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Editorial

China seems poised to take over the world – the bridge world, that is, although it would not be a surprise to see her take over the rest of the world as well. Consider a few details:

After what might be considered a prototype in 1995, China has hosted all three of the major World Bridge Championships since 2007, as well as the World Youth Teams twice. In particular, the ...

- 38th World Team Championships (Bermuda Bowl, etc.) in Shanghai in 2007
- 13th World Bridge Games (was Olympiad Teams) in Beijing, 2008
- 12th World Youth Team Championships in Beijing, 2008
- 14th World Youth Team Championships in Taicang, 2012
- 10th World Bridge Series, held in Sanya in 2014.

No other nation has hosted more than two of these championships in that span. Additionally, China has hosted:

- all five of the IMSA World Mind Sports Games and has signed on for at least three more
- two FISU World University Championships, in 2006 and 2018
- the Hua Yuan World Women's Elite Tournament biennially since its inception in 2011.

The 17th World Youth Team Championships are scheduled for Suzhou in 2018, as is the 9th World University Team Championship.

A look at the sponsors and hosts of some of these events will give you an idea of how seriously bridge is being taken in China: Beijing Municipal Bureau of Sports, Shanghai Media & Entertainment Group, Chinese Olympic Committee, Huayang Property Group.

The Yeh Bros. Cup, currently held biennially, has been sponsored by Yeh Chen over the past two decades. The event has been held around the Pacific Rim 11 times, in Australia, Taiwan and Japan, but the default host country is China, the venue most often Shenzhen. It is the most-prestigious invitational team event in the world.

China currently has the fourth-highest number (~40,000) of players (after the USA, France and the Netherlands) registered with the WBF but, with its enormous population and the emphasis it places on youth bridge, it cannot be long before it passes them all. For example, in the Open Youth Championships in Lyon recently, 192 pairs entered the four events (Kids, Youngsters, Girls,

Continued on page 18...

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14th VILNIUS CUP

Marek Wójcicki, Przemysl, Poland

From the 13th until the 17th of September, beautiful Vilnius was the venue for the 44th Vilnius Cup. This year, the tournament field was exceptionally strong. The brightest stars were Zia Mahmood, Bermuda Bowl champion Jacek Pszczola, Lyon Transnational Teams winner Michal Klukowski, World Pairs champions from Wroclaw, Sabine Auken and Roy Welland, the top four players in the WBF ranking – Helgemo, Helness, Multon, and Zimmermann – and World Senior Teams champions, Reese Milner and Hemant Lall. The list is much longer; there were also top Polish tournament players, trying to collect points in the Grand Prix of Poland Teams and Pairs; the new 2017/18 cycle started in Vilnius.

Tournament organisation and the venue (the Crowne Plaza Hotel), as usual in Vilnius, where Vytas and Erikas Vainikonis work on it, were perfect. And last, but not least, the prizes ... they were similar to what we usually have in Poland, but in Euro, not zloty. We can hope that next year, the Polish-Lithuanian union will be as effective!

The first event was an invitational teams tournament for 10 teams. The first day was a Round Robin, with the four top teams qualifying for the playoffs. These were the top scores:

Team	Players	VP
1. MONACO	Helgemo, Helness, Zimmermann, Multon	117.71
2. VYTAS	V.Vainikonis, Olanski, Gierulski, Skrzypczak, Kowalski, Russyan	113.08
3. IRELAND	Hanlon, McGann, Garvey, Carroll, Boland, Moran	97.79
4. ERA	E.Vainikonis, Arlovich, Gold, Castner, Klukowski, Zatorski	95.02

The DE BOTTON team (De Botton, Malinowski, Bertheau, Hoftaniska, Bakhshi, Padon) was just 0.32 VP out of a qualifying spot.

In the semifinals, MONACO beat ERA 64-55 (37-19, 27-36), and IRELAND defeated VYTAS 34-22 (4-21,

30-1). In the final (2x8), MONACO led after the first half, 18-15. In the second session, they had won three more IMPs when, after a few flat boards, a swing for IRELAND came:

Board 30. Dealer East. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
McGann	Zimmermann	Hanlon	Multon
—	—	Pass	Pass
2♦ ¹	Double	3♥	Pass
4♥	Pass	Pass	Pass
1. 3-suiter short in diamonds, 11-15 HCP			

South led a low trump. Hanlon won with the queen in hand and led the seven of clubs (four from Multon) to the jack. North took the queen and played a spade: three, queen, won by the king in dummy. Now when Hanlon led a low club toward his ten, North had a problem – if Multon's four was a true card, South had one or three clubs remaining. He decided on playing the three. Thus, the contract was made.

At the other table, the Irish also played in a game on the North/South cards:

West	North	East	South
Helgemo	Boland	Helness	Carroll
—	—	Pass	Pass
1♣	1♦	1♥	2♦
3♦	3♠	Pass	4♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Declarer had no chance. On the ten of clubs lead to the four, two and queen, Boland cashed the ace of diamonds and led a trump to the queen. Helgemo won and continued with clubs, leading the king. Declarer won with his ace and tried a low diamond from hand. Helness won with his queen and dealt Helgemo a diamond ruff. West took the jack of clubs and led another. When declarer failed to ruff with the jack of spades, East was able to make the nine of trumps. That was three off, but it meant 7 IMPs for Ireland. It was enough for IRELAND to win the match, 31-30, and the cup!

In the playoff for third place, family order was kept – VYTAS beat ERA (and Erikas) 43-27 (18-13, 25-14). In all knockout matches, the higher-placed team in the RR received 0.1 IMP carryover to prevent ties and extra boards.

In the Consolation Swiss, the best was DE BOTTON, ahead of MAY (May Sakr, Martens, Kwiecien, Cieslak, Filipowicz).

The Open events started with the Commercial Pairs, an IMP Pairs tournament, where the participating pairs put up a deposit, and each IMP scored had a weight in Euros. Those who finished in the plus got the money, while those in the minus paid. The top three were:

1. Erikas Vainikonis/Andrei Arlovich, LIT +33 IMPs
2. Federico Goded/Luis Lantaron, ESP +32 IMPs
3. Marten LaHaye/Onno Jansens, NED +30 IMPs

On Friday, the qualification phase of the teams tournament, being part of the Grand Prix of Poland Teams, was played; 44 teams competed. The top eight qualified to the Sunday finals. There were some surprises – strong teams such as ZAWADA (Zawada, Narkiewicz, Kalita, Nowosadzki), ERA (E. Vainikonis, Arlovich, Castner, Gold, Klukowski, Zatorski), and TUSIO (Tuszynski, Miechowicz, Busse, Zawislak) did not reach the top eight. The qualifications were won by Norway Women, and at the top of Butler were: Kwiecien (MAY), Gierulski/Skrzypczak (VYTAS), and Milner/Lall (MILNER).

For the finals, the eight teams played a complete Robin Round of 6-board matches. The top three were:

Team	Players	VP
1. MILNER	Milner, Lall, Pszczola, Mahmood, Auken, Welland	137.20
2. A.J. DIAMENT	Jaszczak, Szyrak, Bartkowski, Dalecki, Dabrowski, Szymaszczyk	137.11
3. MAY	M. Sakr, Martens, Kwiecien, Cieslak, Filipowicz	124.72

The winner was decided on the last board of the match between MILNER and A.J. DIAMENT (it was the fifth match of the final). After five boards, the score was 21-0 for A.J. DIAMENT, which was 17.36-2.64 in VPs. The last one seemed to be rather flat:

Board 30. Dealer East. Both Vul.

♠ J 7 5
♥ 6
♦ J 8 6 4 2
♣ A K Q 10

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

♠ 9 6 3
♥ A J 10 8
♦ K Q 10 5
♣ 7 5

West	North	East	South
Dalecki	Auken	Bartowski	Welland
—	—	Pass	1♣ ¹
Double	2♣ ²	Pass	2♦
2♠	3♦	Pass	Pass
Pass			

1. 10+ HCP, clubs or a balanced hand outside the NT range
2. Diamonds

In the Auken/Welland system, 10 HCP is a standard opening. That resulted in an easy nine tricks, plus 110 for MILNER. At the other table, South did not have an opening bid, and North decided to make a lead-directing overcall:

West	North	East	South
Zia	Szyrak	Pszczola	Jaszczak
—	—	Pass	Pass
1♠	2♣	Pass	Pass
Double	??		

Didn't North feel a bit of a *frisson* at the table? The better suit had already been shown, but maybe it was time for the longer one since South had not raised? Nevertheless, everyone passed. Two clubs doubled was not a thing of beauty: the defenders lost a trick, but plus 300 was worth 9 IMPs to MILNER. They had saved 2.5 VP, enough to win the event.

During the Teams final, for those who did not qualify there was an IMP Pairs available. All the podium finishers were Polish:

1. J. Brzustowski/T. Pawluk 65 IMPs
- 2/3. I. Czajka/A. Sarniak 62 IMPs
- 2/3. P. Busse/S. Zawislak 62 IMPs

On Saturday, the Grand Prix of Poland was played, with 133 pairs competing. The winners were the Polish youth pair, Michal Klukowski and Piotr Zatorski:

1. M. Klukowski/P. Zatorski, POL 63.43%
2. V. Vainikonis/W. Olanski, LIT 60.67%
3. J. Neimanis/I. Rubenis, LAT 59.61%
4. A. Kowalski/J. Russyan, POL 59.45%
5. J. Carroll/T. Garvey, IRE 59.30%
6. H. Lall/R. Milner, USA 57.94%
7. B. Chmurski/I. Chalupiec, POL 57.94%
8. A. Majcher/B. Szulejewski, POL 57.68%
9. T. Hanlon/H. McGann, IRE 57.60%
10. S. Badrankova/A. Arlovich, BEL/LIT 57.42%

Let's take a look at some of the actions Zia took at this tournament ...

Not vulnerable versus vulnerable, in third hand, Zia held:

♠ J 5
♥ 8 6 2
♦ A J 10 9 7 5 3
♣ A

This was the bidding to him as West:

West	North	East	South
—	—	Pass	1♥
??			

How many diamonds did Zia bid? No diamonds. Zia overcalled one notrump! LHO doubled, partner passed, and RHO bid two clubs. What now? Diamond

time? Not yet ... Zia drove hard to the end: two notrump! LHO bid three clubs and, after two passes, Zia bid three diamonds. Of course, everybody accepted. This was the full deal:

Board 18. Dealer East. NS Vul.

♠ A Q 10 8 3
 ♥ 5 4
 ♦ K 6
 ♣ Q 9 7 4

♠ J 5
 ♥ 8 6 2
 ♦ A J 10 9 7 5 3
 ♣ A

♠ K 9 4 2
 ♥ J 10 3
 ♦ Q 8 2
 ♣ K 3 2

♠ 7 6
 ♥ A K Q 9 7
 ♦ 4
 ♣ J 10 8 6 5

West	North	East	South
Zia	Radzlukevich	Kwiecien	Tsimakhovich
—	—	Pass	1♥
1NT	Double	Pass	2♣
2NT	3♣	Pass	Pass
3♦	Pass	Pass	Pass

One down, 67% for East/West. It's difficult to know what North/South should have done: they can beat three diamonds doubled one trick for plus 100; if they bid to four clubs, they'd make that unless West leads a spade, or the ace of clubs, then switches to a spade. They'd also make four hearts if West leads the ace of diamonds.

This action is for adults only. Green vs. red, LHO bids one heart, partner passes, and RHO bids one spade. You hold:

♠ A J 8
 ♥ K J 5
 ♦ Q 10 5 3 2
 ♣ 8 7

What is your bid? Pass seems to be obvious, but Zia overcalled two diamonds. Probably he thought he might regret it. For a moment, he probably did. LHO doubled (fit-showing), partner cue-bid two hearts and RHO bid two spades. After two passes partner bid three clubs and Zia closed the auction with three notrump. Here is the full deal:

Board 5. Dealer North. NS Vul.

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

♠ A J 8
 ♥ K J 5
 ♦ Q 10 5 3 2
 ♣ 8 7

♠ Q 2
 ♥ Q 9 7
 ♦ 9 6 4
 ♣ A Q J 9 5

♠ 9 6 5 4 3
 ♥ 6 4
 ♦ A K 8
 ♣ 10 6 3

West	North	East	South
Zia	Bielawski	Kwiecien	Golebiowski
—	1♥	Pass	1♠
2♦	Double	2♥	2♠
Pass	Pass	3♣	Pass
3NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

North led the seven of spades. Zia put up the queen and led a heart to the jack and ace. North continued with the spade king to declarer's ace. Zia took a club finesse, came back to hand with a heart to the king, and took another club finesse. When the clubs proved to be 3-3, declarer had 10 tricks and a 91% score.

One more time, we'll look at Zia in action. You are not vulnerable versus vulnerable opponents, third in hand after two passes. You hold:

♠ 9 5
 ♥ K 7 3
 ♦ A Q 9 8 4 3
 ♣ Q 3

Everybody knows, an obvious one notrump. LHO bids three hearts, partner doubles (negative). Now there is no choice, and three notrump closed the bidding.

West	North	East	South
Jaszczak	Kwiecien	Szyrak	Zia
—	Pass	Pass	1NT
3♥	Double	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

West leads a low heart and the dummy is:

♠ J 10 7 3
 ♥ 9 5
 ♦ J 10 7
 ♣ A K J 7

East plays the ten of hearts. Did that result in 11 tricks? Not this time. Zia won with the king of hearts, cashed four club tricks and finessed in diamonds:

Board 25. Dealer North. EW Vul.

♠ J 10 7 3
 ♥ 9 5
 ♦ J 10 7
 ♣ A K J 7

♠ A Q
 ♥ A Q 8 6 4 2
 ♦ K 2
 ♣ 6 5 4

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

♠ 9 5
 ♥ K 7 3
 ♦ A Q 9 8 4 3
 ♣ Q 3

This time, the king of diamonds was offside, so that resulted in three down, plus 150 for East/West and a 7% score for North/South.

Is it not worth trying again? See you next year!



2017 Chinese National Club Tournament Jerry Li, Beijing

From the 20th to the 27th of September, the Chinese National Club Tournament was hosted by Guangzhou, in Guangdong Province. One hundred teams took part. The Chinese National Club Tournament is one of the four top tournaments in China; the others are the Premier League (formerly the A-level Club Tournament), the National Teams Tournament (similar to the Grand National Teams in the ACBL) and the National Tournament (similar to the ACBL's NABCs).

The National Club Tournament has three divisions and a Women's group; the First Division has 16 teams and the Second Division has 24 teams (there was one dropout). This year, the Third Division had 40 teams, and the Women's group had 21 teams. The three open divisions each have promotions and relegations: four teams each between the First and Second Divisions and eight teams each between the Second and Third divisions.

The tournament format is rather complicated. For example, in the First Division, 16 teams play a round robin with the top four going into semifinal knockout matches. While the winning semifinalists play the final for gold and silver medals, the losing semifinalists go into another KO with the fifth-through-eighth ranked teams to decide the bronze medal. The winners of the two 5-8 matches play the losers of the 1-4 matches. The losers of the 5-8 matches have finished their tournament, while the remaining four teams in this bracket vie for third place in more KO matches.

But that's not all. While all this is going on, the ninth- and tenth-placed teams play head-to-head matches with those finishing eleventh and twelfth. The winners are finished and retain their First-Division places while the losers play off against No. 13 and No. 14. Again, the winners retain their First-Division status, while the losers are relegated to the Second Division. The teams finishing fifteenth and sixteenth are automatically relegated.

In Chinese tournaments nowadays, a few foreign pairs join Chinese teams to compete for the top spots. This year, seven foreign pairs played in the National Club Tournament. Four Polish pairs played in the First Division: Jacek Kalita/Michal Nowosadski played in the Pan China team (they were runners-up in the Transnational Teams in Lyon); Krzysztof Buras/Grzegorz Narkiewicz played in the Hua Bin Team (they were

the defending champions of this tournament); Rafal Jagniewski/Wojciech Gawel played in the Redbull team (they were runners-up in this tournament in 2015); Michal Klukowski/Piotr Gawrys (multiple World Champions) played in the Shanghai Auto team; Norwegians Boye Brogeland/Espen Lindqvist played for PD Times (with Marc Chen, PD Times founder, Fu Zhong and Jerry Li). A Singapore pair, Hua Poon/Choon Chou Loo played for Zhejiang Qiantang (champions of this tournament in 2015). A US/Canadian pair, Kevin Dwyer/Shan Huang, played on the Minjian team in the Second Division, attempting promotion to Division One.

After five days of First-Division Round-Robin play, Pan China, PD Times, Redbull and Sunchen Foundation made it through to the semifinal. Pan China crushed Sunchen Foundation, going to the final. The other semifinal, between PD Times and Redbull, was very close. The match was played over three sessions of 16 boards; before the last session PD Times led by 0.67 IMPs (Redbull had had 3.33 IMPs carryover). Finally, Redbull beat PD Times, but just one board could have reversed the result.

Board 2. Dealer East. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Zhao	Li	Hu	Fu
—	—	Pass	Pass
1♥	2♦	3♥	Pass
Pass	Double	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♣	Pass	5♣
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Fu and Li reached the wrong contract. Five Clubs could not make on the lie of the cards, going down two on the heart force.

At the other table, Jagniewski/Gawel made an overtrick in four diamonds, plus 150. Had Fu/Li gone to five diamonds (with better protection against the heart tap) and made it, PD Times would have qualified for the final.

Four spades would have been an interesting contract, requiring a red-suit lead and very careful defence to beat.

In the final (five sessions over 80 boards), Pan China (Jacek Kalita/Michal Nowosadski, Chuancheng Ju/

Zhengjun Shi, Tong Jiang/Xiaofeng Zhang) played strongly, beating Redbull (Rafal Jagniewski/Wojciech Gawel, Jack Zhao/Linlin Hu, Yuegang Kuang/Yuewu Wang) by 202:119.33 IMPs. PD Times (Marc Chen/Xu Hou, Zhong Fu/Jerry Li, Boye Brogeland/Espen Lindqvist) took the bronze medal. So, all three top teams had foreign-pair support.

Here are some interesting boards from the Round Robin:

RR 6. Board 3. Dealer South. EW Vul.

♠ 8 5
♥ 9 7 6 2
♦ A K 7 4
♣ 9 6 3

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

♠ 10 7 3
♥ 8
♦ 10 6
♣ A K Q J 8 7 4

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

1. 7-card solid minor, no outside ace or king
2. Pass or correct

That is a little-bit-crazy board. If South finds a diamond lead, North/South can beat a spade slam by East/West, but if not, East/West can make slam.

At this table (featuring two local teams), after North pulled three notrump to four clubs (pass or correct) and five spades by East, from West's point of view, East had very good spades and some wild slam-try hand, so he decided that his hearts warranted slam. After North's double warned his partner not to lead his suit (that was clubs, obviously), West was worried about partner's spades, so he ran to seven diamonds. North was 100% certain of beating that, so doubled again. East felt that seven spades could not be worse than seven diamonds since West had not bid them over five spades, so he also ran. North doubled again of course.

Perhaps South forgot the first double from North: "Don't lead your suit!" South led the ace of clubs. East/West had 13 tricks, making their doubled grand slam for plus 2470 and a big win on the board.

At the 16 tables in play, four East/West pairs went to slam – nobody could find a diamond lead to beat the contract.

RR 6. Board 13. Dealer North. All Vul.

♠ 10 9
♥ J 8 5
♦ Q 6 5 4
♣ Q 10 9 8

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

♠ J 8
♥ A K Q 9 7 3 2
♦ K
♣ A 5 3

West	North	East	South
Narkiewicz	Lindqvist	Buras	Brogeland
—	Pass	1♦	Double
1♠	Pass	2♣	2♥
2♠	3♥	3♠	Pass
4♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

Lindqvist led a trump. Narkiewicz won with dummy's king and led the ten of hearts. From Brogeland's point of view, that seemed very strange; declarer apparently wanted to cut the North/South transportation, so Brogeland decided to play low! He hoped partner had the jack of hearts and the queen-jack of clubs. When Lindqvist won with the jack of hearts, not having the queen-jack of clubs, he could have played a club to hope Brogeland held the ace-jack of the suit. However, North returned a second trump. Narkiewicz won and played the seven of diamonds, letting it run to South's king. Noticing that declarer had not unblocked the jack, ten or nine of diamonds from dummy, Brogeland played a heart back. Narkiewicz ruffed and played another diamond to the dummy, finessing successfully, but the now-blocked suit meant the contract was beaten.

At double dummy, only an initial diamond lead beats four spades.

RR 12. Board 15. Dealer South. NS Vul.

♠ A 2
♥ Q 5 2
♦ K Q 5 4
♣ A K J 2

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

♠ 10 7 6 5 4 3
♥ A
♦ 3 2
♣ 9 6 5 3

West	North	East	South
Hou	Ju	Li	Shi
—	—	—	Pass
1♥	Double	2♥	2♠
4♥	Double	Pass	4♠
Pass	Pass	Double	Pass
Pass	Pass		

This board is from the Round-Robin match of Pan China versus PD Times.

After aggressive bidding, it looks like declarer has two or three trump losers (from East's double), one diamond loser and maybe even a club loser. West led the jack of hearts, won by declarer's ace. South played a diamond to dummy's queen, West ducking the ace. Declarer cashed the ace of spades and played another spade, East winning this trick.

At this point, the contract couldn't be beaten. East led a club, won in dummy. Declarer ruffed a heart and led a diamond to West's ace. West continued with a club to dummy. Declarer cashed the king of diamonds to pitch a club, ruffed a heart, and went for the *en passant* trump coup in this position:

♠ —	♠ —
♥ —	♥ —
♦ 5	♦ —
♣ J 2	♣ 10
♠ —	♠ K 9
♥ K 10	♥ —
♦ J	♦ —
♣ —	♣ 10
♠ 10 3	
♥ —	
♦ —	
♣ 9	

Declarer played the nine of clubs to dummy's jack and either card then would make the ten of spades a winner. Six North/South pairs bid to four spades, all doubled by East, and every declarer made the contract!



Daniel Korbel, Las Vegas
Wang Zhige, Liu Yinghao & Liu Fang, Beijing
Mark Horton, Sutton Bengner, Wilts., UK
Charles (Jens Otto Pedersen),
Odense, Denmark

West	North	East	South
Sanborn	Mourgues	Levitina	Laure
Pass	3♦	3♥	Double
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Eight invited teams contested Pairs and Teams events in Beijing in October. The invitees were China, Beijing, the USA and five European teams who'd done well in recent World Championships: Denmark, England, France, Italy and Scotland. Both events were won by the USA: Lynn Deas/Janice Seamon-Molson won the Pairs; they were joined by Pamela Granovetter/Sylvia Shi and Irina Levitina/Kerri Sanborn in the Teams. Both wins were decisive.

The teams played a double round-robin over three days with no knockout matches. In the first round robin, USA faced France in Match 1. With the USA leading France 19-0, there were fireworks.

Detective Work (DK)

Board 8. Dealer West. Neither Vul.

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

In the Open Room, Mourgues did not have a weak two diamonds available, so she opened three diamonds. It's hard to fault Levitina for her three-heart overcall (wouldn't you do the same?), and Laure's excellent double extracted maximum punishment for Levitina's unlucky action. Levitina ruffed the second diamond and ran the eight of spades to North's ten. North shifted to her club, won by the ace. Levitina continued with spades, the nine losing to the king. On the king and queen of diamonds, declarer pitched one club and one spade; South discarded one club and the ace of spades. On the shift to the six of spades, declarer pitched another low club; Laure ruffed and exited with the king of clubs, ruffed by North with the eight of hearts. When Mourgues exited with a diamond, Levitina ruffed it with the six of hearts. Laure could overruff with the seven, but declarer made the last three tricks with the ace-king-ten of hearts, but that was still minus 800 for the USA.

West	North	East	South
Mus	Granovetter	Cronier	Shi
Pass	Pass	1♥	INT
Pass	3NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

In the Closed Room, Granovetter could not open a weak two diamonds either, but she chose to pass, perhaps influenced by her excellent support for either major suit. The end result was that Cronier was never in danger, and Shi ended up declaring three notrump.

Catherine Mus found the best suit to lead, but not the most-effective card in that suit: she led the two of spades, fourth-highest, which went to the six, eight, and three. Cronier returned the jack of spades. Shi won and took stock. Her LHO was known to have led from a suit that was only four cards long, and was also known to have at most one heart. It made sense, therefore, that Mus' distribution was exactly 4=1=4=4. So, Shi cashed the ace of diamonds, and finessed the diamond ten. Well done! A sparkling plus 400, but still 9 IMPs to France.

Champions' Judgment (W, L & L)

Wang Wenfei, one of the best woman players in the world, had just led China to their second Venice Cup in the World Championships in Lyon. She played several solid sessions with her partner, Shen Qi, in the semifinal and final. In the second round of the Hua Yuan Cup, when China was playing against France, Wang and Shen showed their champions' judgment in bidding and play.

Board 12. Dealer West. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Shen	Reess	Wang	d'Ovidio
Pass	Pass	2♣ ¹	2♠
Pass	4♠	Pass	Pass
4NT ²	Double	Pass	Pass
5♦	Double	5♥	Double
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. Precision: 6+ clubs or 5+ clubs and a major
2. Two places to play

On the last board of the session, Wang became the declarer in five hearts doubled after an intense auction.

Five tables were in this contract and the other four went down, from one to four tricks. Wang showed her great judgment and playing skill. The king of spades was led. She won with the ace and played a diamond. Seeing the king of diamonds win, she ruffed the spade return in dummy, and played the jack of diamonds through, discarding a club. After winning the club return, she played the queen of hearts to pin the jack, drew the trumps in three rounds and ruff-finessed for the queen of diamonds. A fluent line, making five, plus 650.

HuaYuan Cup Round 6 (DK)

At the start of Round 6, USA held a substantial lead over the other teams, while England was struggling. Would England be able to hand USA their first loss?

Board 2 featured a curiosity: both tables played in a redoubled contract (something I can't remember seeing before):

Board 2. Dealer East. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Brown	Granovetter	Brock	Shi
—	—	1♦	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♣	Double
Redouble	Pass	Pass	Pass

Shi had no sensible action to take over the one-diamond opening bid, and so she passed, intending to come to life on the next round. When she doubled two clubs, Brown threw in a very offbeat redouble, perhaps intending to jump in spades at her next opportunity. Unfortunately for her, that opportunity never came, as Granovetter/Shi judged well to pass the contract out. The defence was accurate – spade lead, win the diamond, club ace, heart ace, diamond ruff, spade ruff, diamond ruff, and still two diamonds to come for 3 down redoubled, minus 1000.

West	North	East	South
Deas	Senior	Molson	Godfrey
—	—	1♦	Pass
4♠	Pass	Pass	Double
Redouble	Pass	Pass	Pass

At the other table, Deas was doubled in four spades and threw in a sporting redouble. After a diamond lead

and continuation, this contract had to fail by a trick, but that was still 13 IMPs to USA.

Give Me a Break (MH)

If your working day generally starts like mine, at around 07:00, then, by 09:30, you are ready for a break and a coffee. There is not usually much bridge going on at that time of day but, towards the end of October, the Hua Yuan Cup World Women's Elite Bridge Tournament was staged in Beijing and, when I logged in to BBO, the last session of the day was underway. England were playing Scotland and this deal was on the screen:

Board 9. Dealer North. EW Vul.

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

It does not require any great powers of deduction to appreciate that East/West are likely to alight in five diamonds. Then North/South will need to find the defence of playing three rounds of hearts, forcing dummy to ruff and establishing a trick for South's jack of diamonds.

West	North	East	South
Kane	Draper	Symons	Smith
—	Pass	1♦	Pass
1♠	Pass	3♦	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♦	Pass
5♦	Pass	Pass	Pass

When South led the five of clubs, declarer was not hard-pressed to collect all the tricks for plus 640.

West	North	East	South
Brock	Leslie	Brown	Punch
—	Pass	1♦	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♦	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♦	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♦	Pass
5♦	Pass	Pass	Pass

South found the potentially-killing lead of the ace of hearts and, when she continued with the queen, North overtook it with the king. Declarer followed with the seven and the ten, but that was surely not going to deflect North, who could place declarer with all the important missing cards. After a brief pause North tabled the ... three of clubs.

A check on the excellent web site: <http://www.pabf.org/Tour/TourResultText.aspx?tourid=10746> revealed that in the match between China and Denmark, Huang Yan and Wang Wenfei had defeated five diamonds, but so had Bjørge Houmøller and Signe Buus Thomsen. Sun Ming and Wang Ping had also managed it for Beijing Hua Yuan and so have Italy's Michela Salvato and Margherita Chavarria, both of those pairs earning a game swing against their American and French opponents respectively.

The following day I was back at the same time. The featured match involved the Chinese teams China and Beijing Hua Yuan.

Board 2. Dealer East. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Lu	Huang	Liu	Wang
—	—	Pass	Pass
INT ¹	Pass	Pass	2♣ ²
Double	2♠	3♣	Pass
Pass	3♠	Pass	Pass

1. 13+-16 balanced
2. Majors

East led the jack of diamonds. Declarer won, played a spade to the ace, a spade to the king and exited with a club, West winning, cashing the queen of diamonds and switching to the three of hearts. East took declarer's king with the ace and returned the seven of clubs. Declarer ruffed and ran the ten of hearts, trying to pin the nine. When it lost, she claimed nine tricks, plus 140.

West	North	East	South
Shen	Sun	Wang	Wang
—	—	Pass	Pass
INT ¹	Pass	Pass	2♣ ²
Pass	2♦ ³	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. 13+-16 balanced
2. Majors
3. Bid your better suit

Continued on page 12...



IBPA Column Service

Tim Bourke, Canberra

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

877. Dealer West. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Pass	1♦	1♥	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

West led the jack of hearts. East played the queen and declarer ducked. East continued with the ace of hearts, followed by the ten. Declarer took this with the king and paused to assess his chances. He could count only eight certain tricks and so needed to develop another one in either diamonds or spades.

Declarer's first move was to cash the ace, queen and king of diamonds. East's low spade discard was a disappointment, but not unexpected. At this point, the contract seemed to depend on the spade finesse. However, this declarer disliked taking finesses whenever there was a chance of gaining a trick by other means. He cashed the ace, queen and king of clubs. When both defenders followed to all three clubs, East was marked with an original 3=5=2=3 or 2=5=2=4 shape. Disregarding the king of spades, the a priori odds on these East/West cards are 4:3 respectively.

Additionally, declarer thought that, with four clubs and a doubleton king of spades, East might have thrown a club rather than a low spade on the third diamond. So he led his remaining heart. East could take the nine and eight of hearts but then had to lead away from the king of spades.

878. Dealer North. Both Vul.

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

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

This deal was played in a teams match with identical auctions and opening leads, the queen of spades. When dummy was displayed, both declarers realised that they would have nine easy tricks if the club finesse won.

At the first table, declarer was somewhat inexperienced: after winning the opening lead with dummy's bare ace of spades, he ran the queen of clubs. West won with the king of clubs and continued with the jack of spades. Declarer let this hold, but was forced to win the ten of spades continuation with his king. Declarer now ran the clubs, but East was safe, for he could afford to part with a heart and two diamonds. When declarer continued with a low diamond, West rose with the ace while East shed a second heart. West continued with the seven of spades and East took two tricks with the eight and six of spades to set the contract.

At the second table, declarer showed his experience by leading a low diamond at trick two. This would always see the contract made when East started with the ace of diamonds and the suit was 3-3 or the jack was doubleton. (If East played low in such circumstances and the queen of diamonds held, declarer would have shifted his attention to clubs and would always have made at least four tricks in the suit along with his contract. If instead East played the ace of diamonds, the diamond suit would have

provided four tricks and would also have seen the contact made.) Alas, East did play a low diamond and West took the queen of diamonds with the ace. West then cleared the spade suit in the same manner as at the first table.

Here, however, after winning with the king of spades, this declarer played the four of diamonds to the king, felling East's jack of diamonds. Declarer then had nine tricks: two spades, two hearts, four diamonds and the ace of clubs.

Of course, if the jack of diamonds had not been doubleton, the second declarer would have had to fall back on the club finesse as well.

879. Dealer North. EW Vul.

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

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

West led the queen of hearts. Declarer threw a diamond from dummy and East took the trick with the ace of hearts to shift to the two of clubs. West won with the ace and returned a club; East ruffed, and the king of trumps meant the contract was down one.

Declarer's complaints about his bad luck fell on deaf ears.

"On the opening lead, you can place East with the ace of hearts," said North. "You should win the trick by ruffing in dummy and playing on clubs. If West ducks his ace, you continue with a second club."

"Suppose West gives East a club ruff after winning the ace of clubs at trick two. East can do no better than exit with the king of diamonds. You win with the ace of diamonds and play the queen of trumps. You have to keep the ace of trumps intact at this point, otherwise you will not be able to ruff a second heart in dummy for your game-going trick. Suppose East takes this trick with the king of trumps. He can try to cash a diamond or lead a second trump. Either way, you would be able to ruff another heart in the dummy.

You'd make ten tricks: four trumps in hand, two heart ruffs in dummy, one diamond and three clubs."

South asked, "Can your plan survive a red-suit shift after West wins the ace of clubs?"

"If West exits with a heart, you discard a diamond from dummy and would be in full control. A diamond exit is no better: you win with the ace of diamonds and play the ace and queen of trumps and, if the latter holds, you would play the three of trumps next."

"You would always make four trumps, a heart ruff, the ace of diamonds and four clubs on a red-suit shift from West."

880. Dealer West. Both Vul.

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

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

West led the nine of spades, his least distasteful choice for an opening lead. Declarer saw that he would have ten tricks if the trumps were 3-2, so he won the first trick in hand with the queen and led a low trump to the jack. When that held, he cashed the ace of trumps, unveiling the unfortunate 4-1 break in the suit.

Declarer was not too bothered by this development. As West was certain to have the ace of clubs and king of diamonds for his opening bid, declarer's thoughts turned to endplaying West with a trump. With that in mind, he cashed the ace of spades and continued with the jack of spades, throwing a club from hand. West also parted with a low club, so declarer continued with the ten of spades, throwing a second club from hand. West postponed the inevitable by discarding the eight of diamonds. It was to no avail as declarer next played the five of trumps to his six and West's ten. West cashed the king of trumps but then had to broach a minor suit. In the end, he chose to lead the king of diamonds as his partner had not signalled encouragingly in clubs. Declarer claimed ten tricks: five spades, three trumps and two diamonds.

There is more than one way to play the bid of two diamonds – here it probably asked South to bid her longer or better major. When she showed spades North made an invitational raise, allowing for the possibility that her partner might have had a weaker hand. Despite her paucity of high cards, South was persuaded by her shape to try for the game bonus.

West led the ace of clubs and, when East followed with the seven (an odd number), West switched to the king of diamonds, East following with the jack as declarer withheld dummy's ace. West continued with the three of diamonds and declarer took the ace, played a spade to the ace and a heart for the king and ace. She ruffed the club return, played a spade to the king and had to decide how to try and avoid a second heart loser. West was marked with 14 points, but still had room for the jack of hearts. However, it was possible that East might have ducked the ace of hearts holding ace-low, while holding the ace-jack would have made it impossible to do so. Declarer thus cashed the queen of hearts, claiming ten tricks when the jack fell, along with 10 IMPs.

They were the only pair to bid it.

Chinese Derby – RR2 Match I (W, L & L)

After the first round robin, the two Chinese teams, the host Beijing Hua Yuan and China, ranked second and third, just chasing USA. These two teams played in the first match of the second round robin, so we saw another derby match of eight world champions, six of whom had won the Venice Cup in Lyon.

Board 5. Dealer North. NS Vul.

♠ A 5 4
♥ A K 8 7 4 2
♦ A 8 7
♣ 8

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

♠ Q 7
♥ 6
♦ Q J 9 5 4
♣ Q 9 6 3 2

West	North	East	South
Lu	Huang	Liu	Wang N.
Shen	Sun	Wang W.	Wang P.
—	1♣ ¹	3♣	Pass
Pass	3♥	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. Precision: 16+ HCP

Both Wests led their club. Neither East could tell that was a singleton, so they played the ten, won by the declarers with the queen. In the open room, Wang Nan played the queen of diamonds through, winning

the trick. She then cashed the ace-king of hearts, finding that East showed out. She could then have made the contract if she had played the ace and another diamond to endplay West. Instead, she tried a spade to the queen, which does not seem to result in a making line. West won and played another spade to set the contract three tricks, minus 300.

In the closed room, at the second trick, Wang Ping played a heart immediately. After two rounds of hearts, she played a diamond to the queen, won by West. Now West could not cash her hearts as that would have resulted in a third heart trick for declarer, nor could she play a spade, as that would have given declarer a trick with the queen. So she played the ten of diamonds back. Wang Ping won with the ace in dummy, and cashed the eight of diamonds. When East showed out, South let the dummy win the trick and played a heart to West. The defenders only had three hearts and one diamond; well-played by declarer: plus 600, and 14 IMPs to Beijing Hua Yuan.

Best-Bid Deal? (Charles)

This deal might have been a good candidate for the award of “Best-Bid Deal” but, unfortunately for the Danish pair, Signe Buus Thomsen and Bjørg Houmøller, it was from the penultimate round, and the deadline for candidates had passed.

Board 11. Dealer South. Neither Vul.

♠ 3
♥ Q 8 6
♦ A K
♣ Q J 10 9 6 4 3

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

♠ 10
♥ 5 4 2
♦ Q J 9 5 3 2
♣ K 5 2

West	North	East	South
Signe Buus Thomsen	Silvia Martellini	Bjoerg Houmøller	Chiara Martellini
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	1♣	Double	2♣ ¹
Pass	Pass	4♠	Pass
5♣	Pass	5NT ²	Pass
6♣ ³	Pass	7♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. GF or weak with diamonds
2. Key-card asking
3. One key card

Houmøller gambled slightly that her partner's key card was the king of spades rather than the ace of diamonds. Even without third-round heart control, East felt that the grand slam would be at worst on a heart finesse

through the opening bidder. Right she was, and it was plus 1510 for the Danes.

The Danish team had less luck with another grand slam from the same match, but only because Silvia Martinelli found what might have won a "Best Lead" award.

Best Lead? (Charles)

Board 3. Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Signe Buus Thomsen</i>	<i>Silvia Martinelli</i>	<i>Bjoerg Houmøller</i>	<i>Chiara Martinelli</i>
—	—	—	Pass
1♠	Pass	3♣ ¹	4♥
6♥ ²	Pass	7♠	Double ³
Pass	Pass	Pass	

- 10-12 HCP with 3 spades
- Void, grand slam try
- Lightner

The lead: the seven of diamonds! North did not have an easy choice on lead, and Martinelli put her finger on both a club and a diamond. The club bid in dummy was not natural, but North held one more club than diamond. Maybe North figured out that if East/West had a side-suit fit, it was more likely to be in diamonds. As it was, that resulted in plus 200 and not minus 2460!

At the other table, it went like this:

West	North	East	South
<i>Caterina Ferlazzo</i>	<i>Helle Rasmussen</i>	<i>Gabriela Manara</i>	<i>Lone Bilde</i>
—	—	—	1♥
Double	2♥	3♦	4♥
7♦	7♥	Pass	Pass
Double	Pass	Pass	Pass

West led the ace of spades. The continuation of the king of spades was ruffed in South. Bilde drew three rounds of trumps, finessing for East's queen and played the king of clubs from hand. She escaped for minus 300. The defense could have had two club ruffs for plus 800, but they were cold for 2140 in seven diamonds. That was 11 IMPs for Italy, but it might have been 19 for Denmark.



The Norwegian Pairs Championship 2017

**Knut Kjærnsrød,
Tored, Norway**

Fifty-four pairs had qualified for the finals, played at the Stavanger Airport Hotel from September 22nd to the 24th, perfectly organized by Rogaland County Bridge Division. The tournament turned out to be a victory march for our young internationals Tor Eivind Grude and Lars Arthur Johansen, still in their twenties. When the last of the 159 boards had been played, they had a margin of more than 100 points over the silver medallists Svein Karlsberg and Kurt Ove Thomassen. The bronze medals went to the veterans Jon Sveindal and Tor Bakke.

In one of the Sunday rounds we encountered the tournament's freakiest hand:

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

You are West, vulnerable against not. Your partner in East passes, and South opens one notrump (15-17). What move would you make? Think about it while you take a look at the other boards I will present for you.

The prize for the best-played board of the tournament was awarded to the bronze medallists for their combined efforts on this board:

Dealer South. NS Vul.

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

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

- 11-15, 5+ spades

Jon Sveindal passed the South hand initially, often a right choice vulnerable against not, but in the second

round he made the brave choice of showing the minors with his 4-4 distribution, correctly assuming from the bidding that his partner would have, at most, a doubleton spade, in addition to some high-card points.

Tor Bakke competed to the four level and played perfectly to land his ten tricks and a near top. He ruffed the second spade, led a heart to the king, ruffed dummy's last spade and played the heart ace and ruffed a heart. When he led trumps, West was in with the ace, and had to open the diamonds or lead a spade. Even if West had cashed his trump ace before leading the second spade, Bakke would have made the winning play by leading a diamond to the eight after eliminating the other suits. When West had showed his bag of points, East would have been a favourite to hold the king of diamonds.

On the following board, Tor Eivind Grude, of the winning pair, managed to land a four-heart contract, partly due to their transfer bids after a one-club opening, and partly due to excellent technique:

Dealer West. Neither Vul.

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

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

1. 2+ clubs
2. Transfer to hearts
3. Invitational

East led the ace of diamonds and shifted to a heart, won by the knave. The queen of clubs rode around to the king, and another heart was returned, won in hand with the queen. On the ace and knave of clubs declarer discarded a spade from dummy. West's last trump was removed with a heart to the king, and a spade followed to the ten and queen, leaving the position at the top of the next page.

East was endplayed, and when he tried the best he could by leading a low spade, Grude discarded a diamond from dummy. Declarer won with the king of spades, cashed the good clubs and ruffed his spade loser in the dummy.

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

Nils Kvangraven, leader of the Norwegian Bridge Press organisation and recently having joined IBPA, collected a fine result on this board:

Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

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

West led the queen of hearts to the king. On the diamond five, East erred by playing low and the king won. Declarer ruffed a diamond, clarifying the position in that suit. Kvangraven led a club to the knave and ruffed another diamond with the queen of clubs, East discarding a heart. Declarer then led two rounds of trumps, West throwing a spade on the last one. Declarer played a spade, taken by the king, and West returned a spade, trumped, to leave this situation:

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

The ace and ten of hearts endplayed West who had to lead into Kvangraven's diamond tenace to end up with 11 tricks.

Jim Høyland earned most of the matchpoints on this deal, due to a well-timed duck:

Dealer East. Both Vul.

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

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

1. Club control in support of spades
2. RKCB
3. 1 or 4 key cards

Høyland found the best lead of a low club and had already earned a good board when the queen lost to the king. Another club followed, and the ten of spades won the next trick, Høyland playing low without a flicker. An unsuspecting declarer led a second spade to his nine but, this time, Jim took his king and achieved two down by cashing his jack of clubs. South could, of course, have discarded his remaining club on the king of hearts and guessed diamonds for down one.

We return to the initial freakish board:

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

There is no 'right' thing to do on a distribution like this and the many different contracts reflected that. The best result North/South was for four hearts plus one, and the best East/West was for six spades doubled, making.

A Kind of Discovery Play PO Sundelin, Stockholm



I suffered the following recently, in a team match against Ola Rimstedt (East):

Dealer West. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Mikael R.</i>	<i>Leandersson</i>	<i>Ola R.</i>	<i>Sundelin</i>
2♥	Pass	2♠	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		

With some hope, I placed the queen of clubs on the table. The East Rimstedt, Ola, won with the king, cashed the ace of hearts and finessed the jack of spades. When he continued with the queen of hearts, North understandably (but very expensively this time), ducked. Rimstedt threw a diamond, collected the king of spades and played a club to his ace. I had to cover the nine of clubs and Rimstedt ruffed, to produce this ending:

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

The jack of hearts was covered by the king; Rimstedt threw his last diamond. It was my turn to play something – anything – nothing.

As I agonized and discovered there was no way out, Rimstedt smiled and said, with bit of surprise in his voice, "I think I have you endplayed."

He was right: if I ruffed, Rimstedt would get three trump tricks. If I discarded a diamond, he would ruff a diamond in hand and endplay me with a trump to give him a club trick. Finally, if I threw a club, he would ruff a diamond to hand and give me a club, establishing his last club. He would then get either another diamond ruff or force me to ruff his now-good club with my high trump if I return a trump.

At the other table, our teammates tried four hearts, which had no chance after two rounds of diamonds and a spade shift.



My partner Euriell Queran and I came across this interesting board to bid. After supporting spades, we played in six hearts, the only making slam.

Dealer South. Neither Vul.

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

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

1. Strong, slam hope
2. Diamond control; no club control
3. Roman Key Card Blackwood
4. 1/4 key cards

As you can see, six hearts is unbeatable, declarer drawing trumps, discarding his club loser on the third diamond and taking two spade finesses. Six spades is unmakeable, perhaps slightly unluckily, on a club lead.



Geir Helgemo is one of the world's top players. Formerly from Norway, he plays nowadays for Monaco. Here are two deals where Helgemo shone at the 2017 World Teams Championships.

Round 12 – Australia vs. Monaco

Board 22. Dealer East. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Helgemo	Gill	Helness	Peake
—	—	Pass	1NT ¹
Pass	2♥ ²	Pass	2♠
Pass	3NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

1. 14-16 points
2. Transfer

Helgemo led the jack of diamond to the three, king, and ace. After the nine of spades to the jack and queen, the ace of spades, and a third spade to West, East discarded the six of diamonds, present count. What could West do?

A spade would set up a spade winner in dummy, a diamond would cost a trick and a club would allow South to collect an extra trick there. If West played the king of hearts, ducked, he'd have no good continuation. Helgemo chose the nine of hearts!

It went heart nine: three, queen, ace. South played the two of clubs: seven, nine, queen. East returned the five of diamonds and South could not make more than eight tricks. How could Peake have envisaged that West had led the nine of hearts from king-nine doubleton?

At the other table, three notrump was also one down, rather routinely on a low diamond lead.

Next ...

Round 16 – Guadeloupe vs. Monaco

As West, Helgemo held:

♠ A 5 4
♥ Q 6 5 3
♦ 9 6 5
♣ K J 2

He saw the following auction:

West	North	East	South
—	—	—	1♦
Pass	1♠	Pass	INT'
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	
1. 11-14 points			

What would you lead?

Here is the full deal ...

Board 31. Dealer South. NS Vul.

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

Most players would lead a low heart after the auction above, or after, say, one notrump-two clubs-two diamonds-three notrump

After the actual sequence, Helgemo led the king of clubs. Declarer allowed this to win. West continued with the jack of clubs to the queen.

Had South knocked out the ace of diamonds at that point, he would have succeeded, but there was no way to tell which ace to dislodge first. South opted for spades. West won and continued with a third club. South now went one down.

Helgemo commented later: "I think it's close between hearts and clubs and I just went for the king of clubs, which might beat the contract with as little as queen-to-five in clubs and nothing else in partner's hand." That would work if dummy or declarer had the ace-doubleton of clubs.

Three notrump was declared 57 times in the Open, Women's and Senior events in Lyon. Not surprisingly, Helgemo was the only defender to beat the contract.



A few years ago, someone gave me a very big book with the title *European Championship 1934*. A few weeks ago, I found it hidden behind some other books. It contains all 1800 of the boards played, with diagrams, bidding, leads, results and analysis!

The third European Championship (the first and second had been won by Austria) took place from July 7 through 12 in Vienna and was attended by ten teams (Austria, Belgium, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, England, Holland, Hungary, Norway, Sweden, and Yugoslavia). Each team played all the other teams in matches of 40 boards in length.

There were already IMPs converted in VPs in play. It was either a win (2:0 VP) or a draw (1:1 VP). The scale of these IMPs was constructed on the first day of play(!) and ended with 12 IMPs. I find it interesting that three years later in Budapest at the World Championships, Total Points, not IMPs, were used.

The editor of the book was Dr. Paul Stern from Vienna. He had 15 co-authors, but most often the deals were analysed by Stern himself. In the book, there are a lot of statistics about the character of the deals (8% slams, for instance, as well as 46% games and 46% part scores). There are no statistics about short suits, but I have analysed them myself (only the matches of the Austrians, however): there were fewer voids and singletons according to probability (and therefore fewer than in today's computer deals).

There was little possibility to express the value of a hand; nobody counted 'points'. Blackwood and Stayman were unknown, Stern's "Austrian Club" was on the way, but not yet published. There was one slam convention (the Culbertson 4NT/5NT) that had a rather short life. Undertricks were cheaper than they are today. The players were already designated as North/South against East/West. (I remember that in my first bridge book, written by a German officer in 1926, A/B played against X/Y.

I'll show you how the players bid in the old days. The following deal is taken from the match of Austria versus Belgium.

Dealer North. Neither Vul.

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

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

Table 1

West	North	East	South
Belgium	Austria	Belgium	Austria
—	Pass	Pass	1♣
Double	INT	2♥	Pass
Pass	Pass		

The declarer made an overtrick (South had led the king of clubs), for plus 140. I am sure that nowadays no West player would pass two hearts with that good hand.

Table 2

West	North	East	South
Austria	Belgium	Austria	Belgium
—	Pass	Pass	Pass
1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass
3♠	Pass	3NT	Pass
4♠	Double	Pass	Pass
Pass			

North found the most-unlucky lead of the diamond four. Karl von Blühdorn (in his first appearance in international play) made the contract, losing one spade and two hearts. This was plus 540 (there was no premium for the ‘insult’ – making a doubled contract – in 1934). Austria gained a net plus of 400 points and 7 IMPs.

The commentary on this deal was brief: “Herbert/Kaltenegger apparently prevented the Belgian players to reach their full game.” I would say rather that this was a thin game contract and that the Belgian bidding at Table 1 was simply bad; one would expect to reach three spades at least!

All the teams played with three pairs (or more) except the English. It was not a rule to change opponents in the second half of a match and there were no discussions, yet, about a European Championship for women.

The medals went to Hungary, Holland and Austria. Those three successful teams dominated European bridge in the Thirties. The best young European players of that era were Rudolf Kock/Einar Werner from

Sweden – they played for Sweden several times after the war.

When I entered bridge in the Sixties, almost none of the participants from Vienna 1934 still played. I remember only Dr. Nicholas Singer from Yugoslavia (I played against him a few times in Zagreb) and Johannes Brun (of Norway) at the 1969 European Championships in Oslo – he had been the Norwegian captain in Vienna in 1934.

Hungary comprised Francis von Leitner, capt., Emeric Alpar, Rafael Cohen, Laszlo Decsi, Andor Keleti, and Laszlo Klor, while the Dutch team was A.J.E. Lucardie, capt., J.R.C. van Bommel-Suyck, Bolo Einhorn, Ernst C. Goudsmit, Frits W. Goudsmit, Sam van Houten, and Lion B. Zeldenrust. Playing for Austria were Dr. Richard Grünblatt, capt., Karl von Blühdorn, Simon Fleischmann, Walter Herbert, Dr. Paul von Kaltenegger, Udo von Meißl, Edmund R.H. Pollak, and Erich Zimmer.



Correspondence

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

On Tim’s deal 866, the analysis is incomplete. When the first or second trump was led from the board at trick two or four, East could have defeated the contract by winning the trick and returning a trump. South had to arrange the Dentist’s Coup immediately.

Regards, Phillip Alder, Hobe Sound, FL

Editorial (cont’d.)

Juniors). Ninety of these pairs were Chinese. By contrast, the host, France, had 24 pairs and, from what many consider to be the top European youth programme, Poland, there were just three pairs.

During the recent Hua Yuan Cup, the players had a half-day off and each of the eight teams sent representatives on an outing to a local high school. More than 80 students from 11 primary, middle and high schools attended a session with the stars, listening to them speak and playing a few deals. Guan Jie, Headmaster of Beijing No. 18 High School, host of the event, said: “We choose bridge as our ‘sports’ elective not only because bridge is beneficial to health, but also it is a great game of communication.”

To date, China has won three major World Championships, two Venice Cups and a World Open Pairs. Can there be any doubt that more are in her future?

NEWS & VIEWS



Bridge Not a Sport

Once again, European judges, this time from the European Court of Justice in Luxembourg, have bent over to place their heads in an anatomically-impossible location. The judges have ruled that bridge is not a sport, despite its being declared one by the International Olympic Committee as early as 1998.

The issue arose when the English Bridge Union applied for an exemption from the U.K.'s Value Added Tax (an oxymoron if ever there was one), a form of sales tax. The EBU has been foiled by the courts at every step of the way, both in Britain and now, upon appeal, in Europe.

The ruling deals a considerable blow to the EBU, which had been heartened by a recommendation in June by the court's advocate general, Maciej Szpunar. He had recommended that sport be understood as an activity involving the "training of mental or physical fitness in a way that is generally beneficial to the health and well-being of citizens".

The U.K.'s 2011 Charities Act adopted a definition of sports as "activities which promote health involving physical or mental health or exertion", which specifically includes "mind sports".

In 2015, however, Britain's high court ruled that bridge was not a sport and was thus not eligible for lottery funding. Lawyers acting for Sport England successfully argued that the game was no more a sport than "sitting at home reading a book".

Obviously, none of these lawyers or judges has ever competed in a bridge tournament.

The judges did, however, give the EBU some hope. They ruled that bridge may have an argument in favour of VAT exemption on the basis that it is a vital part of British culture.

GOTO Bridge

The new GOTO Bridge 18 software will be available on PC, Mac, iPad and Android tablets. For more information, contact Valentin Foncez, Marketing & Communication Manager, GOTO Games (Publisher of Funbridge and GOTO Bridge).

Ostend Bulletins

For the European Championships in Ostend, there will be printed copies of the Daily Bulletin free to

IBPA members. Other interested parties have to pay one Euro per copy.

Australia-Indonesia Test Match

Australia and Indonesia have announced a Test Match between the two nations' Youth Teams. The match will take place December 10-12 in Depok, Jakarta, Indonesia, as part of the Indonesian Open Tournament.

Senior Age Limit

The minimum age for participants in EBL and WBF Senior events will increase from 60 to 65 by one year every two years, beginning in 2018.

Thus, for 2018 Championships, players will have to be born in 1957 or earlier; for the 2019 and 2020 Championships, the threshold is 1958; for 2021 and 2022, 1959; and so on

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World Bridge Calendar

DATES	EVENT	LOCATION	INFORMATION
2017			
Oct 28-Nov 11	Hainan Nanshan Bridge Festival	Sanya, China	www.ccba.org.cn/hainan2017
Nov 6-12	20 th International Festival	Madeira, Portugal	www.fpbridge.pt
Nov 8-11	Lido International Festival	Venice, Italy	www.festivaldelbridge lidodivenezia.com
Nov 9-11	4 th Marbella International	Marbella, Costa del Sol, Spain	www.marbellabridge.com
Nov 9-11	16 th European Champions Cup	Riga, Latvia	www.eurobridge.org
Nov 9-19	23 rd Red Sea International Festival	Eilat, Israel	www.redseabridge.com
Nov 13-19	Puerta Vallarta Regional	Puerta Vallarta, Mexico	www.acbl.org
Nov 13-25	NBF's Bridge in Tenerife	Tenerife, Canary Is., Spain	www.bridge.no
Nov 20-23	Euro Small Federations Championship	Monte Carlo, Monaco	www.eurobridge.org
Nov 23-Dec 3	ACBL Fall NABC	San Diego, CA	www.acbl.org
Nov 24-27	Telkom Indonesia Open	Bandung, Indonesia	www.halamanbridge.org
Nov 29-Dec 3	UAE National Day Bridge Festival	Dubai, UAE	amir.mekky@hotmail.com
Nov 30-Dec 3	18 th Int'l Schools & Jr. Championships	Hluk, Czech Republic	www.bkuh.eu/mistrovstyj
Dec 1-3	Babenberger International	Klosterneuberg, Austria	www.bridgeaustria.at
Dec 2-10	2 nd International Festival	Barcelona, Spain	www.sunwaybridgefestival.com
Dec 5-10	Lanzarote Festival	Lanzarote, Canary Is., Spain	harvensurf@gmail.com
Dec 6-12	2 nd SEABF Championships	Jakarta, Indonesia	bert_toar@hotmail.com
Dec 8-15	IMSA Elite Games	Huai'an, China	www.imsaworld.com
Dec 16-22	Winter Nationals	Vishakapatnam, India	www.bfi.net.in
Dec 30-Jan 7	13 th National Bridge Holidays	Pavel Banya, Bulgaria	www.bridge.bg
2018			
Jan 10-21	Summer Festival of Bridge	Canberra, Australia	www.abf.com.au
Jan 25-28	Winter in Vienna	Vienna, Austria	www.bridgeaustria.at
Jan 27-Feb 2	59 th Bermuda Regional	Southampton, Bermuda	www.bermudaregional.com
Feb 11-18	27 th Sun, Sea & Slams	Christ Church, Barbados, W.I.	roglyn@caribsurf.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
Feb 23-25	International Festival	Cannes, France	www.festivalsdusoleil.com
Feb 24-25	Lederer Memorial Trophy	London, England	www.metrobridge.weebly.com
Feb 27-Mar 4	San Miguel Allende Regional	San Miguel Allende, Mexico	www.acbl.org
Mar 8-18	ACBL Spring NABC	Philadelphia, PA	www.acbl.org
Mar 25-30	White House Junior Invitational Teams	Amsterdam, The Netherlands	wjuniors2018@gmail.com
Mar 27-Apr 1	123 rd Easter Regional	Toronto, ON	www.unit166.ca
Apr 19-22	XIX President's Cup	Starachowice, Poland	www.senatorbrydz.pl
Apr 25-29	5 th Palace Cup	Warsaw, Poland	www.pzbs.pl
Apr 26-30	Australian Autumn Nationals	Adelaide, Australia	www.abf.com.au
Apr 27-May 4	South African National Congress	Cape Town, South Africa	www.sabg.co.za
Apr 27-May 6	International Festival	Juan-les-Pins, France	www.festivalsdusoleil.com
Apr 27-May 6	Lambourne Jersey Festival	Jersey, Channel Is.	www.ebu.co.uk
May 5-7	German Bridge Team Trophy	Berlin, Germany	www.bridge-verband.de
May 11-19	68 th South American Championships	Bahia, Brazil	http://comandatuba2018. csabridge.org/?lang=en
May 11-20	United States Bridge Championship	Houston, TX	www.usbf.org
May 26-Jun 3	Canadian Bridge Week	Montréal, QC	www.cbf.ca
Jun 6-16	54 th European Team Championships	Ostend, Belgium	www.eurobridge.org
Jun 9-17	20 th German Bridge Festival	Wyk-auf-Föhr, Germany	www.bridge-verband.de
Jun 19-Jul 1	36 th International Bridge Festival	Albena, Bulgaria	www.bridge.bg
Jun 29-Jul 10	Biarritz International Festival	Biarritz, France	www.festival-bridge-biarritz.com
Jul 26-Aug 5	ACBL 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 3-12	Norsk Bridgefestival	Drammen, Norway	www.bridgefestival.no
Aug 9-18	17 th World Youth Team Championships	Wu Jiang, China	www.worldbridge.org
Aug 18-Sep 2	18 th Asian Games	Jakarta, Indonesia	www.ocasia.org
Sep 22-Oct 6	11th World Bridge Series	Orlando, FL	www.worldbridge.org
Sep 29-Oct 6	New Zealand National Congress	Hamilton, NZ	www.nzbridge.co.nz
Oct 19-21	Vilnius Cup	Vilnius, Lithuania	www.vilniuscup.lt
Oct 25-28	9 th World University Championships	Xuxhou, China	www.worldbridge.org
Nov 22-Dec 2	ACBL Fall NABC	Honolulu, HI	www.acbl.org