancied for the other spot..

THE FINAL: Lavazza v. Russia

Board 4. Dealer West. Both Vul.

<p>♠ A K 8 6 2 ♥ 10 2 ♦ 4 3 2 ♣ K 8 3</p> <p>♠ 7 4 ♥ K J 6 5 4 ♦ Q J 9 7 ♣ 9 7</p>	<p>♠ Q J 3 ♥ A Q 9 7 3 ♦ — ♣ A Q 10 4 2</p> <p>♠ 10 9 5 ♥ 8 ♦ A K 10 8 6 5 ♣ J 6 5</p>
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West	North	East	South
<i>Dubinin</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Gromov</i>	<i>Bilde</i>
Pass	Pass	1♥	2♦
4♥	4♠	5♣	Pass
5♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

The Russians showed immediately that they would not be pushed around by their more-decorated opponents. Gromov took the push to the five level, a somewhat-fortunate make on the lie of the cards, and when the defence did not take its spade winners, declarer made an overtrick. Gromov's five-club bid might have been crucial against a diamond contract by North/South, but here all it accomplished was to prevent Bocchi, with the inside king of clubs, from doubling.

West	North	East	South
<i>Mahmood</i>	<i>Khokhlov</i>	<i>Duboin</i>	<i>Rudakov</i>
Pass	Pass	1♥	2♦
4♥	4♠	5♥	Pass
Pass	Double	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Duboin pushed on without revealing his hand's two-suited nature and Khokhlov, without really knowing whose deal it was, doubled on the way out. As it happened, Duboin did not know whose deal it was either, but he was delighted to make the same overtrick as had Gromov. However, Duboin's plus 1050 was worth 9 IMPs to Lavazza.

Board 8. Dealer West. Neither Vul.

<p>♠ 5 ♥ A 10 6 5 ♦ K J 9 8 6 ♣ K J 8</p>	<p>♠ 9 ♥ K J 7 3 ♦ A 10 7 4 ♣ Q 5 3 2</p> <p>♠ A Q J 6 4 3 2 ♥ Q 2 ♦ 5 2 ♣ A 9</p>
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West	North	East	South
<i>Dubinin</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Gromov</i>	<i>Bilde</i>
1♦	Pass	1♥	1♠
2♥	2♠	4♥	4♠
Pass	Pass	5♦	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Five diamonds was rather precarious. The defence started with the king of spades. South knew what to do: he overtook with the ace and cashed the ace of clubs. He was rather disappointed, but not surprised, when Dubinin won the next club with the king. From declarer's point of view, it looked like the spades were 7-4 or possibly 8-3 (although that seemed unlikely), so he cashed the king of diamonds and led another diamond, happy not to have to make a decision about whether or not to finesse when the queen appeared on his left. He next checked on the club distribution by leading one to the jack, South discarding a spade.

So far he knew that South had started with 7=2=2=2 or 8=1=2=2. Was it possible North had five spades and thus South was 6=3=2=2? That seemed wildly unlikely after the simple raise to two spades. So, feeling that the heart length was on his left, Dubinin led a diamond to the dummy, cashed the queen of clubs, then led a heart to the ace and a heart to the jack. One off, minus 50.

West	North	East	South
<i>Mahmood</i>	<i>Khokhlov</i>	<i>Duboin</i>	<i>Rudakov</i>
1♦	Pass	1♥	1♠
3♥	3♠	4♥	4♠
Pass	Pass	5♦	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Here, Zia jumped to three hearts, forcing Khokhlov to the three level to compete. Khokhlov also started with the king of spades, but Rudakov let him hold it, playing

the two, suit preference for clubs. North did indeed shift to the seven of clubs and South played the ace and nine. Thus Zia was in the same position as Dubinin had been at the other table. Declarer cashed the king of diamonds and led another to the ace, led a club to the jack, a diamond to dummy and cashed the queen of clubs, all just as Dubinin had done. Here, however, Rudakov tried to play a little mind game with Zia, discarding the gratuitous queen of spades on the queen of clubs. Since South had a few more spades to spare, this looked pretty suspicious, so Zia played the king of hearts and another, making the contract. That was pure table presence and, according to Zia, a little luck. In any case, it was also plus 400 and 10 IMPs to Lavazza.

Those two boards notwithstanding, all did not go Lavazza's way.

Board 52. Dealer West. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Mahmood	Gromov	Duboin	Dubinin
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♣ ¹
Pass	1♦ ²	Pass	1♥ ³
Pass	2♣ ⁴	Pass	2♦
Pass	3♦	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. 16+ HCP (18+ if balanced in 3rd and 4th seat)
2. 0-7 HCP
3. Artificial: 4+ hearts; or GF; or 19-21 balanced
4. Diamonds

Zia led the five of spades (fourth-best) to the ten and queen. South tried the jack of hearts, losing to East's king. Duboin shifted to the three of diamonds and declarer's jack held the trick. Had declarer taken the king of diamonds, then led the ten of hearts to West's queen, he'd have had nine easy tricks: two spades (one still to be set up), two hearts, three diamonds and two clubs. However, declarer could see that a defender with queen-third of hearts remaining could hold up, denying him the entry to the dummy, so Dubinin played the ten of hearts without cashing the king of diamonds and without making his plans so obvious. Zia did win with the queen of hearts and the plan was still obvious enough that he exited with his last heart. Declarer overtook the nine with the ace and cashed



The jubilant winners: (l. to r.) Dennis Bilde, Giorgio Duboin, Norberto Bocchi and Zia Mahmood. Presenting the cheque are Sharmila Tagore, film personality and Chief Guest, and Kiran Nadar.

the thirteenth heart. (club two, diamond five, diamond six discarded).

Unfortunately for declarer, he now had only eight winners. He played the king of spades to West's ace, discarding the last remaining low diamond from the dummy. Zia shifted to a club, the six: seven, ten, king. Dubinin had reached this ending:

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

Declarer had taken five tricks, the defence three. When declarer played the king of diamonds, West had to discard a club, not a spade. lest declarer play the jack and another spade, establishing the eight for his ninth trick, with the ace of clubs remaining in his hand. After Zia's club discard, Dubinin played the ace of clubs, removing Zia's exit card, then played a low spade to Zia. The lead into the spade tenace produced declarer's eighth and ninth tricks. That was a nice recovery for plus 600.

West	North	East	South
Matushko	Bocchi	Khokhlov	Bilde
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♠
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♣ ¹
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. Gazilli: natural or any 16+ HCP

Declared from the other side, Bocchi received the three of diamonds lead, won by dummy's jack. The king and

queen of spades held the next two tricks and the jack of spades was won by West's ace (diamond from East). West got out with the six of clubs, seven, three, ace. Declarer overtook the king of diamonds with the ace and led a heart to the jack and queen. Another club went to dummy's king, then the ace and another heart put East in with the king. He had a diamond and a club to take for one off, minus 100 and 12 IMPs to Russia.

Lavazza had led by a comfortable 27 IMPs with 14 boards to play. In the last set, Russia closed the gap to 6 IMPs, but Lavazza were worthy winners 109-103.

FINAL SCORES

	1	2	Cum	3	Cum	4	Tot
Lavazza	34	28	62	29	91	18	109
Russia	9	27	36	28	64	39	103

THIRD-PLACE PLAYOFF SCORES

	1	2	Cum	3	Cum	4	Tot
H. Jalan	40	47	87	44	131	—	131
DSM	23	6	29	8	37	WD	37

NZBridge

New Zealand Congress

Hamilton

September 24-October 1, 2016

Nick Jacob & Mark Hangartner, Auckland

This year's Congress was brightened considerably by the news that Michael Cornell and Ashley Bach had been awarded joint gold medals in the National Open Pairs just completed in Wroclaw, Poland. Hot on the heels of that victory, Bach and Cornell joined GeO Tislevoll and Michael Ware to win the New Zealand Teams (again!). The NZ Pairs was taken by Tony Nunn and Pete Hollands.

The French Connection

Board 13. Dealer North. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
T. Jacob	Josnin	Mace	Cheval
—	Pass	1♣	1♦
Double	2♦	4♣	5♦
Double	Pass	Pass	Pass

Hervé Cheval and Gilles Josnin are two names you may have noticed from tournaments in the Pacific region. The pair from Nouvelle-Calédonie played in the 2015 APBF in Thailand and qualified for the A Final at the Gold Coast Pairs earlier this year. Cheval demonstrated fine declarer play on this deal from the first session of Pairs qualifying.

After a non-descriptive auction in which South concealed his spades, West, Tom Jacob, was expecting a juicy penalty. He led the ace of clubs, saw his partner's suit preference card, and switched to a spade to the queen, king and ace. The ace of diamonds revealed the bad break, after which the ten of diamonds was passed through West. After crossing to dummy with the queen of diamonds, South had to find a safe way of returning to his hand to draw the last trump. Both black suits would have failed, but Josnin navigated the position safely, exiting from dummy with the queen of hearts. With both top heart honours in West, there was no way to promote the jack of diamonds.

Lightning Crashes

Board 24. Dealer West. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Nunn		Hollands	
1♣	1♦ ¹	3♥ ²	Double ³
Redouble ⁴	Pass	4♣	Pass
4♠	Pass	4NT ⁵	Pass
5♥ ⁶	Pass	6♣	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. Heart overcall
2. Splinter
3. Heart support
4. First-round heart control
5. RKCB
6. Two key cards, no queen of clubs

Continued on page 12 ...



IBPA Column Service

Tim Bourke, Canberra

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

829. Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

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

1. Two key cards and the queen of trumps. North knew that his side had at least a ten-card fit.

West led the king of hearts. Declarer could count ten top tricks, with an eleventh to come from ruffing dummy's second heart. As West was the favourite to have the king of diamonds for his overcall, it appeared that declarer would have to rely on making four tricks in the club suit to make his contract.

Declarer showed that this was at best a half-truth. He won the first trick with the ace of hearts, cashed the king of trumps and played a low trump to dummy's ten. Declarer ruffed the nine of hearts in hand, cashed the king of clubs and played the nine of clubs to dummy's queen. Next, he led the three of clubs and, when East followed with the eight, declarer covered this with the ten. When that held, declarer claimed his contract, making five trumps, a heart, a heart ruff, the ace of diamonds and four clubs.

"That was a rather lucky guess in clubs," said East.

"Not at all," replied declarer. "If the ten of clubs had lost to the jack, West would have had only red cards left and would either have had to lead away from the king of diamonds or to concede a ruff-and-discard by exiting with a heart."

"Also, if West had started with four clubs to the jack, I would have won the third round of clubs with the king and endplayed him with a club." The declarer concluded his remarks with, "So, as long as West started with the king of diamonds, my plan guaranteed the contract."

830. Dealer West. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
1♦	Double	Pass	1♥
2♦	4♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			

This deal came up in a teams match and the auction was the same at both tables. Each West began by leading the king of diamonds, asking for count, and continuing with the queen of diamonds.

The first declarer ruffed the second diamond with dummy's four of trumps and cashed the ace and king of trumps. When West discarded a diamond, declarer knew he was in trouble, and had to rely on West having both the king and queen of spades. Declarer cashed the three top clubs then led the jack of spades from dummy. West took this with the king and forced dummy by exiting with the jack of diamonds. Declarer ruffed then played dummy's remaining trump to East's queen. East now led the nine of clubs which declarer ruffed. When a spade to the jack lost to East's queen, declarer was down one.

The second declarer saw that he would need entries to hand if he wanted to take two finesses in spades, so he ruffed the second diamond with dummy's king of hearts and led a low trump from the table. After his seven of trumps held the trick (it is no better for the defence for East to win with the queen of hearts), declarer led a low spade to the six, ten and East's queen. East exited with a diamond, which was ruffed low in dummy. Declarer cashed the ace of hearts, followed by the three top clubs. East was put on lead with a trump to his queen and he could do no better than exit with the thirteenth club. Declarer ruffed this in hand and threw the four of spades from dummy. As expected, a spade to the jack won and this declarer made ten tricks.

831. Dealer West. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	Pass	INT
Pass	3NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

West led the three of hearts. Declarer took East's ten with the jack and played the queen of clubs. East took this with the ace and returned the five of hearts to the four, nine and ace. Declarer continued with a low club to the ten and West's king. West cashed the king and two other hearts to set the contract one trick.

"Perhaps I should have tested the spades and, if they were 3-3, tried the diamond finesse," declarer offered.

"Rubbish," said North, allowing some of his disappointment with this feeble effort of declarer-play to show. "All you had to do was let the ten of hearts hold at trick one. As the cards lie, East would not have been able to do better than play the five of hearts at trick two. West would have covered the queen of hearts with the king and dummy's ace would have won the second trick. At trick three you would have played a club and the defence would have been helpless. If East had won the ace of clubs, he would have been out of hearts, while if West won the trick, he could have set up the heart suit, but would have lacked the entries to cash them. You would have made three spades and two tricks in each of the other suits and, by the way, the contract."

832. Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

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

West led the jack of hearts and declarer paused to form a plan. Declarer correctly assessed that the main danger to the contract was from East gaining the lead and switching to clubs. If South had a trump loser, he would have at best a guess in clubs to make the contract and also, he would lose four tricks if West had both the ace and queen of clubs.

As the aim was to stop East from gaining the lead, declarer played low from dummy at trick one and allowed the jack of hearts to win the first trick. After winning the heart continuation with the ace, declarer was about to play the ace of trumps when he thought of an extra chance, West having a singleton queen of trumps. So he led a low trump at trick three and was rewarded when the queen appeared. Putting his plan into action, declarer played low from dummy.

West knew from the opening bid that declarer had to hold both the king and queen of diamonds. So he exited with a diamond, which declarer won in hand. After drawing trumps with the ace and king, declarer claimed ten tricks: four trumps, a heart and five diamonds.



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The recently-crowned New Zealand Pairs champions are Pete Hollands and Tony Nunn. Hollands downplayed his field-topping 66.6% when interviewed. He attributed the following great result to, “not knowing who had extra values, each of us wanting to co-operate in case the other held a good hand ... and Tony totally bossing the play!”

Nunn found himself at the helm in an ambitious slam that appears hopeless on the lie of the cards, even looking at all four hands. Nunn won the three-of-hearts lead with his ace and drew three rounds of trumps ending in hand.

The transfer overcall and the distribution revealed a few clues. Firstly, South hadn't raised to four hearts despite holding a singleton club, which suggested only three-card heart support. Secondly, North hadn't made a weak jump overcall and was thus likely to hold the ace of diamonds. When Nunn played a diamond toward the king and North played low, the straightforward line of playing for the queen of diamonds onside seemed unlikely to work. So Nunn played the king of diamonds, then ducked a diamond to North's now-bare ace. Declarer trumped the heart return and pedalled trumps to squeeze South between spades and diamonds. Plus 920 was a shared top and a big contributor to Nunn and Hollands' marvellous session.

Coup La La!

Joan Butts is one of Australia's premier bridge teachers and a former international. Her efforts on this board from the Plate were stellar.

Board 1. Dealer North. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Coutts</i>	<i>Doran</i>	<i>N. Jacob</i>	<i>Butts</i>
—	Pass	Pass	1♠
Double	Redouble	2♥	3♦
Pass	4♦	Pass	4♠
Pass	5♦	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Five diamonds was fraught with danger. Butts won the jack-of-hearts lead with the ace, crossed to the ace of clubs and won a finesse of the ten of diamonds. A diamond to the queen and ace exposed the bad break, and James Coutts began the heart tap. Butts ruffed in

hand to try sneaking the nine of spades by, but Coutts pounced on this to play a third heart. This was the position:

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

Butts continued with two rounds of spades, pitching hearts, then two clubs ending in hand. West had been reduced to his two trumps and Coutts was trump-couped for a magnificent plus 400.

Careful Management

Nico Ranson showed off a bit on this board from Australia's Youth Teams Test Match against New Zealand.

Board 21. Dealer North. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Brown</i>	<i>Ranson</i>	<i>Pattison</i>	<i>Rhodes</i>
—	1♠	Double	2♠
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠
Double	Pass	Pass	Pass

After a bit of rather undisciplined bidding (they are Juniors after all), East led the queen of clubs; that gave Ranson a chance of bringing home his vulnerable doubled game. He won trick one with the ace of clubs and immediately finessed the ten of clubs, then discarded his heart on the king of clubs.

Ranson led a diamond towards his honours. East took the king with his ace and switched to a low heart, West's ace being ruffed. Ranson led a low spade to the queen and ace and played another diamond toward his hand, a good idea in case West was short in diamonds, as West would be ruffing a loser.

After winning with his queen of diamonds, Ranson exited with a diamond to East's jack, setting up the

suit. West discarded a heart. East led another heart, ruffed by declarer. Ranson ruffed a good diamond with the jack of spades and led a heart from the dummy. Reduced to the ten-nine-seven of spades, West inserted the nine. Ranson finessed the eight on the forced spade return to score plus 790.

In the four-card ending, with diamonds set up and two trumps in each hand, Ranson could also have discarded a heart from the dummy to allow West to make his natural trump winner one trick earlier. That, however, would not have been so elegant.



This year's Festival was another success story for the Swedish Bridge Federation. A new attendance record of 4209 tables was set. The flagship event of the Festival is the Chairman's Cup. This year, 173 teams from 14 countries participated. With eight teams remaining, there were two teams each from England, Denmark and Norway and one each from Lithuania and Sweden. Lithuania (Vitas Vainikonis, Wojciech Olanski, Apolinary Kowalski, Jerzy Russyan, Andrei Arlovich and Erikas Vainikonis) defeated Denmark Open II (Ole Raulund, Thomas Vang Larsen, Michael Askgård, Kasper Konow) 140-118 in the final.

Dealer West. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Mårten	Kent	Adam	Conny
Gustawsson	Karlsson	Stokka	Svensson
1♦	2♦ ¹	2♠	Pass
3♦	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♦ ²	Pass	6NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. Spades and another suit
2. 0 or 3 key cards

An essential for any good bridge article is a good deal. Beautiful declarer play by the new European Under-26 Pairs champion, Adam Stokka, was displayed on this deal from the Chairman's Cup.

The bidding and opening lead were very revealing to Stokka. North's second suit was shown to be clubs when South led the ten of that suit. Stokka won the lead with dummy's ace and finessed the ten of spades. Declarer then cashed the ace of hearts and played a low heart toward the queen – North could have held the king-doubleton of hearts.

South won the queen of hearts with the king and returned the ten of hearts. Stokka won that with the jack and cashed all of his winners in the black suits to squeeze South in the reds – South had to come down to three diamonds to guard the heart suit. When South kept his heart seven, Stokka threw dummy's then-unneeded four of hearts. Declarer cashed the ace of diamonds and could finish with a certain finesse of the jack of diamonds to claim his contract with four spade tricks, two hearts, four diamonds and two clubs.

Curiously, declarer could also have made six notrump by squeezing North in the black suits.

Next year's Swedish Bridge Festival with the Chairman's Cup will be held in Örebro, from July 28 to August 6, 2017. All are welcome!

THE NAME OF THE GAME

The Results of Hans Secelle's Research

Bob van de Velde, Amsterdam

In the post scriptum to his letter published in the August issue (619), about his reprint of John Collinson's famous pamphlet *Biritch, or Russian whist* (1886), David Rex-Taylor reopened the discussion about the etymology and meaning of the word 'biritch'. He repeats the until-then most-plausible explanation, given by Robert True in the 1970's, and also still presented in the latest editions of *The Official Encyclopedia of Bridge*. In the next *Bulletin* issue (620), Tim Bourke imparts his finding of ten years ago to us, offering the statement of a certain George Noel Baker, published in 1936, that the name of the game "was called 'berich' (pronounced bay-reech, both syllables unaccented). When the dealer could not make a trump he merely said: 'Berich!'".

Although Bourke referred to Thierry Depaulis as the best bridge historian he knows ("If you want any truly accurate information on the origins of bridge, Thierry is your man."), in this case he also could have named the Belgian bridge historian Hans Secelle, who is carrying out research explicitly on the Russian, Austrian

and German origins of our game of bridge. In the October 2011 issue (561), I mentioned that in the Russian game of Yerolash (Jarolasch), Secelle found concrete evidence for former, rather vague, or unsubstantiated assumptions about the Russian origin of some of the key features of the later game of bridge. His results up to then were also published in the 7th edition of *The Official Encyclopedia of Bridge* (p.12).

In 2014, Secelle published *Bridge, de geschiedenis van een kaartspel (The History of a Card Game)*, hopefully as the first step to a more comprehensive work in English. We hope to publish some of the results of his recent research in the Dutch bridge magazine *IMP* and its website in the near future. However, in the context of the renewed discussion about 'biritch', it seems sensible to present here part of his findings with regard to the etymology and meaning of the word 'biritch'.

Thanks to Paul Linxwiler, editor of the *ACBL Bridge Bulletin*, Secelle found this interesting contribution in the September 1925 issue of the *British Auction Bridge Magazine*:

BIRITCH.

BY THE RESEARCH EDITOR.

MAY I make a suggestion as to the origin of this word? There is a word in Russian, "beretch," which means "to take care," e.g., the Russian equivalent of our "God helps those that help themselves" is "berejennovo Bog berejet" — "God takes care of one who takes care," in which the inflected verb occurs twice.

It is just possible that "beretch" was used as a call for No-Trumps, as a warning that the highest call was being made; vowels easily go wrong in trying to put foreign sounds into Latin characters.

Who the "Research Editor" of *Auction Bridge Magazine* was is unknown. Secelle thinks, as an educated guess, it could have been card-game expert par excellence Robert Frederic Foster. To me, it seems likely that Foster had some knowledge of the Russian language and of Russian card games, because he was probably also the first to discover the importance of the game of Yerolash. What is more, in the same passage in his *Foster's Bridge Manual* (New York 1900; Brentano's), in which he mentioned Yerolash, he writes: "Another variation has long been popular in Holland" (p. X). By lack of knowledge of any specific Dutch game that qualifies, he probably had one of the three editions of *Beknopte handleiding tot het gemakkelijk en grondig leeren van het whistspel* at his disposal. In this booklet he could have read, or at least seen, the chapter *Favorite-whist, Cayenne-spel en Russisch whist* (p. 72-82). What makes this source all the more

interesting is the year of the first edition of the booklet, 1874, 12 years before John Collinson's pamphlet introduced Russian whist in England! My educated guess is that Foster believed 'Russisch whist' to be that other variation, long popular in Holland, but he then didn't realise that the sources of this Dutch booklet were, in fact, Austrian publications. For bibliographers: at the same publishing house, Van G.B. van Goor Zonen, Gouda, the 2nd edition appeared in 1887 and 3rd edition, undated, probably a few years later.

For the moment, it is important that the possible Foster confirmation was made 11 years before Tim Bourke's source stating that another explanation of the origin of the word 'bridge' is more plausible than the one proposed by Robert True in the '70's. The weakness of True's statement is evident: how is it possible that an old word, sunk in oblivion — б(і)ирюч(ь) in Cyrillic, pronounced as bee-r'ooch and only in use in Old Church Slavonic or in Slavonic dialects during the period 1000-1700 — can become the name of a highly sophisticated game, played by the upper classes at the end of the 19th century? Secelle was astonished when he found that, as far as he knew, nobody in the West seemed to have consulted Russian linguists or historians about the origin of a word that was passed down to us in the transliterated form 'biritch'. So, when he came into contact with Dr. Olga Yatskaer, formerly a professor of Slavonic History in St. Petersburg, and her husband Dmitri Yatskaer, both keen players of the popular Russian game of Preferans, he seized the opportunity to show them the Research Editor's article and asked their opinion about the word 'biritch'. Their extensive comments, here summarized, were quite interesting ...

"(...) There is a verb беречь (*infinitive form*) which means 'to protect', 'to keep', 'to take care', 'to save', 'to spare'. (...) Technically it might be used as the imperative form as well and (...) its different meanings are very close to those of "garder" in French. In the most common Russian pronunciation (those used in St. Petersburg and Moscow), we say it as "bee-réché". Now, whether an Englishman could have overheard a conversation somewhere in a Russian tavern and interpret it as "bridge"... basically, why not?"

Putting the theory to the test, Secelle decided to paste беречь in Google Translate and, having clicked the sound icon, an exotic voice slowly uttered "biritch", pronouncing the vowels in exactly the same way that we say "be rich". Expanding further, we can safely assume that 'bridge' is the —almost inevitable— corruption of the word 'biritch', but with another meaning than 'announcement' or 'to announce'.

In my opinion, from this explanation, the origin of the word has been cleared up. As Thierry Depaulis proposed in 2011, we should now try to find that moment in the history of our game when the name of yerolash and other designations of the forerunners of bridge (not vint) were replaced by biritch. To be sure, a difficult task!



Overlooked in Wroclaw

Mark Horton, Sutton Benger, Wilts., UK

Since there is such a huge number of boards played, it is very easy for excellent deals from major events to be overlooked. Such as the following two ...

God Moves in Mestiri(ous) Ways

In a situation where you are a trick short of the required number, it can be a sound strategy to play off your long suit before committing yourself. Take a look at this deal from the match between Poland and Tunisia from Round 1 of the Open Teams.

Board 6. Dealer East. EW Vul.

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

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

1. (i) Balanced GF, (ii) Minor-suit GF, (iii) Major-suit strong (cannot GF)
2. 4+ HCP
3. RKCB
4. 1/4 key cards
5. King ask
6. No side kings

At the other table, Jassem and Mazurkiewicz had stopped in four spades, so there was plenty riding on the result at this table.

South led the eight of diamonds (would you have found a heart lead?). Declarer won in hand with the ace and drew trumps. With time in hand, he continued with four more rounds of spades; South pitched the

five, two, six and nine of diamonds, while North parted with the seven and three of diamonds, the three of clubs and the jack of diamonds. Declarer threw the queen of diamonds and three hearts from the dummy. When declarer cashed the king of diamonds, everyone threw a heart to leave this position:

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

Declarer cashed the last spade. South had to part with a heart – pitching a club would have allowed declarer to play the ace and another club. Reading the position perfectly, declarer discarded dummy's queen of hearts, played a heart to the ace and then a club, covering North's six with the eight to force South to lead into the ace-queen of clubs.

What a wonderful feeling it must have been for Anas Mestiri – and against the reigning Bermuda Bowl champions.

Classical French

On this deal from the Open Teams Final, Frank Multon showed why he has won so many titles:

Board 18. Dealer East. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Muller	Multon	De Wijs	Zimmermann
—	—	Pass	Pass
1♠	1NT	2♥	2♠
Pass	3NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

East led the two of hearts. Declarer discarded a club from the dummy and ducked West's queen. North won the next heart, pitching a diamond from dummy, played a club to the queen and a club back for the jack, king and ace.

There was no future in continuing with hearts, so East switched to the eight of spades. Declarer won with the queen, cashed two clubs (West discarding spades) and the king of hearts, throwing two diamonds from dummy, and played a spade to the jack and ace. He won the spade return and, knowing that West had only diamonds left, he played the two from his hand and claimed – he knew that he was bound to score two diamond tricks (East could not have held both the king and queen of diamonds and not continued hearts). It was a bravura performance that was rewarded with plus 600.



SVENSKA
BRIDGEFÖRBUNDET

Brilliances from the Swedish Premier League Mikael Grönqvist, Stockholm

Last month, the final five rounds of the Swedish Premier League were played. The format is a complete Round Robin among 12 teams where a 'mere' four teams are relegated at the end of the season. Winners of the event were Harplinge Bridgeklub, consisting of the Rimstedt family (twins Ola and Mikael, second-oldest sister Cecilia and dad Magnus) and the Dutch pair (but nowadays also a little Swedish/Norwegian respectively) Marion Michielsen and Meike Wortel. They won by more than a match, an impressive achievement in a tough field. I thought I would share what I think were the best-played, best-defended and best-bid deals of the tournament in some sort of unofficial brilliancy-prize awards.

Best-Played Deal

Try your hand at this play problem in four spades:

Dealer South. NS Vul.

♠ Q J 9 8 5 4
♥ A 9 3
♦ A 9
♣ 10 7

♠ A 10 7 3 2
♥ K 8 2
♦ 6
♣ K J 6 2

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

Taking advantage of the limited one-spade opener, North jumped directly to four spades so as not to give the opponents a chance to find a good sacrifice. West led the jack of hearts – what's your plan?

You could, of course, hope for one of the two club honours onside, or that you could guess the trumps, but there is a much better plan available considering that (a.) East cannot afford to overtake the jack of hearts with the queen without setting up a finesse position of the ace-nine in dummy, and (b.) hearts are unlikely to be 5-2 after the takeout double.

Tom Gärd's (coach of the Swedish junior teams) ducked the first trick! West continued with hearts, but now Gärd's could win in hand, play a diamond to the ace and ruff a diamond in hand. A heart to dummy eliminated that suit and he could now run the queen of spades, knowing that he would make the contract independently of the spade layout. If West won with the stiff king of spades, he would be endplayed, and if East showed out, Gärd's could go up with the ace and endplay West on the second round of trumps instead.

The entire deal was:

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

Had East played the queen of hearts on the second round of the suit, Gärd's would have had a difficult guess to make about whether to guess spades or try for the elimination.

East/West had a profitable sacrifice available in five diamonds. This was reached at most tables after North started with a limit-raise-or-better two notrump, allowing East to enter the auction. North/South then competed to five spades. That contract hinged on both the lead (on a heart lead South always goes down) and on guessing the trumps, but most declarers got it right. Tom Gärd's lost an IMP for his brilliant effort.

Best-Defended Deal

First, try playing in the three-notrump contract diagrammed at the top of the next page.

West leads a standard ten of spades, which you duck. Another spade goes to the king and you duck once more. A heart shift from East is won by West's king and he now sets up his nine of spades by returning the queen. As you win the trick with the ace, East discards the king of diamonds! How do you plan the play from here?

Dealer North. Neither Vul.

♠ J 7 2
 ♥ Q 5
 ♦ 10 6 4 3
 ♣ A K 6 3

♠ A 5 4 3
 ♥ A 9 8
 ♦ A Q 8 7
 ♣ Q 7

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

South, former Swedish international Tobias Törnqvist, deduced that East was trying to create an entry to his partner's high spade via the jack of diamonds and that the layout of the East/West hands would therefore be something like:

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

He thus planned to throw West in with the nine of spades to lead away from his diamond jack in a three-card ending. Winning with the ace of spades, Törnqvist cashed the two top hearts and the three top clubs, West following to all, before coming to hand with a high diamond, intending to endplay West with a spade. As the following was the actual layout, his plan was foiled when West exited with a heart in the true end position:

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

East, Swedish Open Team Captain, PG Eliasson, had noticed that defensive prospects were looking grim after the start and decided that the only chance of

beating three notrump would be to give South a chance to go wrong by throwing the king of diamonds – a play worthy of just this outcome, two off!

At another table, Peter Fredin also found the king of diamonds discard, but not after taking quite some time to do so, and being very close to pitching a low heart (so close that Fredin had detached the heart and declarer could actually see it). Declarer, Simon Ekenberg, realised that from an original 2=4=2=5, East would rather pitch a club than a heart, so he instead played Fredin to be 2=4=3=4 and made his contract with an overtrick.

Best-Bid Deal

That the tournament winner was already decided with one match to go didn't stop the Rimstedt twins from bidding to the best contract on this freak deal in the last round:

Dealer South. EW Vul.

♠ J 8 6 2
 ♥ 6 5
 ♦ J 9 5 2
 ♣ 9 7 6

♠ K 10 3
 ♥ A
 ♦ A K Q 3
 ♣ K Q J 4 3

♠ A Q 9 5
 ♥ 4
 ♦ 8 6 4
 ♣ A 10 8 5 2

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Ola R.</i>	<i>P.-O. Cullin</i>	<i>Mikael R.</i>	<i>S. Ekenberg</i>
—	—	—	4♥
Double	Pass	4♠	5♥
5NT	Pass	7♣	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Seven clubs was a great contract that the Rimstedts were the only one of three pairs to reach. Another chance to shine in the bidding, however, was Per-Ola Cullin's as North. Considering that his partner had bid twice on his own and that he didn't have any surprise defensive tricks he could and perhaps should have sacrificed in seven hearts. South couldn't do that, as partner easily might have had a trick and it was therefore up to North to save.

Had Cullin bid seven hearts, East/West could then still have gained their maximum possible score by bidding on to seven spades (and guessing the trumps) or to seven notrump (squeezing North in the pointed suits). Nevertheless, seven clubs making was worth 17 IMPs when South bought it in five hearts doubled for minus 500 at the other table.

Betty Ann Kennedy

1930-2016



Betty Ann Kennedy, a five-time world champion, died on October 30. She lived in Shreveport, Louisiana. Kennedy won the Venice Cup in 1974, 1976 and 2003, the Olympiad Women's Teams in 1984 and the World Women's Pairs in 1982. She was second in the World Women's Pairs in 1978. Kennedy won 16 NABC titles and had 14 second-place finishes.

Kennedy was known for her genteel Southern charm, an attribute that earned her the Sidney H. Lazard Jr. Sportsmanship Award in 2011. In their playing days, Kennedy and long-time partner Carol Sanders, from Nashville, Tennessee, also a Hall of Fame member, were affectionately known as "The Belles".

Kennedy was also a former member of NABC and WBF Appeals Committees, a past vice-president of ACBL Unit 170, and was for many years Chairman of the ACBL Unit 170 Appeals Committee.

In 1990, Kennedy was elected to the Shreveport-Bossier Sports Hall of Fame. She was inducted into the Louisiana Hall of Fame in 1993, having been just the second woman to be so honoured. In 2005, Kennedy was inducted into the ACBL Bridge Hall of Fame.



Yeh Online Bridge World Cup

Anna Gudge,
Stromness,
Orkney Is., U.K.

Bridge across the World

The introduction of the IBM Personal Computer in 1981, combined with the launch of the Internet in 1990, marked a new era for mankind, especially for everyone connected with bridge. It suddenly became possible for bridge players from all corners of the planet to interact and play together, even though they were separated by thousands of miles. The language of bridge bidding and play uses only 15 words and, with all selections made via a mouseclick, people from any country, speaking any language, can play together.

Utilising the immense power of the computer brought dramatic changes to bridge. Scoring no longer had to be done by hand – the computer could deliver the results just seconds after the final deal had been completed. Meanwhile, software experts set out to harness the immense power of the computer. Fred Gitelman and Sheri Winestock founded Bridge Base Online, a company that would change the face of bridge forever. Their initial products were analytical tools designed for serious students of bridge and were quickly followed by the development of software that was designed to allow players to learn how to play and improve their technical skills.

The launch of Bridge Base Online (BBO) in 2001 enabled players to meet in competition without leaving home and the same technology allowed spectators to follow the action. The BBO software provides pictures of cards and a chat window, and has become the leading system of relaying real-life hands online. BBO transmits world-class tournaments live so that the user can watch deals being played anywhere in the world in real time. In these tournaments, there is an operator clicking the cards that they see the competitors play so that everyone on BBO can watch. In the biggest tournaments, live commentary is provided by a team of experts.

The results of the introduction of this technology were dramatic; during the final of the 2003 World Championships in Monaco, more than 20,000 online spectators attempted to follow the final of the Bermuda Bowl between Italy and the USA, exceeding the capacity of the server.

The First Yeh Online Bridge World Cup

The First Yeh Online Bridge World Cup heralds the start of a new chapter in the history of bridge – all matches were played online in three different time zones: Beijing, China; Seattle, WA, USA; and Torino, Italy. The winning team was Lavazza (Norberto Bocchi, Bénédicte Cronier, Giorgio Duboin, Emanuela Lavazza, Agustin Madala and Sylvie Willard, with NPC Maria Teresa Lavazza).

The concept of the tournament was to showcase bridge as a modern game, using all the technology available to promote a dynamic image and attract as much media attention as possible. Bridge ambassadors Bill Gates, Guo Jinlong, Giuseppe Lavazza and Chen Yeh were heavily involved.

After the event, Bill Gates tweeted: *“This morning I played in the first-ever online @BridgeWorldCup. I hope this draws more people to the card game I love playing.”*

Articles about the event, bulletins, biographies of the players, play records and photographs can be found at <http://bridgeonlineworldcup.com/press/>.

Also, see:

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/bridgeonlineworldcup/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/BridgeWorldCup>



Correspondence

The Editor reserves the right to abridge and/or edit correspondence.
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The Pairs scoring disaster in Wroclaw and our subsequent Bulletin editorial produced a spate of correspondence, focussing mainly on factual errors. Nicolas Hammond, ex-ACBL scoring programmer, Matt Smith, one of the TDs in Wroclaw, and Michael Cornell, one of the (eventual) winners of the Open Pairs, all pointed out one or more of the following errors:

1. The score received by Auken/Welland on the board in question was plus 450, not plus 650.
2. Not all sessions in the Pair events in Wroclaw were run as Howells – a few were Mitchells.
3. ‘Reviewers’ do not check scores; ‘scorers’, i.e., the BridgeMate operators (North) and their screenmate opponents (East), are supposed to do that.
4. All events did not play the same boards: the A and B finals of the Open Pairs played different boards.
5. To prevent collusion, Howell movements are superior to Mitchells.
6. There are better double-dummy programs than GiB.
7. If recorded opening-lead errors were included, there was an average of 79 errors per 10-board session, rather more than the 20 errors per session mentioned in the editorial.

All of this further underlines the need for drastic action to be taken to prevent this ever happening again.

NEWS & VIEWS



Summer Bridge Camp in China

From July 1 to July 9, over 800 students attended the summer camp of the Shanghai Shengxing Teenage Bridge Club. Competitions were arranged in six age/bridge skill groups.

UNC and Bridge

The University of North Carolina (Chapel Hill) Bridge Club received notification last month that it was being decertified by the university because bridge “is a game of chance”. Decertification meant that the club would no longer be eligible for university funding and that “meetings” would no longer be permitted on campus..

In the face of a storm of protest and a mountain of evidence to the contrary, the university reversed its decision within a week. We salute UNC officialdom for having the good sense and courage to admit its mistake.

Anna Maria Torlontano

(Continued from page 1)

Her administrative skills led to Anna Maria becoming the first woman to be elected to the Board of the European Bridge League in 1985. She was given the task of managing and organising Women’s Bridge in Europe; she formed the European Women’s Committee, acting as its Chairman and, eventually, Chairman Emeritus. In 1986, she organized the first European Women’s Pairs Championship. In 1992, she was elected to represent the European Bridge League on the Board of the World Bridge Federation. In 1995, she was named Vice-President of the European Bridge League and in 1999 she was awarded the EBL gold medal for her services. In the WBF, Torlontano was appointed Chairman of the World Women’s Committee. In that role, she initiated the WBF/BBO online Women’s Bridge Festivals.

Anna Maria Torlontano was a major force in the bridge world. Her energy, dedication, administrative skill, passion, professionalism and vivaciousness were astonishing. We shall not see her like again.

World Bridge Calendar

DATES	EVENT	LOCATION	INFORMATION
2016			
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.wbfwomwnsbridgeclub.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
Dec 12-18	58th Indian Winter Nationals	Jaipur, Rajasthan, India	www.bfi.net.in
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 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	kornelistammens@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.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.confsubridge.org
May 3-9	USBF Women's Trials	Schaumburg, IL	www.usbf.org
May 9-13	7 th South American Transnationals	Santiago, Chile	www.confsubridge.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 10-19	Alaska Regional	At Sea	www.acbl.org
Jul 15-27	Australian National Championships	Canberra, Australia	www.abf.com.au
Jul 20-30	ACBL Summer NABC	Toronto, Ontario	www.acbl.org
Jul 28-Aug 6	23 rd Swedish Bridge Festival	Örebro, Sweden	www.svenskbridge.se/festival-2017
Jul 29-Aug 3	Chairman's Cup	Örebro, Sweden	www.svenskbridge.se/eng
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