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THE INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE PRESS ASSOCIATION

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This Bulletin is published monthly and circulated to around 300 members of the International Bridge Press Association comprising the world's leading journalists, authors and editors of news, books and articles about contract bridge, with an estimated readership of some 200 million people who enjoy the most widely played of all card games.

Bulletin No. 623

December 10, 2016

Editorial

“The Good, the Bad and the Ugly”

The recent World Bridge Games in Wroclaw, Poland might have been scripted by Sergio Leone himself.

The Good

The new format for these Games was as perfect as could be. Every WBF NBO was permitted to enter one team in each of the four categories: Open, Women's, Senior, Mixed. Corresponding National Pair events overlapped slightly with the Teams events, allowing an unlimited number of pairs to play, as long as each player in the pair was from the same country. Teams failing to make the Quarterfinals in their event were allowed to drop into the respective Pairs event after three days (with four days to go), either at the Semifinal stage (Open, Mixed) or to finish the telescoped Qualifying/Semifinal stage (Women's, Senior). Having 16 teams qualify for two-day knockout matches was also very good, making the events more exciting for more teams.

Wroclaw is a lovely city in which to stage such an event: affluent, and with beautiful architecture in the old city. With about 20% of the population at university, the city is also young and vibrant. Restaurants, cafés and bars around the main square and the universities were packed every evening. Food was good and reasonably priced. Transportation, whether by taxi or tram, was cheap and convenient. The playing site, Hala Stulecia, was also very good: spacious, well-lit, comfortable, with many food options.

The Bad

Chief among the dreadful aspects of the tournament were the scoring errors, detailed in an earlier IBPA Bulletin and exhaustively discussed on Bridgewinners. The WBF moved quickly to redress the injustices as soon as they were made apparent, although not all observers were happy with the WBF's chosen resolution, joint gold medals in the Open and Women's Pairs.

All the hotels were kilometres from the playing site, making walking to and from inconvenient at best. Shuttles were arranged to the playing site from some hotels each morning, but the players were responsible for their own transportation back to their hotels or to dinner after the games were completed each day.

The Ugly

The main hall of Hala Stulecia was the playing site. There is a smaller administration building about 40 metres away that contains a restaurant, an auditorium (that served as the VuGraph Theatre), offices and administration desks. Between the two buildings there is a covered walkway. Before, during and after play, the pall of cigarette smoke in this walkway was disgusting. Anyone who wanted to get from one building to the other had to wade through dozens of smokers and their vile exhalations. This was a serious health hazard and could easily have been prevented by moving the smokers to a designated smoking area between the buildings, but 30 metres away.

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Spring Freaks

With both sides vulnerable, what is your opening bid with:

♠ —
 ♥ A K J 6 5 2
 ♦ 5
 ♣ A K J 8 4 2

With only three losers, you have the playing strength for a two-club, game-forcing opening. The trouble with two clubs is that it will be very hard to describe your extreme shape. As you have only 16 HCP, it is highly unlikely that a one-heart opening will be passed out. Thus ...

West	North	East	South
—	—	—	1♥
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♣ ¹
Pass	2♦ ²	Pass	?

1. 4+ clubs, forcing
2. Fourth-suit, forcing to game

What now?

You can bid three clubs and try to catch up later, but a better move is to jump to four clubs over two diamonds. This describes your hand well as a 6-6 pattern with strong suits.

In the auction given, South bids four clubs and North jumps to six clubs: Pass, Pass, Pass. On the diagram following, cover the East/West cards and plan your play in six clubs on the ten-of-diamonds lead.

Board 13. Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

It would be good to have agreements over four clubs about how to set hearts or clubs as trumps or to deny support for either. North's jump to six clubs was a practical move, trusting the nature of South's four-club bid.

Against six clubs, West led a deceptive ten of diamonds. South must decide whether to discard four heart losers on the top spades and diamonds or whether to take three

discards and ruff a heart. Both would work, provided declarer takes a later trump finesse when East overruffs and is forced to give South another dummy entry. After taking four discards, South must decide whether to take a club finesse or play for clubs 3-2. The club finesse caters for queen-fourth onside and was necessary in practice. The danger of the club finesse is that West can win with the queen from queen-ten-third and plays a card that East can ruff with the nine of clubs to uppercut declarer for a second trump loser.

Next ... What would you lead as West from ... ?

♠ J 4
 ♥ K J 6
 ♦ Q J 9 8 2
 ♣ 10 8 6

West	North	East	South
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	2♣ ¹	2♥	2♠
3♥	4NT	Pass	5♦ ²
Pass	7♠	Double	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. Artificial, forcing to game
2. One key card for spades

Without the double, a heart lead is normal. Double asks for a non-heart lead.

Board 14. Dealer South. Neither Vul.

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

On the queen-of-diamonds lead, seven spades doubled is two down. On a non-diamond lead, seven spades will make. South can set up the clubs with one ruff to discard all four diamonds. North's seven spades was an enterprising move. It would have worked if South's key card had been the ace of diamonds (quite likely) or West's lead a heart. Played by North, six spades is unbeatable.

Blood Sports

In the semi-finals of the Spring National Open Teams, MILNE (Liam Milne/Nye Griffiths, Sartaj Hans/Andy Hung), played MARKEY (Phil Markey/Ben Thompson, Howard Melbourne/John Newman) and had a 5.8 IMP carry-forward; FLEISCHER (George Fleischer, Alasdair Beck, Adam Edgton, Murray Green, Ron Speiser), with a 1.1 IMP carry-forward, played KANETKAR (Avi Kanetkar/Bruce Neill, Pauline Gumby/Warren Lazer).

Board. 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Newman	Hung	Melbourne	Hans
—	—	1♠	2♠ ¹
Double	Redouble ²	Pass	3♦
Double	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. Hearts and a minor
2. Bid your minor

The problem for West was that he could not draw dummy's trumps after he began with a low trump. South captured East's jack of diamonds and played the queen of hearts. West won and switched to the four of clubs, queen, ace, nine. East took the king of spades and South next ruffed the ace of spades with the ace of diamonds. Then came the jack of hearts, five, spade eight, heart ten. South lost a trick in each suit, North/South plus 670.

To defeat three diamonds, West had to lead a club. East would have won and switched to the jack of diamonds. Then West could have cleared dummy's trumps and prevented any heart ruff. East could also have played a top spade at trick two and continued spades.

West	North	East	South
Milne	Markey	Griffiths	Thompson
—	—	1♠	3♣ ¹
Double	3♦	4♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. Hearts and diamonds

South led the nine of clubs. East won and played the spade ace, spade king, diamond jack. South took the ace of diamonds and East could not avoid three trump losers, one off, minus 50 and a loss of 12 IMPs. In the other match both Easts failed in spade contracts.

The next board sparked much discussion.

Best Hand Ever

The second week of the Spring Nationals takes in the Linda Stern Women's Teams and the Bobby Evans Senior Teams. Numbers were up in both events, 22 in the Women's (13 in 2015) and 24 in the Seniors (19 in 2015).

The most powerful hand I have ever picked up arose in the Senior Teams. You are vulnerable against not.

Left-hand opponent opens two spades, weak, pass from partner, and right-hand opponent bids four spades. What would you do with:

♠ A
 ♥ A K Q 6 3
 ♦ A
 ♣ A K Q J 10 8

Not able to think of anything subtle, I chose seven clubs. Then LHO bid a surprise seven spades, Pass, Pass, back to you. What do you do now?

Not prepared to settle for penalties in seven spades doubled, I bid seven notrump and bought a very good dummy.

Board 3. Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

Seven notrump resulted in a claim for plus 2220. Three rounds of clubs give you 1400 from seven spades doubled.

Exotic Positions

This deal arose in the final of the Interstate Open Teams at the 2016 Australian National Championships.

Board 35. Dealer West. Both Vul.

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

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

Peter Buchen (South) did well to conceal the club suit, as West led the club nine, won by the ten. After the diamond ace and king (bad news), South played the five of clubs to the king and ace. West shifted to

the three of spades: two, ten, king. Declarer played the queen and two of clubs to reach this position:

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

West could have led the nine or queen of spades to beat three notrump. Alternatively, West could have led the ace of hearts and a heart to East's king, followed by a diamond from East. However, West exited with the four of spades. This went to the spade six, heart seven and spade eight. South cashed his two club tricks and had taken eight tricks.

West came down to the queen of spades and the ace-five of hearts; dummy to the ace of spades, its heart and the queen of diamonds. East had the king-jack-seven of hearts remaining. When declarer exited from hand with the ten of hearts, the defence was fixed. If West ducks, East wins and, on winning the next heart, West is a stepping stone to give dummy the last trick with the ace of spades. West could see this coming, so won with the ace of hearts and led his remaining heart to East's king. East's jack of hearts was the stepping stone to South's queen. This was a very rare double stepping-stone ending.

Board 3. Dealer North. EW Vul.

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

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

Had West led a spade honour, three notrump could have been defeated, but the lead was the two of clubs. Peter Fordham (South) won with the queen and played the two of diamonds to the queen, followed by the

eight of diamonds to the ace. After the nine of diamonds to the ten, West continued with the eight of clubs. South won with the king and played the diamond jack to the king. West continued with the jack of clubs to the ace. The nine of hearts to the ace at trick eight gave South his sixth trick. These cards remained:

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

South has two winners, but where is the ninth trick? When South cashes the seven of diamonds, East is in trouble. If he pitches a heart, dummy's hearts would be good. If he throws a club winner, South plays a spade. If West ducks, East wins and becomes end-played in hearts. If West wins, he becomes a stepping stone to South's king of spades. In practice, East discarded the ten of spades, so South played a low spade and made the spade king and the heart king for nine tricks.



The Scottish Bridge Union holds its annual weekend Congress in October. The first Congress, in 1935, was in Gleneagles, but in 1972 the Congress moved to Peebles, a picturesque town in the beautiful Scottish Borders. It has kept its venue in the Hydro ever since. The hotel's faded Victorian gentility is being gradually modernised, but the outstanding view is unchanged. The fall in the value of the pound should make this an attractive centrepiece for a visit to Scotland.

A couple of deals from this year's event also featured reduction, this time in the value of the defenders' trumps.

On the following board, West found himself frozen out of the bidding – unfortunate when four clubs was the top spot. After an interesting Pairs auction, David Liggat bid three diamonds, knowing of the bad trump break, and he was able to take advantage of that knowledge.

Dealer North. Neither Vul.

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

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

West led a spade and East, oblivious to the danger, played three rounds, declarer ruffing the third. South played a club to the ace and a diamond, winning with the seven when East did not split her honours. The club exit was won by West, who played a third club, ruffed with the queen in dummy. Declarer played dummy's last trump. This time did East split her honours, so declarer won with the king. He crossed to the ace of hearts to ruff dummy's last spade, then exited with a heart to make the last two tricks with the ace and nine of diamonds.

That was nicely done, but impossible without a little help from the defence: East should have been aware of the need to protect her trump trick. If she had switched to the king of hearts at trick two, she would have destroyed the timing, removing a dummy entry and allowing her to cash a heart at an early stage.

The second deal features another trump trick reduction.

Dealer West. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Pass	INT	Pass	2♥
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♣
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♦
Pass	4NT	Pass	6♣
Pass	Pass	Pass	

The auction was truly bad. The weak notrump was not ideal, but what alternative is there for a weak notrumper? The transfer and game-forcing rebid in a new suit cannot be criticised (*except for the method itself!* – Ed.) but, at that point, North and South had set off in opposite directions. South expected five-card support and the ace of spades from a hand that had voluntarily bypassed three notrump. Four diamonds was Kickback Blackwood, and South realised that he was missing an ace and the queen of trumps – but this was pairs, and five clubs did not appeal, so he had a punt at slam. Dummy was a disappointment.

West led the jack of hearts, taken with the ace. A spade to the queen scored, and declarer crossed to the king of clubs, hoping for a doubleton queen-jack somewhere. No luck. It seemed best to cut his losses by taking diamond discards on the hearts while he was in dummy, and the contract received a blood transfusion when East ruffed the third heart with the four of clubs. Declarer overruffed, cashed the ace of clubs to draw trump, and ducked a spade. He won the diamond return, ruffed a spade and claimed.

Should the situation have been clear to East? It was perhaps too difficult to appreciate that a second diamond discard might not have mattered, but could it have cost to ruff with the jack rather than the low card?



Key Deals from the World Senior Teams Final

**Phillip Alder,
Hobe Sound, FL**

Before the World Team Championships began in Wroclaw, Poland, last September, two of the four United States teams were considered strong favourites to win.

The Women's team – Lynn Deas/Kerri Sanborn, Beth Palmer/Sylvia Shi and Janice Seamon-Molson/Tobi Sokolow, with David Sokolow the nonplaying captain – had a fairly comfortable run to the gold medal. They won the final against France by 74 IMPs. Their closest knockout match, of the four they played, was their 29-point win over China in the semifinal.

The Senior team – Bob Hamman/Chip Martel, Zia Mahmood/Jeff Meckstroth, Hemant Lall/Reese Milner, with Petra Hamman the NPC and Jacek Pszczola as coach – seemed to be on cruise control. In the final, they faced France: Nicholas Dechelette/Georges Iontzeff, Pierre-Yves Guillaumin/Jean-Jacques Palau and Pierre Schmidt/Philippe Toffier, with Eric Gautret the NPC.

However, over the first two of six 16-board sets, the French played virtually double-dummy bridge to take the lead by 65 IMPs to 14. The United States recovered some points in the third session, but still trailed by 36 at halftime.

Things were not looking so straightforward ... until Board 53 arrived.

I originally described these deals on my website, bridgeforeveryone.com, but these analyses are more comprehensive following lengthy comments sent to me by Hemant Lall.

Board 53. Dealer East. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Zia	Guillaumin	Meckstroth	Palau
—	—	Pass	Pass
1♠	3♣ ¹	3♠ ²	4♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. At least 5-5 in the red suits
2. Competitive (with at least game-invitational values, East would have cue-bid three hearts)

I was surprised that Guillaumin passed over his partner's freely-bid four-heart advance. As little as king-queen-third of hearts would have made slam excellent because the diamond finesse was likely to win.

Palau ruffed the spade-ace opening lead in the dummy, cashed the club ace, ruffed the club jack and led a diamond, West smoothly playing his king!

Declarer took the trick with dummy's ace, drew two rounds of trumps ending on the board and claimed 12 tricks.

West	North	East	South
Dechelette	Milner	Iontzeff	Lall
—	—	Pass	Pass
1♠	2♠ ¹	3♠	4♥
Pass	4♠	Double	Pass
Pass	Redouble	Pass	5♣
Pass	6♥	Pass	Pass

1. Michaels Cue-bid: hearts and a minor

Lall thought it was clear to bid four hearts; it might have made, and if West went on to four spades, North would have been well-placed to decide what to do.

Milner judged well to move over four hearts, showing his spade control. And when East doubled, Milner's redouble showed first-round control. It also encouraged Lall to show his club control because, if a minor-suit finesse was needed, it rated to be working through the opener.

Over five clubs, Milner signed off in six hearts; however, he might have control-bid five diamonds as a grand-slam suggestion or jumped to six diamonds to describe his 5-6 shape in case six diamonds was better than six hearts – as it was.

West led the spade jack. Lall ruffed in the dummy, cashed the club ace, ruffed the club jack and ran the heart ten to East's queen. When East returned a trump, South won with his king, played a diamond to the queen, cashed the heart ace, and claimed.

Minus 480 and plus 980 gave the United States 11 IMPs and changed the whole tenor of the match. Suddenly one felt that the Americans would march to victory.

This board was played at eight tables. Milner and Lall were the only pair to reach a slam.

One last point about this deal: I think that Iontzeff's double of four spades should say that he did not want a spade lead, that he had a much better holding elsewhere. What would partner normally lead? Right – the bid-and-raised suit. The only way to stop that would be to make an "alarm-clock," lead-inhibiting, double.

The momentum was increased on the following deal:

Board 62. Dealer South. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Zia	Guillaumin	Meckstroth	Palau
—	—	—	1♣
1♥	Double	Pass	INT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

West led the spade three, which was ducked to East's queen. On East's heart shift, South played his queen and West ducked. South cashed the spade jack, played a diamond to dummy's queen, took the two spade winners and drove out the diamond ace.



IBPA Column Service

Tim Bourke, Canberra

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

833. Dealer South. Both Vul.

♠ J 10 9 6 4 2
 ♥ A J 5
 ♦ 8
 ♣ A J 6

♠ 5
 ♥ 10 9 8
 ♦ J 9 6 5 4
 ♣ 8 5 4 2

♠ 7 3
 ♥ Q 7 4 3
 ♦ A 10 7 3
 ♣ Q 10 9

♠ A K Q 8
 ♥ K 6 2
 ♦ K Q 2
 ♣ K 7 3

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

- 20-22
- Transfer to spades

The bidding was identical at both tables in a team match, with both South players a little optimistically super-accepting the transfer to hearts. It was somewhat surprising that neither South player bid three notrump to suggest a 4x3 shape along the way to four spades. Anyway, the contact was a good one with ten top tricks, an eleventh available in diamonds and multiple prospects for a twelfth.

The opening lead was the same at both tables, the ten of hearts. The first declarer played the jack of hearts as a 'free' finesse. It proved not to be so when East covered with the queen. After winning the first trick with the king of hearts, declarer cashed the ace of trumps, then crossed to dummy by playing the eight of trumps to dummy's jack to lead a diamond.

East played low because he knew from the auction that declarer had to have both the king and queen of diamonds. Consequently playing the ace would give declarer two tricks. After the king of diamonds held, this declarer cashed the king of clubs, then played a club to the jack. When East produced the queen of clubs the contract had to fail as declarer still had to lose a trick in hearts.

The second declarer reasoned that the jack of hearts might be more useful if preserved and demonstrated

that as long as East held the ace of diamonds the contract was all but assured.

After winning the first trick in hand with the king of hearts, declarer drew two rounds of trumps ending on the table. When he led a diamond from the table, this East also found the best play of withholding the ace and declarer's king of diamonds won the trick. After ruffing the three of diamonds, declarer returned to hand with a trump to lead the queen of diamonds. However, instead of ruffing it, declarer threw dummy's six of clubs. East was now endplayed. A heart or a club would give declarer his third trick in the suit led, while a diamond back would see declarer ruff in hand and throw the jack of hearts from dummy. Declarer would then make six trumps, two hearts, a diamond, two clubs and a ruff in hand for a total of twelve tricks.

834. Dealer West. EW Vul.

♠ J 8 7 3 2
 ♥ J 7 6
 ♦ A 4
 ♣ A 7 4

♠ Q 9 6
 ♥ 3
 ♦ K Q 10 9 5 3 2
 ♣ 9 6

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

♠ A K 10 5 4
 ♥ A 5 2
 ♦ J 7
 ♣ K 3 2

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

West led the king of diamonds; declarer won with dummy's ace. It seemed that it would not be a simple matter to make ten tricks. Potentially, declarer was slated to lose two hearts, a club and a diamond. However, the situation became even more dire when East discarded a heart on the two of trumps lead from dummy.

Declarer saw that his only hope for ten tricks was an endplay against West. If that were possible, West would have to have started with 3=1=7=2 distribution. So, after taking the ace and king of trumps, declarer cashed

the ace and king of clubs and the ace of hearts. Next he led the jack of diamonds. West took the trick with the queen of diamonds as it would serve no purpose to duck the jack of diamonds – he would just be thrown on lead with a trump.

After cashing the queen of trumps, West had to lead a diamond. Declarer did not ruff this; instead, he discarded a club from the dummy and a heart from hand. Declarer ruffed the next diamond in dummy and discarded his remaining heart from hand. Declarer crossruffed the last three tricks to make his contract. He lost only a trump and two diamonds.

835. Dealer North. EW Vul.

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

1. 3-card support for spades

West began the defence with the ace of hearts. He followed that up with the king of hearts in an attempt to attack declarer's trump control. Declarer saw that, if spades were 3-2, he would have ten tricks on the back of five tricks in both spades and diamonds. In that case, after ruffing the second heart and drawing trumps, declarer would cash dummy's diamonds and try for an overtrick by leading a club.

Alas, this was not to be. After ruffing the second heart and seeing that all followed to the ace of trumps, declarer played a low trump to dummy's queen. The bad news came when East discarded a heart. The 4-1 trump break was a nuisance because he could not draw the rest of trumps without losing control of the deal. (If he did so, he could do no better than cash dummy's diamonds and lead a club. Then defence would take the ace of clubs and cash three heart tricks.)

So, declarer abandoned trumps for the moment to cash dummy's ace and king of diamonds. He was relieved to see that West had at least two diamonds. Declarer now played a trump to his king then drew West's remaining trump with the jack, discarding the

queen of diamonds from dummy. Declarer had taken seven tricks and was then able to claim three diamond tricks to make his contract.

836. Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
—	—	—	1NT
Pass	2♥	Pass	2♠
Pass	5NT	Pass	6♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

North transferred into spades and asked South to pick a slam. As he might have needed to ruff a club in hand, South chose to play in spades. (As it turned out, six notrump would have been easier as the king of hearts was onside.)

West led the jack of clubs. Declarer counted twelve tricks if the spades were no worse than 4-1. There would be four in spades, one in hearts, four in diamonds and three in clubs.

So, declarer played low from dummy and took the trick in hand with the king of clubs. His next move was to lead the three of trumps to dummy's king. When East discarded a club declarer was not able to avoid saying, "Really?" After getting confirmation that trumps were indeed 5-0, declarer paused to consider the situation.

The only hope seemed to be that West started with 5=1=4=3 shape. Declarer thus led a low club to his ace then crossed back to dummy with the king of diamonds and threw one of his hearts on the queen of clubs. Next, he cashed the ace of hearts and led the jack of diamonds and overtook it with his queen. After throwing a heart on the ace of diamonds, the moment of truth had arrived. Declarer led his remaining diamond; West's ten of diamonds was a beautiful sight. Declarer ruffed it with the two of trumps.

Declarer had taken nine tricks and West had only trumps left. So, when declarer led the seven of hearts to East's king West had to ruff and lead away from the queen of trumps. This gave declarer the last three tricks and his contract.

West leads the heart seven, ducked in dummy and won by East's jack. East shifts to the spade seven, taken by your king (spade three from West, standard count). You cross to the club queen (both defenders following) to lead another spade. East rises with the ace (eight from West) and exits with the spade nine to your queen (jack from West). You cross to the club ace (both following, West with the jack) to lead the heart queen, covered by the ace and ruffed in the closed hand (four from West). How do you tackle diamonds?

East appears to have started with:

♠ A 9 3 2
 ♥ A K J 10 8
 ♦ ? ?
 ♣ 7 4

Zia thought that if East had held the diamond ace, that would give West very little offence for the three-heart call and would give East a lot for having subsided over four clubs. But if West held both the diamond ace and the diamond queen, that would have made for a heavy preemptive raise. This suggests that the diamond ace is likely with West, and the diamond queen likely with East. If East has queen-low in diamonds, as it appears, you can lead toward the diamond king and, assuming that West ducks (rising wouldn't help), win, ruff dummy's remaining heart, and lead a second diamond. If West ducks to avoid crashing the honours, then East would be endplayed.

Accordingly, South, at trick eight, led the diamond jack to the king (five from West, three from East), ruffed dummy's remaining heart (five from West, eight from East), and led the diamond four.

Unfortunately for declarer, this was the full layout (Session 4, Board 20, Open Room).

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

At the other table, East was in three hearts, down one, a net gain of 5 IMPs to France.



A Star is Born
Mark Horton,
Sutton Benger,
Wilts., UK

In the match between teams Yeh and Lavazza in the Yeh Online Cup, it fell to the least-known member of the team to make a brilliant play.

Board 8. Dealer West. Neither Vul.

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

At the other table, Giorgio Duboin and Sylvie Willard had bid and made four hearts – South had opened one notrump and had bid four hearts over North's four clubs, pick a major. After a club lead to the ace and a diamond switch, declarer had gone up with the ace, pitched a diamond on the king of clubs and played on crossruff lines, losing just one spade, one heart and one club.

West	North	East	South
Bocchi	Chen Yeh	Calandra	Zhang Ya-lan
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♦
Pass	2♥	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

With what looked like a robust holding in the unbid suit, South did not bother to investigate the possibility of a 5-3 heart fit, settling for the nine-trick game.

If West leads a club, East can win and return the suit. Then all West needs to do is go up with the ace of spades and play a third club, establishing five winners for the defence. However, West went with the four of spades and declarer won with dummy's king and ran the ten of diamonds, repeating the finesse when it held. West won and switched to the queen of hearts. Declarer won in hand with the king and cashed her diamonds, throwing two spades and a club from dummy, while the defenders parted with clubs.

Seeing no danger, declarer ran the nine of hearts to East's jack, to leave this position:

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

The rest of Team Lavazza was gathered in the beautiful auditorium of the Lavazza Hall della Innovation, following the play. They realised that East now had the opportunity to make a special play, but they could only hold their collective breath as she searched for a solution.

Eventually she played a card. It was the ace of clubs, which executed the rare feat of the defenders squeezing dummy.

If declarer threw a heart from dummy East would be able to exit in that suit and West would take the last two tricks, so declarer threw a spade, hoping that East had started with only one spade. Now the ten of spades gave West three tricks in the suit and the contract was two down.

When the ace of clubs appeared on the screen there was an explosion of joy from the rest of the Lavazza squad – Emanuela Calandra Lavazza had become a star!

Don't look away now, as we come to what Zia Mahmood described as the best deal of the tournament.

Board 4. Dealer West. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Bocchi	Lin	Calandra	Gu
Pass	1♣	Pass	1♦
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Unwilling to open a red suit, East started with the ten of spades. Declarer won with the jack, cashed the ace of clubs and played a club to the jack and king, East pitching the six of hearts. West returned the seven of spades and declarer won with the ace, crossed to dummy with a spade (West

pitching the two of hearts). Zia cashed the queen of clubs, pitching a diamond, as West followed with the ten and East threw the nine of spades.

Now declarer did something very subtle – he played a heart to the ten, creating the impression that he had started with the ace-jack-ten. East won with the queen and played the king of diamonds, collecting the four from partner.

In the cold light of day you could argue that West's ten of clubs must have shown a preference for hearts over diamonds, but that is easy to overlook and declarer's deception was rewarded when East continued with the six of diamonds. That got declarer up to nine tricks and, when East pitched a diamond on the ace of spades, declarer had an overtrick.

West	North	East	South
Zhang	Madala	Lu	Cronier
—	1♦	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Zia was a big supporter of North's choice of opening bid but, when South was unwilling to dredge up a one-notrump response, he was left to play there. From memory he took ten tricks.

Board 4. Dealer West. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Bocchi	Chen Yeh	Callandra	Zhang
1♥	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♦	Pass	2♠	Pass
3♥	Pass	4♣	Pass
4♦	Pass	4♠	Double
4NT	Double	5♣	Pass
5♥	Double	6♣	Pass
Pass	Double	Pass	Pass
Pass			

No doubt there is a logical explanation for West's decision to bid five hearts over five clubs, but I will have to wait until I next see Norberto to discover it.

However, six clubs was by no means certain to fail (there is one lead that is sure to beat it – see if you can spot it!).

South led the king of spades and declarer won performance in dummy, came to hand with a diamond and ran the jack of spades pitching a heart. She continued with

the ten of spades, deciding to ruff it with dummy's four of clubs, and then played the nine of clubs, North following with the six.

If declarer lets the nine of clubs run she can then ruff a heart, overtake the queen of diamonds and play the ace of diamonds. North is helpless. If he ruffs, declarer overruffs and plays two rounds of trumps, forcing North to lead into the heart tenace. Discarding does not help, as declarer throws a spade, then repeats the procedure by pitching a spade on the ace of hearts, North scoring only one trump trick.

Unfortunately, declarer overtook the nine of clubs and now the 4-1 trump break meant she had to go one down.

Have you worked out the winning lead? South must start with a trump, which leaves declarer a trick short.

If South leads a diamond or a heart, declarer can play to reduce her trumps by crossruffing.

West	North	East	South
Shih	Duboin	Wang	Willard
1♣ ¹	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♥	Pass	2♠	Pass
3♦	Pass	3♠	Pass
3NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. Precision

North led the nine of spades and declarer won with the ace and played the nine of clubs to the jack. When that held it was natural to continue with the ace, but it proved to be fatal. South pitched the three of spades and declarer continued with a club to North's ten. A spade to South's queen was followed by the five of hearts and, when the queen lost to the king, South's king of spades was the setting trick.



Fall North American Bridge Championships

• Nov. 24-Dec. 4 •

The Fall Nationals

John Carruthers, Kingsville, ON

Barry Rigal, NYC

Brent Manley, Arlington, TN

Allan Falk, Okemos, MI

Winners of the major events were:

Reisinger BAM Teams – Michael Becker/Aubrey Strul, Michael Kamil/Richie Coren, Walid el-Ahmady/Tarek Sadek

Blue Ribbon Pairs – Jeff Meckstroth/Eric Rodwell

Open BAM Teams – Stan Tulin/Kevin Dwyer, Alon Birman/Dror Padon, Jacek Kalita/Michal Nowosadzki

Senior KO Teams – Nick Nickell/Ralph Katz, Bob Hamman/Bart Bramley, Jeff Meckstroth/Eric Rodwell

North American Swiss Teams – Mike Levine/Eddie Wold, Ricco van Prooijen/Louk Verhees, Dennis Clerkin/Jerry Clerkin

Women's BAM Teams – Dori Byrnes, Sylvia Shi, Li Yiting, Lynn Deas, Beth Palmer

Mixed Swiss Teams – Vinita Gupta/Billy Miller, Zia Mahmood/Anam Tebha, Sandra Rimstedt/Fredrik Nyström

Life Master Pairs – Marion Michielsen/Zia Mahmood
Senior Mixed Pairs – Lee Atkinson/Mark Yaeger

Mickey Mouse Land was the site of the 2016 Fall Nationals. However, there was nothing 'Mickey Mouse' about the way Bob Hamman played the following deal from the semifinal of the Senior Knockout Teams.

A Couple of Swindles (JC)

Board 1. Dealer North. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Hamman	Ekeblad	Bramley	Granovetter
—	Pass	1♣	1♦
1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass
INT	Pass	2♥	Pass
4♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

With Hamman's team (NICKELL) leading by 24 IMPs at the halfway point in the match ...

Hamman was full-value for one notrump and needed no further encouragement from Bart Bramley once Bramley had voluntarily admitted to three-card heart support.

Four hearts looks unmakeable; indeed it is, if the defence simply takes its winners when it can. However ... Russ Ekeblad led his diamond; Hamman took dummy's ace and considered cashing three rounds of clubs to pitch his spade jack. If he'd done that, he realized, the defence would have been able to defeat four hearts either by leading trumps or by making three trump tricks on the ensuing cross-ruff. So Hamman tried a minor swindle – he led a low spade from the dummy. Matthew Granovetter was loath to set up two spade tricks in the dummy, so he ducked his ace.

Hamman won with his jack of spades and led a heart to the jack and ace. Granovetter cashed the queen of diamonds (spade discard from North) and paused for reflection, wishing now that he'd taken the ace of spades. What could he do?

It was ironic – if Granovetter played the ace of spades, he'd have allowed Hamman two more winners in the suit, but if he instead played the king of diamonds (which would have defeated four hearts), that would have provided Hamman with two more winners in that suit. A low card in either suit would have given Hamman one extra winner in the suit led. As a lesser of evils (he thought), Granovetter exited with a low spade (a club or the king of diamonds is required to defeat four hearts at this point). Hamman discarded a diamond and won the trick with dummy's queen. Declarer led a club to the ace and cashed the queen. He was still not out of the woods.

Continuing to play as if he knew the location of every card, Hamman led a heart to dummy's eight (Hamman realized that Granovetter would have returned a heart if he'd had one). When Granovetter discarded, Hamman was almost home. The two high clubs in dummy provided discards for Hamman's two remaining diamonds, North following to both, then the ten of hearts forced North's king. It remained to draw North's remaining trump when declarer regained the lead.

It may seem that Ekeblad could have prevented the run of the clubs by discarding one on the second diamond, but that is not so. Declarer wins the second spade in dummy, ruffs a spade, plays the ace and queen of clubs, overtaking with the king in dummy, then takes the jack of clubs for a diamond pitch. He ruffs dummy's fourth spade as (this time) North follows suit. The remaining diamond then effectively executes a 'coup en passant' on North's trumps.

This was declarer play of the highest order, exactly what we've come to expect of Hamman over the years.

At the other table, Rodwell bid more than Granovetter (of course), but Meckstroth did not take him seriously (of course).

West	North	East	South
Schermer	Meckstroth	Chambers	Rodwell
—	Pass	1♣	1♦
1♥	Pass	2♥	2♠
3♣	Pass	3♦	Pass
4♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

Meckstroth also led his singleton diamond, but here, Schermer won with dummy's ace and played three rounds of clubs to discard his jack of spades. He ruffed out the ace of spades, then played a diamond, Meckstroth discarding a spade and Rodwell winning with his queen. Rodwell cashed the ace of hearts and played a spade to dummy's queen. Declarer ruffed the fourth club as North followed suit. Schermer could now ruff a diamond with the ten of hearts, but when he tried to ruff dummy's last spade with the queen of hearts, Meckstroth over-ruffed and led a heart, making his nine of hearts at the end for one off and 10 IMPs to NICKELL.

Not all of their defences went as smoothly as that one for Meckwell. Later in that same set ...

Board 9. Dealer North. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Schermer	Meckstroth	Chambers	Rodwell
—	1♥	2♦	Pass
2NT	Pass	3NT	Double
Pass	Pass	Pass	

On any lead but a club, West can make three no trump, but Meckstroth unerringly led the seven of that suit. Schermer put up the king from dummy and played brilliantly. He led the ten of hearts to the king; Meckstroth ducked. Schermer then led the six of hearts toward dummy's nine. When Meckstroth ducked again, expecting Rodwell to win the trick, Schermer ran for home with his nine tricks; plus 750.

West	North	East	South
Hamman	Ekeblad	Bramley	Granovetter
—	2♥ ¹	3♦	4♣
Pass	5♣	Pass	Pass
Pass	Pass		
			1. 5+♥ and 4+♣, 10-16 HCP

Granovetter lost the obvious four tricks for minus 100, winning 12 IMPs.

A Tough Par (BR)

Jason Feldman, playing with Tom Carmichael, was one of the few to achieve par on this deal from the second final session of the Nail Life Master Open Pairs. It was no easy feat.

Dealer West. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
1♥	2♥ ¹	Pass	2♠
3♣	3♥	4♥	4♠
5♥	6♠	Pass	Pass
7♥	Double	Pass	Pass
Pass			

1. Spades and a minor

Feldman, West, knew that North had a heart loser from his final double, so Feldman was sure that North had to have the ace of clubs. The defenders played three rounds of spades. Feldman ruffed and ducked a club, felling the ace, ruffed the diamond return, drew one round of trumps, then cross-ruffed the rest. That was three down.

Joel Lot of Shaking Goin' On! (BR)

Joel Wooldridge has earned his reputation as a fine card-player, but he is also perfectly capable of an idiosyncratic approach in the auction. Playing with Melanie Tucker in the first final of the Nail Life Master Open Pairs, he held:

♠ Q 10 7
♥ 10 9 7
♦ Q J 4
♣ A K 9 7

In fourth seat at unfavourable vulnerability, he saw:

West	North	East	South
Wooldridge		Tucker	
—	1♥	Double	Pass
?			

Naturally, Joel bid the 'obvious' two spades, all passed and on the diamond lead he bought a decent dummy to support his choice. The full deal (Joel was West):

Dealer North. EW Vul.

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

North led a high diamond and shifted to a trump. Joel won in dummy, drove out the king of diamonds, won the spade return, drew trumps, and played the ace and king of clubs! South surely had a heart honour, so the club finesse was not going to work. Joel crossed to the jack of clubs, played a diamond to the queen and pitched dummy's low heart on the last club to claim 11 tricks. Easy game, bridge.

By the Skin of Our Teeth (BR)

Dealer East. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Mahmood	Rigal	Bilde	Milgrim
—	—	Pass	1♣
4♥	Double	Pass	4♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

When you qualify for the second day of the Kaplan Blue Ribbon Pairs by 17 matchpoints out of 1000, every little bit helps. With three deals to go, we were on the outside looking in, but my partner, Glenn Milgrim, came through in the clutch. We were playing against Zia Mahmood and Dennis Bilde.

Zia found the best defence to four spades: ace of hearts, king of hearts, jack of hearts, Bilde pitching his ten of diamonds as Milgrim ruffed in dummy. When Milgrim led the queen of spades, it held (Bilde would have done better to cover). Milgrim changed tack at that point. He finessed in clubs, ruffed a club, then played three more rounds of spades to throw Bilde in for the forced club play. The diamonds in dummy took care of the

rest. That was plus 620 and 59 out of 64 matchpoints. Nevertheless, Milgrim was subsequently kicking himself for not taking the club finesse before playing spades. Then the defence has no counter.

Fast Finish (BM)

On their way to their third win in the Kaplan Blue Ribbon Pairs as partners, Jeff Meckstroth and Eric Rodwell needed a strong finish. The following deal helped them to victory.

Dealer West. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Rodwell		Meckstroth	
1♣ ¹	Pass	2♦ ²	Pass
3NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. Precision: strong, artificial and forcing
2. Balanced hand with 8-10 HCP

North started with the four of hearts. Rodwell played dummy's nine, which held the trick. As Rodwell rattled off nine winners in the minors, North was feeling the pressure. He knew from the play that Rodwell had a singleton spade (South gave count at trick one to show two or four hearts). The only question was whether the singleton was the king or the jack.

At trick ten, Rodwell cashed his last winning diamond and North had to find a pitch from the ace-queen of spades and the king-ten of hearts. North took his best chance by discarding the ace of spades. If South had the king of spades, he'd be able to win Rodwell's spade exit and play a heart to get one more trick. As the cards lay, it didn't matter what North discarded. He was going to be endplayed if he bared his ace of spades or his king of hearts would fall under Rodwell's ace. The resulting plus 490 was good for 29 matchpoints.

One More Swindle (AF)

Here is a deal that came up on the first day of the North American Swiss Teams. Sweden's Ulf Nilsson, sitting West (playing with me) came up with an imaginative discard. Even if declarer shouldn't fall for it (and I'm not saying that is the case), without the discard, declarer would surely have emerged with nine tricks in his three notrump contract.

Dealer East. NS Vul.

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

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

1. Shows values

West led the nine of hearts. Since his opponents were non-vulnerable (so a five-card suit would not be a complete surprise), declarer duck the first two hearts and won the third. West pitched the ace of diamonds on the third round of hearts! Declarer cashed the ace and queen of clubs and, as expected, East pitched a heart. It seemed like West must have had something like four spades to the jack, the ace-king of diamonds and the seven cards in hearts and clubs he has already shown. So declarer took the 'easy' line for the expected overtrick, playing a diamond, and went one off.



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World Bridge Calendar

DATES	EVENT	LOCATION	INFORMATION
2016			
Dec 12-18	58th Indian Winter Nationals	Jaipur, Rajasthan, India	www.bfi.net.in
Dec 16-18	Junior Channel Trophy	YCBC, London	www.ebu.co.uk
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
Jan 26-29	Winter in Vienna	Vienna, Austria	www.bridgeaustria.at
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 16-19	Tasmanian Festival of Bridge	Sandy Bay, Tasmania, Australia	www.abf.com.au
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 4-9	Kitzbüheler Bridge Week	Kitzbühel, Austria	www.bridgeaustria.at
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 27-May 6	29th CACBF Championship	Guatemala	www.cacbf.com
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
Apr 29-May 1	German Bridge Team Trophy	Berlin	www.bridge-verband.de
May 3-8	67 th South American Championships	Santiago, Chile	www.confstbridge.org
May 3-9	USBF Women's Trials	Schaumburg, IL	www.usbf.org
May 4-8	Australian Fall Nationals	Adelaide, Australia	www.abf.com.au
May 5-13	All Africa Zonal Championships	Capetown, South Africa	www.sabf.co.za
May 9-13	7 th South American Transnationals	Santiago, Chile	www.confstbridge.org
May 13-29	South African Nationals	Capetown, South Africa	www.sabf.co.za
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 25	Bonn Cup	Bad Godesburg, Germany	www.bridge-verband.de
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 8-15	26 th European Junior Team	Samorin, Slovakia	www.eurobridge.org
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 4-13	EBU Summer Meeting	Rastbourne, UK	www.ebu.co.uk
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
Sep 30-Oct 7	New Zealand National Congress	Hamilton, NZ	www.nzbridge.co.nz
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