



BULLETIN

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Editorial

Witold Stachnik, President of the Polish Bridge Union (PBU), has released the following statement (*edited slightly for grammar, not for content. – Ed.*):

“On the basis of section 19, paragraph 1, letters a-e of its Disciplinary Regulations, the PBU has ordered a retrial against the pair Cezary Balicki/Adam Zmudzinski, who have already been judged (*but not convicted. – Ed.*) by the EBL Disciplinary Commission. In connection with new material evidence, I refer the case to the PBU Department of Discipline to establish whether the pair used illegal methods of communication during bridge competitions.”

“At the same time, I acknowledge that the outcome of the case by the PBU Department of Discipline may be purely symbolic because, even if found guilty, the disciplinary body will have to refrain from imposing penalties. This is because the time set by the statute of limitations has already expired.”

<http://www.pzbs.pl/archiwum-nowosci/6-wydarzenia/3796-komunikat-prezesa-pzbs-w-sprawie-postepowania-dyscyplinarnego-przeciwko-parze-cezary-balicki-adam-zmudzinski>

<http://neapolitanclub.altervista.org/eng/balicki-zmudzinski-case-message-polish-president.html>

Goodness gracious! Now we have a statute of limitations on capital crimes. As if it were not enough for the Italian Bridge Federation (FIGB) to grant a blanket amnesty to cheats and the German court (in Cologne) to decide that a ten-year ban was too severe to senior cheats, we now have a national bridge federation (PBU) deciding that, even if proven guilty, the miscreants cannot be punished.

This is simply too much to bear. What are we honest players to do? Stop playing? Start to cheat to level the playing field? The death of bridge is imminent at the grass roots. Is it now inevitable at the upper levels as well?

More problems for Team Zimmermann: according to BridgeWinners.com and posted by Pieter Wijnenon on May 27, 2017 ...

Norwegian Bridge Aces Indicted for Aggravated Tax Fraud

Two Norwegians (Geir Helgemo and Tor Helness) considered among the world's best bridge players are accused of aggravated tax fraud for having hidden revenues of NOK 18 million (about \$2.1 million) from playing the game. According to the indictment, one partner has failed to report bridge revenues totaling close to NOK 10.5 million in the period 2006 to 2014, while the amount for his partner is about 7.5 million in the period 2005 to 2013, writes Dagens Næringsliv. The case is considered 'gross' because it is a very significant amount and the violations lasted for several years, the accusation states.

The two accused deny culpability and declare that they have been living in Monaco for many years and therefore only pay taxes there, with which Norwegian tax authorities disagree. Both are professional bridge players and currently represent Monaco, playing on Monaco's national team, funded by billionaire Pierre Zimmermann of Switzerland.

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Unofficially, May is Trials Month, with Zonal Championships being contested all over the globe. Europe, alone among WBF zones, decides its World Championship representatives 15 or 16 months before the competition. The other Zones play their Trials just a few months before the World Championships, mostly in May. Here are a few problems faced by contestants in this year's United States Bridge Federation, Canadian Bridge Federation, and South American Bridge Federation Trials. See if you can do as well (or better) than the actual players who held these cards. The solutions are at the end of the article to help you suppress the desire to peek (not that you'd actually do that!).

Problem 1.

**USBF Open Trials. USA1 Semifinal.
Board 47. Dealer South. Neither Vul.**

♠ J 8 6 2
♥ A 8
♦ K J 6
♣ 9 7 5 3

♠ A Q 10 9
♥ 6 3 2
♦ A Q 7 4 2
♣ 2

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

1. Clubs and hearts
2. Negative – promises four/five spades and values (a useful treatment on this deal)
3. I'm dying to bid more, but you may pass for penalties if you so desire

West leads the king of clubs (asking for standard count). East follows with the six and, when West next leads the ace of clubs, East plays the jack and you ruff. You lead a diamond to the king and a spade to the ten. West shows out, presenting you with the four of hearts (upside down). How do you proceed?

Problem 2.

**Canadian (CBF) Senior Trials. Match 7.
Board 4. Dealer East. Both Vul.**

How should South plan the remainder of the auction with the hand shown at the top of the next column?

♠ A K 4
♥ A
♦ A K 5 4
♣ A K Q 8 7

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

1. Immediate double negative: no ace, no king, at most one queen
2. Lead-directing
3. Splinter in support of clubs

Problem 3.

**USBF Open Trials. USA2 Semifinal.
Board 78. Dealer North. NS Vul.**

♠ 3
♥ J 9 7
♦ A 9 8 7 3
♣ K 6 4 2

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

1. Stronger than four hearts
2. Exclusion Key-Card Blackwood
3. One key card outside diamonds

You are West. What would you lead?

Problem 4.

**CBF Open Trials. Final - Todd vs. l'Ecuyer.
Board 97. Dealer North. Both Vul.**

♠ A K 3
♥ J 10 3
♦ A J 6 5
♣ J 8 5

♠ J 10
♥ 5
♦ K 4 3 2
♣ A K Q 7 4 2

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

1. Natural, game-forcing

West leads the lowest-from-an-odd-number two of spades. Plan the play.

Problem 5.

CBF Open Trials. Final - Todd vs. l'Ecuyer.
Board 59. Dealer North. EW Vul.

♠ K 9 5 4
 ♥ A J 8 5 4
 ♦ K 5
 ♣ 6 3

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

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

- Relay: invitational+
- Maximum (?); 4 spades, no shortage

West leads the ace and another spade, East following suit both times, first with the two, then with the six. You win with the nine of spades in dummy, having unblocked the ten under the ace, and lead a club to the jack and West's king. West makes the curious play of cashing the ace of diamonds before switching back to spades, leading the eight, which you win with dummy's king. East discards the two of clubs. You lead dummy's second club to the ten; East follows low, West with the nine.

What do you make of this defence? You have lost only three tricks so far but, on the repeated trump leads, have only nine winners. Where will the tenth trick come from?

Problem 6.

SABF Open Trials. Match 10 – Brazil vs. Chile.
Board 42. Dealer East. Both Vul.

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

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

- Weak
- Strong diamond raise
- Spade control

What action do you take over East's five-heart bid?

Solution 1.

First, at the other table (see *top of next column*), Ai-Tai Lo, North, did well to lead a club, resulting in two club ruffs for South, to defeat four hearts by two tricks; plus 100 for North/South.

Dealer South. Neither Vul.

♠ J 8 6 2
 ♥ A 8
 ♦ K J 6
 ♣ 9 7 5 3

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

♠ K 7 5 4 3
 ♥ 10 9
 ♦ 8 5 3
 ♣ Q J 6

♠ A Q 10 9
 ♥ 6 3 2
 ♦ A Q 7 4 2
 ♣ 2

West	North	East	South
Meckstroth	Lo	Rodwell	Barron
—	—	—	1♦
2NT ¹	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♥	Pass	4♥	Pass
Pass	Pass		

- Clubs and hearts

That was a good lead by Lo. However ...

West	North	East	South
Morgan	Weinstein	Harris	Levin
—	—	—	1♦
2NT ¹	Double ²	3♣	4♠
Double ³	Pass	Pass	Pass

- Clubs and hearts
- Negative – promises four/five spades and values (a useful treatment on this deal)
- I'm dying to bid more, but you may pass for penalties if you must

Bobby Levin ruffed the second club, crossed to dummy with a diamond and led a spade to the ten, West showing out.

From here, Levin could have cashed a diamond, crossed to dummy with a diamond, (it is necessary for East to have at least three diamonds to make the contract), cashed the ace of hearts and ruffed dummy's last club.

This position would have been reached:

♠ J 8 6
 ♥ 8
 ♦ —
 ♣ —

♠ —
 ♥ Q J 7
 ♦ —
 ♣ 10

♠ K 7 5 4
 ♥ —
 ♦ —
 ♣ —

♠ —
 ♥ 6 3
 ♦ Q 7
 ♣ —

East could have expended one low trump on the fourth round of clubs to keep a heart – that would

not have mattered. South has taken eight tricks and leads a diamond, discarding dummy's heart loser. Declarer cannot be prevented from scoring two of dummy's three remaining trumps for plus 590.

Is that what Levin did? No, he cashed two more diamonds from hand, then discarded dummy's heart loser on a fourth diamond. East ruffed and led a trump. With the king-seven of trumps remaining with East, declarer could not avoid losing both of them or, conversely, the king of spades and a club for one off, minus 100, and 5 IMPs to HARRIS when it might easily have been 10 to NICKELL.

Solution 2.

How to handle the South hand was an issue in the Canadian Senior Team Trials eight-team Round Robin

Board 4. Dealer East. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
—	—	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♥	Double	3♣
Pass	4♦	Pass	?

The key to the deal was how many spades and diamonds North held. If it were four or fewer, a grand slam would have been near-laydown. Some Souths reasoned (on very slim evidence) that with six or more hearts, East might have bid rather than doubled and, with some heart support, West might have raised East. So they placed North with some hearts and hoped that the total of clubs and hearts would be as many as nine (thus a total of only four spades and diamonds), and simply bid seven clubs. Other Souths reasoned they could never find out what they needed to know and took the low road, signing off in six clubs.

One fortunate South asked for key cards (with four notrump). He knew what the response would be: zero. However, by then bypassing the trump-queen ask and bidding five spades, he inquired about third-round spade control for grand-slam purposes. Here was the fortunate part – his partner, with a doubleton spade, leapt to seven clubs. If North had had three or more spades to the queen, he'd also have reached the grand slam with confidence. Only when North had had three or more low spades and bid six clubs would South

have been guessing, as had the six-club and seven-club leapers. But this South would have been no worse off.

The other successful South made a control bid of four hearts, strongly suspecting that the reply would be five clubs. When it was, he continued with five diamonds. North could now bid a confident five spades, having already denied first- or second-round spade control. South knew what to do over five spades.

Solution 3.

Board 78. Dealer North. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Pszczola</i>	<i>Cohler</i>	<i>Rosenberg</i>	<i>Cohen</i>
—	1♠	Pass	2♥
Pass	3♥ ¹	Pass	3♠
Pass	5♦ ²	Pass	5♠ ³
Pass	7♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Jacek Pszczola (Pepsi) made the lead of the event (perhaps of the year): the deuce of clubs. Gone are the days when players routinely (and woodenly) led a trump against a grand slam. Look what would happen on any other lead but a club: declarer draws trumps, ruffs one diamond in the dummy and plays on spades. When the spades prove to be 4-1, declarer needs the club finesse. His luck is in; it works. Note also that, on a low diamond lead from the ace, declarer does not have the entries to hand to ruff two diamonds and draw trumps and, if he has two spade entries to hand, the spades or hearts are splitting favourably and he doesn't need early diamond ruffs. Of course, a low diamond lead after the EKCB ask is even more suspicious than a low club lead.

On a club lead, you may suspect West of subterfuge, but would you put the contract on the line at trick one by playing the queen of clubs, with the contract being cold on 2-2 hearts or 3-2 spades? Nor did poor Billy Cohen, eventually going two off for minus 100.

At the other table, Marty Fleisher and Chip Martel bid only to six hearts (Fleisher raising to four hearts over three hearts). Mike Becker led a club and Fleisher played safely, rising with the ace, drawing trumps and

playing on spades – he made five spade tricks, six heart tricks and one club trick for plus 980 and 14 IMPs in.

Solution 4.

Board 97. Dealer North. Both Vul.

♠ A K 3
♥ J 10 3
♦ A J 6 5
♣ J 8 5

♠ 8 7 6 4 2
♥ A Q 8 4 2
♦ 10
♣ 6 3

♠ Q 9 5
♥ K 9 7 6
♦ Q 9 8 7
♣ 10 9

♠ J 10
♥ 5
♦ K 4 3 2
♣ A K Q 7 4 2

West	North	East	South
Fergani	Mackay	Pollack	Miles
—	1♦	Pass	2♣
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♦
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♦	Pass	4♥
Double	5♣	Pass	Pass
Pass			

On the low-spade lead, declarer might have ducked in dummy at trick one, playing for one of the two finesses to have been right. That play is about 75%.

Declarer, Danny Miles, won the spade lead in the dummy, drew trumps and played on diamonds. When they were revealed to be 4-1 with the queen offside, Miles was one off for minus 100. He had needed diamonds 3-2 or the queen onside, about 84%, a good sight better than the either-of-two-finesses play.

The best play, however, is to win the spade in dummy and lead a heart. Say the opponent (West) wins and leads another spade. You win with the other high honour in dummy, ruff a heart, lead a club to the jack (both opponents following), ruff dummy's last heart, lead a diamond to the ace and ruff dummy's third spade high. When you cash a high trump from hand, lo and behold, both opponents follow suit. The majors having been eliminated, you can now lead a low diamond from hand toward dummy's jack, covering West's card if he follows, or ducking in dummy if he does not.

That brilliant play would have earned you a push as the declarer in the other room (Nicolas l'Ecuyer) found the winning play in the same contract, albeit on a heart lead to the ace (North being the declarer) and the ten-of-diamonds shift. The winning play retains all the options of Miles' line plus about 40% of the 0.16 remainder, more than 90% overall.

Solution 5.

Board 59. Dealer North. EW Vul.

♠ K 9 5 4
♥ A J 8 5 4
♦ K 5
♣ 6 3

♠ A 8 3
♥ K Q 9 7 6
♦ A 9 3
♣ K 9

♠ 6 2
♥ 10 2
♦ J 8 6 2
♣ Q 7 5 4 2

♠ Q J 10 7
♥ 3
♦ Q 10 7 4
♣ A J 10 8

West	North	East	South
Mackay	Marcinski	Miles	l'Ecuyer
—	1♥	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♠	Pass	2NT ¹
Pass	4♠ ²	Pass	Pass
Pass			

1. Relay: invitational+
2. Maximum; 4 spades, no shortage

It's been a weird defence. It appears that East started with five clubs. For West to take the ace of diamonds before leading the third spade, he's unlikely to have the jack and evidently has a heart holding he feels is vulnerable. So, heart (king from West) to the ace. Since it's almost inconceivable that West has six diamonds (and thus king-queen doubleton of hearts, cash the diamond king and ruff a heart (ten from East). West seems to be marked with the king-queen of hearts and East with 2=3=3=5 (or 2=2=4=5). So, cash the diamond queen in case the jack drops. If it does not, exit with your fourth diamond to endplay East to lead a club. Easy peasy.

At the table, declarer tried to drop the jack of diamonds or the queen of clubs, finishing one off for a push on tougher defence at the other table.

Solution 6.

Board 42. Dealer East. Both Vul.

♠ A 2
♥ Q 3
♦ K J 7 5 3
♣ A 9 3 2

♠ Q
♥ A K J 9 8 7 4
♦ 10 9 4
♣ J 4

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

♠ J 8 5
♥ —
♦ A Q 8 6 2
♣ K Q 8 6 5

West	North	East	South
<i>Caracci</i>	<i>Chagas</i>	<i>J.M.Robles</i>	<i>Villas Boas</i>
—	—	Pass	1♦
2♥ ¹	3♥ ²	3♠	4♣
Pass	4♠ ³	5♥	?

1. Weak
2. Strong diamond raise
3. Spade control

As you can see, seven diamonds is cold. Six clubs is down on a diamond ruff. With North making a strong raise of diamonds, then control-bidding four spades, South might well have bid five notrump or six of either minor over five hearts. Conversely, when South passed five hearts, as Miguel Villas Boas did, Gabriel Chagas might well have bid six diamonds himself. It was probably too much to reach seven diamonds on the miracle fit. At the table, Chagas doubled five hearts with his queen-low in hearts and beat it a trick for plus 200.

Extraordinarily, that lost only 9 IMPs:

West	North	East	South
<i>Thoma</i>	<i>Pacareu</i>	<i>Ravenna</i>	<i>B.Robles</i>
—	—	3♠	Pass
Pass	3NT	Pass	4♠ ¹
Pass	5♣	Pass	Pass

1. Both minors



USA Trials

Maurizio Di Sacco, Pisa

The USBF runs its Trials as a double-elimination knockout. The undefeated team becomes USA1. Once teams lose a match, they are relegated to the USA2 bracket. That winner becomes the second American team in the Bermuda Bowl, Venice Cup and d'Orsi Bowl.

In the USA1 bracket of the Open Team Trials, HARRIS started as a big underdog in their semifinal match versus number one seed NICKELL, but after a few segments confirming their rôle, things were turned upside down in the fifth episode (of eight) of the saga, where HARRIS was able to amass 65 IMPs against the opponents' mere 9. This was an unusual beating for NICKELL, who came off the worse for wear in most of the heavy deals in the set. The same set of deals allowed a huge comeback for DWYER as well (71-

28), in its semifinal versus DIAMOND, the number two seed.

Here are two of the bigger deals:

Board 5. Dealer North. NS Vul.

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

DIAMOND vs. DWYER

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Cohen</i>	<i>Greco</i>	<i>Cohler</i>	<i>Hampson</i>
—	1♦ ¹	Pass	2♣ ²
Pass	2♦	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♣	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. Precision: 2+ diamonds
2. GF

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Diamond</i>	<i>Becker</i>	<i>Platnick</i>	<i>Kamil</i>
—	1♦	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♥ ¹	Pass	3NT ²
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♥
Pass	4♠	Pass	6♣
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. At least 4-5; no extra values promised
2. Strong NT equivalent

NICKELL vs. HARRIS

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Lo</i>	<i>Katz</i>	<i>Liu</i>	<i>Nickell</i>
—	1♦	Pass	2
Pass	2♦	Pass	3NT
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♥ ¹
Pass	5♣ ²	Pass	6♣
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. Key card ask for clubs
2. 2 key cards with no queen of trumps

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Weinstein</i>	<i>Barron</i>	<i>Levin</i>	<i>Morgan</i>
—	1♦	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♦	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

In both matches, the marginal slam was reached at one table and not at the other, both slam bidders via the strong-three-notrump sequence. As you can see, the cards did not lie favourably for declarer.

Mike Kamil received a fourth-highest spade lead from John Diamond. He won with dummy's ace and led a club to the queen and king. Diamond shifted to a low heart! After that, all Kamil had to do was to guess clubs, and he did. He won the heart with dummy's jack, entered his hand with the king of hearts and ran the seven of clubs; 13 IMPs to DWYER, where DIAMOND had the same number available to it.

Frank Nickell went down in his slam, despite receiving a heart lead from Ai-Tai Lo. Declarer won with dummy's jack, cashed the ace of spades, led a club to the queen and king, won the heart continuation in hand, and ruffed his spade loser. That created a second trump trick for West and HARRIS had 12 IMPs.

The deals offered no respite for the players. Board 7 saw 23 more IMPs being scored in the matches, 10 to DWYER and 13 to HARRIS.

Board 7. Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Cohen	Greco	Cohler	Hampson
—	—	—	Pass
5♣	Pass	Pass	Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Diamond	Becker	Platnick	Kamil
—	—	—	Pass
4♣	Pass	Pass	Pass

NICKELL vs. HARRIS

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Lo	Katz	Liu	Nickell
—	—	—	Pass
4♣	Pass	4♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Weinstein	Barron	Levin	Morgan
—	—	—	Pass
3NT ¹	Pass	4♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. Pre-emptive, one minor suit

Billy Cohen jumped higher than the three other Wests. Another difference resided in East's reaction to a four-level opening bid. Bobby Levin and Howard Liu went for the maximum dividend, while Brian Platnik kept quiet.

Where Cohen was declaring five clubs, all his problems were solved by Eric Greco's lead: the ace of spades. However, declarer can always succeed after a heart lead by playing a high spade from dummy. The defence cannot then prevent declarer from disposing of his heart losers on the spades. Diamond registered the same 11 tricks in four clubs as did Cohen in five clubs, losing 10 IMPs in the process.

In the other match, both Easts tried four spades. Levin paid the price when Jacob Morgan led a spade and Jay Barron won and tabled the ten of diamonds.

Nickell led a heart against Liu, the jack. Declarer won and played a spade himself, won by Ralph Katz's ace. Had North played a high diamond through, Liu's fate would have been the same as his counterpart's, but Katz inferred stronger diamonds in declarer's hand from his not taking a diamond ruff. Thus Katz switched to his singleton club, attempting to cut declarer off from the dummy. Curtains: twelve tricks and 13 IMPs.



Careless Talk Costs Lives

Ron Tacchi, Vaupillon, France

Board 6. Dealer East. EW Vul.

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

1. Game-forcing
2. Optional key-card ask
3. Declined

In the African Zonal Trials played last month, Board 22 of the Open Match between South Africa and the leaders Egypt featured a fine piece of card reading by Craig Gower of South Africa.

When East led the ace of clubs and shifted to a low heart, declarer had a chance. From the bidding and initial trick, declarer had a very good idea of the distribution: East had the ace-king of clubs and presumably at least three diamonds to the queen for his double; West had showed the king of hearts with his double and presumably the king of spades as well as East had initially passed – the king of spades would have given him twelve points.

It is all very well knowing where the cards are but now you have to play them. Watch and wonder, as one of England's greatest players used to say.

On the heart switch, declarer rose with the ace and continued with the queen of hearts. West was forced to cover, otherwise the losing spade would have gone away, and declarer ruffed. Declarer then played the queen of clubs and it was East's turn to cover; this was ruffed in dummy. The critical point had arrived: how to continue with the heart suit. Declarer had two options, he could have taken a ruffing finesse against the jack or played to drop it from the East hand.

The spot cards strongly suggested that East had jack-three-times as he had led the five and followed with the six. West had followed with the two, then had covered the queen, so the three and four were unaccounted for. Declarer continued with a low heart, ruffed in hand and felling the jack, showing how good his analysis was. All that was left was to cash the ace and king of trumps and concede a trick to the queen, the losing spade going away on the established heart winner in dummy.

Note declarer's line would also have worked when East had started with four hearts to the jack, provided the clubs were no worse than 6-3. A second club ruff in the dummy would have been used as the extra entry to ruff another heart. Thus the queen and jack of clubs were mirages and declarer could still have brought home the contract if his clubs were three low.

A question for you. Would declarer have made his contract without the opposition's doubles? I think you know the answer to that one – I do.



South American Championships

Fernando Lema, Buenos Aires

The VIIth South American Open Championships and the 67th South American Team Championships were played from May 5 to 17, in Santiago de Chile.

The first event was the Pairs Championship; the Open winners were Mustafa Cem Tokay (TUR) and Giovanni Donati (ITA); this was Donati's first international title in an Open event. First position in the Women's went to Ana Alonso (ARG) and Monica Baldassarre (ARG).

Next, the Transnational Open Teams Championship winners were from Chile: Benjamin and José Manuel Robles, Joaquin Pacareu, Marcelo Caracci and Matias Bascuñan. The Women's Teams was won by Cecilia Prévide, Maria José Espinosa Paz, Maléna Iacapraro, Charo Garateguy, Eleonora Alégre and Florencia Herrera all from Argentina.

Finally, the Zonal Championships were played in three categories, the top two in each category qualifying for the World Championships in Lyon. Qualifiers were:

Open

1° Argentina: Héctor Camberos, Carlos Lucena, Carlos Pellegrini, Ernesto Muzzio and Máximo Cruzio

2° Brazil: Gabriel Chagas, Miguel Villas Boas, Marco Thoma, Pablo Ravenna, Léon Carvalho and Rafael Duque Dias

Women

1° Brazil: Sylvia Mello, Paula David, Heloisa Nogueira, Agota Mandelot, Leda Pain and Isabella Vargas

2° Argentina: Cecilia Prévide, Maria José Espinosa Paz, Maléna Iacapraro, Charo Garateguy, Isolda Tamae and Florencia Attaguile

Senior

1° Argentina: Martín Monsegur, Guillermo Mooney, Walter Fornasari, Marcelo Villegas and Jorge Gueglio

2° Brazil: Amílcar Magalhaes, João de Deus Silva, Rafael Amoedo, Milton Aloí, Eduardo Barcellos and Mauricio Machado

The following spectacular deal, which brought 12 IMPs to the winning Transnational Caracci team, was bid expertly by Pacareu and (Benjamin) Robles against the Barbosa team: Diego Brenner, Miguel Villas Boas, Roberto Barbosa and Adriano Rodrigues.

Board 8. Dealer West. Neither Vul.

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

In the closed room, Barbosa and Rodrigues didn't play in their heart fit, instead deciding to play in three notrump, a very different approach from what happened in the open room:

West	North	East	South
Brenner	Pacareu	Villas Boas	Robles
Pass	2♣ ¹	Pass	2♦ ²
Pass	2♥ ³	Pass	2♠ ⁴
Pass	3♦ ⁵	Pass	3♥ ⁶
Pass	3NT ⁷	Pass	4♣ ⁸
Pass	4♦ ⁹	Pass	6♦
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. Strong, GF
2. Positive
3. Relay: hearts or balanced
4. Forced
5. 5+ hearts and 4+ diamonds
6. Preference or fit
7. Serious slam try and spade control
8. Club control
9. Diamond control

The play was simple. Robles took the spade lead with dummy's ace, cashed the two top heart honours and ruffed a third heart with dummy's ten of diamonds, then he played four rounds of trumps and claimed, losing only a club; 12 IMPs for their team.

In the Round Robin of the Open Teams Championship, two of the favoured teams, Ventin and Caracci, clashed.

Board 22. Dealer East. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Donati	Pacareu	Tokay	Robles
—	—	INT	Pass
4♦ ¹	Pass	4♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. Transfer to spades

In one room, East was José-Manuel Robles, and he opened one club. Alfredo Versace in South overcalled one notrump and Marcelo Caracci jumped to three spades; that was the final contract. North led a heart, which limited declarer to nine tricks, West losing two hearts, a diamond and a club.

In the other room, Mustafa Cem Tokay displayed superior card-play technique, with a touch of elegance.

South led the nine of spades against Tokay's four-spade game. The lead was won in dummy with the ten. The problem was to avoid losing two hearts, a diamond and a club as happened in the other room. Let's see how Tokay elegantly solved the problem.

At trick two, declarer left dummy with a club to his jack. Benjamin Robles, South, won with his queen and made the best return: the king of spades, won by the ace. Tokay cashed the queen of spades to draw the remaining trump, discarding a heart from hand, and continued by playing a diamond to his ace. Now declarer played the king of clubs; South covered with the ace and Tokay discarded a heart from dummy.

South was end-played and had to surrender. If he continued with the heart ace and another heart, the heart king would provide a discard for the diamond loser; if he played a diamond, that would eliminate the diamond loser; and finally, if he played a club, declarer would discard his heart loser and later discard his diamond loser on the established nine of clubs.



The CAC Championships

Maurizio Di Sacco, Pisa

The Central American and Caribbean Championships, which qualified one team each to the Bermuda Bowl, Venice Cup and d'Orsi Senior Bowl, were held in the lovely location of Antigua, Guatemala, from April 28th to May 6th. The event proved to be very successful,

Continued on page 12...



IBPA Column Service

Tim Bourke, Canberra

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

857. Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
—	—	—	1♠
Pass	INT	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

West led the queen of diamonds, taken by declarer with the ace. Declarer counted nine fairly sure winners – five trumps and the four tops in the minors. A tenth could come if East had started with the queen of trumps but that was at best a 50% chance, even if one discounted the possibility of minor-suit ruffs. Declarer decided that a better approach was to try and ruff a heart in dummy. Obviously, leading a heart from hand would not succeed on the given layout because East would be on lead twice in hearts to play trumps, leaving declarer a trick short.

Declarer had such a possibility in mind, so he crossed to dummy with a club to the king to lead a low heart. At the table East rose with the ace and played a low trump. Declarer took this with the ace, then crossed to dummy with another club to the ace to lead a second heart. This would have been a winning play if East had had both the ace and king of hearts along with two low trumps. Instead, West took declarer's queen of hearts with the king and could not profitably continue with a trump. Out of clubs, West led another diamond. With no diamond ruff available to the defence, declarer was able to win with his diamond king and ruff his remaining heart with dummy's eight of trumps. After ruffing a diamond back to hand with a middle trump, declarer cashed the king of trumps and then conceded a trick West's queen of trumps. Making four.

Notice that declarer's approach would have succeeded any time there was no defensive ruff and trumps were 3-2. Had trumps been 4-1 with West, West could have continued with a second trump without cost.

858. Dealer South. NS Vul.

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

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

1. 5+-5+ in the minors
2. Key-card ask in hearts
3. 1 key card

West led the queen of diamonds. Declarer could count eleven winners after dummy appeared. He saw that the only chance for the contract was for East to have the ace of hearts and at most two diamonds and three clubs, almost certain on the bidding. After winning the first trick with the king of diamonds, declarer drew five rounds of trumps, throwing a diamond and two hearts from dummy. Next, he cashed the ace and king of clubs before leading a heart to dummy's jack.

East correctly withheld the ace of hearts and now the importance of keeping a club in dummy became clear when declarer ruffed it, thereby removing East's last minor-suit card. Declarer continued by cashing the king of diamonds (in case West had started with 0=3=5=5 shape), reducing everyone to two cards. Dummy had the king-queen of hearts and East the ace-nine. When declarer played a heart to the king, East could take the ace at his leisure, but dummy would make a heart for declarer's vital twelfth trick.

East was about to say something about the folly of West's overcall, but West spoke first: "I should have followed Terence Reese's advice of not bidding on my hand type as there was little chance our side would play the hand. All it did was to give declarer a clear roadmap on how to make twelve tricks. Sorry."

859. Dealer North. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
—	1♣	Pass	1♥
Pass	4♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			

West did exceptionally well in the auction by not doubling the final contract. West led the queen of diamonds. Declarer took it with the ace to play a trump. East's discard of a diamond was not a welcome sight, but declarer did not give up. Eventually he saw that he could make his contract if he could take six tricks in the black suits without West's ruffing in.

Accordingly, declarer rose with the ace of trumps at trick two and then led a low club to the eight and jack. Next he led the four of spades to his the queen to lead a second club to the ten and queen. After cashing the ace of clubs, felling West's king, declarer played the ace and king of spades. When West followed to both of these winners declarer was almost home.

Declarer saw that leading a trump or a club at this point would not succeed. As a result, he called for dummy's two of diamonds, which gave the defenders no successful countermove. If West had won the trick, he would have had to lead a trump, allowing declarer to make the queen and jack of trump separately for his ninth and tenth tricks. At the table, East rose with the king of diamonds and played another diamond. West ruffed low and the dummy's jack of trumps was declarer's ninth trick. Declarer then ducked a trump to West and the queen of trump was his tenth trick.

860. Dealer West. NS Vul.

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

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

1. Good raise in spades

West led the king of hearts. Declarer took this with the ace and played a low trump to dummy's ace. As there was no way to make the game if West had three trumps (and thus only one club), declarer had to decide whether West had begun with one or two trumps. In the latter case the winning play would be to cash the queen of trumps and then organise a club ruff. However, as there were originally eight clubs outstanding to five trumps and, even allowing for the jack of trumps not being singleton, the odds were firmly in favour of placing West with his most likely original distribution, 1=5=5=2. So declarer cashed the king of clubs next, then played a club to the ace and ruffed a club.

Declarer then played the ace and another diamond. West won the trick with the ten and led three top hearts. Declarer ruffed this, then played a spade to dummy's queen. The forced diamond lead from dummy left East with no winning play from his jack and nine of trumps: declarer would make the last two tricks with his king-ten of trumps.

Declarer's play was clearly best as it was 7:5 that West would hold a singleton versus a doubleton trump.



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attracting participants not only from the Zone, but also from many other part of the world.

It all started with a pairs competition, played over three days. At the end of the Barometer Howell final, the winners were expats from Costa Rica, ex-Française Isabelle Chaplet and ex-Canadian John McGregor. (By the way, Isabelle Chaplet is the mother of Paul Chaplet who, at 16 years of age, won the 2016 Latin America Amateur Golf Championship and thus played in the Masters last year. – Ed.) The winners had a huge 68.96% game.

Then the proper CAC Championship started, together with a Transnational Team. The first two days qualified the following teams to the finals: Guadeloupe and Costa Rica in the Open, Trinidad & Tobago and Guadeloupe in the Women's, and Guadeloupe and Barbados in the Seniors. Bronze medals were awarded after the Round Robin and went to Barbados, Guatemala and Guatemala respectively. Knocked-out teams joined the Transnational team event.

The finals were contested over 120 boards, and Guadeloupe emerged victorious in the Open (René Aragoñes, Philippe Bonnet, Dominique Gérin, Philippe Mathieu, Jean-Claude Pelletier and Luc Soudan) and the Seniors (Chantal Bistoquet, Jaqueline Cassin, Sophie Fabricatore, Graçoise Mondor, Christiane Thirion), while the Women's was won by Trinidad & Tobago (Deborah Fletcher, Pat Howard, Denise Josa, Alana Xavier).

The Transnational Teams was won by Martinique (Solitaire Duplan, Perrine Hayot, Bernard Leclerq, Fernanda Parisot, Pierre-Yves Parisot), which beat Barbados in the final.

Here are a couple of deals from the Open final, Guadeloupe vs. Costa Rica, segment 12. After 110 boards, Guadeloupe led by 265.5-186. With just 10 boards to go, Costa Rica gamely played on and thus had to hope for wild deals and lots of good luck. The deals proved to be exciting, but not quite swingy enough. The action started immediately.

Board 111. Dealer South. Neither Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Chaplet	Gérin	McGregor	Pelletier
—	—	—	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♦	Pass
3♥	Pass	3NT	Pass
4♦	Pass	5♦	Pass
6♦	Pass	Pass	Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Aragoñes	Wilson	Bonnet	Hatfield
—	—	—	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♥	Pass
5♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

Chaplet's natural sequence (although perhaps it was not natural for McGregor!) got them to the second-best spot, while the also-natural sequence in the other room landed East/West is their worst of the three fits at the wrong level; 10 IMPs for Costa Rica.

A few boards later, Costa Rica scored another double-digit swing, thanks to an aggressive action by Isabelle Chaplet.

Board 115. Dealer South. NS Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Chaplet	Gérin	McGregor	Pelletier
—	—	—	1♣
4♥	Double	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Aragoñes	Wilson	Bonnet	Hatfield
—	—	—	1♣
1♥	1♠	Pass	2♠
3♥	4♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Chaplet's direct jump to four hearts stole the pot, and her contract went just one off thanks to the

favourable diamond position. Aragoñes' one-heart bid gave the opponents the opportunity to locate the spade fit and score 11 IMPs when four spades made after East did not find the killing club lead.

At this point, Costa Rica was leading 27-6 in the final set, but scored just one more IMP over the last five boards. Guadeloupe won 271-213, and will go to Lyon to play the Bermuda Bowl. The match was very close for a day and a half, but then the experienced Guadeloupe team pulled away, and Costa Rica could not stop them. Congratulations to the CAC Open Champions.



THE OLD MASTER

Barbara Travis, Adelaide, SA

(With apologies to Ron Klinger)

Patrick Huang first played bridge for Chinese Taipei when he was 15 years old. In 1969 and 1970, he was part of the Chinese Taipei team that came second in consecutive world championships. During this period, he was instrumental, together with CC Wei, in introducing the world to the Precision bidding system. In 2014, his contributions to bridge were recognised with his being awarded the IBPA Personality of the Year.

Fifty-plus years of top-level bridge have honed Huang's skills. Watch him at work on this deal from the 2017 Asia Pacific Bridge Championships in Seoul:

Dealer North. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Brown	Liu	Whibley	Huang
—	1♣	Pass	1♦
1♠	Double	3♠	3NT
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♦
Pass	4♥	Pass	5♦
Pass	6♦	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Matthew Brown (New Zealand), on his 21st birthday, led the ace of spades, an unfortunate choice. After ruffing this in dummy, Huang cashed the ace of clubs, ruffed a club in hand, drew two rounds of trumps with the ace and king of diamonds, then trumped another club to establish the suit. When Huang exited with his last trump, even though there was no longer a trump in any hand, Brown was end-played. (Huang could not have afforded to use dummy's heart entry to the clubs while there was still an outstanding trump.) In with his queen of diamonds, if Brown had led a heart, it would have been run around to declarer's queen, so West tried a spade exit, which simply allowed Patrick to discard dummy's two hearts on his spade winners, and then dummy was high, still with the ace of hearts as an entry.

This impressive result became even better when the New Zealanders underbid the hand at the other table:

West	North	East	South
S. Yang	Cornell	D. Yang	Bach
—	1♣	Pass	1♥!
Pass	2♣	Pass	Pass
Pass			
	1. Spades		

There were six team events: Open, Women's, Seniors, Juniors, Girls and Youngsters. Three notrump on the jack-of-spades lead was dicey but, with West having the entries, it should make. Some declarers failed by ducking spades at trick one, but the majority made their contract. However, Patrick Huang and his partner were the only pair to bid and make slam.



Some contracts are unbeatable, but declarer misses the winning line and gives the defence a chance to defeat the contract. It is important to recognize the opportunity and seize the moment. Sometimes partner does not find the best defence, but you can still save the situation. These problems arose in the 2017 Autumn Nationals in Australia. Scoring is by IMPs.

I. Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

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

1. Forcing

2. Strong hand, heart shortage

West led the heart four: three – ace – five. East switched to the diamond jack: ten – two – ace. Declarer played the diamond five: eight – ruff with the spade four – diamond three; the spade five: three – ace – two and the spade nine: six – queen – king. West shifted to the club three: ace – seven – five. Declarer continued with the diamond six: spade ten – heart seven – diamond four. These cards remained:

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

What should East do now?

2. Dealer West. Neither Vul.

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

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

West led the diamond four: six – seven – ten. South played the spade jack: four – two – nine and the spade ten – five – six – heart four (club suit-preference), followed by the spade three: seven – queen – diamond two. Declarer now played the king of clubs. What would be your plan of defence as East?

3. Dealer North. NS Vul.

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

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

West led the club ace: six – eight – five, followed by the diamond ace: three – six – eight and the spade king: three. Which spade should East play? If it matters to you, East/West play reverse attitude and reverse count.

Solutions:

1. This was the complete deal:

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

Declarer can make four spades comfortably after the four-of-hearts lead to the ace and the jack-of-diamonds return. There are five top winners in high cards outside trumps and South can ruff two hearts in dummy and a club and two diamonds in hand without difficulty.

The actual line chosen gave East, Australian expert Michael Prescott, a chance to shine, and he did just that. Declarer had given preference to two diamonds on a singleton ten. The reluctance to rebid two spades and overruff indicated that South did not have six spades. West's switch to the three of clubs indicated three clubs and hence declarer figured to have a 5=5=1=2 pattern.

In the diagrammed ending, the defence had taken three tricks. It is unusual to lead into dummy's tenace, but that is precisely what Prescott did. How right he was. The club return was the only play to defeat four spades. Declarer won, cashed another club and cashed the diamond king, but the next card from dummy enabled West to score the eight of spades for one down. A heart return would have seen declarer win with his king, draw West's remaining trump, whereupon dummy would have been high.

2. You can deduce easily enough that West began with a singleton diamond and, from the play, four spades to the king. Hence West figured to be 4=5=1=3 or 4=6=1=2. You can tell from the club-king play that declarer had the club queen and almost certainly also the club jack; else declarer's normal play would have been low from dummy to the club queen and a finesse of the club ten next. West's failure to lead a heart meant that his hearts were not headed by the king-queen or the ace-king.

It helps, of course, to know partner's style for opening the bidding. With so little strength, you can place West

with hearts headed by the ace-queen and surely a 4=6=1=2 pattern. With only 9 HCP, a 4=5=1=3 pattern would not merit an opening bid in most circles.

This was the full deal:

<p>♠ A Q 6 2 ♥ J 8 ♦ K Q J 6 ♣ K 10 3</p> <p>♠ K 7 5 4 ♥ A Q 9 6 5 2 ♦ 4 ♣ 8 5</p> <p>♠ J 10 8 3 ♥ K 7 ♦ A 10 5 ♣ Q J 4 2</p>	<p>♠ 9 ♥ 10 4 3 ♦ 9 8 7 3 2 ♣ A 9 7 6</p>
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If you take the club ace at once, a reflex action, the defence has ended. You can play a heart or give partner a diamond ruff, but not both. If you play a heart, West wins two hearts. A third heart is ruffed by South, who crosses to the club ten to draw West's spade king. If you give West the diamond ruff, West is endplayed. A heart gives South the heart king and a club allows South to win with the club ten, cash the spade ace and claim.

East needs to duck the club king and win the next club. Now the heart switch works. West takes two heart tricks and the third heart skewers South. Unable to afford ruffing with the spade ace, South ruffs in hand. With West out of diamonds and clubs, West ruffs the next card from South. One down.

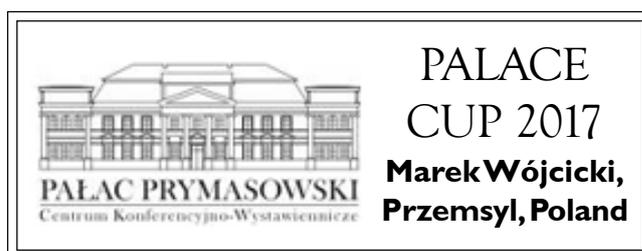
How did declarer muff the play? The flaw was the third round of trumps. After two spade finesses with the spade jack and spade queen, South should play a club now and there is no defence. East can win with the club ace at any time, but a heart return does not work. West takes two heart tricks, but South can ruff the third heart and draw trumps.

3. This should be the easiest of them. Partner has the spade king, but has cashed the club ace and diamond ace first. With king-doubleton or king-third in spades, partner would have led a spade at trick one. Cashing the aces first aimed at setting alarm bells off for you. This was the full deal:

<p>♠ Q 7 6 3 ♥ K 9 ♦ K Q 7 3 ♣ Q 10 6</p> <p>♠ K ♥ 8 4 2 ♦ A 10 4 ♣ A 9 7 4 3 2</p> <p>♠ 10 5 2 ♥ A Q J 10 7 5 3 ♦ 9 8 ♣ 5</p>	<p>♠ A J 9 8 4 ♥ 6 ♦ J 6 5 2 ♣ K J 8</p>
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East should overtake the spade king and give West a spade ruff. If East plays low on the spade king, West can still save the day by playing a second diamond to break up the impending diamond-spade squeeze on East. However, if instead, West reverts to clubs, South ruffs and runs the hearts for ten tricks on the pointed-suit squeeze.

West could have beaten the contract more easily by leading the spade king and, when it held, drifting to a club (either a low one or the ace and another). When declarer plays diamonds, West can play the diamond ace and a second diamond or even duck one or two two rounds of diamonds and declarer cannot come to more than nine tricks.



The fourth Palace Cup, organized by Bridge24.pl and ZPR Media, was played in the Primate's Palace in Warsaw from the 5th till the 9th of April. The ten participating teams played a double Round Robin, and the four best qualified to the semifinals.

Round Robin Results

1.	INGIELEWICZ	210.95
2.	VENTIN	207.07
3.	VAINIKONIS	194.44
4.	ANDRZEJKI	188.82

ANDRZEJKI was 6 VP ahead of fifth. In the semifinals, INGIELEWICZ (Z. Ingielewicz, K. Buras, G. Narkiewicz, P. Jurek, J. Stepinski) won against ANDRZEJKI (A. Zaleski, D. Bogucki, I. Dzikowski, S. Henclik, K. Omernik, K. Sikorski) and VAINIKONIS (V. Vainikonis, W. Olanski, A. Dubinin, A. Gromov, B. Gierulski, J. Skrzypczak) eliminated VENTIN (J.C. Ventin, A. Versace, V. Giubilo, M. Cem-Tokay, M. Krupowicz, M. Wójcicki). The final was won by INGIELEWICZ, and VAINIKONIS, who was the winner of two previous Palace Cup Teams, had to be satisfied with second place.

In the semifinals of the teams, there were two examples of excellent card reading. The first is from the semifinal match between INGIELEWICZ and ANDRZEJKI. To reach the final was not an easy task. Look at the contract Buras had to bring home in the last set of their semifinal match:

Board 5. Dealer North. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Narkiewicz</i>	<i>Hendlik</i>	<i>Buras</i>	<i>Omernik</i>
—	1♠	2♣	2♥ ¹
5♦	5♠	Pass	Pass
6♣	Pass	6♦	6♠
Pass	Pass	7♣	Double
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. Non-forcing

South led the ace of spades. What is your line of play?

The first step is done, by the opponents – they tried to cash the ace, but not the right one. Now it is your turn. The only question is the trump suit. Buras studied the bidding. Spades looked to be divided 8-3, not 9-2 – North would likely have been more excited with a nine-card suit. So, South has three spades, six or seven hearts. Diamonds are probably 1-1, so it looks like South has three clubs. Dummy was shortened in trick one, so if South has the trump king, even if the finesse works, the defenders' trick is secure. So Buras played the trump ace at trick two. You can see the full deal:

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

The grand slam was made and INGIELEWICZ gained 17 IMPs, as at the other table, six diamonds was one down: declarer could take the club finesse freely.

Taking into consideration that the final score of the match was 3.1 IMP in favour of INGIELEWICZ, perhaps I should not mention that the next few boards were played by the North/South pair in a state of shock.

In the other semifinal (VAINIKONIS vs. VENTIN):

Board 2. Dealer East. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Krupowicz</i>	<i>Gierulski</i>	<i>Wójcicki</i>	<i>Skrzypczak</i>
—	—	Pass	1♠
Double	2NT ¹	Pass	4♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. Invitational with a spade fit

West led the ace of hearts, East contributed the three (upside-down signals). Now West cashed the diamond ace and continued with a low heart to the ten, low from East and the king. What is your line of play?

Obviously, West had a difficult opening lead. Leading hearts, from a suit headed by the ace, to the stronger (acceptance of the invitation) hand, is not usual practice. This is a clue that he hasn't a safe lead – a low trump doubleton, or even a singleton. Following this logic, Skrzypczak cashed the ace of trumps and was rewarded – the singleton king solved all of his problems. Here is the complete deal:

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

At the other table, Alfredo Versace was the declarer. The lead was a low club and, remarkably, Versace also found the king and the board was flat.

A Pairs event was played concurrently with the Teams semifinals and final, with the losers of the teams semifinals joining in. After the first day, guests were on the top – Janet de Botton and Artur Malinowski, followed by Peter Bertheau and Thor-Erik Hoftaniska, but the final rounds were lucky for the Poles. The top three were:

1. Przemyslaw ZAWADA/Wojciech STRZEMECKI
2. Dominik FILIPOWICZ/Jacek KALITA
3. Sławomir KOLARZ/Leszek SZTYRAK

More details are available in the daily bulletins at: <http://www.bridge24.pl/pl/do-poczytania/1/palace-cup-2017-daily-bulletins>.



The last two unbeaten teams in the 2017 Schapiro Spring Foursomes were ZIA (Mahmood/Padon; Bilde/Duboin) and BARTON (Boland/Moran; Hanlon/McGann; Carroll/Martens). The following memorable deal arose when they faced each other:

Board 9. Dealer North. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Boland</i>	<i>Padon</i>	<i>Moran</i>	<i>Zia</i>
—	2♦	2♠	Double
4♠	Pass	Pass	4NT
Double	5♣	Double	5♥
5♠	Pass	Pass	6♥
Double	Pass	Pass	Redouble
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Dror Padon opened with a Multi Two Diamonds (they play this to show bad weak twos) and Zia's double asked him to pass with spades but otherwise bid hearts. At his next turn, Zia was confident that both sides had a big double fit. The objective on such deals is to win the auction. When the opponents will have a very cheap sacrifice available, it can be a good result to play in game your way even when a slam is cold.

Zia continued with a semi-spoof key-card enquiry, when all that mattered was whether his partner held one or two spades. He then signed off in five hearts. Rory Boland's five spades was a good sacrifice on the face of it. However, Zia was very happy to be 'pushed' into six hearts, particularly as the five-spade bid had increased the chance that North held at most one spade. The heart slam was doubled and Zia then chanced his arm with a redouble, judging that a possibly-cheap retreat to six spades was unlikely. Who wants to be 'bullied' into a negative score by Zia? His reward was plus 1820 when a lead of the king of clubs permitted a redoubled overtrick.

Meanwhile, at the other table:

West	North	East	South
<i>Duboin</i>	<i>Martens</i>	<i>Bilde</i>	<i>Carroll</i>
—	2♥	Pass	2NT ¹
Pass	3♥ ²	Pass	4♣ ³
Pass	4♥	Pass	5♦ ³
Pass	6♥	Pass	Pass

1. Inquiry, invitational-plus
2. Poor weak two
3. Heart slam tries

Krzysztof Martens opened with a straight weak-two bid and East/West found nothing to say. Martens signed

off over the four-club control-bid but leapt splendidly to six hearts on the strength of his singleton spade next time round. An 'expert bid' if ever there was one! What his reaction was on discovering that their plus 1010 resulted in 13 IMPs in the minus column, I couldn't say.



THE TURKISH SUMMER BRIDGE FESTIVAL

Kusadasi, May 6-14, 2017

Erdal Sidar, Istanbul

One of the events at this year's Turkish Summer Bridge Festival was the Guven Erkaya Open Pairs, with 393 participating pairs. Erkaya was the person who led the movement to establish the Turkish Bridge Federation as part of the Ministry of Sport in 1997.

Here are two deals from this event.

Dealer East. Both Vul.

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

1. Inverted

West led the three of hearts. Declarer, Murat Ozer, played low from the dummy and East inserted the eight to protect against four to the ten with West. Declarer took the trick with his ten and played a spade to the king and the two of spades to his jack. West took the queen and shifted to a club. Declarer won in hand and played a low diamond to dummy's queen. When that won, he returned to hand with a spade to the ace and cashed the thirteenth spade, discarding the nine of diamonds from the dummy. Then he began to run the clubs. Before the last club was cashed:

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

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

When declarer cashed the last club, discarding the five of hearts, West was caught in a criss-cross squeeze. This play earned a 94% score.

Dealer East Neither Vul.

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

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

1. Inverted
2. Control bids
3. 1st-round club control

West led the five of clubs. When declarer, Erdinc Erbil, played low from the dummy, East won with his king and shifted to the eight of spades. Erbil won with his ace, not yet prepared to risk the finesse. Because of East's original pass, then his later three-heart bid, it appeared that he had four spades, thus was 4=6 or 4=7 in the majors. So declarer took the diamond finesse, drew West's king with the ace and returned to hand with a third diamond. He cashed the ace of hearts, discarding the jack of spades from dummy. A heart ruff in dummy and the run of the diamonds left: these cards (See top of next column):

On the last trump East discarded the queen of hearts, declarer the jack of clubs and West the five of spades, leaving him with just one spade. But when declarer next played the ace of clubs from the dummy, East also, of necessity, had to part with a spade. So, declarer's ten of spades was the twelfth trick, to make the contract. It was a non-simultaneous double squeeze.

NEWS & VIEWS



ACBL CEO

Bahar Gidwani of New York will assume the post of American Contract Bridge League Chief Executive Officer on July 1. He succeeds Robert Hartman, who has been the organization's chief executive since October 2011.

Gidwani was born in Columbus, Ohio and has played bridge since age eight. Gidwani completed his undergraduate work in astronomy and physics at Amherst College (magna cum laude), and earned an MBA from Harvard Business School with highest honours (Baker Scholar). His professional credentials include being a Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) and being one of the first 70 people awarded the Fundamentals of Sustainability Accounting (FSA) designation. He worked on Wall Street with Kidder, Peabody & Co. and served as a consultant with McKinsey & Co.

Gidwani's professional experience includes executive management in large and small companies. He has founded, grown and advised tech-based businesses for 30 years. He has served on the boards of a number of for-profit and not-for-profit organizations. In 1991, Gidwani launched the first online stock photo agency – Index Stock Imagery – and built it into one of the largest companies in the photo industry. It was one of the first e-commerce sites on the Internet and one of the top 1000 web sites in overall traffic from 1993 through 2006.

Besides his interest in bridge, Gidwani races sailboats in both summer and winter.

FARGO

From Shireen Mohandes shireen@hartsdale.co.uk. (Please note, I am not connected with the show or Channel 4.)

To IBPA Journalists:

The third series of the American series FARGO was broadcast in the UK on Channel 4 on Wed 31 May

2017, at 10:00pm. The storyline includes bridge, and players. Why is this news?

- First time we have seen bridge players feature in drama, in a major series, on TV for many years.
- It is contemporary, rather than period drama. You might call it “edgy”, I suppose.
- Instead of seeing the game played at home, it is at tournament level.
- The drama covers the topic of bridge professionals. When did we last see this? Did we ever see this?

It would be really good to promote the series to your readers. If you can discuss it with the features editor or the listing editor, perhaps there is potential to do a feature story. The fact that the lead actor plays two parts adds interest too. For journalists other than in the UK, watch for Fargo on reruns.

If you have any questions, you are welcome to contact me, or if you prefer, the press office team at Channel 4. Their press contact is:

Georgie Hobbs,

GHobbs@Channel4.co.uk, 020 7306 8243

Channel 4, 124 Horseferry Road, London, SW1P 2TX.

For the latest news releases, images, video clips and programme information visit the [Channel 4 Press Centre](#), sign up for our [daily news alerts](#) and follow [@C4Press](#) on Twitter.



Dear John,

Your editorial regarding the outrageous DBV court ruling is spot on. However, because no bridge organization can control either a government-operated judicial system or the legal principles that system applies, mandatory arbitration as a condition of entry to every bridge contest is the best solution. By contract (imposed by NCBO regulation on members and contestants), the scope of arbitral review of such rulings can be specified and carefully circumscribed, with particular attention to rules against cheating. Even in the USA, with our infamously-litigious populace and a judiciary often willing to consider almost anything as actionable, cheats in various sports have found that the courts recognize how important it is to run contests of any kind with utmost fidelity to the governing rules and principles of whatever game is under consideration, and so antitrust claims among others have been rejected (as happened when former bridge pro John Blubaugh sued the ACBL). But still, arbitration is a more certain protection (and far cheaper) than good lawyers.

Nicholas Hammond’s letter, while I appreciate his attention to detail, was nonetheless off the mark in criticizing your summary of the EBL ruling as to Balicki/Zmudzinski. He himself quotes the EBL DC report as saying that “the EBL has failed to demonstrate any correlation between the unusual call placements and the strength of the players’ hands...”. That, almost word for word, is what you wrote, so any further comment on the quality of your editing – other than to praise it – is unwarranted. But even if your summary had been ever-so-slightly inaccurate, the proper measuring stick is not, “was the commentary 100% perfect in every detail?” but, “did the article with fair accuracy inform readers of the facts and issues pertinent to the subject matter?” This is because journalism is, at the margins, governed by the laws controlling defamation, and where the gist of a report is close to the mark, the fact that it was not entirely accurate is irrelevant. Journalists are attempting to summarize things for their readership, to apprise the readers of what the reporters consider newsworthy events, and to accomplish this within limited space. In this instance, I believe your article told readers where to find the EBL DC report – those who wanted all the gory details had only to go to the designated website. Your job was not to reprint the entire report, but to summarize its highlights. You did so commendably.

As for the EBL DC decision, it is sad how badly a distinguished committee misunderstood the key issue. Recognizing that the accused players were sending unauthorized signals of some kind – albeit that the EBL authorities may not have decoded the signals either correctly or fully – was the key fact of importance. The sending or receiving of signals by means not authorized is the “gravest possible offense” under Law 73B2; the odd placement of bid cards on the tray (so odd the EBL DC separated “unusual” with a dash either side in its report) is so evocative of illegal signalling that no further proof was necessary to adjudge the charged players culpable of ethical misconduct. In fact, that is precisely what the ACBL’s Ethical Oversight Committee ruled in both the Fisher/Schwartz and Fantoni/Nunes cases last July (alas, the ACBL refused to release the EOC’s full report and only pirated copies have circulated). At its last meeting in March, 2017, the ACBL Laws Commission formally adopted that interpretation of Law 73B2 (too late for the EBL DC to see it). That is the **ONLY** proper understanding. Miscreants inclined to devise new and harder-to-decrypt illegal signalling methods should take note that if they ply their nefarious talents in North America they will be exposed and expelled; hopefully, the EBL will take the necessary steps to discourage anyone from thinking that Europe is a haven for such skullduggery.

Allan Falk, Okemos, MI

World Bridge Calendar

DATES	EVENT	LOCATION	INFORMATION
2017			
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 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 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 12-17	15 th HCL International	New Delhi, India	www.hcl-bridge.com
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	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 th International Festival	Madeira, Portugal	www.fpbridge.pt
Nov 9-11	16 th European Champions Cup	Riga, Latvia	www.eurobridge.org
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
2018			
Jan 10-21	Summer Festival of Bridge	Canberra, Australia	www.abf.com.au
Jan 27-Feb 2	59 th Bermuda Regional	Southampton, Bermuda	www.bermudaregional.com
Feb 14-18	Commonwealth Nations Championships	Broadbeach, Australia	www.abf.com.au
Feb 16-24	57 th Gold Coast Congress	Broadbeach, Australia	www.abf.com.au
Feb 17-23	2 nd European Winter Games	Monte Carlo, Monaco	www.eurobridge.org
Mar 8-18	Spring NABC	Philadelphia, PA	www.acbl.org
Mar 27-Apr 1	123 rd Toronto Easter Regional	Toronto, ON	www.unit166.ca
Apr 26-30	Australian Autumn Nationals	Adelaide, Australia	www.abf.com.au
Jun 6-16	54 th European Team Championships	Ostend, Belgium	www.eurobridge.org
Jul 26-Aug 5	Summer NABC	Atlanta, GA	www.acbl.org
Jul 27-Aug 5	24 th Swedish Bridge Festival	Örebro, Sweden	mme@svenskbridge.se
Jul 29-Aug 3	Chairman's Cup	Örebro, Sweden	mme@svenskbridge.se
Aug 9-18	17 th World Youth Team Championships	Wu Jiang, China	www.worldbridge.org
Sep 22-Oct 6	11 th 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 th World University Championships	Xuxhou, China	www.worldbridge.org
Nov 22-Dec 2	Fall NABC	Honolulu, HI	www.acbl.org