



BULLETIN

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Editorial

Last month, two important decisions were handed down, the first on February 10th by the European Bridge League's Disciplinary Commission (DC) regarding Cezary Balicki/Adam Zmudzinski and the second on February 14th from the Israeli Bridge Federation's Special Ethics Committee (SEC) in the case of Lotan Fisher and Ron Schwartz.

The EBL DC ruled that, although Balicki/Zmudzinski infringed Rule 3 (regarding placement of bids on the tray), they could find no correlation between said placement and the strength of the players' hands. Thus no sanction will be imposed. The decision can be read in full here:

http://www.eurobridge.org/Data/Sites/1/media/documents/EBL_BZ_Decision.pdf

By contrast, the Israelis have been (i) banned from ever playing together within the IBF; (ii) permanently barred from representing Israel; (iii) prohibited from ever directing, coaching, or teaching in connection with the IBF, and; (iv) permanently barred from playing within the IBF. Nevertheless, after ten years, they can apply to the IBF for reduction only of component (iv) of the sanction. Components (i), (ii) and (iii) can never be "shortened, reduced or limited." The decision can be read in full at:

<http://main.bridge.co.il/uploads/files/sec/sec-decision-30-en.pdf>

Replacing 30 with 29 in the URL will take you to the initial findings.

The IBF SEC reviewed each player's previous disciplinary record. It was noted that Fisher had been convicted of "falsifying results" (2003), "unsportsmanlike behaviour" (three times) and "cheating" (2005). Schwartz was virtuous by comparison, having been found guilty of "falsifying results" in 2005. It seems natural, in hindsight, that these two would eventually form a partnership – they were of like minds.

Three verdicts are available to Scottish criminal courts: "not guilty", "guilty" and "not proven". Historically, "proven" and "not proven" were the two choices, but it was felt that not proven did not adequately represent the innocence of some accused parties, so not guilty was introduced, while not proven was retained, and proven morphed into guilty. It feels as though the EBL DC delivered the "bastard" verdict, as Sir Walter Scott called it.

The IBF has been called "courageous" and has been lauded for "taking responsibility" for its decision on Fisher/Schwartz. Really? Am I the only one who believes that the IBF bears some culpability for unleashing Fisher and Schwartz on the rest of the bridge world? They were allowed to compete (though in different partnerships) in the 2010 World Junior Team Championship in Philadelphia and the 2014 European Championships in Opatija, that time in partnership. By 2005, Fisher was already a serial, convicted bridge felon while still a teenager and Schwartz had been convicted once. How was it possible that players such as these were allowed to represent Israel internationally? In our view, it was shameful. Further, it also appears that the WBF and EBL Credentials Committees were negligent in allowing them to compete. And, by the way, Israel won both events.

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THE 21st NEC Festival

Rich Colker, Wheaton, MD

Barry Rigal, NYC



The venue: Pacifico Yokohama Convention Centre (foreground) & the Yokohama Grand Intercontinental Hotel (background)

Hackett Repeats as NEC Cup Champion

Team Hackett (Paul Hackett/Brian Senior, Jason Hackett/Alex Hydes), led by captain and progenitor Paul “Papa” Hackett – aka “The One-Armed Bandit – came back from a disaster of a Day-Two performance in the qualifying Swiss to survive to the KOs with barely more than a single VP to spare. In the quarter-finals, they narrowly defeated the top qualifiers, China Dalian Aoxin, by 5 IMPs, then sailed into the finals over a game New Zealand team.

And now they stand (at least the Hackett part of the team) as the NEC Cup Champions for the second consecutive time. Those who followed their progress in the tournament will recognize just what a harrowing journey it was for them (surviving tribulation not always of the opponents’ making). The runners-up, England/USA (Sally Brock/Barry Myers, Karen McCallum/Cenk Tuncok), came through the Swiss consistently ranked in the top eight. Their most serious threat came in the quarter-finals, playing against Wuhan Dongfang BC, where they led by five at the half and won by just 13. They picked off a good Zhiyijia team in the semi-finals but, in the final, the little engine that could ... couldn’t. Hackett broke the match wide open in the second quarter, pulled further ahead in the third, and never looked back, sailing to victory by a comfortable margin. Our congratulations and thanks to the winners, the runners-up, and all the other 2017 NEC Cup competitors.

The Pairs winners were: Ding Junfeng/Hu Linlin in the Yokohama Open Pairs and Takako Ijuin/Akio Ijuin in the JCBL Cup.

Match 1. Hackett v. Kimura (BR)

Board 2. Dealer East. NS Vul.

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

Nobody, even in their more charitable moments (an emotion foreign to Bulletin Editors) has ever suggested that four-card majors were known for their accuracy in slam bidding. Our hats are off to Papa Hackett and Brian Senior who bid to seven notrump as follows:

West	North	East	South
<i>Kimura</i>	<i>Senior</i>	<i>Tomiuri</i>	<i>Hackett</i>
—	—	Pass	1♥
Pass	1♠	2NT	Double
3♣	4♣	Pass	4♠
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♠
Pass	5NT	Pass	6♥ [!]
Pass	7NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

1. King of hearts

Note that the one-heart opener let Senior count the thirteenth trick, a triumph indeed on a deal where the datum score was only slightly better than the score for the small slam. That was good for 13 IMPs against the six spades reached at the other table.

Fourteen pairs bid the grand slam, 37 stayed at the six level, one played in game, and one East/West pair saved in seven diamonds for a bargain minus 1700.

Match 1. SWAT Squad v. Sakurai

Board 4. Dealer West. Both Vul.

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



West	North	East	South
Hans		Nunn	
1♣	1♦	1♥	Pass
2♥	Pass	2NT ¹	Pass
3♠ ²	Pass	4♣ ³	Pass
4♦ ⁴	Pass	4NT ⁵	Pass
5♦ ⁶	Pass	6♣ ⁷	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. Relay
2. Four spades
3. Sets clubs as trumps
4. Diamond control, undoubtedly shortage
5. RKCB
6. 0 or 3 key cards
7. Partner cannot have as much as two aces, two kings and a singleton diamond, and have bid two hearts, so asking for kings is superfluous

After a top-diamond lead, Hans drew trumps at once and took the heart finesse. When it lost and a heart came back he had a choice of lines. The key issue was whether to play North or South for four spades; in a sense the location of the queen was irrelevant to his play.

If North had four spades, declarer could simply cash the remaining heart winner and ruff a heart to reach this ending:

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

In the diagrammed position, North still has to find a discard and has been caught in a ruffing squeeze.

However, it seemed more likely to Hans, with South known to hold five hearts and one club, that that player would hold no more than three diamonds (no raise),

thus four (or even five) spades. In that case, and as the cards lay in real life, declarer could win the second heart, play three rounds of spades ruffing with dummy's last trump, ruff a diamond back to hand, then lead the last trump from hand and catch South in a simple major-suit squeeze, which was what Hans did.

Sally Brock and Barry Myers (England/USA) also got to six clubs against (Air-TRFC), as follows ...

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

North led the usual king of diamonds. Brock won with dummy's ace and reasoned that North was more likely to be the shorter in spades. Thus she cashed the king and ace of spades, ruffed a spade and ruffed a diamond back to hand. When she led her fourth spade and North showed out, she could ruff it in the dummy and draw trumps. Declarer had the luxury of trying the heart finesse for an overtrick.

Match 3. Hackett v. Skylark

Board 12. Dealer West. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Hydes	Takano	Jason	Takahashi
Pass	Pass	1♠	Pass
4♠	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♣	Pass	6♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		

West	North	East	South
Sugino	Paul	Matsumoto	Senior
Pass	Pass	1♠	Pass
4♠	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♣	Pass	5♦ ¹	Pass
6♠ ²	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. Queen of spades ask
2. Queen of spades, no outside king

Sugino knew that, at worst, they'd be on a queen-of-trumps drop for slam. Both Souths led the jack of hearts. Matsumoto won in hand, laid down the ace of

spades and was doomed at once. Jason saw his extra chance if spades were 3-1 but hearts 4-4; he could pitch all four clubs from dummy and avoid the loser in that suit altogether via the ruffing finesse. He ruffed the lead and now, as the cards lay, he needed to set up clubs before playing on trumps. When he cashed king of spades, he had found the queen, but simultaneously eliminated his dummy entry. Still, he drew trump and advanced the king of clubs (more in hope than expectation?). But, when South took the trick, declarer could claim 980 for a not-unfortunate 14 IMPs.

A small improvement on Jason's line is to win with the ace of hearts, play the king of spades to find the good/bad news, then turn your attention to clubs. You can pitch one heart on the clubs, ruff the other, and still have just enough entries to dummy to draw trumps.

Match Eight. YBT vs ENG/USA

On to one of the more sensational deals of the event:

Board 21. Dealer North. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Shih</i>	<i>McCallum</i>	<i>Wang</i>	<i>Tuncok</i>
—	Pass	1♦ ¹	Double
1♠ ²	Double	1NT	3♠
Pass	4♠	Pass	Pass

1. 1+ diamonds
2. No major

West	North	East	South
<i>Brock</i>	<i>Liran</i>	<i>Myers</i>	<i>Friedlander</i>
—	Pass	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♣ ¹	Pass	3♦ ²
Pass	3♥ ³	Pass	3♠ ⁴
Pass	3NT ⁵	Pass	4♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. Puppet Stayman
2. One or two four-card majors
3. Spades
4. Agrees spades
5. No slam interest

Shih led a diamond against four spades. He won trick two with his ace of spades and shifted to hearts. Declarer won in hand and played a spade, ducked, and

another spade. Wang won and, after some reflection, continued with a heart. Declarer knew the club finesse was losing, but had he taken it he would have been home. However he decided East had begun with 4-4-4-1 shape, and led a club to the ace and another club. A third heart now left him without resource since had no communication left in clubs.

Nicely done, but in the other room, where East had not bid, Brock led a heart to trick one. Declarer won in hand and knocked out the ace of spades, won the heart return, and played a second trump. When the nine held he could see that a third trump would be fatal if the king of clubs was wrong. Instead he crossed to hand with a diamond and passed the nine of clubs, and Myers ducked smoothly. Nicely done, up to a point, since declarer really had no reason not to repeat the finesse, and now Myers won, cashed the king of spades and played the third heart to leave declarer without the communications to draw trumps. But ducking the club was a bit of a Grosvenor Gambit, since winning and playing back either a club or a heart is good enough to beat the game whatever declarer does.

Where Ashley Bach was declarer in four spades, East, Nan Wang, had passed throughout. Huang Yan led a diamond and Bach won and played on trumps as the defenders ducked the second trump and won the third, just as in the open room above. Here Bach finessed in clubs, and repeated the finesse when Nan ducked. Again, when East won and played a third heart, this was good enough to set the game.

Since these were the first three stories I heard about the deal, I was a little surprised to discover that only four other pairs had defeated four spades.

Board 22. Dealer East. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Shih</i>	<i>McCallum</i>	<i>Wang</i>	<i>Tuncok</i>
—	—	1♦ ¹	1♠
Double	2♠	3♥	4♠
Pass	Pass	Double	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. 1+ diamonds

Against four spades doubled, Wang (not envisaging the diamond layout) won with the ace of hearts at trick one and shifted to a diamond to get the ruff with her low trump. So far so good, but now declarer could rise with the ace of clubs, unblock hearts, and lead winning diamonds to ameliorate East's trump position. The defenders scored two red aces and three trumps for down 300. This was not enough, since four hearts on a low spade lead handled very nicely.

West	North	East	South
<i>Brock</i>	<i>Liran</i>	<i>Myers</i>	<i>Friedlander</i>
—	—	1♣	1♠
Double	2♠	3♥	3♠
4♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

Declarer won the spade lead in hand, pitching a club, and led a club up. Friedlander had to take his ace, or declarer would have won with the queen, played the ace of diamonds, then ruffed a diamond to pitch the last club on the ace of spades. Then the ace of clubs could have been ruffed out. South elected to return a club at trick three. Myers won with the queen in dummy, ducked a heart, and won the next heart to cross-ruff clubs and diamonds. Whenever South overruffed, he would have to lead away from his spade king into declarer's tenace.

Before we had time to catch our breath, yet another Deep Finesse special presented itself.

Board 24. Dealer West. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Shih</i>	<i>McCallum</i>	<i>Wang</i>	<i>Tuncok</i>
Pass	1♦ ¹	1♠	Double
Pass	INT ²	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

- 1+ diamonds
- 15-17

West	North	East	South
<i>Brock</i>	<i>Liran</i>	<i>Myers</i>	<i>Friedlander</i>
Pass	1♣	1♠	Double
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Both tables reached three notrump after each North had shown extras in the context of their opening-bid style. Both Easts led a top spade. Liran won with the

ace and played a heart to the king and ace. Myers shifted to the ten of diamonds; declarer won in hand and ducked a heart, won the next diamond and played the queen of hearts to find the bad news, then ran the jack of clubs to Myers, who led a diamond to his partner to cash her red-suit winners for down three.

McCallum did much better; she ducked the opening lead, won the diamond shift in hand and led a club toward the jack. Wang won with the queen and pressed on with diamonds (see analysis below). McCallum ducked in dummy and Shih overtook to play the jack of hearts, ducked around to the queen. Now McCallum overtook the club jack and ran the suit, then threw Wang in with a heart to lead spades for the ninth trick. A 12 IMP pick-up for England/USA.

The analysis on this deal is extremely complex. I'll rely on Deep Finesse which says: either a high or low spade lead or an initial diamond lead defeats the game at trick one. If declarer ducks the first spade, either a spade or diamond continuation still beats the game. But if declarer ducks the first diamond, you must then go back to spades to set three notrump. If declarer wins the ace of diamonds and leads clubs up, you must win and, remarkably, continue clubs to disrupt declarer's entries. Anyone who does that deserves the defence of the year!

Eight teams made the playoffs. First chose its opponent, then second, then third. There were to be no ties at the end of regulation: the team finishing ahead in the Swiss was awarded a half-IMP carryover.

The quarterfinal results were:

- (6) Hackett 102 – (1) China Dalian Aoxin 97.5
- (8) Zhiyijia 78 – (2) Israel 75.5
- (3) England/USA 84 – (7) Wuhan Dongfan BC 71
- (4) New Zealand 78.5 – (5) SARA 45

Semifinal I. ENG/USA v. Zhiyijia

The first deal saw a battle of wits in four hearts.

Board 1. Dealer North. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Yin</i>	<i>McCallum</i>	<i>Deng</i>	<i>Tuncok</i>
—	3♠	Double	Pass
4♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

West	North	East	South
Brock	J. Liu	Myers	Y. Liu
—	2♠	Double	Pass
3♥ ¹	Pass	4♥	Pass
Pass	Pass		
1. Constructive			

McCallum's preempting style is straight from the school of, "Think of a number and double it." Partnership style is not to pass weak hands with five-card suits non-vulnerable, so this was far too shapely for a two-level preempt. Deng did well to double and get his side to four hearts where, after a spade lead won in hand, declarer could see little prospect but to eliminate diamonds. When Tuncok won and returned the suit, the fall of the jack let Yin guess to draw trumps in two rounds, pitch a spade on the ten of diamonds, and finesse clubs. South was endplayed on winning that trick either to lead a club into the tenace or to give a ruff-sluff to let declarer ruff in hand and pitch another spade from dummy.

In the other room, Jing Liu led a top spade. Declarer won and played a diamond. Yingbao Liu ducked and won the next, returning the suit to let North ruff and kill the discard. Declarer overruffed North, drew trumps in two rounds, and passed the ten of clubs for the same endplay. When a diamond came back Brock could pitch a spade from hand and ruff in dummy, and her hand was high except for her spade loser. No swing and nicely done.

In our other semi-final match, Reid won the spade lead as West and led a heart to the king and another to the jack; now he was down at once and the defenders could break up the endplay in clubs to collect five tricks. The diamond play from the other room saw Paul Hackett collect 11 tricks.

The semifinal scores were:

(6) Hackett 85 – (4) New Zealand 32.5

(3) England/USA 69.5 – (8) Zhiyijia 44

Final 2. ENG/USA v. Hackett (RC)

England/USA began the second quarter leading Hackett by 9 IMPs.

Board 23. Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Paul	McCallum	Senior	Tuncok
Brock	Jason	Myers	Hydes
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	3♠	4♥	Pass
Pass	Pass		

In the Open Room, the defence against four hearts began with a spade to the ace followed by a switch to the ace of clubs (Tuncok following with the two) and a second club to the jack. Senior quickly cashed his ace and king of hearts, ruffed a club to dummy, and discarded his losing diamond on the queen of spades for a score of plus 620 that probably felt as satisfying for him as it felt terrible for the opponents.

In the Closed Room, the lead was a spade to the ace and the two of spades came back. Myers pitched his diamond as Hydes ruffed, but now a club to the ace and another spade through promoted a second trump trick for Hydes, and produced down one. Minus 100 represented 12 IMPs to Hackett.

Hackett won the final 173 – 110.5.



The 8th NBF & Paradise Park Bridge Festival

Knut Kjærnsrød,
Tored, Norway

The eighth edition of the Norwegian Bridge Federation's winter festival was held in Los Cristianos, Tenerife, from the 9th to the 28th of January. Our festival enjoys increasing popularity and, this year, boasted 339 participants, a new record. The majority of the players were Norwegian, but some were from Sweden and, this year, we also had the pleasure of welcoming a few English guests. The motto of the festival is, "Bridge for everybody", and this is really the case. The players rank from world champions to those who have barely played a tournament before. We play 24 boards in two groups each day except Sundays, where the A-group contains the more experienced players.

Being in the wrong contract often leads to a bad result, but sometimes it can also set you on the road to a clear top (see *top of next page*). Gorm Norstad was South, and the bidding was a simple one notrump—three notrump. West led the king of spades, and Norstad realized that he was in an inferior matchpoint contract. Four hearts would probably have netted at least 11 tricks by ruffing two clubs in hand. Norstad ducked the first spade, took the queen with his ace and took the finesses in both clubs and diamonds.

Dealer South. Neither Vul.

♠ 6 5 3 ♥ Q 10 6 3 ♦ K 3 ♣ A K J 5 ♠ K Q J ♥ 8 7 5 ♦ 8 7 6 ♣ Q 8 7 2 ♠ A 10 7 4 ♥ A K J 2 ♦ A J 9 ♣ 9 4	♠ 9 8 2 ♥ 9 4 ♦ Q 10 5 4 2 ♣ 10 6 3 ♠ 2 ♥ A 10 6 5 ♦ J 5 3 ♣ A 10 9 8 6 ♠ 9 8 4 ♥ Q J 9 4 ♦ K 8 4 ♣ K 5 3
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When Norstad cashed his heart tricks, West was squeezed in spades and clubs; plus 490 was a top.

Per Bryde Sundseth played the following deal brilliantly.

Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
—	Sundseth	—	Pass
2♠	2NT	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

East led the ten of clubs to Sundseth's jack. Declarer led the king of hearts, taken by the ace and, on East's heart return, he inserted the nine. He finessed in spades and led a club to dummy's king. Sundseth cashed his hearts. West had to keep three diamonds, while declarer discarded two clubs. He led a diamond to the queen, then the ace of spades and another spade. West cashed his other spade, but had to give the last trick to dummy's king of diamonds for nine tricks and a 90% score.

Dealer East. Both Vul.

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

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

On this board, the same man, partnering our former international, Harald Nordby, scored 100% when he made 11 tricks in a four-heart contract.

The six of spades lead went to the knave, queen and ace. Sundseth led a heart to the knave and a club to the ten. Three more rounds of hearts removed East's trumps. That was followed by a club to the queen and king and another club to West's ace. With five cards remaining, the position was:

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

West continued with a spade to the king, but on the thirteenth club he had to throw a spade else, with a complete count, Sundseth could duck a diamond to the then-bare ace. On the spade discard, Sundseth could then ruff dummy's remaining spade and safely lead a diamond toward the king for his eleventh trick.

With "a little help from my friend", the following deal produced an interesting end play:

Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

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

North led the queen of spades to my ace, took a diamond with the king and played another spade to

dummy's king. North came back in with the ace of diamonds and tried a heart to the nine, queen and king. I drew the last trump, and when I led a heart, North surprisingly played low, allowing dummy's knave to win. Now the end position was:

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

When I ruffed dummy's spade, North found that he could not take another trick: if he threw a heart, I could cross to the ace of clubs and ruff out his ace of hearts, whereas if he threw a club, I would play three rounds of the suit, ruffing in dummy and later enjoy my knave of clubs for 11 tricks. This produced only 55% since a quite a few declarers went two or more tricks down in spade contracts, vulnerable.



56th Gold Coast Congress

Barry Rigal, NYC
Brent Manley, Arlington, TN

Unlike our tournaments in North America, the Gold Coast Congress actually shows an increase in attendance most years – this year the GCC had 8801 tables, meaning that, among non-NABC tournaments, only the Gatlinburg Regional rivals it. Impeccable organisation, a great venue, wonderful weather in a splendid vacation area and magnificent restaurants are just some of the reasons why.

Winners of the main events were:

Open Teams: Andy Hung/Kornel Lazar, Nye Griffiths/Liam Milne, Michael Whibley/Roger Lee, with Daniel Braun as NPC,

Senior Teams: Liz Havas/Arjuna de Livera, Barbara McDonald/Alan Walsh

Open Pairs: Justin Howard/Tony Nunn

Senior Pairs: Paul Lavings/Robert Krochmalik

Open Pairs 2nd Qualifying Session

David Morgan and Stephen Fischer faced Matthew Brown and Ella Pattison on this board. It saw some very happy (and at least one extremely unhappy!) declarers.

Board 7. Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Fischer</i>	<i>Brown</i>	<i>Morgan</i>	<i>Pattison</i>
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	INT	Double	2♦
Pass	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

Can you blame Pattison for leading the nine of clubs? I can't. Morgan had the pleasure of covering this with the jack, taking the king with the ace and then running seven rounds of spades to watch the North hand implode in a repeating triple squeeze. Viz. ...

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

Brown took his best chance when he discarded the queen of diamonds, but declarer cashed the knave of diamonds and North was put through the wringer again. That was 710 and a 65% score for East/West while plus 680 would have been an average.

It's the case that, most of the time, declarer seems to automatically score well just for getting on play. That was emphatically not the case on this deal when South passed a penalty double of one notrump! Chu and Draper achieved the ultimate on defence, running seven spades for the same triple squeeze mentioned previously. That was for seven down and a penalty of 2000. Eleven pairs suffered various fates along these



Open Pairs winners Justin Howard and Tony Nunn

lines (some getting out for 800) and two pairs bid and made slam on the East/West cards. Wow!

Open Pairs 1st Final Session

My favourite board of the event saw the Sprungs, Joann and Danny, from the USA, fighting for overtricks.

Board 13. Dealer North. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Bilski	Joann S.	Strasser	Danny S.
—	1♣ ¹	Pass	1♦ ²
Pass	1♥ ³	Pass	3♥ ⁴
Pass	3NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			
1. 2+ clubs			
2. Hearts			
3. 11-13 balanced, 2/3 hearts			
4. Puppet to 3NT			

Joann won the diamond lead in dummy to lead a club to the king and then to pass the club nine. Bilski won with his ace and exited with a low heart to the king, Joann ducking. She won the diamond return and ran the minor suits, forcing a total of three discards from Bilski. When he discarded a heart and two spades, Joann cashed the ace and king of spades, reducing dummy and West down to three hearts. She led a heart to the nine and Bilski's ten, but he was endplayed to lead hearts into the tenace for plus 630. Nicely done.

Two hundred fourteen teams played a three-day, 12-round Swiss to qualify six teams for knockout play. The teams finishing first and second received a bye to the semifinals, while the other four contested the quarterfinals, with the third-place team choosing its opponent from those finishing fifth and sixth. The matches were 14 (Swiss), 24 (Quarterfinals), 40 (Semifinals) and 48 (Final) boards in length. The team finishing higher in the Swiss received a 0.1 IMP carry-forward.

The Swiss Qualifying ended this way:

1. HUNG: Nye Griffiths/Liam Milne, 191.46
Andy Hung/Kornel Lazar, Roger Lee/
Michael Whibley, Daniel Braun (npc)
2. ZIGGY: Justin Howard/Tony Nunn, 170.08
Siegfried Konig/James Wallis
3. VAINIKONIS: Mikhail Krasnoselskiy/ 164.34
Erikas Vainikonis, Wojtek Olanski/
Vytautas Vainikonis
4. KANETKAR: Pauline Gumby/ 161.36
Warren Lazer, Avinash Kanetkar/
Bruce Neill
5. BROWN: David Beauchamp/ 159.98
Hugh McGann, Fiona Brown/
Matthew Thomson, Michael Ware/
GeO Tislevoll
6. HAUGHIE: Bill Haughie/Simon Hinge, 159.31
Ron Klinger/Matthew Mullamphy

VAINIKONIS chose HAUGHIE and prevailed 63-31, while BROWN defeated KANETKAR 60-26. For the semifinals, it was HUNG v. BROWN and ZIGGY v. VAINIKONIS.

Open Teams Semifinals – Set 1

We shall use first names for Vainikonis père et fils.

Board 1. Dealer North. Neither Vul.

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

Five diamonds is the best game here, but it was no surprise that the lure of three notrump proved too strong for our teams. Three of the four tables settled there and no doubt they felt fortunate to come home with 11 or 12 tricks after a spade lead. As we shall see though, the eclectic (there's a charitable word!)

Continued on page 12...



IBPA Column Service

Tim Bourke, Canberra

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

845. Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

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

1. 20-21 HCP

Game was duly bid at both tables in a teams match. Both West players led the obvious king of diamonds, which was taken in dummy at trick one by both declarers.

The first declarer drew trumps in four rounds, ending in dummy. Next he ran the ten of clubs and, after that held, played a club to the jack. When West discarded a heart, declarer had to concede defeat, losing one heart, two diamonds, and one club.

The second declarer, instead of drawing trumps immediately, called for the five of clubs from dummy at trick two. When East played a low club, declarer covered this with the jack. When it held, he cashed the ace and king of trumps, noting the 4-1 break. After drawing the remaining trumps with the queen and jack, declarer led the ten of clubs from dummy and ran it when East followed low. When West showed out, declarer repeated the club finesse and claimed ten tricks – four trumps, the red aces and four clubs.

846. (See top of next column.) West led the jack of hearts. East took the first three tricks, then exited with the jack of diamonds. Declarer won with the ace of diamonds and considered his options. Obviously, if trumps were no worse than 3-1, he could ruff a diamond in dummy if necessary. He asked himself, "What can be done if trumps are 4-0?" and concluded that the safest option would be a dummy reversal.

Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

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

So, declarer cashed the ace of clubs at trick four, then led the king of trumps. When West followed, he overtook this in dummy with the ace of trumps and was rather pleased when East discarded a club. Declarer ruffed a club with the queen of trumps then led the two of trumps. When West followed with the three, the trick was won with dummy's seven. The queen of clubs was then ruffed with the ten of trumps and West's remaining trumps were picked up by finessing dummy's eight then cashing the jack while discarding the four of diamonds from hand. Declarer claimed the three remaining tricks with his diamond tops: he made four trumps, three diamonds, a club and two club ruffs for a total of ten tricks.

847. Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
—	—	—	2NT ¹
Pass	3♥ ²	Pass	4♠
Pass	5♦	Pass	6♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	
1. 20-22 HCP			
2. Transfer to spades			

West led the king of hearts and declarer saw that there would be 12 tricks if he could make four tricks in clubs. After winning the first trick with the ace of hearts, declarer drew three rounds of trumps. Declarer then demonstrated that he was a student of elimination play. First, he cashed the king of diamonds, played a diamond to the ace then he ruffed his last diamond in dummy. Next, declarer made the textbook play of a club to the ace followed by a heart to endplay the defence.

If West had won the heart trick, he would have had to lead away from his jack of club or to concede a ruff-and discard. No matter how the defenders played, declarer would have made twelve tricks.

If East had won the heart trick and had had another club to play, declarer would have let in run to dummy's queen. No matter how many clubs East had had, declarer would have made the four tricks in clubs he needed for his contract.

848. Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
—	—	—	1♥
1♠	Double	Pass	2♥
Pass	4NT ¹	Pass	5♠ ²
Pass	6♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			

- Roman Key Card Blackwood
- 2 key cards plus the queen of hearts

West led the king of diamonds. Declarer saw that if trumps were no worse than 4-1, he would make six trumps, four tricks in the minors and presumably two spades. Nothing would save the contract if West had five trumps, so his problem became, "What could be done if East had five trumps?"

Declarer deduced that the answer was to elope with his trumps by ruffing dummy's low spades in hand. If

trumps were 5-0, he saw that any successful play would involve cashing three clubs before taking a spade ruff. So, after winning the first trick with the dummy's ace of diamonds, declarer made the strange looking play of a low trump from dummy to his jack. When West discarded a spade, declarer's concerns about a foul trump division had paid off. He finessed the queen of spades and then cashed the ace of spades, throwing a diamond from hand.

Now came the point of the play in trumps: instead of leading a spade at this point, declarer cashed his club winners, ending in dummy. Only then did he call for dummy's five of spades. If East had ruffed high, declarer would have thrown a diamond: he would then have had the rest of the tricks. When East discarded a diamond, declarer ruffed low and led a trump to dummy's king. A fourth spade saw East ruff with the ten of trumps and declarer throw his remaining diamond. Declarer claimed his contract, making two spades, six trumps, a diamond and three clubs.

Notice that if the king of trumps had been played on the first round of the suit, the contract would have failed because East would have discarded a club on the third round of spades and declarer would then have had no way home, lacking the required entries to dummy.



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Open Teams winners: Andy Hung, Kornel Lazar, Nye Griffiths, Liam Milne, Daniel Braun (NPC), Michael Whibley, Roger Lee

methods used by Wallis-Konig are always prone to yielding a swing. This deal was no exception.

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

1. 12-16 and a good one suiter; OR 16+ any

We aren't here to justify the technical merits of the North/South system (just as well), but the key was whether South would sit for three notrump or look for a better game or slam.

In six clubs, Wallis received a helpful diamond lead to the king and ace. He led the ace of spades and ruffed a spade to lead a trump to the ... ten, and was down at once. Note that with the cards as they lay, Olanski had missed a chance of beating the contract, to wit, rising with the king of clubs to play another diamond, so Wallis was no doubt influenced by that factor. That was 11 IMPs out instead of 10 in.

Open Teams Semifinals – Set 4

Board 36. Dealer West. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
McGann	Lazar	Thompson	Hung
1♦	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♠	Pass	4♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		

West	North	East	South
Lee	Tislevoll	Whibley	Ware
1♦	2NT	3♥	4♥
4♠	Pass	Pass	5♥
Pass	Pass	Double	Pass
Pass	Pass		

West	North	East	South
Olanski	Wallis	Vitas	Konig
1♦	2♦ ¹	Double	2♥
Pass	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. Clubs and a major

West	North	East	South
Nunn	Krasnoselskiy	Howard	Erikas
1♦	2NT	Double	4♥
Pass	Pass	Double	Pass
Pass	Pass		

The two Souths who played hearts lost the obvious five tricks. Erikas thus finished minus 300 for a gain of 8 IMPs against the 650 recorded by Vitas on a club lead and heart shift. He ruffed one club in dummy, pitched the other on the ace of hearts and guessed the diamond queen.

And Thompson in four spades? He won the queen-of-hearts lead, ten, seven, king, and played four rounds of spades. South shifted to the queen of clubs to North's ace and North continued with the jack of clubs, perhaps revealing South's doubleton. Declarer won the second club, crossed to the ace of diamonds and discarded a club on the ace of hearts. He now needed to guess diamonds to make his game.

North had not acted over one diamond with a singleton spade so he couldn't be 5-5 ... could he? He'd discarded the deuce of clubs (encouraging) and the three-two of hearts on the spades. Thompson finessed in diamonds to lose to the queen, and that meant a loss of 12 IMPs rather than a gain of 3. (Maybe a diamond finesse at trick three would have been safest?)

VAINIKONIS won the match by 86-54; HUNG won the other semifinal, 79-63.

Open Teams Final – Set 1

Board 2. Dealer East. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Olanski	Milne	Vitas V.	Griffiths
—	—	Pass	Pass
1♦	1♥	Double	2♦
2♠	4♥	4♠	Pass
Pass	Double	Pass	Pass
Pass			

West	North	East	South
Hung	Krasnoselskiy	Lazar	Erikas V.
—	—	Pass	Pass
1NT	2♥ ¹	2♠	3♥
3♠	4♥	Pass	Pass
4♠	Double	Pass	Pass
Pass			

1. Hearts and a minor

After 12 rounds of qualifying play, the quarterfinals and semifinals, HUNG and VAINIKONIS had made it to the championship match.

Griffiths led a heart to the jack and North's ace. The king of clubs was next, overtaken by South with the ace to give his partner a diamond ruff. Milne still had the king of spades coming, so the contract was one down for plus 100 to North/South.

At the other table, Erikas led a heart to Krasnoselskiy's ace. North led and continued clubs, ruffed by Lazar. Declarer played the king of hearts and ruffed a heart, then played the ace and queen of spades, taken by North with the king to return a spade to dummy's jack. This was the end position with the lead in dummy.

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

Lazar can make the contract by playing the jack, ten or nine of diamonds from dummy. On the lead of the nine, for example, he can win with the king and lead the eight from hand, letting it ride. In practice, however, Lazar played the three of diamond from dummy and took the finesse, but he had no way to get back to hand for a second finesse and he had to go down one for a push.

Despite this, HUNG won the final convincingly, 145-27, with VAINIKONIS resigning after three of the four scheduled sets.



As declarer, it often pays to false-card, as you have no partner to fool, only the opponents. Declarer often does this to avoid an opponent reading the lead as a singleton, to forestall a ruff.

Dealer East. Neither Vul.

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

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

This deal is from the semifinals of the Australian National Open Teams. West was world champion Jacek Pszczola (Pepsi), Polish born, now residing in the USA. North led the nine of diamonds against Pszczola's four-spade contract. Pepsi played low from the dummy and, when South won with the ace, Pepsi played the two. This made it clear to South that North had led a singleton and, after a little thought, South returned a diamond, which North ruffed. North shifted to a heart, but Pepsi was in command. He won with the heart ace, cashed two top trumps, led a club to dummy's ace and played a good diamond for a heart discard. North ruffed in but that was the last trick for the defence.

At the other table, the Australian declarer, after the same auction and opening lead, dropped the jack under South's ace to try and avoid a diamond ruff. South, world champion Jacek Kalita, was unsure whether the lead was a singleton or doubleton. (*Kalita/Nowosadzki lead second/fourth, but third/fifth in partner's suit. – Ed.*) In any case, South knew that heart tricks were needed for the defence and shifted to a low heart at trick two. Now the contract went one off.

Pepsi's play was inspired and far-sighted. Making it obvious that North had led a singleton, inducing South

to return a diamond, could hardly cost and could easily safeguard the contract. South should have smelled a rat: why had a world-class declarer made it so obvious that the leader had led a singleton? Because he wanted you to return a diamond. Therefore, with that reasoning, perhaps South should have found the heart switch, as Kalita did in the other room.



The format of the Cavendish Teams was a Swiss Qualifying followed by semifinals and final. The 22 teams which entered played seven 14-board matches over two days; the semifinals and final consisted of 20- and 30-board matches respectively, played in sets of ten on Day Three.

Swiss Match 5. BRIDGE 24PL v. MAHMOOD

The Polish team BRIDGE 24PL, winners in Match 4 against the mostly-Italian LAVAZZA team, and Zia MAHMOOD's team, having just beaten DE BOTTON, found themselves face to face for Match 5. In the Open Room, Bartosz Chmurski and Piotr Tuczynski played against Vincent Demuy and John Hurd; in the Closed Room, Zia Mahmood and Steve Weinstein faced Piotr Nawrocki and Piotr Wiankowski.

Board 17. Dealer North. Neither Vul.

♠ J 9 4 2
♥ 10 6
♦ K 7
♣ A J 10 6 2

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

♠ —
♥ K J 5
♦ J 9 5 4
♣ K Q 9 8 7 3

West	North	East	South
Demuy	Chmurski	Hurd	Tuczynski
—	Pass	Pass	3♣
Double	5♣	Double	Pass
Pass	Pass		

West	North	East	South
Wiankowski	Weinstein	Nawrocki	Mahmood
—	Pass	Pass	1♣
Double	2♦ ¹	Pass	5♣
Double	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. Limit raise in clubs

In the Closed Room, West led the king of spades. Zia trumped that and led the five of diamonds at trick two. Wiankowski went up with the ace (East following with the eight) and played the ace of spades. Zia trumped, overtook the queen of clubs with the ace, cashed the king of diamonds (two, five, three) and led the jack of clubs to the king. All the signs pointed to West's having the queen of diamonds and East remaining with the ten, so Zia led the jack of diamonds next. When West covered with the queen, Zia ruffed it in the dummy. The fall of the ten established the nine in the South hand for a heart discard in the dummy. Plus 550.

In the Open Room, Vincent Demuy and John Hurd defended better by not squandering their diamond resources. West also led the spade king. Tuczynski ruffed it, drew trumps and led a diamond toward dummy's king. Demuy played low and declarer won with the king (two from Hurd). When declarer next led the seven of diamonds from the dummy to the eight, nine and ace, he could lead the jack of diamonds to pin the ten, but then Demuy's six of diamonds was higher than declarer's five. Down one meant 12 IMPs to MAHMOOD.

The Swiss Qualifying went down to the wire. After six of the seven matches, LAVAZZA and BABA had been in a qualifying position. When they met in Match 7, LAVAZZA won a close match, 22-18, allowing WIGODER and MOSSOP, who both won big, against other opponents, to pass them. The top four:

- 99.80 MAHMOOD: Hurd, Weinstein, Demuy
- 93.37 ZIMMERMANN: Helgemo, Helness, Multon, Martens, Filipowicz
- 89.07 WIGODER: Zatorski, Pszczola, Klukowski
- 85.41 MOSSOP: Hacketts (Paul, Justin, Jason)

Semifinal 1. MAHMOOD v. MOSSOP

Board 10. Dealer East. Both Vul.

♠ 8 7 6
♥ Q
♦ A K 6
♣ K Q 10 9 8 4

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

♠ J 5 3
♥ A 8
♦ Q 10 8 7 4
♣ 7 3 2



Cavendish Teams winners: Jean-Charles Allavena, FMB president, presents the trophy to Steve Weinstein, John Hurd, Zia Mahmood and Vincent Demuy

West	North	East	South
Jason H.	Weinstein	Justin H.	Mahmood
—	—	Pass	Pass
1♥	2♣	2♥	3♣
4♥	Pass	Pass	Pass
West	North	East	South
Demuy	Paul H.	Hurd	Mossop
—	—	Pass	Pass
1♥	2♣	3♥	Pass
4♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

For the semifinals, it was (1) MAHMOOD versus (4) MOSSOP and (2) ZIMMERMANN against (3) WIGODER.

Both declarers played this deal very well, even though each took a different approach.

Being ten years the senior of Hurd, Justin Hackett took a much more conservative view of his cards than did Hurd, merely making a single raise, as opposed to a pre-emptive, three-level jump.

Weinstein led the king of clubs. Jason won with his ace and got out with his second club to North. Weinstein led the king, then the ace, of diamonds. Jason ruffed, then paused for a brief assessment: Zia had nothing in clubs, at most the queen of diamonds and nothing in spades. What was left for him but the ace of hearts? Jason crossed to the queen of spades and led the jack of hearts to the king. Voilà!

Père Hackett led the ace of diamonds against Demuy. When North shifted to the king of clubs, Demuy won with his ace and immediately played on spades. When they proved to be 3-3, declarer was able to discard dummy's club loser and hold his losses to one more trump trick. In practice, North discarded and South ruffed with the eight of hearts. Demuy was then able to ruff his club to dummy in order to lead a heart toward the king. That resulted in a flat board.

The semifinals were both desperately close. After trailing MAHMOOD 34-6 at halftime, MOSSOP won

the second half 39-12 to lose by a single IMP. WIGODER defeated ZIMMERMANN 29-23 in a match that was close all the way.

Final. MAHMOOD v. WIGODER

Board 19 achieved a record: the longest-ever trick to be played - almost nine minutes! (Not even close! The longest publicized pause that we are aware of has been 25 minutes – for a single card, never mind a whole trick. Also, an unnamed opponent of Jeff Rubens once took 55 minutes to make his first call in the auction. These occurrences were, of course, in the days before time restrictions and penalties. – Ed.)

Board 19. Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Klukowski	Hurd	Zatorski	Demuy
—	—	—	1♥
Pass	2♠	3♦	4♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Zatorski led out the three top diamonds, collecting clubs from Klukowski. East shifted to a club, won by dummy's ace, and Hurd led the ace of hearts and ruffed a heart. When declarer next led the jack of spades and East showed out, he rose with the ace. There were two trump tricks to come for West; two off, minus 100.

West	North	East	South
Mahmood	Pszczola	Weinstein	Wigoder
—	—	—	1♥
Pass	1♠	2♦	2♥
Pass	Pass	2NT	3♠
Double	Pass	Pass	Pass

The ninth trick was rather more important at this table. Weinstein also led out the three top diamonds, Zia also discarding clubs, then put his cards on the table and thought. After four minutes he played a diamond for a ruff-sluff not at all helpful to declarer. Then it was Pepsi's turn to stop and think. Three minutes later he discarded a heart from dummy. Zia paused another two minutes before trumping with the eight of spades, over-ruffed with the jack. Pszczola led a club to the ace and played the ace and ruffed a

Continued on page 18...



**INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE PRESS ASSOCIATION
INCOME STATEMENT**

For the year ended 31st December 2015

2014 Actual \$	Income		2015 Actual \$	2015 Budget \$	2016 Budget \$
10,188	Subscriptions Email	\$42 see note	8,697	11,760	10,500
1,035	Subscriptions Printing	\$45 see note	645	1,080	900
2,480	WBF Grant		2,500	2,500	2,500
7,000	Award Sponsors		4,875	5,000	5,000
46	Interest Received		29	60	100
0	Surplus on Exchange		<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
20,749	Total Income		16,746	20,400	19,000
	Expenditure				
9,000	Bulletin Editor's Fee		9,000	9,000	9,000
1,000	Bulletin Editor's Allowance 1,000		1,000	1,000	
600	Bulletin Editor's Travel		1,200	1,200	1,200
900	Bulletin Hands Columnist 960		1,000	1,000	
1,242	Bulletin Printing and Postage		949	1,100	900
500	President's Allowance		500	500	500
1,200	President's Travel		1,200	1,200	1,000
445	Treasurer's Allowance		500	500	500
0	Treasurer's Travel		0	1,000	1,000
	Member Advertising		400	0	0
500	Membership Secretary Allowance		1,000	500	500
1,700	IBPA Award Prizes		1,776	2,400	2,400
600	IBPA Award Costs		174	200	200
449	Credit Card Charges		329	500	500
457	Bank Charges		374	500	500
123	Miscellaneous Costs		0	400	400
4,638	Loss on Exchange		<u>3,459</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
23,354	Total Expenses		22,821	21,000	20,600
-2605	Excess Income (Expenditure) for the year.		-6,075	-600	-1,600

**NOTE TO THE INCOME STATEMENT
for the year ended 31st December 2015**

NOTE 1: Subscriptions

5,652	Subscriptions due	5,001
810	Subscriptions due (printing)	495
4,536	Subs. Paid in advance - see note 1	3,696
225	Subs paid in advance (printing) - see note 1	150
11,223	Total	9,342
10,188	Subscriptions Email	8,697
1035	Subscriptions Printing	<u>645</u>
11,223	Total	9,342



INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE PRESS ASSOCIATION
BALANCE SHEET
as at 31st December 2015

	2014	2015
	\$	\$
Assets		
Current Assets		
Payment in Advance	0	0
Cash and cash equivalents	<u>72,566</u>	<u>67,056</u>
Total Assets	72,566	67,056
Current Liabilities		
Award money in advance	2,000	1,000
Trade and other payables	<u>250</u>	<u>1,815</u>
Total Current Liabilities	2,250	2,815
Net Assets	70,316	64,241
Reserves		
Retained profit brought forward	72,921	70,316
Profit and Loss Account	<u>-2,605</u>	<u>-6,075</u>
Total Reserves	70,316	64,241

INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE PRESS ASSOCIATION
CASH FLOW STATEMENT
for the year ended 31st December 2015

	\$	\$
Cash Funds as at 1 st January 2015	75,013	72,566
Net Inflow of Cash during the year	2,191	-2,051
Exchange Gain / (-Loss) in Euro account	<u>-4,638</u>	<u>-3,459</u>
Cash Funds as at 31 st December 2015	72,566	67,056

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the year ended 31st December 2015

NOTE 1: Subscriptions

Subscriptions paid in advance according to the income statement confirm a liability for the year ended 31st December 2015 to the extent of \$4,451.

NOTE 2: Assets

Computers, printers and fax machines are all written off to Nil in the year of purchase.

NOTE 3: Cash Funds 31st December 2015

	Euro/US\$	Euro/US\$
HSBC Euro Account (Euro)	27,833/33,688	27,767/30,150
HSBC US\$ Account	35,745	27,039
Paypal	<u>3,133</u>	<u>9,867</u>
Per Balance Sheet	72,566	67,056

heart. He ruffed a club, ruffed a heart, ruffed a club and cashed the ace of spades. Declarer had taken eight tricks and was in dummy – he could not be prevented from taking a trick with the ten of spades for plus 530 and 12 IMPs to WIGODER.

That board closed the gap in the match to 69-50 in favour of MAHMOOD. Another 12 IMPs went away on Board 20 on a queen-ten misguess at one table and guess at the other to narrow the margin even further, so that entering the last set of ten boards, MAHMOOD led 69-62.

In the last session, Board 25 raised the hopes of the WIGODER team.

Board 25. Dealer North. EW Vul.

♠ K Q 3
♥ 9 3 2
♦ A K 10 4
♣ A J 6

♠ 8 7 6 2
♥ —
♦ Q J 8 7 6
♣ Q 10 7 3

♠ 10 5
♥ A Q J 10 6
♦ 9 5 3 2
♣ 8 5

♠ A J 9 4
♥ K 8 7 5 4
♦ —
♣ K 9 4 2

West	North	East	South
Klukowski	Weinstein	Zatorski	Mahmood
—	INT	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♦	Pass	3♠ ¹
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♦
Pass	4♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			

1. 4 spades and 5 hearts

Zatorski led the five of diamonds. Weinstein discarded a club from the dummy and won with his ace over Klukowski's jack. On a heart lead toward the king, East played the ten. Weinstein won with the king of hearts and led another to the nine and jack. East continued the attack on diamonds: two, club four, queen, king. East won the next trump with his queen and led yet another diamond: three, club nine, eight, ten. This was the position:

♠ K Q 3
♥ —
♦ 4
♣ A J 6

♠ 7 2
♥ —
♦ 6
♣ Q 10 7 3

♠ 10 5
♥ A 6
♦ 9
♣ 8 5

♠ A J 9 4
♥ 8 7
♦ —
♣ K

Declarer could not afford to cross to dummy and play another trump to knock out the ace – another diamond would force out dummy's last trump and establish the six as a trick. Accordingly, Weinstein ruffed the fourth diamond first, extracting East's last, cashed the king of clubs, crossed back to hand with the king of spades, then cashed the spade queen and the ace of clubs. East had been reduced to the ace-six of hearts. Dummy still had the eight of hearts and on a club from North, had to make it *en passant*. Bien joué.

West	North	East	South
Demuy	Pszczola	Hurd	Wigoder
—	INT	Pass	2♦ ¹
Pass	2♥	Pass	2♣
Pass	4♥	Double	Redouble
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. Transfer

Knowing that his team was trailing in the match, Wigoder decided to redouble when Hurd doubled four hearts. Fortunately for him, his partner held the nine of hearts. On the eight-of-clubs lead, Pszczola won with his jack, played a low trump for the ten and king, and another trump for his nine, beaten by the jack. Demuy continued with clubs, won by declarer's ace. A third trump was taken by Hurd's queen and he shifted to a diamond but, with no force set up, declarer could go to dummy twice, once to knock out the ace of hearts and again to draw East's six. Ten tricks resulted in plus 880 to WIGODER and a gain of 10 IMPs.

Board 30. Dealer East. Neither Vul.

♠ 7 4
♥ K 10 5 3
♦ J 7 4 3
♣ J 9 6

♠ A K Q 10 9 5 3
♥ A 7 2
♦ A Q 10
♣ —

♠ 6
♥ 9 8 4
♦ 9 8 5 2
♣ K Q 7 5 2

♠ J 8 2
♥ Q J 6
♦ K 6
♣ A 10 8 4 3

West	North	East	South
Klukowski	Weinstein	Zatorski	Mahmood
—	—	Pass	Pass
1♣ ¹	Pass	1♦ ²	Pass
2♦ ³	Pass	2♠ ⁴	Pass
3♣	Pass	4♣	Pass
4♦	Pass	4NT	Pass
6♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. (i) 12-14 balanced; (ii) 15+ natural; (iii) any 18+
2. 0-7 HCP
3. Artificial game-force
4. ??

When the last board of the match arrived (there would be no tie as MAHMOOD received a decimal carry-forward by dint of finishing higher than WIGODER in the Swiss Qualifying) WIGODER trailed by only one point (75–74).

Klukowski/Zatorski over-reached to slam. Declarer lost all possible tricks on the spade lead, two each in hearts and diamonds for three down, minus 150.

West	North	East	South
Demuy	Pszczola	Hurd	Wigoder
—	—	Pass	1♣
Double	1♥	Pass	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		

The active North/South bidding kept East/West low. Against four spades, after a club lead to the king and ace, ruffed, Demuy played out all his trumps. On the last of these North had to discard a heart to keep declarer from guessing the diamond layout. When he did so, Demuy thus led a low heart, won the heart return and led his last heart. North was in, with no more hearts, so had to lead a diamond or a club, surrendering the tenth trick. Plus 420 and plus 150 meant a gain of 11 IMPs. The MAHMOOD team had won the fifth Cavendish at Monaco. Bravo!

Invitational Pairs Auction Prices

Geir Helgemo-Tor Helness	€25,000
Vincent Demuy-John Hurd	€21,000
Zia Mahmood-Steve Weinstein	€18,000

Pairs Results

1. Diyan Danailov/Jerry Stamatov
2. Marc Bompis/Hervé Vinciguerra
3. Tom van Overbeeke/Martin Schollardt



Correspondence

The Editor reserves the right to abridge and/or edit correspondence.

Email: ibpaeditor@sympatico.ca

Dear John,

I have only just learnt – via *Le Bridgeur* magazine – of the death of Gérard Neuberg. He was a gentle, soft-spoken Frenchman, a mathematician in the classic French intellectual way.

In the 1970's, bridge was booming, with match-pointed pairs events getting bigger and bigger and the efficient and timely scoring of them a nightmare. Neuberg saw the problem and perceived the solution – scoring by computer. I met Neuberg in 1979 when Harold Franklin asked him to score the London *Easter Guardian* tournament. For the first time (for an event of well

over 200 tables) the players had the results of the afternoon session before the evening session started.

Neuberg worked for the French Bridge Federation and the World Bridge Federation (he scored the World Championships in Biarritz in 1982) but lost interest in bridge thereafter to concentrate on an academic career, including writing books on financial and actuarial mathematics.

If bridge is to survive as a game (“sport”, if you like), it will only do so by embracing at all times the most modern information technology. Gerard Neuberg set the electrons in motion. We owe him a great debt.

Yours ever, Bill Pencharz, Piégut-Pluviers, France

To the editor:

It was good to see your editorial facing the grim reality of our game. Perhaps this makes a good time to think about the total number of bridge players in the world. We know there are about 600,000 who belong to clubs. The question is, how many more are there? The ABF has said 60 million, WBF vice president, Patrick Choy, has said 25 million in China alone and in “Bridge in the 21st Century”, Panos Gerontopoulos quoted London’s *Independent* as saying there are 200 million. Sounds good but, sadly, these figures are pure fiction.

Let’s think about the 25 million bridge players in China. The vast majority of these would come from the middle class. Jack Ma, the founder of Alibaba, said the Chinese have 300 million middle class. The Patrick Choy claim of 25 million bridge players in China would mean that 8% of the Chinese middle class play bridge. This is obvious nonsense. More than one million Chinese visit Australia each year. That would mean 80,000 bridge players are visiting here. How many turn up in our bridge community? That’s right – none. And the claim of 200 million would mean one in every 35 people on the planet is a bridge player. Remember, only nine countries turned up in Atlanta, USA, for the 2013 World Youth Championships, despite many attractive inducements.

The ABF is equally deluded with their claim of 60 million bridge players. There is no hidden population of bridge players in Australia. I have sold more than 500,000 bridge books in Australia, all of them through clubs and teachers. For several years, I also put them in bookshops and newsagents all around the country, but they only gathered dust. I run two of the busiest bridge clubs in Australia and all our players come from our own beginner program or other clubs. In other words, just about everyone who plays bridge belongs to some club, and that includes online players.

It’s time to face the reality. There is no hidden population of bridge players. The current world population of bridge players is something under one million.

Cheers, Paul Marston, Sydney

World Bridge Calendar

DATES	EVENT	LOCATION	INFORMATION
2017			
Mar 9-12	XIV International Festival	Casablanca, Morocco	www.casablanca-bridge.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 10-12	3 rd International Teams Festival	Lisbon, Portugal	www.fpbridge.pt
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 3-11	19 th BFAME Zonal Championships	Dubai, UAE	azwer46@gmail.com
Apr 4-9	Kitzbüheler BridgeWeek	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	29 th CACBF & 3 rd Open Championships	Antigua, Guatemala	www.cacbf.com
Apr 28-May 2	Schapiro Spring Foursomes	Stratford-upon-Avon, England	www.ebu.co.uk
Apr 28-May 1	10 th Slavonice International	Slavonice, Czech Republic	www.chaosbridge.com
Apr 28-May 9	USBF Open Trials	Schaumburg, IL	www.usbf.org
Apr 29-May 1	German Bridge Team Trophy	Berlin, Germany	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 9-14	32 nd Grand Prix of Portugal	Estoril, Portugal	www.fpbridge.pt
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 19-28	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 2-9	28 th International Festival	lloret de Mar, Spain	www.bridgecostabrava.org
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 27-Jul 9	35 th Albena Festival	Albena, Bulgaria	www.bridgealbena.org
Jun 30-Jul 2	English Riviera Congress	Torquay, England	www.ebu.co.uk
Jun 30-Jul 6	51 st Tel-Aviv Bridge Festival	Tel-Aviv, Israel	www.ibf-festival.org
Jul 3-7	Yeh Bros. Cup	Tokyo, Japan	cpc2013228@gmail.com
Jul 7-16	Danish Bridge Festival	Svendborg, Denmark	www.bridgefestival.dk
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 27-29	Youth 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 4-6	2 nd Marit Sveaas Tournament	Oslo, Norway	www.bridge.no
Aug 4-13	EBU Summer Meeting	Eastbourne, UK	www.ebu.co.uk
Aug 7-13	Norsk Bridge Festival	Drammen, Norway	www.bridgefestival.no
Aug 12-26	World Team Championships	Lyon, France	www.worldbridge.org
Aug 15-24	World Open Youth Championships	Lyon, France	www.worldbridge.org
Aug 18-27	EBU Summer Meeting	Eastbourne, UK	www.ebu.co.uk
Aug 26-Sep 3	Festival La Grande Motte	La Grande Motte, France	www.festivalsdusoleil.com
Sep 2-13	56 th International Festival	Pula, Croatia	www.pulabridgefestival.com
Sep 8-17	Guernsey Congress	Guernsey, Channel Is.	www.ebu.co.uk
Sep 29-Oct 1	11 th Minsk Cup	Minsk, Belarus	www.sportbridge.by
Sep 30-Oct 4	21 st International Bridge Festival	Azores Is., Portugal	www.fpbridge.pt
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
Oct 18-26	Australian Spring Nationals	Sydney, Australia	www.abf.com.au
Nov 6-12	20 th International Festival	Madeira, Portugal	www.fpbridge.pt
Nov 9-11	4 th Marbella International	Marbella, Costa del Sol, Spain	www.marbellabridge.com
Nov 23-Dec 3	ACBL Fall NABC	San Diego, Ca	www.acbl.org