



## BULLETIN

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## THE INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE PRESS ASSOCIATION

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## Editorial

“The law is such an ass.” (Henry Gauthorne, *The Parricide or Revenge for Honour*, published by George Chapman in 1653, but popularised by Charles Dickens in *Oliver Twist*, 1838, as “The law is an ass.”) applies to the Court of Cologne in its decision regarding the case of the German Doctors, who appealed to the Court against the WBF's conviction and the German Bridge Federation's (DBV's) endorsement of their cheating in the d'Orsi Bowl (Senior Teams World Championship) in Bali in 2013.

Beginning sensibly, the Court decided that (i.) it was not competent to rule on the issue of Michael Elinescu's and Entschow Wladow's guilt or innocence in the cheating charges brought against them by the WBF, and thus (ii.) the appeal against the WBF was dismissed, but: (iii.) the DBV's adoption of the WBF's penalties was apparently not in accordance with local laws (here is where we get to the ‘ass’ part). The Court stated that the ten-year ban against playing (lifetime ban from playing together as partners) adopted by the DBV from the WBF was too strict and amounted to a lifetime ban for the players, especially Wladow, who is over 70. The Court noted that “it was the first and unique violation by the players in a very long competitive career”. Well, it would have been more accurate to say that it was the first **conviction**. The Court added, (iv.) “the DBV is liable for all damages caused by the sanctions to the players.”

Since the decision is 35 pages in length, the DBV's lawyers are reviewing it before deciding whether or not to appeal. The DBV has 30 days to launch an appeal, otherwise the decision becomes binding.

We (the bridge community) must do a better job of educating non-bridge-playing bodies about two things: (i.) cheating and (ii.) drugs. As far as cheating is concerned, the conviction of a cheat, for us, is the equivalent to convicting a serial killer for a string of murders or a traitor for treason. It is a capital crime, the worst possible against, respectively, persons or the state. Perhaps it is time to consider that cheating in a session of deals or in a series of sessions is a serial offence and not, as it is now considered, a single offence. After all, one cheats on one deal, then the next, and so on.

On the other hand, most (if not all) proscribed drugs have no advantage whatsoever to a bridge player. Indeed, the opposite is true: would you not be delighted to learn that your opponent was high on cannabis, opium or OxyContin?

In our opinion, (i.) the DBV should appeal this ridiculous decision, and (ii.) the WBF should back them to the hilt, absorbing any and all costs the DBV may incur as a result.

One can only hope this decision does not generate other Senior cheats.

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## The 19<sup>th</sup> BFAME Championships

T.C. Pant, New Delhi

The 19<sup>th</sup> BFAME (Bridge Federation of Asia & the Middle East) Championships were held in Dubai for the first time from Monday, 3<sup>rd</sup> April, 2017 till Tuesday, 11<sup>th</sup> April, 2017.

Seven teams in the Open event, six teams in the Women's event and five teams in the Senior event competed for the coveted Zakaria Adamjee Memorial Trophy, Vinodini Goenka Trophy and Nawzad Shaker Trophy respectively.

The Open teams played a double round-robin qualification, whereas the Women and Seniors played a triple round-robin, all consisting of 16-board matches. After the qualification round-robin, the four top teams in the Open and Women's events played 64-board semi-finals, while the top two teams in Senior event went straight through to the final.

The final of each event was of 32 boards (for bragging rights only, since both teams had already qualified for the World Championships this summer in Lyon). The qualifiers for Lyon were:

### Open:

**India** - Ashok GOEL, K.R. VENKATRAMAN, Sumit MUKHERJEE, Debbrata MAJUMDAR, P. SRIDHAR, S. SUNDERRAM

**Bangladesh** - Mushfiqur Rahman MOHAN (Chief Delegate), Mirza Sajid ISPAHANI, Shah Ziaul HAQUE, Rashedul AHASAN, A.H.M. KAMRUZZAMAN, Asifur Rahman CHOWDHURY, Moshir RAHMAN

### Women's:

**Jordan** - Azza Rafat Khalil QASHU, Dima al TAHER, Mays Wahib Rashid al BITTAR, Randa al SAKET, Aaida Haider Hanna Abu JABER, Alia M.A. RIDA

**India** - Bindiya NAIDOO, Sathyavati VASANTH, Alka KSHIRSAGAR, Vasanti SHAH, Marianne KARMARKAR, Rupa BAKERI

### Senior:

**India** - Dipak PODDAR, Jitendra SOLANI, Anand SAMANT, R.A. AGARWAL, R. SRIDHARAN, S. DHAKRAS

**Pakistan** - Ghalib BANDESHA, Assad MAQBOOL, Safder KHAN, Izzat KHALIL, Masood MAZHAR, Mirza Shauq HUSSAIN

The Chief Guest, His Excellency, Sheikh Nayhan bin Mubarak al-Nayhan, Minister of Culture and Knowledge Development, Chairman of the General Authority for Youth & Sports Welfare, inaugurated the championships on April 3. His Excellency declared the Championships open by placing his opening bid along with that of the Past President of Pakistan, Gen. (Ret'd.) Parvez Musharraf.

### Senior Teams – RRI Match 5

#### India v. Pakistan

Wildly-distributional hands always have the potential for excitement and huge swings, as this one did ...

#### Board 21. Dealer North. NS Vul.

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

#### Open Room

West	North	East	South
Masood	Shridharan	Mirza	Dhakras
—	Pass	Pass	1♥
Pass	1♠	2♦	3♣
5♦	Double	Pass	Pass
Pass			

After two passes, West was holding his breath: maybe two spades, Michaels, over one spade? He passed South's one heart but raised East to game in diamonds. When the bidding tray came back to North, he knew that the opponents had a massive diamond fit, but felt that he did not have the values to bid six clubs, hence he doubled. That became the final contract.

South led the king of hearts. North ruffed the ace, cashed the ace of spades and led another spade for South to ruff for one down. On the table, North rued his decision not to bid on when he saw that six clubs was makeable. Nevertheless, to make six clubs, declarer must take an early ruffing finesse in hearts. Otherwise, he could suffer an overruff or be left with a heart loser at the end.

#### Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Anand	Ghalib	Agarwal	Assad
—	Pass	Pass	1♥
Pass	1♠	2♦	4♥
Double	Pass	Pass	Pass

In the closed room, another drama unfolded. The first six bids were the same, but here, South, rather than bidding his club suit and giving a choice to partner, directly bid four hearts. West doubled and it was a massacre on the table, as the contract went four down for 1100 to India and a gift of 15 IMPs.

### Women's Teams – Semifinal Jordan v. Pakistan

On the following deal, passive defence was essential to allow declarer a chance to go wrong.

#### Board 28. Dealer West. NS Vul.

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

#### Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Aaida	Shahnaz	Mays	Rehanna
1♦	Pass	1♠	Pass
1NT	Pass	2♣ <sup>1</sup>	Pass
2♠	Pass	4♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		
1. Checkback			

Both tables reached the optimum contract of four spades. In the closed room, South led the king of clubs. Declarer won with her ace and played trumps, leading the ace and another. When in with king of spades, no club ruff was available to the defence. That was plus 420 to Jordan.

#### Open Room

West	North	East	South
Qudisia	Azza	Roshan	Randa
1♣	1♦	1♠	Pass
2♠	Pass	4♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		

In the open room, South found the more-effective lead of the seven of diamonds, thanks to her partner's overcall. North won dummy's queen with her ace and played back the eight of clubs, won by South with the queen. Randa shifted to a low heart and declarer won in dummy with the ace, unblocking the jack, and took the spade finesse, losing to the king. South continued with another heart, again won in dummy. Declarer was at the crossroads: leading the ten of hearts would have pinned the nine to set up the eight, or the ten itself had North ducked. Instead, declarer drew the remaining trumps and took a club finesse; down one, minus 50, and 10 IMPs to Jordan.



2017 BFAME Open Teams Winners – India – KR Venkatraman, Debratta Majumder, Ashok Goel, WBF President (presenting the trophy) Gianarrigo Rona, WBF Past-V.P. Mazhar Jafri. Ahmed al-Midfa, Chairman, Organising Committee, Sumit Mukherjee. Not pictured: P Sridhar & S Sundarram

### Sportsmanship

Mr. Anand Samant, one of the members of the Indian Senior team, battling for the lead in their event, gave an excellent example of sportsman's spirit in India's match against Jordan. His Indian partnership was playing in a four-spade contract during which the Jordan North player revoked; the trick was won by South. Later on, when North followed to a diamond, the revoke was revealed and the TD was called.

It seems the director misunderstood the explanation given at the table and ruled two tricks to East/West (India). That meant that the contract had been made. However, Anand Samant (West) pointed out to the director that in his view only one trick should have been awarded to them since North had not won the revoke trick. That meant that the contract would have been one down. Once the explanation was understood, the director realised that Samant was correct, and East/West were awarded only one trick for the revoke.

This was an excellent demonstration of sportsmanship. Well done, Anand.



Twenty-four national teams of young players from 22 countries met in Amsterdam in early April to contest the White House Junior International Invitational Teams. They were divided into two groups of 12 for round-robin play, from which the top six in each group would advance to the "A" Intermediate Final. The other 12 teams would play the "B" final. The teams in each intermediate final would then play the teams they had not previously met. After that, the top seven in "A" and the top team in "B" would play in head-to-head quarterfinals, with the winners advancing. No draws were possible since the team finishing ahead of its knockout opponent in the intermediate finals would be declared the winner of any tie-breaker.

### Round 1 – Netherlands White vs. Netherlands Orange

In the first match, Netherlands White faced Netherlands Orange (the Dutch U-20 team). Xavier Friesen showed his talent on this deal, although East/West could have done a bit better.

#### Board 4. Dealer West. Both Vul.

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

1. 5+ hearts and 4+ either minor
2. Query
3. Clubs and a minimum

Coenen placed his partner with strong hearts and led the suit. Lucassen played the ace on dummy's jack and South ruffed. A low spade to the jack, West ducking, and two high hearts, pitching a diamond and a club, were followed by a low club off the table. Lucassen

put up the ace, so declarer only lost one club trick. Along with a diamond and a spade that was just made, so North/South had plus 790. A more judicious handling of the clubs, by West leading one or by East ducking the ace, would have led to plus 200 for East/West. But ... declarer can make four spades by leading the ten of clubs off the dummy at the point when he led a low one. Going back further, the defence can prevail by ducking the first heart

West	North	East	South
Floris	Westerbeek	Huvers	Schols
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♠
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♣ <sup>1</sup>
Pass	2♥ <sup>2</sup>	Pass	3♣ <sup>3</sup>
Pass	3♦ <sup>4</sup>	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♦ <sup>5</sup>	Pass	4♠
Pass	Pass	Double	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. Either a minimum with 6+ spades or some 16+ HCP without 5-5
2. Natural and weak
3. Natural
4. Exploratory
5. Pick a game

Wise Huvers took a shot by doubling four spades, expecting his partner to have at least four trumps (South could also have been 5=1=3=4 with weak diamonds on this auction). Tim Floris also led a heart to the king, ace and a ruff by declarer. Expecting the spades to be on the other side, Schols played the queen of diamonds, won by West. Floris played a club to Huvers' ace and Huvers returned a second round to the king. The king of diamonds and a diamond ruff were followed by two high hearts on which South dumped his last two clubs. A club ruff with the seven was overruffed by the eight, but South was booked to lose two trump tricks anyway. One off for minus 200 resulted in 14 IMPs to Orange.

### Round 10 – England v. Israel (by Dennis Stuurman)

On the following board, Michael Alishaw of England took full advantage of a small defensive slip in a sky-high four hearts.

#### Board 18. Dealer East. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Shah</i>	<i>Baskin</i>	<i>Roberts</i>	<i>Rosenthal</i>
—	—	1♠	Pass
2♣	Double	Pass	3♣
Pass	Pass	3♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		

At the first table, Baskin, for Israel, decided his hand was worth a take-out double and no more. Declarer went two off for a peaceful plus 100 to North/South.

West	North	East	South
<i>Khutorsky</i>	<i>Alishaw</i>	<i>Baniri</i>	<i>Kennedy</i>
—	—	1♠	Pass
2♠	Double	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥
Pass	Pass	Double	Pass
Pass	Pass		

At the second table, Alishaw was more ambitious but, on the king of spades lead, the defence had to be accurate. Alishaw won with his ace and cashed the ace of clubs before going after a crossruff: diamond ace, diamond ruff, spade ruff, diamond ruff, spade ruff. Then came the critical moment of the deal; declarer had seven tricks in and this was the position:

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

When Alishaw played the fourth diamond from his hand, Baniri made the non-trivial error of pitching a spade instead of ruffing low to reduce his trumps. Declarer ruffed with the ace of hearts and scored his ninth trick with another spade ruff. As East was down to just hearts, Alishaw could exit with a club and Baniri had to ruff. The queen of hearts was the tenth trick. Had East ruffed low on the fourth diamond, West could have won the club trick (with East discarding) and played a heart to collect the rest of the tricks for one down. In practice, it was plus 790 to North/South and 12 IMPs to England.

### Intermediate Final Round 1 – Sweden v. Russia

In the first round of Intermediate Final A, Sweden took on Russia. Board 9 looked like a rather easy three notrump, with three spade tricks, four diamonds and a club. The ninth trick could have come from either hearts or clubs. Transportation problems, however, meant the contract was not that easy on good defence.

### Board 9. Dealer North. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Caillau</i>	<i>O.Rimstedt</i>	<i>Zvezdin</i>	<i>M.Rimstedt</i>
—	1♣	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Caillau led a low heart from the West hand, which ran to declarer's jack. Rimstedt started on diamonds and Caillau ducked twice. The spades were still blocked. If declarer unblocks spades first, he has no entry to the diamonds, so Rimstedt played a third diamond. Caillau won with his ace and cashed three hearts, then played a club. Rimstedt ducked in dummy and East's club king was trick five for the defence: down one, North/South minus 50.

At the point where West led a club, the contract was makeable by rising with the ace of clubs and squeezing East in the black suits. To defeat the contract legitimately, West had to shift to clubs before taking the last two hearts. In that case, if declarer had risen, there would have been no squeeze and, if he'd ducked, East would still have a heart to reach West's winners.

West	North	East	South
<i>Stokka</i>	<i>Zubov</i>	<i>Hult</i>	<i>Vrakhyanova</i>
—	1♣	Pass	1♦
Pass	INT	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

At the other table, Zubov was in three notrump from the North hand. Hult led a spade, won by the ace. Declarer also went after the diamonds and Stokka won the fourth round, with Hult pitching a spade, a club and another spade. Stokka switched to a low heart. That was enough for declarer to overcome any blocked-suit issue as North still had the ace of clubs. He cashed the final diamond and unblocked the second spade and could cross to the club to collect the ninth trick with the king of spades; plus 400 and 10 IMPs to Russia.

### Final – Netherlands White v. Poland

The Final was as exciting as could be. Poland was ahead 79-78 after 36 of the 42 scheduled boards. On Board 37, the Polish declarer guessed the queen of hearts to make three notrump with an overtrick while his Dutch counterpart misguessed for one off and 10 IMPs. On

Board 38, Poland won another 5 IMPs in a partscore battle. Then there came ...

**Board 39. Dealer South. Both Vul.**

<p>♠ Q 9 2 ♥ 10 6 4 2 ♦ 4 ♣ A J 9 7 2</p> <p>♠ 7 6 5 ♥ 7 5 ♦ A K Q J 6 ♣ Q 4 3</p> <p>♠ A K 10 8 3 ♥ A K J 8 ♦ 9 ♣ K 6 5</p>	<p>♠ J 4 ♥ Q 9 3 ♦ 10 8 7 5 3 2 ♣ 10 8</p>
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Jacob Zwada/Arkadiusz Majcher for Poland bid uncontested one spade-two spades-four spades, making the obvious two overtricks. Dutch juniors Ricardo Westerbeeck and Michel Schols had a different idea.

West	North	East	South
<i>Sobczak</i>	<i>Westerbeeck</i>	<i>Marcinowski</i>	<i>Schols</i>
—	—	—	1♠
2♦	2♠	Pass	4♦ <sup>1</sup>
Pass	4♥ <sup>2</sup>	Double	Redouble <sup>3</sup>
Pass	4NT <sup>4</sup>	Pass	5♦ <sup>5</sup>
Pass	6♠	Pass	Pass

1. Splinter
2. Last Train
3. First-round heart control
4. RKCB
5. 0 or 3 key cards

North must have been a little surprised by four diamonds with a diamond singleton himself. With the queen of clubs in West, it was plus 1430 and 13 IMPs to the Netherlands, now trailing by 3 IMPs.

Netherlands won 2 IMPs for partscore overtricks on Board 40, but Poland rebounded with 11 of their own on the penultimate board, when Netherlands went down in a slightly-better-than-50% slam, to go ahead by 12 with one board to play.

**Board 42. Dealer East. Both Vul.**

<p>♠ K J 9 7 4 3 ♥ A ♦ K 5 ♣ A J 8 7</p> <p>♠ A 8 ♥ 10 7 6 4 3 ♦ A J 8 7 4 2 ♣ —</p> <p>♠ 5 2 ♥ Q J 2 ♦ 9 6 3 ♣ K Q 6 5 2</p>	<p>♠ Q 10 6 ♥ K 9 8 5 ♦ Q 10 ♣ 10 9 4 3</p>
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West	North	East	South
<i>v.Overbeeke</i>	<i>Zawada</i>	<i>Polak</i>	<i>Majcher</i>
—	—	Pass	Pass
1♦	1♠	Pass	INT
2♦	4♠	Pass	Pass
Double	Pass	Pass	Pass

Polak led the queen of diamonds to van Overbeeke's ace. West continued with the two of diamonds to declarer's king. Zawada played the king of spades. West took the ace and played a third diamond, ruffed with the nine and overruffed with the ten. Polak now erred by playing a heart instead of a club, so the defence only score the queen of spades. One down, North/South minus 200.

West	North	East	South
<i>Sobczak</i>	<i>Westerbeeck</i>	<i>Marcinowski</i>	<i>Schols</i>
—	—	Pass	Pass
1♦	Double	INT	2♣
2♦	2♠	Pass	3♦
Pass	5♣	Pass	Pass
Pass	—	—	—

Sobczak led the ace of diamonds and shifted to the eight of spades. Schols got it right by rising with the king and, as dummy had enough entries, he could draw trumps and set up his spades. North/South plus 600 and 13 IMPs to Netherlands White. That made the final score 106–105 for Netherlands White. Congratulations to Joost Coenen/Adriaan Lucassen, Tom van Overbeeke/Tobias Polak, Michel Schols/Ricardo Westerbeeck and their captain Wubbo de Boer. Netherlands had won for the first time since 2012 and we all remember what happened that summer (the Dutch won the World Juniors Championship in Taicang).



Photo: Paul te Stroete

**The White House Junior International Teams winners: Netherlands White**  
 Joost Coenen/Adriaan Lucassen  
 Tom van Overbeeke/Tobias Polak  
 Michel Schols/Ricardo Westerbeeck  
 Captain Wubbo de Boer



The last Italians still in contention in the 2017 Vanderbilt Cup had to meet in the quarterfinals. On one side LAVAZZA, counting on three pure Italians (Bocchi, Duboin and Sementa), one naturalised Italian from Argentina (Madala), another Argentine-born but three-quarters Italian by dint of Italian parents and grandparents, a passport and perfectly-fluent Italian (Bianchedi) and a Dane, Dennis Bilde. In the other corner, CAYNE, another line-up with three Italians (Donati, Lauria and Versace) and a Turk living in Italy for many years (Tokay). To complete the picture, Jimmy Cayne, the team's American sponsor and Allan Graves from Canada (this is a brand-new partnership following the recent, tragic, death of Michael Seamon, Cayne's bridge partner for many years).

LAVAZZA, winner of the last two championships (with a different line up: Bocchi, Duboin, Madala, Zia in 2015 and Bianchedi, Bocchi, Brenner, Duboin, Madala and Zia last year), started as the favourite, but CAYNE could certainly not be considered an easy beat. In this match, however, LAVAZZA, down 89 with just 15 boards left, called it a day, an almost-unprecedented event.

Here are three of the more-interesting deals, all from the first quarter, and all involving critical bidding decisions.

What would you do with the following cards? You are not vulnerable against vulnerable opponents.

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

The auction started the same way at both tables: Partner passed, RHO opened one diamond, you doubled, LHO passed and partner bid one notrump. Here there was some divergence: against Tokay, his RHO Sementa bid two diamonds, while against Bianchedi, RHO Versace bid two hearts (not a reverse: distributional, otherwise double).

What would have you done in Mustafâ Cem Tokay's and Alejandro Bianchedi's shoes?

Tokay took the bull by the horns and jumped to three notrump, while Bianchedi doubled again, and respected

Madala's two spades. Better Tokay, because this was the full deal:

**Board 3. Dealer South. EW Vul.**

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

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

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

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Versace</i>	<i>Bianchedi</i>	<i>Lauria</i>	<i>Madala</i>
—	—	—	Pass
1♦	Double	Pass	INT
2♥	Double	Pass	2♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Versace led his spade. Madala won with dummy's ace, drew another with the queen, then started on clubs. The defence could make no more than one trump and three hearts for plus 140 to North/South.

West	North	East	South
<i>Sementa</i>	<i>Tokay</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Donati</i>
—	—	—	Pass
1♦	Double	Pass	INT
2♦	3NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Sementa led the ace of hearts and shifted to the king of diamonds, squeezing dummy out of a winner. Donati threw a club and ducked in hand. Sementa shifted to the seven of clubs, but Donati simply established a heart for his ninth trick, plus 400 and 6 IMPs to CAYNE.

CAYNE started to pull away on a deal quite strange to my eyes.

**Board 6. Dealer East. EW Vul.**

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

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

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

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

*Continued on page 10...*



# IBPA Column Service

Tim Bourke, Canberra

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

## 853. Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

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

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

West	North	East	South
—	—	—	2NT <sup>1</sup>
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♦
Pass	3NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

I. 20-22 HCP

This deal was played in a teams match with identical, simple-Stayman auctions at each table. Both West players led a fourth-highest five of hearts.

At the first table, declarer ducked East's ten of hearts. On the bidding and play to the first trick, East placed West with the queen of hearts and consequently saw that there was no future in continuing hearts. Instead, he shifted to the queen of clubs. Declarer won this in hand with the king of clubs and played a spade to the queen. East won with the ace and continued with the jack of clubs to declarer's ace. Next, declarer ran the queen of diamonds to East's king; East cashed two club tricks to defeat the contract.

At the other table, declarer saw the danger of a club shift if he allowed East to hold the first trick, so he took the ten of hearts with his king. At trick two, he led the king of spades. East could do no better than to win the trick with the ace and continue with the jack of hearts, hoping that his partner had a six-card suit. Declarer ducked this and West overtook the jack trick with the queen of hearts to shift to a spade, since he knew from the auction that his partner had at least four spades.

Declarer rose with dummy's queen of spades to limit the defence to at most two tricks in the suit, crossed to hand with the king of clubs and ran the queen of

diamonds to East's king. East saw that cashing the jack of spades would gift declarer an overtrick, so he exited with the queen of clubs. Declarer took this with the ace and claimed his contract: he had made one spade, two hearts, four diamonds and two clubs for a total of nine tricks.

## 854. Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

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

♠ A K J 9 3  
♥ A K J 2  
♦ 2  
♣ K Q 2

West	North	East	South
—	—	—	1♠
Pass	2♣ <sup>1</sup>	Pass	2♥
Pass	4♥ <sup>2</sup>	Pass	4NT <sup>3</sup>
Pass	5♠ <sup>4</sup>	Pass	6♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. Artificial game-force
2. Minimum, balanced game-force with 4-card heart support
3. RKCB
4. 2 key cards and the ♥Q

This deal is from a team match; the ten of diamonds was led at both tables. Both declarers saw that there would be no problem if the trumps were 3-2. If they were 4-1, a diamond might need to be ruffed in the closed hand. Accordingly, the play to the first three tricks was identical: ace of diamonds followed by the ace and king of trumps. The 4-1 break presented each declarer with the problem of when and how to tackle the spade suit.

The first declarer led a low club to the ace at trick four and then ran the ten of spades to West's queen. As West judged that declarer would have bid and played differently with a doubleton diamond, West exited with a club. When East ruffed this, the contract was defeated.



The declarer at the second table deduced that he could not make his contract if West held five spades headed by the queen. So, to avoid the embarrassment of losing a trick to a club ruff if West had the queen of spades and five clubs, declarer played the three of spades from hand; West rose with the queen and continued diamonds. Declarer ruffed with the two of trumps, cashed the jack of trumps, crossed to dummy with the ace of clubs and drew East's last trump with dummy's queen. Then he claimed the rest with the five black-suit winners in his hand.

Equally, declarer could have crossed to dummy with the ten of spades to draw the last trump: West would surely have given East a spade ruff if one had been available. But also, East would surely have made a Lightner Double with a club void. It looked as if either play was safe enough.

**855. Dealer West. EW Vul.**

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

West	North	East	South
1NT <sup>1</sup>	Pass	2♦ <sup>2</sup>	4♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. 15-17
2. Transfer to hearts

West led the king of hearts. Declarer ruffed and drew trumps with the ace, king and queen of spades, noting along the way that West discarded the eight of hearts on the last of these. As the bidding suggested that all 15 missing points would be on his left, declarer played the ace and king of clubs in the hope that an honour would fall. The failure of either the queen or jack of clubs to appear helped declarer place West with four clubs.

Declarer then led a club to put West on play. After taking his two club winners, West had to lead a red suit, something declarer knew would not be to the defence's advantage. As West did not want to lead a diamond, he played the ace of hearts next; declarer discarded the four of diamonds from hand. This left West still on lead with only red-suit cards remaining. West had the choice of leading a diamond into declarer's ace-queen tenace or playing the jack of

hearts to dummy's now-established queen. Either way, declarer had ten tricks: six spades, two clubs and two tricks in the red suits.

**856. Dealer South. NS Vul.**

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

West	North	East	South
—	—	—	1♦
2NT <sup>1</sup>	Double	3♥	3♠
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♦
Pass	4♥	Pass	4NT <sup>2</sup>
Pass	5♠ <sup>3</sup>	Pass	6♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. At least 5-5 in hearts and clubs
2. RKCB
3. 2 key cards and the ♠Q

West led the king of clubs. Declarer took this with dummy's ace and cashed the king of trumps. After checking that West was indeed void of trumps, declarer saw that to have any chance, he would need East to hold three diamonds, so declarer cashed the ace, king and queen of diamonds. When that passed off successfully, declarer played a heart to the king and ruffed a club with the five of trumps. Next, declarer cashed the ace of hearts, then ruffed his remaining heart low in dummy.

Having taken the first nine tricks, declarer led a club from the dummy – East ruffed this with the ten of trumps and declarer overruffed with his ace of trumps. A diamond was ruffed with the queen of trumps to bring declarer's trick tally to eleven; East had to under-ruff. Then declarer called for dummy's remaining club. It didn't matter whether East ruffed high or low; the outcome would have been the same: declarer's nine of trumps would be his twelfth trick.

It also didn't matter whether declarer over-ruffed or discarded on the high club ruff by East. If he had discarded a diamond, declarer would have won the trump return and crossruffed the last two tricks with high trumps. Additionally, if declarer had arranged to be in hand at trick ten, he could have ruffed a diamond high and led a club, scoring the nine of spades whatever East did. Declarer could hardly have gone wrong!

West	North	East	South
Versace	Bianchedi	Lauria	Madala
—	—	Pass	1♠
2♠ <sup>1</sup>	3♠	Double <sup>2</sup>	4♠
4NT <sup>3</sup>	Pass	6♥	Pass
Pass	6♠	Double <sup>4</sup>	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. Hearts and clubs
2. Power double: "This is our deal."
3. Pick a suit
4. Inviting seven

Lauria/Versace missed the top spot (perhaps Lauria could have bid five diamonds over four notrump, thus allowing Versace to show his first round control in spades). Bianchedi accurately saved, though with some risk of pushing the opponents to the laydown grand slam. Lauria's double invited his partner to bid on. The Italians use a different system in high-level competition: here, pass would have forced Versace to double, so would have been Lauria's weaker option.

West	North	East	South
Sementa	Tokay	Bocchi	Donati
—	—	Pass	1♠
2♠ <sup>1</sup>	4♠	Double	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. Hearts and clubs

Though Italians use a lot of doubles in competition (their philosophy is: penalty doubles don't exist), at first glance, Bocchi's double looks very odd in that situation. Bocchi later clarified the point: the team had recently changed the meaning of their two-suited overcalls, but Bocchi forgot; he thought Sementa was showing minors. If he had remembered, he would have bid four notrump to show a good five-level raise, even making it possible to get to seven via five clubs-five diamonds-five spades-seven hearts.

To add sugar to honey (though for only 1 IMP) Lauria/Versace defended a trick better: Versace cashed two clubs and shifted to a heart. Lauria won with his ace and played back the ace of diamonds and another. Not having a crystal ball, Madala played a spade to his ace. Down four, minus 800.

Sementa, instead, played three rounds of clubs, and Donati had the time to find out about the trump split while still having an entry to catch Bocchi's queen of trumps. Down only one, minus 100, but the main damage had been done in the auction. The differential of 700 points translated into 12 IMPs for CAYNE.

Every new partnership experiences growing pains. This is especially true of expert partnerships defining their system. On the following deal, Sementa and Bocchi encountered a deal with much scope for discussion.

#### Board 14. Dealer East. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Versace	Bianchedi	Lauria	Madala
—	—	1♦	Pass
1♠	2♥	Double	3♣
3♥	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♦	Pass	5♦	Pass
Pass	Pass		

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

If I remember correctly – I play the same system, though I know that Bocchi-Sementa have made some modifications – up to four diamonds, I can say that Bocchi had shown a 15-17 single-suited hand, while Sementa had shown a non-game forcing hand with diamond support and an even number of key cards. From that point onward, the brakes failed, but I'm not able to tell you what went wrong. The bottom line was an awful slam, which deservedly went down.

At the end of the quarter, CAYNE led 34-4 and never looked back.

### A Wombat

Stefan Ralescu, NYC



The June-through-August 2015 *Bridge World* included a series we (Barry Rigal and I) wrote on special declarer plays called *Wombats*. Named for an Australian marsupial, wombats are positions in which declarer generates tricks in the endgame through a required

unblock or a secondary squeeze (where a trick is lost after the squeeze matures) against one opponent followed by an endplay of the other.

Here is a play problem (inspired by a deal published by Len Vishnevsky at [www.bridgewinners.com](http://www.bridgewinners.com)) where the ensuing ending shows elements of a stepping-stone arising from a wombat.

**Matchpoints. Dealer East. Both Vul.**

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

After East had opened with a weak two diamonds, South became declarer at four spades. The first trick went diamond eight, three, king, seven. Declarer won the diamond return with the queen (West contributing the deuce) and cashed the ace-king of spades, on which West followed with the jack and then pitched the club seven (upside down count and attitude). The contract was secure but, at matchpoints, declarer was naturally quite eager for an overtrick. If West had started with the king of clubs, all he would have had to do was draw trumps and lead a low club towards the jack. However, the indications were that East was 3=2=6=2 (West would surely have discarded a heart with 1=6=2=4) with the king of clubs, in which case the full deal rated to be:

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

If declarer leads the queen of clubs and West follows with the six, East must duck; otherwise, declarer will have an entry to dummy to take a pitch on the ace of diamonds. So East follows with the eight. What next? On the surface, it appears that ten tricks is the limit. However, declarer can overcome this defence by running three more rounds of trumps to reach this ending:

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

At trick nine, the play of the last trump inexorably squeezes West in the rounded suits, catching him in a wombat. If West parts with a club, declarer concedes a club and wins the remainder of the tricks. Alternatively, if West pitches a heart, declarer cashes the heart ace and exits with a low club, endplaying East with the king. East then becomes a stepping stone to the dummy in either red suit.



In the recent Open Swiss Teams event at the NABC in Kansas City, Peter Boyd found a pretty line on this deal to bring home a tough-to-play three notrump.

**Dealer North. NS Vul.**

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

West	North	East	South
Munafu	Wildavsky	Moll	Boyd
—	Pass	Pass	INT
Double!	2♣ <sup>2</sup>	Pass	2♠
Pass	3NT	Pass	Pass

1. 4 of either major and 5+ of either minor
2. Stayman

Single-dummy, this is not an attractive contract. West led the king of clubs and continued with the queen,

East pitching a discouraging ten of diamonds. Declarer won the jack of clubs with his ace at trick three and, needing to develop some diamond tricks, cashed the ace of diamonds. The appearance of the diamond king on his left not only increased declarer's six top tricks to eight, but it also created the very real hope of a three-suit squeeze to develop against West, whose pattern was now known from the auction and the play to be either 4=3=1=5 or 3=4=1=5. However, for this type of hoped-for squeeze to develop, West would need to hold the latter pattern, with dummy's fourth heart acting as a threat against the putative four hearts in the West hand.

How do you make a 3=4=1=5 West suffer? Boyd showed the right technique by next cashing the queen and jack of diamonds – West parting with the three of spades and the seven of clubs – and then playing a fourth round of diamonds. This was the position:


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

East won the diamond exit as declarer threw a low spade. West had no answer to this play; he selected a low spade but, when East exited with a heart, declarer won with the king, cashed the ace-queen of hearts (pitching a club), then crossed to the ace of spades, dropping East's king. In the two-card ending, East was reduced to the queen-eight of spades, so after a low spade to dummy's jack, East won with the queen and was then compelled to give declarer his game-going trick at the end: the ten of spades.

Boyd's team won 12 IMPs on the board when the declarer at the other table went down in three notrump.

**Great Lead,  
Partner!**

**Mikael Grönqvist,  
Stockholm**



If you are interested in bidding, there is a lot of material for you to sink your teeth into. The same goes for declarer play and defence. Opening leads, on the other hand, are seldom (at least in my view) discussed as

thoroughly – even though there are still lots of IMPs or MPs to earn there. This spring, there have been a couple of examples of very successful leads in the tournaments I've participated in. First up, the Swedish Trials for a spot on the Open Team to this summer's Nordic Championships. Try your hand at this problem as West:

**Dealer North. NS Vul.**

♠ 10 8 6 4
♥ 4 3 2
♦ A 7 6
♣ 5 4 3

West	North	East	South
—	1NT	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♣ <sup>1</sup>
Pass	3♥ <sup>2</sup>	Pass	3♠ <sup>3</sup>
Pass	4♣ <sup>4</sup>	Pass	4♥ <sup>5</sup>
Pass	6♣	Pass	Pass
Pass			

1. Asks for another suit
2. Clubs
3. Range ask
4. Maximum
5. Control in hearts

This is a classic situation for underleading the ace of diamonds. Declarer has denied a diamond control and dummy jumped to slam, so there is certainly a chance of king-jack-third in dummy or the king in dummy and the jack in declarer's hand. As a bonus, we have no other, good, alternative, making the diamond lead even more tempting. The full deal was:

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

My decision to ask with three spades rather than setting trumps with a straightforward four clubs over three hearts turned out to be very expensive when Mats Nilsson displayed his skill by leading a low diamond. With not much to go on, I misguessed and went down for a huge swing across the field. Had I bid four clubs, partner would have control-bid four diamonds and the opening leader would have had less information. The only other declarer to go down in slam was my sister Ida who, after very similar bidding, also played six clubs from South and got a diamond lead from Daniel Eriksson. Six notrump and six clubs

are both cold from the North hand, and two pairs got to the top contract.

Later in the same competition, a similar situation arose. Once again you are West:

**Dealer West. Neither Vul.**

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

West	North	East	South
Pass	1♦ <sup>1</sup>	Pass	1♠
Pass	2NT <sup>2</sup>	Pass	3♥ <sup>3</sup>
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♥ <sup>4</sup>
Pass	4♠	Pass	Pass

- Pass
- 1. Unbalanced
- 2. Big hand with spade support
- 3. Puppet to 3♠
- 4. Slam try; singleton heart

The opponents have made a slam try but have stopped in four spades, which could mean that desperate measures are called for. With the strong hand as dummy, there is even more that points towards a diamond lead. B.G. Olofsson trusted his analysis and led a low diamond. This was the full deal:

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

Despite the instant lead (Olofsson is one of Sweden's top Speedball players), Daniel Gullberg had a pretty good feeling for what was going on. Not to go down in the unlikely case of East having the ace-queen-jack of diamonds and the ace of hearts, he ducked the first trick. After winning with the jack of diamonds, East shifted to a heart to West's ace for another low diamond through. "Who leads from queen-third in dummy's suit?" thought Daniel as he called for the king and made an overtrick.

Two other Wests led a low diamond against spade contracts. One fell from grace, cashing the ace of diamonds when in with the ace of hearts. The other was on lead against five spades, where any diamond was enough to beat the contract, and he collected a huge swing for his efforts as no other declarers were tested.

We fast-forward to the Cavendish and one of the qualification sessions, where I had a chance to shine:

**Dealer East. Neither Vul.**

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

West	North	East	South
—	—	Pass	1♠
Pass	4♣ <sup>1</sup>	Pass	4♦ <sup>2</sup>
Pass	4♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			
	1. Splinter		
	2. Control		

A heart lead felt like a standout after the splinter sequence, mainly as partner was a favourite to have the ace, since a heart control-bid by either opponent might have been enough for a further move. Another thing that pointed in that direction was that I had the queen-jack of clubs, honours that would have been wasted for the offence. The question now was which heart to lead? A low heart would be right if declarer had the queen, while the surrounding play of the jack would work spectacularly well with queen-third in dummy to declarer's ten-third. I decided to go for the latter as dummy was likely to have more strength in hearts considering that declarer probably held honours in both clubs and diamonds. For once (at least according to my partners) I got it right:

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

Declarer could do nothing as we cashed the first three heart tricks and later got the queen of diamonds for one down. A low heart would not have been a success and that was West's choice at many of the other tables, probably after similar bidding. A more passive lead mostly resulted in one down as declarer finessed diamonds and couldn't help losing three tricks in hearts after this. Double dummy, however, my choice was the only setting one as declarer can endplay East with the queen of diamonds after eliminating the black suits, forcing the defence to open hearts for him.

Also from the Cavendish, a deal featuring the winners Stamatov/Danailov from Bulgaria:

## Dealer East. NS Vul.

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

♠  
 ♥  
 ♦ 9  
 ♣

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

West	North	East	South
—	—	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♥ <sup>1</sup>	Pass	2♠
Pass	3NT	Pass	4♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. Transfer to spades

This defensive problem (or at least a very similar one) came up in another of the qualification sessions. Partner leads the nine of diamonds, two from dummy, king from you, as declarer follows with the three from hand. Almost all Easts played partner for a doubleton diamond and cashed the king-ace to give him a ruff. That was not quite right when the full deal was:

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

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

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

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

The choice between three notrump and four spades is a delicate one and a pass of three notrump would have resulted in an ice-cold 600. Most of the time, South got away with choosing the wrong game as he could pitch dummy's losing heart on his fourth diamond. The winners were one of only two pairs that beat the contract when East won with the king of diamonds and returned the eight of diamonds at trick two! West could ruff and return the queen of hearts for an eventual one down.

How could East know to play partner for a stiff diamond? Playing second/fourth leads, even from low cards, East knew that partner either had queen-nine-low or the stiff nine. With ten-nine doubleton, West would have led the ten, so it was totally safe for East to win the first trick and lead back a low diamond.

## NEWS & VIEWS



### IBPA Dues Payment in Euro

IBPA has received requests through Hermann De Wael that an option for Euro payments should be available for European subscribers to the IBPA. The facility to pay in euros is available on <https://www.bridge-shop.com/IBPA/paying.php>. All members wishing to pay in Euro can follow the instructions for bank transfers. Those paying through credit card can opt to pay 42 Euro which will be swiped on the IBPA credit card platform. Dilip Gidwani is available to you in case you have difficulty in paying up.

### Montecatini Change of Venue

The EBL has announced the necessity of changing the venue for next month's European Championships, as follows:

**From:** Palazzo Congressi & Palavinci

**To:** Mondolandia Village, Via Ponte Dei Bari 5, 51016 Montecatini Terme

The new venue is roughly 10 minutes by coach from the main hotels in Montecatini; shuttle buses are being provided regularly every day throughout the event by the Municipality of Montecatini. Taxis are plentiful and inexpensive in Montecatini and there is sufficient car parking onsite.

### EBL Hall of Fame

The first inductees into the newly-created European Bridge League Hall of Fame are:

Open – Paul Chemla (France), Benito Garozzo (Italy), Geir Helgemo (Norway)

Women – Nicola Smith (England), Bep Vriend (Netherlands), Sylvie Willard (France)

Senior – John Holland (England), Apolinary Kowalski (Poland)

It must be asked: (i.) What about the equally-illustrious partners (for example, Giorgio Belladonna) of the inductees? Worthy as Chemla and Helgemo are, it seems strange to induct them and not Belladonna. (ii.) Why were no deceased candidates admitted?

### Patrick Jourdain Invitational

The Welsh Bridge Union will hold an Invitation Pairs event in Cardiff to honour the name of Patrick Jourdain who died last year. Half the eight tables will be Welsh, the other pairs invited from other countries. It will be a three-session Butler-scored event on July 22/23<sup>rd</sup>, 2017. Table fees will be £50 per person and visitors will be accommodated in bridge-playing friends' homes.

## Commonwealth Nations Championship

The Australian Bridge Federation will host the 2018 Commonwealth Nations Bridge Championships from February 14-18, prior to, and concurrent with, next year's Gold Coast Congress at the Gold Coast Convention Centre in Broadbeach, Qld., near Brisbane. The Chief Organiser is Charles Page (07) 3906 2827; 0449 758 046; [charles.page@powers.net.au](mailto:charles.page@powers.net.au)

## HCL Tournament

The 15<sup>th</sup> HCL International Bridge Championship will be held at the JW Marriott Hotel, New Delhi Aerocity, from 12-17<sup>th</sup> September, 2017. It will be one of the highest prize money tournaments ever, with prizes totalling US\$270,000. See [www.hcl-bridge.com](http://www.hcl-bridge.com) for details.

## John Solodar 1940-2017

John Solodar, a leading American player for decades, died March 25 at the age of 76. Solodar won the Bermuda Bowl in 1981 and earned a bronze medal in the Rosenblum Teams in 1990. In ACBL events, Solodar won the Life Master Pairs in 1968 and had four second-place finishes.

## 2017 Laws Approved

The WBF Management Committee has approved the 2017 Laws of Duplicate Bridge for publication and use. The new Laws will be in force for the WBF World Teams and Youth Championships in Lyon, but not for the EBL Championships in Montecatini. NBOs may decide when to implement them, as long as this is done no later than September 30, 2017.



### Correspondence

The Editor reserves the right to abridge and/or edit correspondence.  
Email: [ibpaeditor@sympatico.ca](mailto:ibpaeditor@sympatico.ca)

*Nicolas Hammond, a key figure in the analysis of the deals in the recent cheating scandals, took me to task with the wording in the March editorial:*

To the editor:

The editor is guilty of too much editorial license. The editor wrote: "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."

This is not true. The actual DC report stated: "Furthermore, the Commission is of the opinion that the EBL has failed to demonstrate any correlation

between the – unusual – call placements and the strength of the Players' hands. In this regard, the Commission first notes that two of the experts refused to give evidence. The Disciplinary Commission did not give any weight to the disputed evidence of an expert witness who did not give evidence at the hearing. Furthermore, in the course of the hearing it appeared that at least three of the bridge experts called by the EBL were not top class specialists of the Polish Club system, which necessarily raised questions about the accuracy of their opinions. Therefore, the EBL position on the strength of the hands, which was based on an average of all seven bridge experts' assessment, cannot be taken into consideration."

Failing to demonstrate, because all the evidence was thrown out, and finding no correlation are two very different statements. The first is accurate, the second is not. Editorial license when you choose to omit the stated reasons becomes 'fake news'.

(Since I wrote the report for the EBL, I am very aware of this case and the contents of the report, and the correlation. Not accepting the evidence, and not finding correlation, are different statements).

Nicolas Hammond, Atlanta



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# World Bridge Calendar

DATES	EVENT	LOCATION	INFORMATION
<b>2017</b>			
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 <sup>th</sup> South American Transnationals	Santiago, Chile	www.confsubridge.org
May 9-14	32 <sup>nd</sup> Grand Prix of Portugal	Estoril, Portugal	www.fpbridge.pt
May 13-20	1 <sup>st</sup> 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 <sup>th</sup> 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 <sup>th</sup> Asia Pacific Championships	Seoul, South Korea	www.abf.com.au
Jun 2-9	28 <sup>th</sup> International Festival	lloret de Mar, Spain	www.bridgecostabrava.org
Jun 10-18	19 <sup>th</sup> German Bridge Festival	Wyk-auf-Föhr, Germany	www.bridge-verband.de
Jun 10-24	8 <sup>th</sup> Open European Championships	Montecatini, Italy	www.eurobridge.org
Jun 27-Jul 9	35 <sup>th</sup> 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 <sup>st</sup> 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 <sup>th</sup> European Junior Teams	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 <sup>th</sup> 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 <sup>rd</sup> 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 <sup>th</sup> International Bridge Week	Mautern, Austria	www.bridgeaustria.at
Aug 4-6	2 <sup>nd</sup> 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
<b>Aug 12-26</b>	<b>World Team Championships</b>	<b>Lyon, France</b>	<b>www.worldbridge.org</b>
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 <sup>th</sup> 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 12-17	15 <sup>th</sup> HCL International	New Delhi, India	www.hcl-bridge.com
Sep 15-17	Vilnius Cup	Vilnius, Lithuania	www.vilniuscup.lt
Sep 29-Oct 1	11 <sup>th</sup> Minsk Cup	Minsk, Belarus	www.sportbridge.by
Sep 30-Oct 4	21 <sup>st</sup> 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	Siglufjörður, 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 <sup>th</sup> International Festival	Madeira, Portugal	www.fpbridge.pt
Nov 9-11	16 <sup>th</sup> European Champions Cup	Riga, Latvia	www.eurobridge.org
Nov 9-11	4 <sup>th</sup> 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 <sup>nd</sup> SEABF Championships	Jakarta, Indonesia	bert_toar@hotmail.com
<b>2018</b>			
Jan 10-21	Summer Festival of Bridge	Canberra, Australia	www.abf.com.au
Jan 27-Feb 2	59 <sup>th</sup> Bermuda Regional	Southampton, Bermuda	www.bermudaregional.com
Feb 14-18	Commonwealth Nations Championships	Broadbeach, Australia	www.abf.com.au
Feb 16-24	57 <sup>th</sup> Gold Coast Congress	Broadbeach, Australia	www.abf.com.au
Feb 17-23	2 <sup>nd</sup> European Winter Games	Monte Carlo, Monaco	www.eurobridge.org
Mar 8-18	Spring NABC	Philadelphia, PA	www.acbl.org
Mar 27-Apr 1	123 <sup>rd</sup> Toronto Easter Regional	Toronto, ON	www.unit166.ca
Apr 26-30	Australian Autumn Nationals	Adelaide, Australia	www.abf.com.au
Jun 6-16	54 <sup>th</sup> European Team Championships	Ostend, Belgium	www.eurobridge.org
Jul 26-Aug 5	Summer NABC	Atlanta, GA	www.acbl.org
Aug 9-18	17 <sup>th</sup> World Youth Team Championships	Wu Jiang, China	www.worldbridge.org
Sep 22-Oct 6	11 <sup>th</sup> World Bridge Series	Orlando, FL	www.worldbridge.org
Sep 29-Oct 6	New Zealand National Congress	Hamilton, NZ	www.nzbridge.co.nz
Oct 25-28	9 <sup>th</sup> World University Championships	Xuxhou, China	www.worldbridge.org
Nov 22-Dec 2	Fall NABC	Honolulu, HI	www.acbl.org