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April 1, 2017



Chess Follows Suit

— Stop Press —



1 April 2017, Paris, France. (Agence France-Presse) Chess players were stunned today when the World Chess Federation (FIDE) announced a major rules change for its sanctioned events, effective January 1, 2018. Following the FIDE annual executive meeting this morning, a spokesman for the governing body addressed a throng of reporters in a press conference at the Hotel Prince De Galles with this statement:

“I am pleased to announce that, after much discussion, the FIDE Board of Directors has agreed to a rules change that should be beneficial to chess players and aficionados everywhere. As you well know, tournament chess is slow-paced. With the standard time control of 40 moves per player in two hours, a typical game lasts four hours, which is not only a burden on the players, but on the officiating staff and spectators as well. We have long searched for a viable solution to this problem and now have one, thanks to the initiative of our fellow mind-game organization, the American Contract Bridge League. Chess and bridge have had an excellent relationship, through IMSA, the International Mind Sports Association, for many years, and it can now only get better.”

“To resolve its own time constraints, the ACBL has conjured up a masterful change in its most prestigious event, the Vanderbilt Cup. Held annually since 1928 and just completed for this year in Kansas City, Missouri, this knockout team contest typically lasts a week, with daily matches of 64 deals, subdivided into four segments of 16 deals each. One might consider 87 years of tradition to be an inviolable precept but, as of March, 2015, all Vanderbilt matches were cropped to 60 deals, with segments of 15 deals each. Absolutely brilliant! Players now have a little extra time to relax between segments, officials get longer dinner parties, and spectators, if nothing else, can enjoy a happy hour with 10 extra minutes! Hats off to this bold and beautiful decision, which FIDE has monitored closely for the past three years.”

“How does this relate to chess? Very simple. Chess, like bridge, has always endured the problem of complexity, which is the underlying cause of all slow play. Sixteen white pieces and 16 black pieces produce an estimated 4 tredecillion positions, which even the most powerful computers, let alone the human mind, cannot fathom. Therefore, neatly in line with the ACBL's ingenious ratio, each chess player will now begin with 15 pieces. Much of the debate this past week was over which piece to eliminate. Final consensus was the queen's knight pawn, because it will have minimal impact on strategy, Larsen's Opening notwithstanding, and greatly accelerate play by allowing an immediate fianchetto of the queen's bishop. Discussions with the ACBL have resulted in that organisation's agreement to make their 15-board segments consist of Boards 1-9 and 11-16, removing Board 10, in solidarity with FIDE.”

“We express our sincere gratitude to the American Contract Bridge League for leading the way, brightening the future of both organizations for generations to come. We also note that India, the birthplace of chess, has, for many years, routinely used 14-board segments in its major bridge championships. FIDE is not ruling out the possibility of further reducing the number of pieces in the future.”

“This ends the official announcement, and I will now take questions.”

(With thanks to Richard Pavlicek, www.rpbridge.net.)

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The 16th Slava Cup

Moscow, February 23-26, 2017

Mark Horton, Sutton Benger, Wilts., UK

David Bird, Eastleigh, Hants., UK

Moscow's Metropol Hotel was the venue for the sixteenth edition of the Slava Cup, firmly established as one of the premier events in the bridge calendar. Once again, Pavel Portnoy and his committee assembled an outstanding field from Russia and the rest of the world, including a tremendous collection of World, European and National Champions. They were there to pay homage to the memory of the talented Slava Grinyuk, who died an untimely death in his thirties. This year's format saw 58 pairs compete over 16 eight-board rounds at IMP scoring.

Round 3 (MH)

In Round 3 we follow the fortunes of the third- and fourth-placed pairs.

Board 24. Dealer West. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Tatarkin</i>	<i>Baldursson</i>	<i>Bakal</i>	<i>Haraldsson</i>
1♦	Pass	1♥	Pass
2♣	Pass	3NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		

South cashed the ace of hearts and switched to the six of spades. Declarer took North's ten with the jack, unblocked the queen of clubs and played a diamond to the jack successfully. He cashed three rounds of

clubs, pitching two hearts and a spade, as South discarded the six and seven of hearts. The queen of spades ran to South's king and he exited with a spade to declarer's ace. This left a four-card ending in which South had retained a winning spade, the king of hearts and the guarded king of diamonds.

If declarer had exited with a heart, South would have won, cashed a spade, but must then have led into the split diamond tenace. However, unable to read the position, declarer cashed the ace of diamonds and was one down when the king failed to appear; minus 50 and a loss of 9 IMPs.

Round 4 (MH)

Board 25. Dealer North. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Dubin</i>	<i>Baldursson</i>	<i>Gromov</i>	<i>Haraldsson</i>
—	1♦	Pass	2♠ ¹
Pass	4♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			

1. Invitational with 5+ spades and 4 hearts

East led the jack of diamonds. Declarer won in hand and played the five of hearts to East's ace. Baldursson won the diamond return, pitching a spade from dummy, and played the ten of hearts, East throwing a diamond. If West had won that and returned a heart, declarer would have had too much to do but, when he ducked, declarer took full advantage. Declarer ruffed a diamond with the queen of hearts, cashed the king of clubs, played a club to the jack, cashed the ace, ruffed a club and cashed the ace of spades. He was sure to score a trick with the jack of hearts for plus 420, giving the leaders 6 IMPs.

If declarer had played East for a singleton ace of hearts and left trumps alone thereafter, the line he followed would have left the defenders helpless.

Round 6 (MH)

(See top of next page.) East led the king of spades and declarer won with the ace and followed the idea expounded by Maurice Harrison-Gray (and later Patrick Jourdain) of playing off his long suit.

Board 42. Dealer East. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
—	—	Pass	2♦
Pass	3NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Five rounds of diamonds produced this ending:

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

On the last diamond, declarer threw a heart from hand as West parted with the two of clubs. What should East discard? He went with the four of spades and when declarer ran the queen of clubs he won with the king, played a heart to his partner's ace and collected three spade tricks for one down.

Declarer had missed a difficult chance. Once East had thrown a spade, declarer could have played a heart. West would have won with the ace and played a spade, but East can only take three tricks in the suit and will then have to play a club, giving dummy the last two tricks. To avoid this, East had to keep his spades intact and pitch a heart on the last diamond.

Round 11 (DB)

Board 88. Dealer West. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Lankveld</i>	<i>Marashev</i>	<i>den Bos</i>	<i>Tsonchev</i>
Pass	1♦	Pass	1♥
Pass	2♥	Pass	4♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

The final day's play began with the Bulgarians, Vladimir Marashev and Ivan Tsonchev, in first place ahead of Dubinin/Gromov of Russia. They would not have been there without a very fine piece of dummy play on this deal from Round 11.

The nine-of-diamonds lead was covered by the king and ace, Tsonchev discarding a spade from hand on the diamond return. The nine of clubs went to the jack and queen. West then cashed the ace of spades and returned to diamonds, forcing the South hand. As you see, setting up the clubs and hoping to draw trumps before enjoying the long clubs would be defeated by the 4-1 trump break.

Tsonchev played the ace of hearts, noting East's nine with interest. Was it a singleton or part of the jack-nine, or even a falsecard? He continued with the ace of clubs and a third club. West showed out and declarer ruffed with the eight of hearts. If trumps had started 3-2, he could simply draw them with the king and queen, claiming the last three tricks with his good clubs. No, he decided that East's nine of hearts had been a singleton. He called for the king of spades and ruffed a spade with the seven of hearts. He then led a club, overruffing West's five of hearts with dummy's ten. It remained only to complete the crossruff, scoring his queen and king of hearts separately. Bravo! That was plus 420 and a 9-IMP gain over the datum of 0.

Round 13 (DB)

Board 98. Dealer East. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Ingimarsson</i>	<i>Marashev</i>	<i>Eriksson</i>	<i>Tsonchev</i>
—	—	Pass	2♦ ¹
Pass	4♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			

1. Weak Two in either major

Tsonchev opened with a Multi Two Diamonds and, after some thought, Marashev abandoned science and leapt to four hearts. East led the two of clubs and

West played the ten, not wishing to set up the club king as an entry to dummy. Declarer won and played the ace, king and another trump to West's queen. When West returned the eight of diamonds, declarer rose with the ace, ruffed by East. West took his ace on the club return and declarer was left with a diamond loser after ruffing West's ace of spades. That was minus 100 and 4 IMPs away against the datum of plus 60.

There was bad news for the Bulgarians from Table 2: Gromov had made four hearts for plus 620 and 11 IMPs. How did that happen?

Nikitina (East) led a club and Gusev won immediately with the ace, declarer playing the queen. Gromov rose with the ace of diamonds on the diamond-two return, East ruffing in. To beat the contract after this start, East had to find the difficult continuation of a second club. Since this might have allowed a spade discard if the queen of clubs had been singleton, she preferred to switch to the jack of spades.

Curtains! Gromov ruffed and played the ace, king and another trump. He could then claim the contract, using the king of clubs as an entry for the diamond finesse.

Board 100. Dealer West. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Ingimarsson</i>	<i>Marashev</i>	<i>Eriksson</i>	<i>Tsonchev</i>
1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♣ ¹	Pass	2♦ ²	Pass
2NT ³	Pass	3♥	Pass
3♠	Pass	3NT	Pass
4♣	Pass	4♦	Pass
4NT ⁴	Pass	5♣ ⁵	Pass
6♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. Gazilli: either natural or any 15+HCP
2. 8+ HCP
3. Semi-balanced, 15+
4. RKCB
5. 1 or 4 key cards

A hailstorm of control-bids left the Icelanders in a somewhat poor slam. Any lead but a diamond would have helped declarer considerably. The Bridge Gods had been kind to Marashev, giving him a diamond sequence.

Ingimarsson won the jack-of-diamonds lead with dummy's ace and played a trump to the two, king and six. Good luck so far. After some thought, he diagnosed that he would need a club finesse. A club to the jack won. More good luck!

The hot-spot of the deal had been reached when declarer called for another trump from dummy. To beat the slam South must rise with the ace of hearts and return ... a diamond! With the spade finesse offside, declarer cannot then do everything that he would like to do.

In practice, Tsonchev played low on the second trump. Ingimarrson won with his queen, crossed to the king of clubs and played the king and queen of diamonds, ditching the queen of spades. He could then cross to the ace of spades and ruff his club loser with dummy's last trump. Minus 1430 to the Bulgarians and a horrible 13 IMPs away against the datum of minus 580.

The final standings were very close indeed:

- | | |
|--------------------------|-----|
| 1. Dubinin/Gromov | 595 |
| 2. Baldursson/Haraldsson | 594 |
| 3. Sliva/Vorobey | 586 |



*I'm Goin' to Kansas City,
Kansas City, Here I Come*
Barry Rigal, NYC
Paul Linxwiler, Memphis, TN
John Carruthers, Kingsville, ON

Major-Event Winners

Vanderbilt KO Teams
Ralph Katz/Nick Nickell, Bobby Levin/Steve Weinstein, Jeff Meckstroth/Eric Rodwell

North American Swiss Teams
Patty Cayne/Dano de Falco, Bob Drijver/Bart Nab, Danny Molenaar/Tim Verbeek

Women's Swiss Teams
Li Yiting,/Wang Wei, Liu Shuoyan/Xia Mei

Platinum Pairs
Dennis Bilde/Justin Lall

Open Pairs
Zach Grossack/Mikael Rimstedt

North American Pairs
 Peter Boyd/Steve Robinson

Fast Pairs
 Mark Dahl/Richard Oshlag

IMP Pairs
 Jing Liu/Chen Zhao

Mixed Pairs
 Cristal Nell/Igor Shavchenko

Women's Pairs
 Pam Granovetter/Sylvia Shi

Senior Pairs
 David Hampton/Bill Mars

10K Swiss Teams
 Rich Friesner/Eric Robinson,
 Bill Gates/Sharon Osberg

♠ J 6 5 2
 ♥ —
 ♦ 10 9
 ♣ —

♠ 9 7
 ♥ —
 ♦ J
 ♣ 7 5 4

♠ Q 10
 ♥ Q 10 8
 ♦ —
 ♣ 9

♠ —
 ♥ K
 ♦ —
 ♣ K 10 8 6 3

Flader led the jack of diamonds. Purrington ruffed with the nine of clubs, overruffed by declarer's ten, but now Flader's seven of clubs was promoted to the setting trick!

Getting Promoted (BR)

Mel Colchamiro showed me this nice defence found by long-time tournament director Mike Flader and his partner, Barry Purrington, on this deal from the second final session of the Baldwin North American Pairs, Flight A. Colchamiro was playing with Alex Ornstein.

Board 10. Dealer West. Both Vul.

♠ K J 6 5 2
 ♥ 5
 ♦ Q 10 9 5 4
 ♣ J 2

♠ A 9 7 4
 ♥ J 9
 ♦ J 6 3 2
 ♣ 7 5 4

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

♠ 3
 ♥ A K 7 3
 ♦ A K
 ♣ A K 10 8 6 3

West	North	East	South
Flader	Ornstein	Purrington	Colchamiro
Pass	Pass	2♥	Double
Pass	3♠	Pass	6♣
Pass	Pass	Pass	

There is a good case for a trump lead, but Flader led the jack of hearts. Colchamiro then knew that East must have the either the ace of spades or the queen of clubs for, with both, surely West would have led the ace of spades. Colchamiro decided to rely on the diamond break or that the hand with short diamonds would have short clubs. He won with the ace of hearts, cashed the ace-king of diamonds, ruffed a heart, and led the queen of diamonds. East ruffed with the queen of clubs and declarer overruffed. Now Colchamiro took a second heart ruff and led the king of spades to try to build an entry back to his hand in this ending:

Whose Spades? (BR)

Dealer North. NS Vul.

♠ A 7 5
 ♥ A Q 6
 ♦ A 9 4 3
 ♣ K J 7

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

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

♠ J 9 6 3
 ♥ 9 8 4 3
 ♦ Q J 5 2
 ♣ 9

"Both sides play the same suit, one of them crazy," is an old adage. It certainly applied to this deal from the second qualifying session of the Platinum Pairs, where quite a few Easts overcalled in spades over one notrump – and lived to regret it, typically losing two or three trump tricks and two tricks in each side suit. Where Jill Levin was South, she had to guess which suit to bid in this auction:

West	North	East	South
—	INT	2♣ ¹	Pass
Pass	Double	Pass	?

1. One-suited hand

Levin guessed spades. She ducked the six of diamonds lead and won it in hand to play a club up. West won with the ace to exit with the king of diamonds. Levin won with dummy's ace to play the ace of spades and another spade. East took this with the queen to play the jack of hearts to dummy's queen, then won the next trump to play another heart to dummy's ace. These cards remained, with Levin having taken five tricks (See top of next page.).

When declarer played a diamond, the best East could do was discard.

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

Declarer won with the jack of diamonds, cashed the jack of spades, pitching a heart, then led a diamond up. East could win his two spade tricks but had to concede the last trick, declarer's eighth. Plus 110 for making two spades was below average for North/South – compared to plus 150 for two spades by East, down three – but it was still a nicely-played deal.

2017 VANDERBILT

A look at the seeding of this year's Vanderbilt was shocking; upsets were guaranteed, at least upsets according to the seed numbers. To take just one example, the most extreme, the team seeded number 62 (of 63 teams entered) was the Indian team, NRK: Kirubakara Moorthy, Krishnan Ramaratnam, Debabrata Majumder, and Sumit Mukherjee. They have been high up in major Indian events for some years now and deserved, at the least, a middle seed based on merit. Indeed, they clobbered the No. #3 seed, Fleisher, in the Round of 64 (and won their Round of 32 match as well, to make it to the Round of 16). The ACBL needs to do a better job of determining the calibre of international teams that enter their major championships. They've done a decent job with European pairs and teams, but a better effort needs to be made with Asian and South American players.

Having said that, there are no easy rides any more: every match is tough and, on a given day, any team can beat any other. Nevertheless, according to the seed numbers, other upsets were common. Here's a look at the seeds that, theoretically, went before their time in the first four days:

Round of 64: 3 Fleisher, 13 Sonsini, 17 Levine, 22 O'Rourke, 24 Wolfson, 25 Meltzer, 28 Lewis, 29 Hanlon, 30 DeFalco, 31 Rubin

Round of 32: 8 Gupta, 12 Zimmermann, 14 Fireman

Round of 16: 4 Diamond, 5 Zagorin, 7 Strul

Quarterfinals: 1 Lavazza

Vanderbilt Vicissitudes (BR)

This board summed up our first-round (Round of 64) loss. Both tables reached the right contract and got the same lead, but one team took home the bacon, and one team ended up sleeping with the fishes. I'll

show you the full deal, and you can decide where the blame lies. It's partly a double-dummy exercise, but it is also about sound general strategy.

Dealer North. Neither Vul.

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

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

On the king-of-hearts lead, you could sell me on ducking. However, both declarers won with the ace to play the queen and jack of spades to get the good/bad news. What next? At one table, declarer played the queen of clubs, and when West won to play the queen of hearts, the defence was over.

Can you spot the winning defence? The answer is to play the queen of diamonds instead of cashing the heart. Declarer wins with the king of diamonds to lead a heart, but West wins and plays the jack of diamonds, allowing East to pitch his last heart. Curtains for declarer!

In the other room, South correctly played the nine of hearts after discovering the 4-1 trump split. West won and shifted to the queen of diamonds.

How should declarer play? Answer: to avoid the identical killing defence from the other room, win with the king of diamonds, lead a spade to the nine, ruff your last heart in dummy and lead a low club to your king:

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

West wins and forces you with a heart. You ruff, cross to a club and lead a diamond toward your hand. East can only score his trump trick.



2017 Vanderbilt winners (l. to r.): Jeff Meckstroth, Steve Weinstein, ACBL President Bob Heller (presenting the trophy), Nick Nickell, coach Eric Kokish, Ralph Katz, Bobby Levin, Eric Rodwell

AViking Battle (PL)

This deal comes from the second round of the Vanderbilt in which Johan Sylvan and Frederic Wrang of Hemant Lall's team faced Tor Helness and Geir Helgemo of Pierre Zimmermann's squad.

Dealer North. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Sylvan	Helness	Wrang	Helgemo
—	1♣	1♠	2♦
4♠	5♦	Pass	Pass
Pass			

West led the king of spades, ruffed. Helgemo crossed to the queen of hearts, ruffed dummy's remaining spade, and cashed the ace-king of hearts. When both defenders followed suit, declarer crossed to dummy's ace of clubs and played the queen of diamonds to East's ace. At this point, East was down to all black cards, and he exited with a spade. Helgemo ruffed in dummy and cashed a second club before playing another trump. West was endplayed whether he ruffed the king of clubs or not.

This pretty line has only one possible defect. If East had started with four hearts (giving West a 5=4=2=2 pattern), East could have defeated the contract by playing the last heart when in with the trump ace; West could have ruffed with the king of diamonds and exited with a club.

Former partners Alan Sontag and Roger Bates faced each other in the second day's play.

Round of 32. Rosenthal v. Bates (JC)

Board 38. Dealer West. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Silverstein	Pachtman	Rosenthal	Zatorski
Pass	1♣ ¹	Pass	1♦ ²
Pass	1♥ ³	Pass	2♣ ⁴
Pass	2♦ ⁵	Pass	3NT ⁶
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. 2+ clubs; natural or balanced hand outside the notrump range
2. Hearts
3. Weak notrump with 2/3 hearts
4. XYZ: forces 2♦
5. Forced
6. Choice of games with 5 hearts and some 3-3-2

Silverstein simply led his fourth best: club two, five, queen, four. Rosenthal shifted to the three of diamonds and the fate of the contract hinged on Zatorski's play from hand. When he selected the queen, the contract was doomed. West covered with the king and declarer won with his ace. A heart went to the ten, two and queen. The jack of clubs killed declarer's king and the defence had five tricks: three clubs, one heart and one diamond for minus 50 to North/South.

West	North	East	South
Bates	Sontag	Bercuson	Berkowitz
Pass	1♦ ¹	Pass	1♥
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♣ ²
Pass	2♦ ³	Pass	3NT ⁴
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. 2+ diamonds, 11-15 HCP
2. Puppet to 2♦
3. Forced
4. Choice of games with some 5 hearts and 3-3-2

The vagaries of system meant North was declarer at this table. Here, Bercuson also led fourth-best, the four of spades: six, seven, queen. Sontag also ducked a heart: five, jack, two, queen. Bates continued with spades to declarer's ace (the jack-of-clubs shift would have held declarer to nine tricks). Sontag ran the

hearts; East, the first to discard, discarded the eight of clubs on the third heart. On the fourth heart, West sluffed the five of diamonds, declarer the five of clubs and West the eight of diamonds. The fifth heart gathered the six of clubs, the three of clubs and the three of diamonds. When Sontag led the queen of diamonds off dummy, he was home: king, ace, nine. A diamond toward dummy's ten produced the ninth trick and the cashing of the club ace produced the tenth; plus 430 and 10 IMPs to Rosenthal.

It's a pleasure to watch efficient, workmanlike defence, especially when it's duplicated at both tables, as on the following deal.

Board 50. Dealer West. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Pachtman</i>	<i>Jansma</i>	<i>Zatorski</i>	<i>Willenken</i>
1♣	1♥	Pass	2♦
Pass	2♥	Pass	3♥
Pass	4♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			

West	North	East	South
<i>Sontag</i>	<i>Gierulski</i>	<i>Berkowitz</i>	<i>Skrzypczyk</i>
2♦ ¹	2♥	Pass	3♦
Pass	4♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			

1. 11-15; 3-suiter short in diamonds

The defence was identical at both tables: jack-of-clubs lead, overtaken by the queen; ace-of-diamonds shift; seven-of-clubs return, overtaken by the ten; diamond ruff. Both declarers followed suit to the first club with the nine to allow West to retain the lead with whatever club he led next, should the East defender have been soporific; a forlorn hope. When both West defenders won with the queen of clubs at trick one, that allowed East to signal club suit-preference on the play of the diamond ace..

False Impression (PL)

Chris Willenken tried his best to paint a false picture for declarer on this deal from the second round (Round of 32) of the Vanderbilt ... and succeeded. Willenken was playing with Jan Jansma.

Dealer East. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Jansma</i>	—	<i>Willenken</i>	
—	—	1♥	1♠
3♥ ¹	4♥	Pass	4♠
Pass	Pass	5♣	Double
5♥	Pass	Pass	5♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. Mixed raise (approx. 7-9 support points, 4+ trumps)

Jansma ignored the lead-directing five-club bid and led the queen of hearts, ruffed in dummy. Declarer thought a long time before finally deciding to cash the ace of spades and exit with a spade. Jansma won with the king and switched to a low club. Declarer played low from dummy, and Willenken played the ten, hiding the nine from declarer, who won with his ace and ruffed his remaining heart in dummy. On a low club exit, Willenken again declined to win with the nine, winning with the queen instead before exiting with a heart, giving declarer a non-useful ruff-sluff. Declarer pitched a diamond from the closed hand and ruffed with dummy's last trump.

This was the six-card ending:

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

Declarer called for dummy's jack of clubs, hoping to pin the nine in the West hand, but East covered with the king, ruffed, as West followed low. Declarer was still unsure at this point who held the nine of clubs. If West held it – entirely possible based on the play at this point – that would mean he started with a 2=4=3=4 pattern. To test this, declarer played a trump:

both defenders pitched hearts as a diamond was thrown from the table. On the last trump, West released a diamond, so declarer, thinking that West had been forced to release a diamond in order to keep the nine of clubs, pitched the eight of clubs from dummy as East discarded another heart.

Declarer was now convinced that each defender was down to two diamonds, so he played the suit from the top, only to discover that West had started with four diamonds and that the queen of diamonds wasn't dropping. Down one for a 10-IMP gain, in a match where Willenken and Jansma's team won by a single IMP. (*In the six-card ending, if declarer had ruffed a low club instead of leading the jack, either the club queen would have dropped or, if not, East would have been revealed to have been 1=7=1=4, although it would have been barely possible that he'd been 1=6=2=4, leaving West with 2=5=3=3, with which he might have bid four hearts. – Ed.*)

Master at the Helm (PL)

In the Round of 16 of the Vanderbilt, SCHWARTZ faced DIAMOND.

Board 30. Dealer East. Neither Vul.

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

	♠ — ♥ Q J 10 8 6 ♦ K J 7 5 4 ♣ K Q 7		
West	North	East	South
<i>Bathurst</i>	<i>Lindqvist</i>	<i>Lall</i>	<i>Brogeland</i>
—	—	1♥	Pass
1NT ¹	Pass	2♠	3♦
Pass	5♦	Pass	Pass
Double	Pass	Pass	Pass
1. 5+ spades			

West led the two of spades (third- and fifth-best), which went to East's ace, ruffed. Declarer unblocked the ace of hearts, crossed to the king of diamonds and ran the queen of hearts to East's king, West and dummy pitching spades. On the club return (a spade is no better), Brogeland won the with the king and played the jack of diamonds to the queen, ace and nine.

The count of the defenders' hands was complete: the fifth-best lead in spades means that West had started with a 5=1=4=3 pattern, so Brogeland crossed to the ace of clubs, and returned to his hand with the queen of clubs to create this ending:

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

This was the position that Brogeland foresaw earlier in the play, and it shows why declarer (not dummy) needed to be on lead at this juncture. West had no answer when declarer played the jack of hearts. If West had pitched a spade, declarer would have done likewise from dummy. If West had ruffed low, declarer would have overruffed in dummy and played the established clubs, holding West to one more trick. If West had ruffed high and played a trump, declarer would have won in dummy and run the clubs.

Making five diamonds doubled was worth plus 550, and a 4-IMP gain when five clubs made at the other table for plus 400. Had Brogeland failed, Schwartz would have lost 11 IMPs and the match. Oddly, had West discarded a club on the queen of hearts, declarer would also have needed to discard a club, not a spade, to make the contract.

Stepping Stone (PL)

There was a neat ending on this deal played by Jan Jansma from the round of 16 in the Vanderbilt.

Dealer West. Neither Vul.

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

	♠ — ♥ A Q 8 4 ♦ 8 3 ♣ Q 7		
West	North	East	South
<i>Lee</i>	<i>Willenken</i>	<i>Rosenberg</i>	<i>Jansma</i>
1♦	Pass	1♥	1♠
Double ¹	2♦	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	
1. Support			

West led the ace of diamonds and switched to a trump, won in the dummy. Declarer took the heart finesse,

Continued on page 12...



IBPA Column Service

Tim Bourke, Canberra

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

849. Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

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

West led the nine of hearts. Declarer counted nine top tricks, with many possibilities for a tenth. Rather than playing low from dummy and risking East winning the trick with king of hearts and shifting to a club, declarer embarked on a plan that would yield ten tricks as long as trumps were no worse than 3-1 and diamonds 4-3. At trick one, declarer rose with the ace of hearts and cashed the ace and king of diamonds. Next he crossed to dummy with a low trump and led the jack of diamonds. After East followed with a low card, declarer threw the queen of hearts from hand.

West won the trick with the queen of diamonds and exited with the nine of diamonds to prevent the ten of diamonds from scoring a trick. East ruffed and declarer overruffed with the ace of trumps. After crossing to dummy with another low trump, declarer led the jack of hearts. East covered with the king and declarer ruffed with the king of trumps. Declarer returned to dummy yet again in trumps. The ten of hearts was cashed for a club discard. A club was led to the king in an attempt at an overtrick, but this hope was dashed when West produced the ace. Nonetheless, declarer had taken ten tricks: six trumps, two hearts and two diamonds.

Had East followed with a low heart when the jack of hearts was led from dummy, declarer would have discarded a low club from hand. Even if West had had the king of hearts, declarer would have had ten tricks: all he would have lost would have been a heart, a diamond and a club.

850. Dealer North. Neither Vul.

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

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

1. Three-card support

West led the king of hearts and declarer paused to take stock. He could count nine top tricks and 11 would be easy if trumps were 3-2. So declarer took the first trick with the ace of hearts and cashed the queen-jack of trumps. The 4-1 break might have been a mild setback to some declarers, but not to this one: at trick four he played a low club to the six, ten and king. After ruffing the heart continuation, declarer played a second club. West rose with the ace to play a third heart.

Declarer had to ruff this – otherwise West would have set the contract by giving East a club ruff. Declarer played a club to the queen, East discarding a diamond, and played a diamond to the ace, followed by a fourth round of clubs, extracting a second diamond discard from East. Next came a diamond to dummy's king. East could do no better than ruff this and exit with a heart; declarer discarded the jack of diamonds from hand and ruffed in dummy with the carefully preserved seven of trumps. Declarer took the last trick with the ace of trumps: he had taken five trumps, a heart, a heart ruff in dummy, a diamond and two clubs for a total of ten tricks.

Asking for Kings

This actually happened. The bidding went 1♥ – Pass – 2♥ – Pass; 5NT – All Pass. Opener scolded her partner: “You can’t pass 5NT!” The befuddled responder asked, “What kind of bid is 5NT?” Said opener, “I was asking for kings”. “But you didn’t ask for aces!” “I didn’t have to”, said opener. “I had all four of them.”

851. Dealer South. NS Vul.

♠ A J 10
♥ Q J 10 9 3
♦ A K Q
♣ 10 9

♠ K Q 6 5 2
♥ K 8 5 4 2
♦ 8 6
♣ 8

♠ 9 7 4 3
♥ 7
♦ 5 3 2
♣ J 7 6 3 2

♠ 8
♥ A 6
♦ J 10 9 7 4
♣ A K Q 5 4

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

1. At least 5-5 in the majors
2. Pre-emptive

West led the king of spades after this adventurous auction. Declarer won with dummy's ace and cashed the ace and king of trumps, noting that West followed suit to both. As West's overcall had promised at least 5-5 in the majors, West had at most one club. Declarer saw that there was no point in playing the ace and another heart as that approach would only succeed if West had three trumps: otherwise West would play low on the second heart and let East ruff.

So, the issue facing declarer was the identity of West's third minor-suit card. One option was an immediate club finesse for the jack. However, declarer found a good way of minimising the risk that West would win a finesse with the singleton jack of clubs. He left the last trump outstanding and led the jack of spades from dummy, discarding a club on it. West won with his queen and could have returned:

A – a spade: declarer would have discarded a heart, drawn the remaining trump and finessed clubs.

B – a heart: declarer would have discarded another club and drawn the trump.

C – a club: declarer would have won, led a trump to dummy and discarded a heart on the spade.

D – a trump: declarer would have discarded a heart, and taken the then-safe club finesse.

Only when West returned a spade would declarer have needed to riskily run the ten of clubs and, even then, that was a 5:1 on shot.

Double Dummy App

Links for downloading it on iOS and Android:

<https://itunes.apple.com/WebObjects/MZStore.woa/wa/viewSoftware?id=1175059505&mt=8>

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.znop.kidapuzzle01>

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.znop.kidapuzzle01>

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.znop.kidapuzzle01>

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.znop.kidapuzzle01>

852. Dealer North. Both Vul.

♠ A 8 7 2
♥ A 5 3
♦ A K 7 5
♣ 7 4

♠ 10 9 6 5
♥ 4 2
♦ 4
♣ 10 9 6 5 3 2

♠ —
♥ K Q J 10 9 8 6
♦ Q J 9 6
♣ J 8

♠ K Q J 4 3
♥ 7
♦ 10 8 3 2
♣ A K Q

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

1. RKCB
2. 0 or 3 key cards

West led the four of hearts. Declarer was delighted to see the dummy: 12 tricks would always be there if the diamonds could be played for three tricks. After taking the opening lead with dummy's ace of hearts, declarer cashed the king, queen and jack of trumps.

After the three top trumps in hand, declarer played the three top clubs, throwing a diamond from dummy. East's heart discard was a small problem, suggesting that diamonds might not break 3-2.

A diamond was led towards the dummy in case West had a void in diamonds. After both defenders followed with a low card under the king of diamonds, declarer could count East as having started with either 0=7=4=2 or 0=8=3=2.

The ace of trumps reduced everyone to four cards. On the basis of the four of hearts being either a singleton or from four-two doubleton, the only unknown was the location of the two: if East had kept two hearts higher than the heart deuce, he could have at most two diamonds remaining: if that were the case, declarer planned to continue with the ace and another diamond, establishing the ten of diamonds as the twelfth trick with the four of trumps as the entry to cash it.

If East had kept the equivalent of either a singleton king of hearts or the king-two, declarer had a strategy in mind to cope: he would lead the three of hearts from dummy and discard a diamond from hand. As a result, either the three of hearts would win or the five of hearts would be established as a winner for a second diamond discard. So, no matter what East chose to do in such an ending, declarer would have made five trumps, two hearts, two diamonds and three clubs for a total of 12 tricks.

cash the ace of hearts and ruff a heart in dummy. When he continued with a low club, East rose with the ace to play another trump. Declarer drew all the remaining trumps and cashed the queen of clubs to reach this ending:

♠ —		♠ —
♥ —		♥ K
♦ J 9		♦ —
♣ K		♣ J 10
♠ —		♠ 9
♥ —		♥ 8
♦ K Q		♦ 8
♣ 9		♣ —

Jansma then played the last trump. East could discard one club, but when Jansma exited with his heart, East was forced to surrender to the king of clubs in the dummy. If West had chosen to discard a diamond, that player could have been used as a stepping stone as well.

A Spectacular Mishap (JC)

The third quarter of the NICKELL/ROSENTHAL semifinal match was extraordinary. ROSENTHAL was up 22 IMPs at the half and had increased its lead to 24 after four boards. Eleven boards later, at the end of the third quarter, NICKELL led by 49. That's 73-0 over those 11 boards. This was the second of NICKELL's five double-digit swings (Board 6 of the session):

Board 36. Dealer East. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Meckstroth</i>	<i>Rosenthal</i>	<i>Rodwell</i>	<i>Silverstein</i>
—	—	2♠	Pass
2NT ¹	4♥	4♠	Pass
5NT ²	Pass	6♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. Relay, invitational-plus
2. Bid seven with two of the top three spade honours

One supposes that Silverstein's final pass was more of the order of "content". He led the three of diamonds.

Rodwell ducked it to his hand and led a spade to the ace, receiving the devastating news that trumps were 5-0. He followed with the three top diamonds, discarding his heart on the second and ruffing the third low in hand. The king of clubs and a club to the ace were next, then the fifth diamond, discarding the ten of clubs. When Rodwell ruffed dummy's third club (South had not led a heart, so was expected to have none), South had been reduced to queen-jack-eight-seven of spades, while East remained with the king-ten-nine-six. They were each entitled to two of those four tricks, so that was one off, minus 100.

This board illustrates the never-say-die attitude of the NICKELL team. Despite being in an impossible contract (as revealed to him at trick two), Rodwell plugged away to hold his losses to one off in six spades.

West	North	East	South
<i>Berkowitz</i>	<i>Weinstein</i>	<i>Sontag</i>	<i>Levin</i>
—	—	2♠	Pass
4♣ ¹	5♥	Pass	Pass
6♥	Pass	7♣	Double
7♠	Pass	Pass	Double
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. Key card and queen ask (step responses from zero)

Berkowitz intended six hearts as a good six-spade bid, inviting seven, after what he took to be the encouraging pass over five hearts. Sontag expected to be facing approximately the hand Berkowitz had, but with better spades, say ace-third or ace-queen doubleton. With a seventh spade and the king of clubs, Sontag felt confident in going to seven; he reasoned that if all Berkowitz had needed was two of the top three honours in spades, five notrump would have been his bid. It was all very logical to both players.

Levin led the deuce of diamonds. When Sontag won and led a spade to the ace, he conceded three off for minus 800 and 12 IMPs away. This brought the match score to 78-78. ROSENTHAL fought back from 49 down in the fourth quarter to lose by only 12.

The other semifinal was closer, with SCHWARTZ prevailing over CAYNE. NICKELL beat SCHWARTZ handily in the final. The last four teams were:

1. NICKELL – Ralph Katz/Nick Nickell, Bobby Levin/Steve Weinstein, Jeff Meckstroth/Eric Rodwell
2. SCHWARTZ – David Bakhshi/David Gold, Boye Brogeland/Espen Lindqvist, Daniel Korbel/Richie Schwartz
- =3. ROSENTHAL – David Berkowitz/Alan Sontag, Jan Jansma/Chris Willenken, Andrew Rosenthal/Aaron Silverstein
- =3. CAYNE – Jimmy Cayne/Allan Graves, Giovanni Donati/Mustfa Cem Tokay, Lorenzo Lauria/Alfredo Versace

The Super Moysian

Fernando Lema, Buenos Aires

In the Canberra Bridge Festival's Australian National Open Teams Championship, with a field of 126 teams, the two most powerful teams were LAVAZZA: Agustin Madala, Alejandro Bianchedi, Giorgio Duboin, Dennis Bilde, Norberto Bocchi, Antonio Sementa, and MILNER: Reese Milner, Hemant Lall, Justin Lall, Jacek Pszczola, Jacek Kalita, Michael Nowosadzki, who clashed in the final. The deal that follows occurred in the first set of the final.

Board 6. Dealer East. EW Vul.

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

In one room, Agustin Madala and Alejandro Bianchedi (Lavazza) played in five diamonds. The defence cashed the two major spade honours and West continued with a third spade. North ruffed with a low trump and East over-ruffed with the nine; one down and 50 points for East/West.

In the other room, things were very different. In an auction that undoubtedly produced some kind of problem, Kalita ended up being the declarer of a four-heart contract, playing in a 4-2 fit.

West	North	East	South
Sementa	Nowosadzki	Bocchi	Kalita
—	—	Pass	1♣
1♠	2♣	Pass	2♦
Pass	2♠	Double	Pass
Pass	3♣	Pass	4♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Sementa led the three of spades to Bocchi's ace. On the continuation of a spade to the king and a third spade, dummy ruffed with the seven of hearts and Bocchi overruffed with the eight. The defence had taken the first three tricks.

Bocchi made the best return: a trump; South won with dummy's queen, came to his hand with the king of diamonds and cashed the ace of hearts. When West followed with the jack, things began to clear up for

declarer. At trick seven, South cashed the queen of diamonds and then played a club. West followed with his king and Kalita had no doubt about the initial distribution: West was originally 6=2=4=1 and East 2=5=2=4.

With this information, the ending was easy: Kalita cashed the ace of diamonds; Bocchi discarded a club and Kalita claimed all the tricks – 420 points for North/South, that added to the 50 of the other table gave 10 IMPs to the MILNER team.

The final was very even until the last set where the LAVAZZA team gained 27 IMPs to win the tournament by only 4 IMPs.



Brilliance Missed

With so many events being covered on BBO, noteworthy deals are becoming commonplace. I spotted this one in the second round of the 2017 Lederer Memorial Trophy:

Dealer East. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Osborne	Hydes	Cooke	Mossop
—	—	Pass	Pass
1♥	2♦	2♥	Pass
4♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

North elected to lead his singleton club, which went to the king and ace. Declarer cashed the ace and king of hearts and then played the queen of clubs, ruffed a club and exited with a diamond, quickly claiming ten tricks.

If North starts with a top diamond and then avoids a club switch, four hearts will fail.

West	North	East	South
Justin H.	Dyke	Jason H.	Byrne
—	—	Pass	Pass
1♥	2♥ ¹	Pass	3♠
4♣	4♦	4♥	4♠
Pass	Pass	Double	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. Spades and a minor

West started with three rounds of hearts. Declarer ruffed in dummy and played the jack of spades. When that held, he played the ace, then king, of diamonds, discarding a club. West ruffed, cashed the ace of clubs, and continued with the queen. Declarer ruffed, pitched a club on the queen of diamonds and claimed eight tricks.

Justin Hackett had missed an opportunity. Suppose he refuses to ruff the king of diamonds, instead pitching a club? He does the same thing again when declarer plays the queen of diamonds, the point being that when he then gets in with a club he can exit with a trump, whereupon East plays two rounds, leaving declarer with two losing clubs and only seven tricks.

Brilliance Denied

At the Chess Olympiad in Varna, Bulgaria in 1962, the Hungarian Grandmaster Lajos Portisch introduced a new move against Argentina's Miguel Najdorf. Taken aback, Najdorf's first reaction was inward despair; then he thought, "Portisch has won this pawn through playing a new move, introducing an entirely new concept in a variation that has been played hundreds of times. I say that if a new move is introduced, there are only two possibilities: either it's a genius move, or it's an idiot move. A genius is born every hundred years, an idiot every day."

Dealer East. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Allerton	Hanlon	Jagger	McGann
—	—	Pass	Pass
1♣	1♦	1♠	Pass
1NT	2♦	Double	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♦	Pass
3NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

On this deal from the Camrose match between Ireland and England, the Irish West was deprived of a potential brilliancy by a very unusual move.

At one table, unwilling to make declarer a present of a diamond trick, North led the jack of hearts. Declarer won with the ace, played a spade to the ace and a club to the jack. North won and continued with the three of hearts, South winning with the king, cashing the nine and then switching to a diamond which gave the defenders six tricks, two down, plus 100.

You can understand why West bid three notrump – he didn't want the opening lead to go through his king of diamonds, but four spades can always be made, provided declarer takes the right view in clubs.

West	North	East	South
Carroll	Hinden	Garvey	Osborne
—	—	Pass	Pass
1NT	2♣ ¹	Double	Pass
3NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. Hearts and another suit

2. Pass or correct

North led the two of diamonds, suggesting that she liked the suit. Declarer won with dummy's ten, as South followed with the four. Declarer cashed the ace of spades and followed it with three more rounds of the suit, pitching the five of clubs, South playing the seven, nine, two and six and North discarding the five of hearts, the two of clubs and the five of diamonds. On the last spade South threw the two of hearts and declarer the seven of clubs.

North had defended perfectly so far – if she had kept two clubs and three diamonds, declarer would have been able to take the club finesse in safety. However, if she'd kept four diamonds and two clubs, she'd have been forced down to one heart, whereupon declarer could have played a heart to the ace and exited with the king of diamonds, scoring the last two tricks with the ace and queen of clubs, regardless of the position of the king.

Her best move at this point was to pitch a second heart, which would have left declarer to decide if North had been forced to blank the king of clubs, or had started with, say:

♠ 5
♥ K Q 5 3
♦ A Q 9 8 5 2
♣ 4 2

On the principle that only a genius would have discarded the two of clubs at such an early stage, there is a fair chance that declarer would have gone wrong, but convinced otherwise, North contributed the king of clubs to this trick and declarer took his tricks, plus 630 and 11 IMPs.

LONDON CALLING

Andrew Robson,
London



Coming to the Net

Espen Erichsen plays bridge as he plays tennis – by minimising his own errors and inducing opposing errors. He is Tunbridge Wells’ number one (that’s in tennis, as well as bridge).

“When do you come to the net?” I casually asked him.

“To congratulate my opponent on a fine match, and hear him wish me luck for the next match,” he replied pithily. No serve, volley, error routine for Espen.

Watch Espen draw the crucial inference to make this four-spade contract from the English Premier League.

Dealer South. Neither Vul.

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

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

When West led the jack of spades, declarer knew he must have broken honours in all the other suits. For who would lead the jack of trumps with a safe alternative? (Exposing the jack could be disastrous on many trump layouts.)

After winning the jack of spades with dummy’s queen, declarer ran the jack of diamonds, hoping East held the queen. No, West won with the queen and now found the best return of a low heart. Declarer ducked this trick to East’s queen and East returned the ten of hearts, declarer winning this with dummy’s ace.

The simple line from here is the club finesse (cash the king, low to the jack) but, reading West for the

queen (for his jack of spades lead), declarer opted for an endplay. He crossed to the ace-king of spades (West showing up singleton), returned to the king of clubs, then ran dummy’s spades, discarding diamonds from hand.

Look at the ending as the last spade is led:

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

Declarer threw the king of diamonds from hand and West was poleaxed. He had to keep the two red-suit cards, so away went his penultimate club. Declarer promptly led a club to his ace, felling West’s queen and scored his tenth trick with the promoted jack. Game made.

Curioser and Curioser

Here is an oddity from the Scarborough Congress, reported by Peter Stocken of Yorkshire. Table One’s East will have felt rather sheepish after the deal, his double of four spades backfiring embarrassingly. He will have brightened up considerably after scoring up with his teammates.

Dealer North. Both Vul.

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

Table 1

West	North	East	South
—	1♥	Pass	1♠
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♣
Pass	Pass	Double	Pass
Pass	Pass		

After the ultra-conservative North/South bidding, with the hearts over dummy's bid suit and trumps seemingly splitting badly, East made a speculative double. Declarer won West's singleton heart lead with dummy's ace and cashed the ace of spades, revealing the 1-1 split. No more cards needed to be played. Declarer could cash the minor-suit aces and crossruff the remaining nine spades. Thirteen tricks and four spades doubled plus three; North/South plus 1390.

Table 2

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

1. Splinter.
2. RKCB
3. 1 or 4 key cards

At Table Two, North/South, internationals John Holland (North) and Alan Mould (South) bid very efficiently to seven spades. The play did not tax declarer and 13 tricks were quickly chalked up for plus 2210. That represented a 13-IMP gain for their team, on their way to ultimate victory.

However, the result on the deal could have been so different if either of Tables One's North or South could have uttered the word "Redouble". A redoubled contract making overtricks always scores better than the undoubled higher contract. Four spades redoubled plus three would therefore score more than seven spades: plus 2280 in this case. Redoubling carries the risk that the opponents will pull the redouble to their own contract, but I reckon both East and West would have placed partner with very good spades and stuck it out.

Optimal Seeding in Mitchell Competitions

Kaj G. Backas, Helsinki

Despite the fact that the Howell movement is generally better than the Mitchell, the latter is still used in many clubs. For example, in a Howell with arrow switching, you can have a one-winner event. Hallén, Hanner and Jannersten mention Mitchell movements as an alternative to Howell in their book 'Movements – a Fair Approach' (ref. 1, HHJ). Mitchell is the first alternative in the following cases:

Tables	Rounds	Boards	Type	Tables	Rounds	Boards	Type
6	7	28	EM	12	12	24	SM
7	7	28	SM	12	13	26	EM
8	9	27	EM	13	12	24	PM
9	9	27	SM	13	13	26	SM
11	12	24	EM	13	14	28	EM

The abbreviations are SM=Scrambled Mitchell, EM= Expanded Mitchell and PM= Filled-out Pivot Mitchell.

Ian McKinnon's book 'Duplicate Bridge Schedules, History and Mathematics' (ref 2, IMcK) has a two listings for seeding Mitchell games: one for an odd number of tables and another for an even number. For an odd number of tables, there is no problem with a Mitchell movement; for an even number, you can select either 'share and relay' or 'skip'. A consequence of the skip movement is that the moving pair will never meet one of the sitting pairs. Thus, in sense of balance, 'skip' movement is inferior to 'share and relay'. IMcK thus has a table for 'skip and relay' for an even number of tables. Unfortunately, neither listing tells how many rounds are played. If the count of rounds is equal to the number of tables, there is no great problem with seeding, but, for over 14 tables, moving pairs cannot generally play against all sitting pairs. We usually have the same problem with 9, 10 and 11 tables.

So I made the optimization for three to 15 tables and had all East/West pairs play every North/South pair just one time. In total, 28 deals are played. I used the same method as for Howell movements (IPBA bulletin #619). Every checked movement has several seeded pair's seating giving the same variance. Calculation of variances, according to data in IMcK, generally gave slightly higher values for 3 to 10 tables, but for table numbers greater than 10, my values were better. However, uncertainty of playing strength has a stronger influence on the seating than these minor differences.

Still, I would like to publish my findings, and at the same time warn that there are many, many ways to sit pairs that give exactly the same variance. You can take all North/South pairs from the tables and let them sit as they like as North/South. The same applies for the East/West pairs. If you have T tables, then the NS pairs are numbered 1...N and the EW pairs N+1...2N. Switching NS to EW does not change anything. For visual simplicity, I do not

tabulate the seeding as it is calculated by my program. E.g., for 3 tables, calculation gives 3, 5, 2, 6, 4, 1. I sort the results separately for NS and EW and tabulate them as 1, 4, 6, 2, 3, 5. This is almost what you would intuitively think (1, 4, 5, 2, 3, 6), or seat the best pair first to table 1 as NS then next as EW at table 2, then 3NS, 1EW, 2NS, 3EW.

The results are given in the following table. The number preceding NS and EW is the table number. The following numbers show the ranking of the pairs sitting NS or EW. Just looking at the table, you may say, "this is easy to remember". In fact, you can take the ranking list and give the highest number 1 and so on, then tell odd numbers to sit NS and even numbers to sit EW. The errors in ranking the list will surely be greater than the error you make by not using the optimal list. Note that this assumes that each sitting pair meet every moving pair. Arrow switching lets you have only one winner but it does not change the seating arrangement at the beginning of the game. (I have not seen any movement with arrow switching in the first round.)

3NS	1	4	6		10NS	1	3	8	10	11	12	14	15	17	18
3EW	2	3	5		10EW	2	4	5	6	7	9	13	16	19	20
4NS	1	3	6	8		9NS	1	2	3	4	7	12	15	16	18
4EW	2	4	5	7		9EW	5	6	8	9	10	11	13	14	17
5NS	1	4	5	6	9		8NS	1	2	6	7	9	10	12	15
5EW	2	3	7	8	10		8EW	3	4	5	8	11	13	14	16
6NS	1	4	5	9	11	12		7NS	1	2	3	9	11	12	14
6EW	2	3	6	7	8	10		7EW	4	5	6	7	8	10	13
11NS	1	5	6	8	9	12	14	18	19	21	22				
11EW	2	3	4	7	10	11	13	15	16	17	20				
12NS	1	2	5	7	10	11	12	14	15	16	19	25			
12EW	3	4	8	9	13	17	18	20	21	22	24	26			
13NS		1	2	5	7	10	11	12	14	15	16	19	24	25	
13EW	3	4	6	8	9	13	17	18	20	21	22	23	26		
14NS	1	2	5	8	11	12	14	16	18	21	22	23	26	28	
14EW	3	4	6	7	9	10	13	15	17	19	20	24	25	27	
15NS	1	2	5	9	10	14	15	16	17	18	21	22	25	26	29
15EW	3	4	6	7	8	11	12	13	19	20	23	24	27	28	30

For expanded and pivot Mitchells, the following table gives the optimum result for seeding. The first row shows the pair number. The following row shows how the seeding should be done. E.g., the pair seeded as number 7 should have pair number 5 in a six-table seven-round expanded Mitchell competition (nr. 1).

Pair Number	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
6T7R_EM_1	3	5	8	9	7	4	12	6	1	10	11	2														
6T7R_EM_2	3	8	5	9	7	6	1	10	11	2	4	12														
6T7R_EM_3	8	12	1	11	5	9	2	3	4	7	6	10														
6T7R_EM_4	9	12	2	6	3	8	5	1	4	10	11	7														
8T9R_EM	8	11	4	5	13	6	12	9	14	1	10	16	2	7	15	3										
11T12R_EM	13	15	18	1	11	16	9	5	20	7	21	8	3	22	10	2	19	14	4	17	12	6				
12T13R_EM	17	7	15	13	16	20	12	5	8	6	19	24	1	10	22	9	4	23	14	2	18	21	3	11		
13T12R_PM	3	1	15	13	16	10	11	22	26	21	7	8	25	23	5	19	9	2	20	4	6	18	12	14	24	17
13T14R_EM	16	7	17	9	14	25	19	6	21	15	3	10	4	20	24	1	11	26	12	2	18	22	5	8	23	13

The calculation time for one minimum for movement 6T7R_EM was only a few hours, therefore I have given four different ways in which all have the same minimum. Calculation time increases with the number of tables and rounds. For 13T14R_EM it was almost 10 hours. In every case I have tested 1,000,000,000 different ways.

If we consider seeding, the best movements are odd-table Mitchell and share-and-relay Mitchell, but obviously arrow-switching does not give a good balance. HHJ recommends mostly different variants of Howell movements and although seeding is a little worse than for standard Mitchell, I think you should follow the suggestions in HHJ. The here-calculated Expanded and Pivot Mitchells are a good compromise both in a seeding and in a balance sense. But, for 11, 12 and 13 tables and only two boards per round, the competition will not run as smoothly as with 3 boards per round.



These deals arose at the Royal Sydney Golf Club and were spotted by Edward Griffin. Try them as problems:

Problem 1. Dealer North. NS Vul.

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

♠ Q 8 5 4
 ♥ A 8 6
 ♦ A 9 5 4
 ♣ A 4

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

West leads the king of hearts. Plan the play.

Solution 1. Suppose you decide to ruff the lead with the two of spades and continue with the spade ace: three – four – six; and the spade king: seven – five – jack. How would you continue? All will be well, of course, if diamonds are 2-2. Can you cater for a 3-1 diamond split?

After the heart ruff, the spade ace and king, cash the king of diamonds and play another diamond. If East shows out and ruffs, you unblock the diamond nine and claim. If East shows out and discards, you win with the ace, cash the ace of hearts, ruff the heart eight with the ten of spades and play a diamond to your nine. West wins, but you win any return by West, draw the last trump, pitch a club on the fifth diamond and write in plus 1430.

If East follows to the second diamond, play the ace of diamonds. If West ruffs, you will be two down, but were going to fail anyway.

Griffin comments: "How often, to make a slam, do you have to play ace and king of a 5-4 side suit with a trump out?" On the actual deal, you make even if you did not play as above:

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

♠ J 6
 ♥ K Q J 9 7 5
 ♦ Q 3
 ♣ J 9 7

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

♠ Q 8 5 4
 ♥ A 8 6
 ♦ A 9 5 4
 ♣ A 4

Problem 2. Dealer North. Neither Vul.

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

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

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

West leads the ten of spades to the queen and king. East switches to the five of hearts: three – two – ace. Plan your play before reading on.

Solution 2. There are three alternative lines of play:

(i) Discard a spade on the ace of diamonds, ruff a low diamond with the eight of hearts and play the heart queen. If West began with a singleton diamond and the nine of hearts, you are down. In all other cases, you make.

(ii) Pitch a spade on the ace of diamonds, cross to the ace of clubs and play the queen of hearts. This prevents the nine of hearts overruffing your eight when you ruff a low diamond, but you could fail even if hearts break 3-2. If West has the heart king-two and four clubs and plays a club when in with the king of hearts, the king of clubs (your only entry to dummy) is ruffed.

(iii) Ruff a low diamond at trick three and play the queen of hearts. Either opponent can win and cash a spade, but you win any return, draw trumps, cross to the king of clubs and ditch two clubs on the top diamonds. This is the best option and fails only if West began with the king-nine-six-two of hearts and a singleton diamond, wins the heart king and plays a spade to East, who returns a diamond to promote the heart nine.

On the actual deal, all lines work. Swap the six and nine of hearts and option (i) fails.

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

♠ 10 9 7 6 5 2
 ♥ K 6 2
 ♦ 6
 ♣ Q 6 4

♠ A K J 4
 ♥ 9 5
 ♦ Q J 9 7 2
 ♣ J 3

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

NEWS & VIEWS



Women's Events in Montecatini

The EBL Women's Committee hopes to have the opportunity of welcoming as many players as possible to the Open European Championships in Montecatini this June 10-24. More information can be found at www.eurobridge.org. All events are transnational and open to all.

Bridge and Science

An international scientific conference under the patronage of the Polish Ministry of Science and entitled "Recreation and Joy of Life in Seniors" will be held from April 20-21, 2017 at Nicolaus Copernicus University in Torun, Poland. A section of the conference, organised by the PBU and the EBL, will be dedicated to bridge. Yves Aubry, President of the EBL, is a member of the Conference Scientific Committee.

2017 ACBL Hall of Fame

The ACBL Hall of Fame will induct three players this year, including Jeff Meckstroth, who was chosen by the electors. The Hall of Fame Committee also selected Zeke Jabbour and the late Peter Nagy as recipients of the Blackwood and von Zedtwitz awards, respectively.

Michael Seamon 1960–2017

Michael Seamon, one of the ACBL's top players, died unexpectedly in late January at his home in Boca Raton FL. He was 57. A Grand Life Master, Seamon recently surpassed 50,000 master points, seventh all-time. Seamon won 16 North American titles and had four medals in world competition: three gold and one silver.

Peter Rank 1938–2017

Grand Life Master Peter Rank of Palm Springs, CA, died at his home on February 11. The three-time NABC champion was 78. Rank served as League Counsel for the ACBL from 2001 until his retirement last August.

ACBL Seeks CEO

Robert Hartman is leaving the ACBL. The organisation is looking for a new CEO. See www.acbl.org for details.

BZ

With the release of a new video, the Polish Bridge Union, on March 9, 2017, opened a second investigation into the activities of Cezary Balicki and Adam Zmudzinski at the bridge table. The European Bridge League announced on March 10 that it will also review the video and decide at its Executive Meeting in Lausanne at the end of March whether it too will open another investigation.

Correspondence



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

Hi John,

With regard to Paul Marston's letter in Bulletin 626, both my wife and I play bridge; neither of us is a member of a bridge club. I think that Paul is overlooking those who have learned to play bridge but, for whatever reason, do not wish to play regularly at present.

Richard Fleet, London

(Paul made the point that the number of you is very small and that the total number of players is not much higher than that of 'registered' players. – Ed.)

Hi John,

I have now located the App described in No. 635, p. 18, and it is very good indeed. I think you need to put it in again and tell people it's called KIDA otherwise they will not be able to find it.

Very Best Regards, Harold Schogger, London

(See page 11 of this issue for the links. – Ed.)



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World Bridge Calendar

DATES	EVENT	LOCATION	INFORMATION
2017			
Apr 3-11	19 th BFAME Zonal Championships	Dubai, UAE	azwer46@gmail.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	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	8 th German Bridge Team Trophy	Berlin, Germany	www.bridge-verband.de
May 3-8	67 th South American Championships	Santiago, Chile	www.confusudbridge.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 5-14	National Bridge Championships	Hangzhou, Zhejiang, China	www.ccba.org.cn
May 9-13	7 th South American Transnationals	Santiago, Chile	www.confusudbridge.org
May 9-14	32 nd Grand Prix of Portugal	Estoril, Portugal	www.fpbridge.pt
May 13-20	1 st Bangabandhu Gold Cup	Dhaka, Bangladesh	president@bbf-bd.com
May 13-29	South African Nationals	Capetown, South Africa	www.sabf.co.za
May 14-22	XXX Bridge-Golf International	Costa Calida, Spain	www.aebridge.com
May 17-25	USBF Senior Trials	Schaumburg, IL	www.usbf.org
May 19-21	10 th Bridge Forest Trophy	Debrzyno, Poland	www.bridgeforest.pzbs.pl
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 17-30	59 th World Bridge Festival	Deauville, France	kreznik0905@gmail.com
Jul 17-26	Indonesia National Championships	Surabaya, Indonesia	bert_toar@hotmail.com
Jul 20-30	ACBL Summer NABC	Toronto, Ontario	www.acbl.org
Jul 26-30	Hong Kong Intercity	Hong Kong, China	www.hkintercity.org/2017
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 8-10	Menpora & Governor KEPRI Cup	Batam, Indonesia	bert_toar@hotmail.com
Sep 8-17	Guernsey Congress	Guernsey, Channel Is.	www.ebu.co.uk
Sep 15-17	Vilnius Cup	Vilnius, Lithuania	www.vilniuscup.lt
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 6-8	Northern Lights Bridge Festival	Siglufjördur, Iceland	www.bridge.is
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
Dec 6-12	2 nd SEABF Championships	Jakarta, Indonesia	bert_toar@hotmail.com