



BULLETIN

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Message from the IBPA President

I have delayed writing about my plans for the future because I did not want to give you half a story. I cannot yet give you a complete picture, but I can brief you about where we are heading.

We hope to retain our current membership going forward, at the same time as we try to broaden IBPA's appeal to countries where English is not the first language. This applies especially to Eastern Europe and to Asia. As a step in that direction we plan to make the presentation of our Bidding, Play and Defence awards at the Hainan Bridge Festival in China, around November 1, 2018.

The details remain to be hammered out, but this is the general direction of where we are heading. Hopefully we will get more publicity for our awards at the same time as we improve our balance sheet and ensure the organization's future.

I should take this opportunity to remind you that the Editor presents his view in the Editorial; a view that might differ from the organization's. You should know that the organization will continue to stay away from political questions while defending its members' right to express their opinions. That several of our members are heavily involved in political issues should not change anything in that regard. Our organization will remain neutral and independent, while its members are free to take part in any discussion.

Barry Rigal, NYC

Message from the WBF Past-President Bridge Is a Sport

What is behind the policy of bridge as a sport which I first promoted about 30 years ago and which has been accepted by all my predecessors and successors?

Duplicate Bridge is a game of skill. That is one of the main reasons why it is considered a sport, despite some nations' definition of sport as demanding physical activity. In the international bodies to which bridge belongs (the International Olympic Committee, SportAccord, ARISF, IMSA, and the Fédération Internationale du Sport Universitaire), sports are divided into various categories: physical sports, mind sports, motor sports, coordination sports, and equestrian sports. Some are Olympic disciplines, others are not, but they all organise competitions which:

- minimise luck

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- are subject to clear rules (the first bridge code was published in 1871)
- are universal
- promote health (we are proud to help fight dementia)
- offer security.

Everybody is happy to see bridge embracing values of sport such as fair play, discipline, ethics, hard work and performance. We are not pursuing Olympic grandeur, but we are positioning bridge to help with its promotion and development for the benefit of the players and NBOs. Even though some may criticise this stance, no one has yet offered any other relevant marketing concept. Using this 'branding' is the only way to introduce bridge into schools successfully, and this has already been done in some countries.

We have made great efforts to achieve bridge's acceptance and recognition as a sport, as well as conveying that it is an excellent tool for teaching, not only of bridge itself, but all aspects of sport that are learned along the way. These are not just restricted to mathematics and analysis, but include social interaction, discipline, ethics and sportsmanship. For many NBOs this is the only way for them to get financial support, recognition, and corporate sponsorship, such as we did with Epson, Générali, NEC, Louis Vuitton and others, allowing substantial prizes to be awarded. It is the only way to bring in young players – I remind you that in Beijing 2008, 110 youth teams, about 1000 players from 74 different countries, were invited to play in the World Mind Sports Games, with all their expenses paid.

It is also true that, being a sport, we have to accept some constraints. But so what?

(i.) World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA)? I am personally happy that we should join the fight against doping and the damage it causes, especially to young people. Our regulations provide for anti-doping tests to be held at major WBF championships, but only for players from the Open, Women's, Junior and Girls series.

(ii.) Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS)? What a confusing situation has arisen, as emphasized by the first CAS ruling ever made for bridge. I believe that nobody disputes the need for and organization of disciplinary action in our sport. In any case, we have to respect the main judicial principle, that the NBO is in charge of dealing with violations of ethics inside its own territory and then of informing the other NBOs of any sentence, which must be extended everywhere. This principle of reciprocity applies also

with Zonal organisations and the WBF and vice versa. And, naturally, it is mandatory to allow for the possibility of an appeal. We did not foresee any difficulty with CAS as we were confident that the arbitrators would recognize the specificity of bridge, which requires technical knowledge and judgement. Their resulting ruling does not, however, mean that we are in a weaker position than previously.

I have personally dealt with many cases, and have had to manage the bans of more than 20 pairs during my career, and did so whatever nationality was involved and however difficult the decision, but to the best of my knowledge and belief, most bridge players are good, honest people. I am strongly of the opinion that we should be as severe as possible, especially with collusion, stripping titles, medals and masterpoints, and banning these players for life. Nevertheless, I see many people taking a different stance, even seeing some sponsors or teammates playing again with convicted players, which is against what I, and I am sure my colleagues, have tried to achieve.

I strongly believe that the players are the first ones to know what is happening at the table and should be the first to report any issues. That's the reason I started the High Level Player's Commission, to take care of the interest of the players themselves and to examine and evaluate possible cheating cases. We have a dedicated hot line, and two representatives of this commission, one woman and one man, sitting as members of the WBF Executive Council with full voting rights.

I do not believe that CAS or, indeed, any national court, can refuse the Credentials Committee of any National, Zonal or World Federation the right to decline inviting players to their Championships should they consider them undesirable for any reason. I know that this may be considered draconian but, as long as it is used with caution and with safeguards in place, then, in my opinion, it is necessary to have such sanctions available in bridge, as it is the only way to eliminate players who appear to be addicted to cheating. And, yes, we have to use it carefully, but without weakness and, where necessary, providing education and advice to the adjudicators. (Incidentally, I am sure you will have noted that 15 athletes 'released' by the CAS, have not been invited by the IOC to participate in this year's Winter Olympics).

I am sorry for the length of this, but not for my views! I am quite sure we can, and must, punish criminals effectively and still claim bridge is a sport!

José Damiani, Paris



2ND EUROPEAN WINTER GAMES

Monaco, February 17–23 2018

Mark Horton, Sutton Benger, Wilts., UK
David Bird, Eastleigh, Hants., UK

(All deals authored by Mark Horton except where noted otherwise.) Seventy-eight teams competed for the Zimmermann Cup. There were 15 x 10-board matches over three days of Swiss qualification, followed by full-day knockouts for the top 16 qualifiers.

Swiss Qualifying

In Round 3, there were a couple of deals that proved to be tough problems for declarer – whether they were in any way instructive I leave to your judgement. In Salvo v. Krangraven:

Round 3. Board 12. Dealer West. EW Vul.

<p>♠ 8 5 4 ♥ K 10 9 8 4 ♦ 10 ♣ A 9 5 2</p> <p>♠ Q J 3 ♥ Q 3 ♦ Q 9 8 3 ♣ K Q 8 6</p>	<p>♠ K 9 7 6 ♥ A J 5 2 ♦ A J 6 ♣ 7 4</p> <p>♠ A 10 2 ♥ 7 6 ♦ K 7 5 4 2 ♣ J 10 3</p>
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West	North	East	South
<i>O. Rimstedt</i>	<i>Hoiland</i>	<i>M. Rimstedt</i>	<i>Stornes</i>
1♣ ¹	Pass	1♥	Pass
1NT	Pass	2♣ ²	Pass
2♦ ³	Pass	3NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. 2+♣
2. Checkback
3. Neither 4 spades nor 3-card heart support

Would you overcall one heart with North's cards? Our vote is in the affirmative. North led the ten of hearts. Declarer won with the queen and played a diamond for the ten, jack and king. South switched to the jack of clubs, covered by the king and ace and North returned a club for the ten and queen. Declarer could knock out the ace of spades and cover the club return, claiming the balance for plus 400.

West	North	East	South
<i>Stabell</i>	<i>Kubac</i>	<i>Kvangraven</i>	<i>Zorlu</i>
1♦	Pass	1♥	Pass
1NT	Pass	3NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Here, North led the five of spades. South won with the ace and switched to the jack of clubs, covered by the king and ace. North returned a club to the ten and queen and declarer played a diamond to the jack. When it held, he returned to hand with a spade and played the queen of diamonds, going up with the ace when North discarded a heart, and played a third diamond, South taking the king and returning a club. North won and exited with a club, but declarer could not go down from here, plus 400 and a flat board.

When Brogeland was in three notrump, Hoogenkamp, North, who had not overcalled, also led the five of spades, but South put in the ten and declarer won with the queen and played a diamond for the ten, jack and king. South returned the seven of hearts for the three, four and jack and now declarer had to guess where the missing aces were located. When he played a spade, expecting North to hold the ace, South pounced with the ace and played a second heart, dooming declarer to a one trick defeat, minus 50.

In Mahaffey v. Harris:

Round 3. Board 20. Dealer West. Both Vul.

<p>♠ A Q 6 5 2 ♥ K 7 5 3 2 ♦ K 7 4 ♣ —</p> <p>♠ K 8 ♥ 9 6 4 ♦ J 10 3 ♣ A J 8 6 4</p>	<p>♠ J 10 9 4 3 ♥ 8 ♦ Q 8 2 ♣ K 10 5 2</p> <p>♠ 7 ♥ A Q J 10 ♦ A 9 6 5 ♣ Q 9 7 3</p>
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West	North	East	South
<i>Harris</i>	<i>Meckstroth</i>	<i>Root</i>	<i>Zia</i>
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♥	Pass	3♥
Pass	3♠	Pass	3NT
Pass	4♦	Pass	5♦
Pass	6♥	Pass	Pass

East led the five of clubs. Declarer ruffed West's ace, cashed the king of diamonds, played a diamond to the

ace, ruffed a club, cashed the ace of spades, ruffed a spade, ruffed a club and exited with a diamond. East won and could now have ensured the defeat of the contract by exiting with a trump. When he obligingly returned a spade, declarer could ruff, ruff a club and cross-ruff the last three tricks for plus 1430. If declarer exits with a diamond instead of cashing the ace of spades, East wins and can exit with a trump, but now declarer can take the spade finesse and then cross-ruff his way home.

West	North	East	South
<i>Brogeland</i>	<i>Hoogenkamp</i>	<i>Lindqvist</i>	<i>Helle</i>
Pass	1♥(!)	Pass	2NT ¹
Pass	4♣ ²	Pass	4♦
Pass	4♠	Pass	5♦
Pass	5♥	Pass	5♠
Pass	6♥	Pass	Pass

1. Heart support
2. Splinter

Here, East led the jack of spades. Declarer won with the queen, ruffed a spade, ruffed a club and continued the cross-ruff, cashing two diamonds along the way to flatten the board.

Meanwhile, in Zimmermann v. Bareket:

West	North	East	South
<i>Versace</i>	<i>Roll</i>	<i>Lauria</i>	<i>Levin</i>
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♠ ¹	Pass	3♥
Pass	3♠	Pass	3NT
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♦
Pass	6♥	Pass	Pass

1. Hearts

West led the jack of diamonds. Declarer won in hand, played a spade to the ace and ruffed a spade. His next, fatal, move was to cash the ace of hearts. He took a second round, crossed to the king of diamonds, ruffed a spade ruffed a club and drew the outstanding trump. There were only eleven tricks; minus 100.

West	North	East	South
<i>Lengy</i>	<i>Multon</i>	<i>Bareket</i>	<i>Zimmermann</i>
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♥	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♦	Pass	3♥
Pass	3NT	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♥	Pass	4♠
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♠
Pass	5NT	Pass	6♣
Pass	6♥	Pass	Pass

After a diamond lead, Multon won in hand, cashed the ace of spades, ruffed a spade, ruffed a club, played a

diamond to the ace, ruffed a club, ruffed a spade and ruffed a club. These cards remained:

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

Multon ruffed another spade, but was careful to do so with the ace of hearts! The point behind this play was mentioned by Pierre Schmidt, commenting on BBO. When this spade is ruffed West can dispose of the ace of clubs. When declarer then plays a club from dummy, West ruffs with the nine of hearts! (exactly how Bénédicte Cronier brought about declarer's downfall in her match when he failed to see the danger and ruffed with the queen of hearts). If declarer overruffs, he is one down (East's heart eight will be the setting trick). So declarer must discard his diamond, but West plays a trump and declarer should realise his only chance is to win the trick with king of hearts. (See why it was necessary to ruff with the ace of hearts). The heart eight falls and the last two tricks are taken by the seven of hearts and the queen of spades. Beautiful, n'est-ce pas?

In Round 10, we were treated to a deal on which one of the best-known and most-popular players of modern times was given an opportunity to demonstrate his skills. We start with an excerpt from the match between Netherlands Juniors and No Name.

Round 10. Board 3. Dealer South. EW Vul.

	♠ Q J 9		
	♥ J 9 7		
	♦ A 8 7 6 4 2		
	♣ 6		
♠ 7 5		♠ A 4	
♥ A Q 8 2		♥ K 10 6 5 3	
♦ J 10 9 5		♦ Q 3	
♣ 10 8 2		♣ A J 7 4	
	♠ K 10 8 6 3 2		
	♥ 4		
	♦ K		
	♣ K Q 9 5 3		
West	North	East	South
<i>Gundogdu</i>	<i>Kiljan</i>	<i>Imamoglu</i>	<i>Tijssen</i>
—	—	—	1♠
Pass	2♠	Pass	4♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

West led the jack of diamonds. Declarer won in hand with the king and played a spade to the queen, East winning with the ace and accurately switching to the three of hearts. West won with the queen and continued with the ace, declarer ruffing and playing the king of clubs. East won and returned a spade and declarer could manage only nine tricks; minus 50.

West	North	East	South
<i>Sprinkhuiz</i>	<i>Unal</i>	<i>M. de Leon</i>	<i>Sen</i>
—	—	—	1♠
Pass	2♠	Double	4♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

The play was almost card for card identical – the only differences being that East returned the five of hearts and declarer played the queen of clubs – no swing. However, from Mahaffey v. Coldea:

West	North	East	South
<i>Stegaroiu</i>	<i>Meckstroth</i>	<i>Ionita</i>	<i>Zia</i>
—	—	—	1♠
Pass	2♠	3♥	3♠
4♥	4♠	Double	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Once again, West led the jack of diamonds. Time stood still as declarer calculated – eventually, he put up dummy's ace of diamonds and played a club. East found the fine play of ducking, but to no avail. Declarer won, ruffed a club with the queen of spades, ruffed a diamond, ruffed a club with the nine of spades, ruffed a diamond and ruffed a club, West pitching the eight of hearts. Declarer ruffed another diamond and played the king of spades. He could not be prevented from making an overtrick, plus 690.

Round of 16 Mahaffey v. Indonesia Red Ventin v. The Club Enthusiasts

Board 1. Dealer North. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Karwur</i>	<i>Meckstroth</i>	<i>Bojoh</i>	<i>Zia</i>
—	Pass	1♠	2♦
Pass	3♣	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

West led the five of spades. When East put in the seven, declarer won with the ten and played a club for the king and ace. East cashed the ace of spades and exited with the three of hearts, West winning with the king and returning the eight. Declarer won with the ten and could count nine tricks for plus 400.

West	North	East	South
<i>Brogeland</i>	<i>Lasut</i>	<i>Lindqvist</i>	<i>Manoppo</i>
—	Pass	1♠	2♦
Pass	3♣	Pass	3NT
Double	Pass	Pass	Pass

The stakes were raised at this table. West led his spade and East took the ace and switched to the seven of diamonds. Declarer won with dummy's king, played a spade to the nine and a club for the king and ace. When East returned a diamond, declarer won with the ace and exited with a diamond. West won and calmly returned his last diamond, East discarding a spade. Declarer had nine tricks in view, but there was no way to reach the queen of clubs and he had to go one down, minus 100 and a fast 11-IMP start for Mahaffey.

I expect the reader will be ahead of me here when I explain how declarer could have made three notrump. When East exits with a second diamond after winning the ace of clubs, declarer should simply continue with the master diamond and a diamond. West wins and is endplayed, either allowing declarer to enjoy the queen of clubs or having to open up the heart suit.

There is a winning defence, but it is not likely to be found at the table. West must lead a diamond, declarer winning, playing a spade to the nine, followed by a club to the king and ace. Now East exits with a heart and West wins and returns the jack of diamonds. Declarer plays three rounds of the suit to put West on lead, but a heart exit, East covering dummy's card will keep declarer off the table and eventually East will collect two spades.

Judge for yourselves what went wrong here – the outcome was a loss of 11 IMPs.

Board 15. Dealer South. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Karwur	Meckstroth	Bojoh	Zia
—	—	—	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass
3♠	Pass	4NT ¹	Pass
5♠ ²	Pass	6♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. RKCB
2. 2 key cards + queen of spades

North led ... drum roll please ... the two of diamonds. When declarer played dummy's four and South produced the queen East wished he had preferred six notrump.

West	North	East	South
Brogeland	Lasut	Lindqvist	Manoppo
—	—	—	Pass
4♦ ¹	Pass	4NT ²	Pass
5♠ ³	Pass	6NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. 8-9 tricks with good spades (max. one loser),
2. RKCB
3. 2 key cards and the queen of spades

South led the jack of spades so that was plus 1020 and 14 IMPs for Mahaffey.

Bridge, like so many sporting contests, is frequently a battle between a top dog and an underdog – and sometimes the result is unexpected. In the match between the number 7 and 12 seeds it was hard to predict who might emerge as the winner.

Board 5. Dealer North. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Nyström	Auken	Hult	Welland
—	Pass	Pass	Pass
1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♠	Pass
3♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

Auken led the four of spades and Welland took the ace and switched to the four of diamonds. That clarified the position in the suit and declarer was never taking more than nine tricks; plus 140.

West	North	East	South
Gawel	Ventin	Jagniewski	Palma
—	Pass	Pass	Pass
4♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

Against four spades, North led the king of hearts and continued with two more rounds of the suit. Declarer ruffed and played the queen of spades. South took the ace and tried for a promotion by returning the queen of hearts. Declarer ruffed high and played trumps, keeping the ace-ten-nine of diamonds and the jack-ten of clubs in dummy. South pitched the seven of clubs, followed by the nine. If that promised an even number of clubs (no convention card!), South was now known to be 2=4=3=4. Declarer was already known to be 7-2 in the majors, thus could have only four minor-suit cards, so when declarer played his last spade, North, down to jack-fourth of diamonds, should have known it was safe to pitch a diamond. When he parted instead with the queen of clubs, declarer cashed the queen of diamonds, overtook the king with dummy's ace and ran the ten of clubs to bring off a pseudo guard squeeze that was worth 7 IMPs.

Quarterfinals

Lavazza v. Zimmermann
Ventin v. Delta TV Programs
Vytas v. Bernal
Mahaffey v. Netherlands Red

Board 9. Dealer North. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Sementa	Lauria	Bocchi	Versace
—	Pass	1♦	1♥
Pass	4♥	4♠	5♥
5♠	Pass	6♠	7♥
Pass	Pass	Double	Pass
Pass	Pass		

West led the eight of diamonds. Declarer went up with dummy's ace and played a spade, East putting up the king. There was no way to get a club ruff now, so two down; minus 300.

West	North	East	South
<i>Helgemo</i>	<i>Bianchedi</i>	<i>Helness</i>	<i>Madala</i>
—	Pass	1♦	1♥
Pass	4♥	4♠	5♥
5♠	Pass	6♠	7♥
Double	Pass	Pass	Pass

West led the seven of clubs and the ruff meant three down, minus 500 and 5 IMPs for Zimmermann.

West	North	East	South
<i>Nyström</i>	<i>Burgay</i>	<i>Palma</i>	<i>Cima</i>
—	Pass	2♣	2♥
Pass	4♥	4♠	5♣
5♥	6♦	6♠	Double
Pass	Pass	Pass	

South led the king of clubs. Declarer ruffed with the queen of spades, crossed to dummy with the jack of spades and played a diamond. When the king held, he cashed the ace of hearts, ruffed a heart and played another diamond. Now North took the ace – too late the hero – and declarer claimed, plus 1660. At the other table:

West	North	East	South
<i>Mariani</i>	<i>Hult</i>	<i>Buratti</i>	<i>Wrang</i>
—	Pass	1♦	1♥
Pass	4♥	4♠	Pass
Pass	5♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			

The contract was one down when West led the jack of spades and switched to the jack of clubs at trick two when East followed with the two of spades; 17 IMPs to Ventin.

Board 10. Dealer East. Both Vul.

♠ A Q 2
♥ Q 9 6 4 3
♦ K Q J 10
♣ 3

♠ J 8 6 5 4
♥ 10 2
♦ 8 6 2
♣ Q 8 6

West	North	East	South
<i>Sementa</i>	<i>Lauria</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Versace</i>
—	—	1♣ ¹	Pass
1NT ²	Pass	3♣ ³	Pass
3NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

- 2+ clubs, natural or 12-14 balanced
- 4+ clubs, forcing
- Invitational

North started with three rounds of diamonds, declarer winning in dummy and getting the clubs wrong. South won the third round of the suit and switched to the four of spades so the contract was five down, minus 500.

West	North	East	South
<i>Helgemo</i>	<i>Bianchedi</i>	<i>Helness</i>	<i>Madala</i>
—	—	1♣	Pass
1♥	Pass	1NT	Pass
3NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

South led the five of spades and North took the king with the ace and switched to the king of diamonds. Declarer won at once with the ace, but then got the clubs wrong, crossing to the ace and then playing back towards the king. The good news was that North pitched the two of spades, blocking the suit, so declarer escaped for two down, minus 200 and 7 IMPs for Zimmermann.

Would anyone find a way home in 3NT? In Bernal v. Vytas ...

West	North	East	South
<i>Lantaran</i>	<i>Gawrys</i>	<i>Goded</i>	<i>Klukowski</i>
—	—	Pass	Pass
1♣	1♥	2♥	Pass
2NT	Pass	3NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		

North led the king of diamonds. Declarer won the third round of the suit with dummy's ace, cashed the king of clubs and then ran the jack. He ran the clubs and, when the last one hit the table, this was the position:

♠ A Q
♥ Q 9 6
♦ 10
♣ —

♠ K 10
♥ A J 8 7
♦ —
♣ —

♠ 9 7 3
♥ K 5
♦ —
♣ 2

♠ J 8 6 5
♥ 10 2
♦ —
♣ —

When declarer cashed the last club, pitching a heart, North had no good discard. He opted for a heart and declarer cashed the king, ace and jack for plus 600 and 10 IMPs (they made two notrump in the other room).

Board 39. Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Molenaar</i>	<i>Meckstroth</i>	<i>Verbeek</i>	<i>Zia</i>
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

East led the queen of hearts. Declarer won and played three rounds of diamonds, pitching a heart and then ruffing with the four of spades. West overruffed (it does not help to pitch a club) and returned a heart, declarer winning and ruffing a diamond with the seven of spades. West overruffed, cashed the ace of spades and exited with a spade. Declarer won, cashed two more spades and played clubs. He did not need to finesse, as East had come down to two clubs, plus 420.

West	North	East	South
<i>Brogeland</i>	<i>Drijver</i>	<i>Lindqvist</i>	<i>Nab</i>
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♦ ¹	Pass	3♥ ²
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. 1 or both 4-card majors
2. Spades

Declarer won the heart lead, cashed the ace of diamonds, ruffed a diamond and played a spade to the king, East's discard of the four of diamonds coming as a shock. If declarer now pitches a heart on the king of diamonds he is on track à la Meckstroth but, fatally, he now ruffed a diamond and West simply pitched a club (overruffing works just as well). Declarer came to hand with the ace of clubs, cashed the king of hearts and played a club to the king. West ruffed, played a heart to East's jack and, with the ace-jack-ten of spades left, was assured of two trump tricks. That was plus 50 and 10 IMPs for Mahaffey.

Board 53. Dealer North. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Sementa</i>	<i>Helness</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Helgemo</i>
—	Pass	1♣	Pass
1♦ ¹	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. Hearts

South led the two of hearts. North took the ace and switched to the seven of spades, South winning with the ten and playing a second heart. Declarer won in hand and played a diamond to the queen. When it held, he cashed the ace and ruffed a diamond with the queen of hearts, claiming eleven tricks, plus 650.

West	North	East	South
<i>Versace</i>	<i>Bilde</i>	<i>Lauria</i>	<i>Duboin</i>
—	Pass	1♣	Pass
1♦	Pass	1♥	Pass
4♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

South led the queen of clubs. Declarer won with the ace, played a diamond to the ace, ruffed a diamond, cashed the king of clubs pitching a spade, ruffed a club and played a spade to the queen. South won with the king and returned the jack and declarer won and played his last club. That allowed South to throw the king of diamonds away and, when declarer pitched a spade on the queen of diamonds, South ruffed and played the ten of spades, ruffed by the jack of hearts and overruffed by North, who played the eight of hearts. Declarer could win in dummy, but could not deny South the setting trick with the ten of hearts; minus 100. Almost any other line would have produced at least ten tricks, but this one cost 13 IMPs.

Duel of the Maestros - David Bird

With three boards left in the 60-board quarter-finals of the European Winter Games in Monte Carlo, two of the world's top dummy players, Geir Helgemo and Boye Brogeland faced a tricky six-heart contract in their respective matches. How would you have fared?

First, we will see Helgemo, playing for Zimmermann against Lavazza:

Board 58. Dealer East. NS Vul.

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

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

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

Tor Helness's two clubs was game-forcing. At his second turn he might have bid three hearts, but opted for a splinter bid in spades. This suited Helgemo's hand and the slam was reached. How would you play it when Antonio Sementa leads the ace of diamonds and continues with the diamond five? (An unlikely singleton trump lead is the only sure way to defeat the slam.)

Deep Finesse assures us that declarer must continue with the queen of diamonds (or the eight of diamonds) now, even though East can ruff. Helgemo called for the queen of spades, covered by the king and ace. He ruffed a spade with the nine of hearts and did now play the queen of diamonds. Norberto Bocchi ruffed with the eight of hearts, overruffed with the king. After another spade ruff with the jack of hearts, the ace of clubs was played and the slam drifted one down. If declarer ruffed his last spade he would lose a trump trick.

Giorgio Duboin stopped in four hearts at the other table, making 11 tricks. Zimmermann lost 13 IMPs on the board but hung on to win by 107-98. With this match over, Roland Wald and I, voice commentators on Bridge Base Online, switched tables to watch the end of the quarter-final between Mahaffey and Netherlands Red. The Dutchmen led by 90-87 when the potential slam deal flashed up on our computer screens:

West	North	East	South
Nab	Lindqvist	Drijver	Brogeland
—	—	Pass	1♥
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♥
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♦	Pass	4NT ¹
Pass	5♣ ²	Pass	5♦ ³
Pass	6♦ ⁴	Pass	6♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. RKCB
2. 1 or 4 key cards
3. Queen ask
4. Queen of hearts and king of diamonds

Again two clubs was game-forcing. Espen Lindqvist preferred three hearts to a splinter bid, but the slam was reached nevertheless. At the other table of this match, Danny Molenaar had played in four hearts, making 11 tricks. It seemed that the match would be decided by the fate of six hearts.

Bart Nab led the two of clubs, won with the ace. Boye Brogeland ruffed a club immediately, a necessary move, and led a diamond towards dummy. Minutes ticked by as West considered what to do. Eventually, he rose with the ace, continuing with the jack of diamonds to dummy's king.

Leading the queen of spades or a trump next would be fatal, as the cards lie. Many further minutes passed before Brogeland called for dummy's queen of diamonds. Bas Drijver ruffed with the eight of hearts, overruffed with the king. Only now did Brogeland play the the ace of spades and ruff a spade with the nine of hearts. A club ruff and a second spade ruff with the jack of hearts were followed by a third club ruff. Declarer had reached this end position:

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

Brogeland took a third spade ruff and led the eight of diamonds to complete his performance with a trump coup. Mahaffey gained 13 IMPs and a few minutes later had won the match by 101 to 90. The play of the heart slam had taken a considerable time and the table was well over the prescribed time limit. Not one of the 3850 BBO kibitzers was complaining. They had rarely seen a better-played deal!

Semifinals
Mahaffey v. Vytas
Ventin v. Zimmermann

Board 3. Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Versace</i>	<i>Palma</i>	<i>Lauria</i>	<i>Nyström</i>
—	—	—	Pass
1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♥	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

South led the four of diamonds. Declarer won with dummy's king and played the queen of hearts. North put up the king and must have been pleased when it held the trick. He returned the ten of diamonds and declarer won with the ace, played three rounds of spades, ruffing, and exited with a heart to South's ace.

When South exited with a diamond (a club was essential) declarer won with dummy's queen and played a spade. Suddenly North's two certain trump tricks had been reduced to one. He could pitch a club, but so would declarer, who would then ruff a spade, cross to dummy with a club and play another club for plus 420.

West	North	East	South
<i>Wrang</i>	<i>Helness</i>	<i>Hult</i>	<i>Helgemo</i>
—	—	—	Pass
1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♥	Pass
Pass	Pass		

At this table, South led a diamond. Declarer won in dummy and played the queen of hearts, North winning with the king and returning a diamond. Declarer won in hand and exited with a heart, South winning and exiting with a club. Declarer came to eight tricks, plus 110 – a second double-digit loss in the space of three deals.

Final
Mahaffey v. Ventin

Board 42. Dealer East. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Palma</i>	<i>Lindqvist</i>	<i>Ventin</i>	<i>Brogeland</i>
—	—	1NT	2♦ ¹
3NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. One major

South led the ace of spades and continued with the eight, declarer winning with the king and playing the jack of clubs. When that held he cashed the ace of hearts and ran the jack, North electing to duck (he could have won and switched to diamonds just as well). Declarer played a diamond to the king, North dropping the jack, and declarer played a second diamond, North winning with the ten. He cashed the ace of clubs and exited with a club and declarer could do no better than win in dummy and play two rounds of hearts, North winning and playing a diamond, one down, minus 50.

West	North	East	South
<i>Zia</i>	<i>Nyström</i>	<i>Meckstroth</i>	<i>Hult</i>
—	—	1NT	2♦ ¹
Double	Redouble ²	Pass	2♠
Pass	Pass	3♦	Pass
3♥	Pass	3NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. One major

2. Bid your suit

Here, South led the nine of spades. Declarer won with the jack and played a club for the nine, king and ace. When North returned the three of clubs declarer knew the spades were 7-1 and he went up with the queen, cashed the ace of hearts, overtook the jack with the king and continued with the ten. North won and played the ten of clubs, but declarer won, played a diamond to the king and cashed two hearts. He then played a spade, knowing South would have to surrender a spade at the end, a fine plus 400 and 10 IMPs.

The winners were MAHAFFEY (Boye Brogeland/Espen Lindqvist and Zia Mahmood/Jeff Meckstroth).



Barry Rigal, NYC
David Stern, Sydney

Open Pairs Qualifying Session One

Board 21. Dealer North. NS Vul.

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

<p>♠ 4 ♥ K 4 3 2 ♦ Q 10 5 4 ♣ K 7 5 2</p>	
---	--

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

1. Splinter
2. Key-card ask
3. 1 or 4 key cards

Nye Griffiths (West) did extremely well playing six spades here, I thought. Griffiths covered the eight-of-diamonds lead with the nine and won the ten with the king. He drew trumps, then led a club to his queen, knowing he could pitch his diamond on the jack of clubs for his contract even if the finesse lost. When it held, he was going for the all-important pairs overtrick.

Griffiths cashed the ace of hearts, ruffed a heart and ran all his trumps, pitching diamonds from dummy, reducing to the bare ace of diamonds and the jack-four of clubs, with two diamonds and the club ace in hand.

What was South to do?

She had actually let go a diamond early so Griffiths knew to play on whichever suit she discarded at trick ten. The only defence to give her side a chance would have been to bare the king of clubs early and pitch a diamond at trick ten, when declarer would probably play the opening leader for a doubleton, not a singleton, diamond.

Board 26. Dealer East. Both Vul.

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

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

West	North	East	South
—	—	Pass	Pass
Pass	1NT	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

A straightforward strong notrump auction saw Kevin Rosenberg as North play three notrump and East led a diamond. Rosenberg won cheaply to cash the club ace then, once the queen fell, he took four clubs, ending in hand, to lead a spade to the king. When it held, he had ten tricks but, still not satisfied, he played a spade to the nine and ace. East shifted to a heart, ducked to the queen, and now, when West exited in diamonds rather than cashing the queen of spades, that let Rosenberg win the diamond king, the fifth club, and cross to hand on the diamond ace to squeeze West in the majors for 660 and a 93% board.

Continued on p. 14 ...



IBPA Column Service

Tim Bourke, Canberra

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893. Dealer South. Neither Vul.

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

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

1. Michaels cue-bid, promising 5+/5+ in the majors
2. Limit raise or better in clubs

West led the king of hearts. Declarer could count 11 tricks and saw that, as the spades were undoubtedly 5=1, the twelfth would have to come from an elimination and endplay. So, declarer won the first trick with the ace of hearts and ruffed the three of hearts at trick two. Declarer continued with a low trump to the ace. After West discarded a heart, declarer continued by cashing dummy's ace and king of diamonds. (This was a safe manoeuvre as, from the auction, West had at least ten cards in the majors and so at most three diamonds, giving East at least four cards in the suit.)

Next, declarer drew East's remaining trumps with dummy's king and his queen. After cashing the queen of diamonds, throwing a spade from table, declarer ruffed the nine of diamonds in dummy, eliminating that suit. As West had three diamonds, his original shape had to be 5=5=3=0. Declarer led a spade from dummy and when East played the nine he played the six from his hand. This gave the defenders no winning option.

Since West had discarded the ten of spades earlier, he allowed the nine of spades to hold; but as East only had hearts left, he had to lead one. Declarer threw the queen of spades from his hand and ruffed in dummy for his tenth trick. His hand was now high, with a trump and the ace of spades.

Of course, if West had overtaken the nine of spades he could avoid conceding a ruff-and-discard only by leading a spade, giving declarer the two spade tricks needed for his contract.

Finally, there was an alternative endplay: declarer could have cashed the ace of spades before endplaying East with a diamond to get a forced heart return with the same result as occurred at the table in practice.

894. Dealer South. NS Vul.

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

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

West's bid of two spades promised at least five-five in hearts and a minor. North's return cue-bid of three hearts promised a limit raise or better in spades. South's rebid of three spades showed a minimum opening. So, once North control-bid four clubs as a slam try, South was happy to cooperate by control-bidding his ace of hearts. North then applied Roman Key Card and bid the slam.

West led the king of hearts. Declarer counted twelve tricks as long as he could play the trumps without the loss of a trick. As a result, declarer took the first trick with ace of hearts and led a low trump to dummy's ace, thankful that West had followed. Then declarer led the ten of trumps from dummy and, after East followed with a low card, he had to decide whether to run this or play trumps from the top.

The decision was not close. Declarer placed West with at least ten cards in hearts and a minor, most likely clubs. As the odds of West having one trump and two

diamonds were much greater than two trumps and one diamond, declarer played a low trump from hand at trick three. An additional factor was that West might have led a singleton diamond, had he held one. Declarer was greatly relieved when West discarded a heart. As a result, declarer claimed twelve tricks: five trumps, a heart, four diamonds and two clubs.

895. Dealer South. NS Vul.

♠ K Q 6
 ♥ K 7 5 2
 ♦ J 9 7 3
 ♣ A K

♠ 5
 ♥ J 6
 ♦ K Q 8 5 2
 ♣ Q J 10 8 5

♠ 8 7 3 2
 ♥ 10 9 4 3
 ♦ 4
 ♣ 9 7 6 3

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

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

1. Unusual, promising at least 5-5 in the minors
2. Limit raise+ in spades

West entered the auction with a thin Unusual Notrump, thereby giving too much information away about his hand. North cue bid three diamonds, the higher suit, to promise a limit raise or better in spades. South showed extras with control-bids of three hearts and four diamonds. North concluded the auction in six spades after asking for key cards with four notrump.

West led the queen of clubs. Declarer counted the usual eleven winners. The saving grace was that he knew that West would not enjoy the run of the major suits. After winning the first trick with the ace of clubs, declarer drew trumps in four rounds, throwing a low diamond from dummy. West threw two diamonds and a club. When declarer played a fifth trump, West threw a club, reducing to two hearts, three diamonds and two clubs. Then declarer cashed the ace and queen of hearts, revealing that West began with 1=2=5=5 shape and was left with 3=2 in the minors.

A heart to dummy's king drew a third club discard from West. Declarer reacted to this by cashing dummy's king of clubs, reducing West to three diamonds only. Declarer called for dummy's jack of diamonds and ran it to West's queen. Declarer made the last two tricks on the forced diamond return for his contract: he made eight tricks in the majors and four in the minors.

Of course West could not have done better by discarding a diamond on the king of hearts. Declarer would simply play ace and another diamond. West

would win a diamond trick but dummy would take the last two tricks with the king of clubs and the good jack of diamonds.

896. Dealer South. NS Vul.

♠ K 7 5 4
 ♥ A Q 6 3 2
 ♦ A
 ♣ K Q 2

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

♠ J 9 8 6
 ♥ 8 5 4
 ♦ 10 5
 ♣ 8 7 4 3

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

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

1. At least 5/5 in hearts and diamonds

North made two penalty-oriented doubles, but South did not like his void in the suit and so bid three spades. North then drove to six spades.

West led the king of diamonds. As usual, declarer could count eleven tricks against any distribution and twelve if the trumps were an unlikely three-two. After winning the first trick with dummy's ace of diamonds, declarer played the king and ace of trumps, getting the bad news that East had a trick in the suit. Declarer ruffed a diamond then cashed the king of clubs. The queen of clubs was overtaken with the ace. When West discarded a diamond, declarer paused to think.

It was clear from the auction that East had longer hearts than diamonds; otherwise he would have bid three diamonds instead of three hearts. Declarer surmised that West began with 1=5=6=1 shape and East with 4=3=2=4 distribution. So, declarer cashed the queen of trumps and played two more rounds of clubs, reducing everyone to four cards. Declarer now played his last club. East threw a heart because he saw that there was no point in ruffing. If he did ruff, he would have had to lead a heart, allowing declarer to take the last three tricks with two hearts and a trump. However, that only served to delay his fate for declarer now led a trump, throwing dummy's remaining low heart. East got his trump trick but dummy's ace and queen of hearts had to take the last two tricks.

Of course, if West had followed to the second club, he would have been marked with 1=5=5=2 shape. So a second diamond could then have been ruffed safely in dummy. The ace of hearts would have taken care of declarer's last diamond and all declarer would have lost would have been a trump trick.

Open Pairs Qualifying Session Two

Board 9. Dealer North. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Sylvester	Eileen Li	Gill	Diaxiong Li
—	1♣	Pass	1♥
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

When I watched Peter Gill and Liz Sylvester defend against three notrump, Gill guessed well to lead a spade rather than a diamond – you could have pried a spade rather than a diamond out of my cold dead hand. Mrs. Li won to run three hearts then led a spade to the ten. What was Gill to do?

We can see that ducking and waiting for partner to get in with the club ace would have worked – but what if declarer had a 4=3=2=4 pattern with good clubs and no diamond ace? Gill covered his bases ingeniously by winning with the spade ace and shifting to the diamond jack, covering this precise layout of the diamonds. While declarer should have won in dummy to lead a club to the queen, she actually won in dummy to cash hearts, then led a diamond to the ten. Gill had a diamond trick and his partner could collect the club ace at the end. The second overtrick in three notrump would have been worth 89%, while plus 430 was only 28% for North/South. Everyone in four hearts had no real choice but to make 11 tricks with the spades behaving and the jack of clubs onside.

Board 27. Dealer South. Neither Vul.

♠ Q 5 ♥ K Q 9 7 6 3 2 ♦ — ♣ 10 9 4 3 ♠ K 10 8 ♥ 8 4 ♦ K 10 5 4 ♣ Q J 6 5 ♠ A J 9 ♥ J 5 ♦ 9 8 7 2 ♣ A K 8 7	♠ 7 6 4 3 2 ♥ A 10 ♦ A Q J 6 3 ♣ 2
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An unusual example of a Morton's Fork coup came up here. Viv Wood (North) declared four hearts after Kim Morrison (South) had opened one diamond, which had the effect of persuading Johnny Davidson (East) not to sacrifice in four spades. Davidson led his singleton club; Wood won with the ace and led the heart jack 'round to Davidson, who shifted to a spade.

What was Susan Humphries to do? If she won with her king and played a club for Davidson to ruff, then declarer would pitch her remaining club loser on the spades. So, she put in the ten, and now Wood could win and draw trumps. At this point, had declarer played for a black-suit strip squeeze, cashing the king of clubs and running the hearts, she could have emerged with plus 450. When she simply took the spade finesse she was back to plus 420, but still a 69% score.

Open Pairs Final Session One

Board 5. Dealer North. NS Vul.

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

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

I thought Marshall Lewis played four hearts rather nicely here. He overcalled two hearts over one spade (not mandatory by any means) and Maurits Van Der Vlugt had already seen enough of Marshall's bidding to settle in four hearts after just one slam try. Baard Aasan led his doubleton diamond and Lewis won in dummy to play a spade which, on this auction, Trond Rogne could not possibly duck. Back came a second diamond and Lewis won in dummy to lead a low heart. Perhaps North should have ducked this, but, when he took his ace and played a top diamond, Lewis could ruff high, ruff out the spade king, cash the heart king, then carefully ruff the last diamond to hand and draw the last trump, avoiding the club ruff altogether. That was worth all but one of the match points.

Open Pairs Final Session Two

To me, this was one of the hardest declarer-play problems of the set. You'd expect North/South to be seduced into playing three notrump at quite a lot of tables (of course, both five clubs and five diamonds are perfectly sensible contracts).

Board 8. Dealer West. Neither Vul.

♠ A 8 6 5 ♥ 3 ♦ A K 2 ♣ A K J 5 4 ♠ Q 4 3 ♥ A J 10 9 2 ♦ 10 7 ♣ Q 6 3 ♠ K 7 ♥ K Q 8 ♦ J 8 5 4 3 ♣ 10 7 2	♠ J 10 9 2 ♥ 7 6 5 4 ♦ Q 9 6 ♣ 9 8
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In fact, three notrump by South on a heart lead seems to present declarer with a problem to which there is no sensible solution, other than to guess well. You capture the heart jack in hand with the king and now want to bring in one minor or the other for four or more tricks. Are there any clues as to which suit to play on? I can't see any!

Cashing all the ace-kings in the minors in the hope of a doubleton queen is quite plausible, but then you have to guess what to do next. David Stern suggests the intriguing line of the jack of diamonds at trick two! If West plays low smoothly, go up with the ace and cross back to hand in spades to finesse in clubs; if West covers with the diamond queen, duck and hope the suit is 3-2. That would bring in ten tricks today, for a 70% result, with plus 400 being average. Quite a few pairs played one minor-suit game or the other and wrapped up 11 tricks, while three pairs made overtricks in notrump and three went down.

Open Pairs Final Session Three

Before the third session Johnno Newman and Matthew Brown (the eventual winners) had a sizeable lead over second place (more than they realized since the second-placed pair had reported a score correction on themselves). They needed all of it, since their third set was barely average, but it turned out to be just enough.

Board 2. Dealer East. NS Vul.

♠ Q J 6 ♥ A K Q 3 2 ♦ 6 2 ♣ J 9 8 ♠ K 9 4 3 2 ♥ 6 5 4 ♦ 10 7 5 ♣ Q 10 ♠ A 5 ♥ J 10 9 7 ♦ 8 4 3 ♣ A 7 5 3	♠ 10 8 7 ♥ 8 ♦ A K Q J 9 ♣ K 6 4 2
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West	North	East	South
Lu	Newman	Qin	Brown
—	—	1♦	Pass
1♠	2♥	Double!	3♦
Pass	3♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			
1. 3-card support			

If not playing support doubles, an aggressive East might have bid three clubs over two hearts and three spades over three hearts, playing right there. As it was, Newman played three hearts from the North seat on the auction above. Newman ran into the defence of two rounds of diamonds from Qin, followed by a spade shift. He ducked this to West, and back came a third diamond, West having apparently begun with three diamonds to the ten. Best is to ruff high, unblock spades, cross to a top heart and cash the third spade. Then you lead a heart to dummy in this ending:

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

If trumps break (so that East appears to have 3=2=5=3 pattern), you need to lead a club to the nine and hope that East has king-queen-third of clubs and West tenth. If, as happened at the table, East discards on the second trump: (i.) cash the club ace (hoping West forgets to unblock from honour-low) and draw the last trump then exit in clubs, hoping for the blockage; or (ii.) play West for doubleton-ten or doubleton-honour-ten. In practice, Newman actually led a low club from dummy after cashing all the trumps, covering the ten with the jack, then guessed to drop the bare honour. That was worth an 85% score.

An interesting play would have been for West to follow to the first club with the ten from ten-doubleton.

The winners were Matthew Brown and Johnno Newman.

**Open Teams Qualifying Round One
FLIMFLAMMERY
as suggested by Terry Brown**

When I first wrote up the following deal (see *top of next page*), I commented that, to make four spades, it would be necessary, after a diamond lead and continuation, to handle trumps very carefully.

Board 1. Dealer North. Neither Vul.

♠ A Q 9 ♥ Q 10 4 ♦ A 7 6 5 3 ♣ J 5 ♠ K 10 7 5 ♥ A 3 ♦ K Q J 9 ♣ A 9 3 ♠ 8 6 ♥ 9 8 6 5 ♦ 10 4 ♣ Q 10 8 7 6	♠ J 4 3 2 ♥ K J 7 2 ♦ 8 2 ♣ K 4 2
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I commented that if South has passed his partner's opening bid, it might be best to win the second diamond in dummy and play North for the spade ace-queen by leading a low trump toward the East hand. That would neutralize a trump promotion.

Let me revisit that statement; it might be necessary – but would it be sufficient? Over to Terry Brown, who writes as follows:

“In Round One of the Open Teams, you arrive at the table and are greeted by Don and Judy Scown of Forster, NSW. On the evidence provided by this deal, Forster Bridge Club must be full of hucksters, con artists and flim-flam merchants. After North opened a 12-14 notrump South bid two spades, transfer to clubs, West doubled, showing spades, North bid three clubs and West raised his partner's three-spade call to game.”

“Don led the diamond ten. Judy won with the ace and returned the suit; Brown won in dummy and led a low trump; well done! Not to be outdone, Judy took the ace(!) and returned a third diamond. Yes, maybe declarer should have ruffed in with the jack – would you have thought of it? At the table, Terry discarded and South scored his eight of spades. Judy had the trump queen to come for one down.”

“So be warned: make sure to keep your wallet well and truly hidden if you go to Forster. There are some horse-thieves out there after your hard-earned cash.”

Open Teams Qualifying Round Eight

Board 16. Dealer West. EW Vul.

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

Frances Hinden and Graham Osborne come all the way from England, and who do they play? The Scots Team. Osborne played four hearts very nicely here, I thought.

There is only one lead by East to defeat four hearts double-dummy, a low trump. After Silverstone's lead of a top diamond honour, Osborne won with the ace to carefully ruff a diamond, then crossed to a top club to lead a third diamond, ruffed by Diamond and overruffed. Now a club to dummy to ruff another diamond, the spade ace and a spade ruff produced this ending:

♠ Q J ♥ 4 ♦ — ♣ J 7	♠ 5 4 ♥ A J 10 ♦ — ♣ — ♠ 8 ♥ K Q 6 3 ♦ — ♣ — ♠ — ♥ — ♦ 9 8 ♣ 10 9 2
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Osborne led a diamond from dummy and, when Diamond ruffed with the four, he discarded a spade. No matter what East did, Osborne could pitch a spade if necessary on the next trick and ensure two more tricks. In the other room declarer mistimed the cross-ruff and ended with one too many trumps for the endplay to work.

A fascinating variation arises if Diamond retains both his trumps as West. Compare this position:

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

If declarer leads a diamond from dummy in this position, West ruffs with the four of hearts, declarer discards a spade, and East under-ruffs. Now a trump

through the ace-jack-ten lets East win and cross back with a spade to allow East to score one more trump trick. Instead, declarer leads a club from dummy, and pitches a spade as West wins the jack, again catching East in a sort of decompression. He wants to leave partner on lead, but that forces him to pitch his spade. Now the defenders' communications have been cut.

Open Teams Qualifying Round Ten The Other Shoe Drops

Board 21. Dealer North. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Cormack</i>	<i>Appleton</i>	<i>Whitaker</i>	<i>Rigal</i>
—	Pass	1♥	Pass
2♥	Pass	4♥	Pass
Pass	Pass		

After the lead of the club ten to North's ace, the only defence is to shift to diamonds immediately. When North played for a club ruff, declarer won and needed to play to build a discard for the diamond loser. If he plays a trump to dummy to ruff a club high, he sees the club layout, and now knows South is likely to have the spade length. There are two sensible plays, one being to draw trumps ending in dummy and run the spade nine. The second is to cash the spade ace early, which works as the cards lie, but may not cover all the bases.

As the cards lie, if you run the spade nine, it will be covered by ten, jack and queen. South must return a spade and the strength of the spade spots means that the spade four will be established for the fourth round of the suit.

That was a flat board in four hearts down one at the table though, when neither declarer exploited the spades to best advantage.

The following was a tough deal, I thought (see *top of next column*).

Both tables played three notrump from North but, at one table, West had shown a weak two, at the other, West had shown a two-suiter. Both defences led and continued spades, declarer winning the second. What now?

Board 24. Dealer West. Neither Vul.

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

You could certainly make an argument for cashing the heart ace-king, playing for 3-3 hearts, or the jack to fall doubleton. However, that fails on the actual lie, since East can exit with the jack of hearts when winning the first diamond, making one spade, two hearts and two diamonds.

The alternative approach is to cash one high heart (just in case), cross to a club and play a diamond to the ten; this wins if West has one of the top three diamond honours singleton or doubleton but, if you are wrong, your entries may have been compromised for playing on hearts to best effect. At one table, Jo Simpson played on diamonds, while David Appleton went after hearts, and that was 10 IMPs to the bad guys. It really isn't clear to me which line is better, but it is certainly clear which line works.

Qualifiers were:

1. HINDEN (Hinden, Osborne, Cooper, Dyke) 168.81
2. THORPE (Klinger, Mullamphy, Gartaganis, Gartaganis, Silver, Carruthers) 167.65
3. HIRST (Hirst, Gue, Eginton, Hyett, Weston, Foster) 161.03
4. BOUTON (Bouton, Williams, Rew, Brake, Johnston) 160.61
5. HACKETT (Hackett, O'Shea, Patterson, Sansom, Hackett, Hackett) 157.52
6. BUCHEN (Buchen, Thomson, Stock, Yuen) 157.50

Seventh was SIME, just 0.23 VP out of qualifying.

Open Teams Quarterfinal One

Six teams of the 226 entered qualified for knockout play, the top two receiving byes to the semifinals. These were Hinden and Thorpe.

Thus, in the quarterfinals, with Hirst having the choice of opponents, Hirst faced Bouton and Buchen played against Hackett.

On the following deal (see *top of next page*), all four tables played in three notrump, declared from the North seat.

Board 11. Dealer South. Neither Vul.

<p>♠ 7 6 ♥ Q J 9 ♦ Q J 8 6 2 ♣ K 9 6</p> <p>♠ K 9 8 4 ♥ 8 7 2 ♦ 10 4 ♣ A Q 10 2</p> <p>♠ A Q J 10 3 ♥ A K 10 ♦ K 5 ♣ J 7 5</p>	<p>♠ 5 2 ♥ 6 5 4 3 ♦ A 9 7 3 ♣ 8 4 3</p>
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All four tables declared three notrump from North. In one match, Peter Buchen led a heart. Declarer won and played on spades; Ian Thomson won the with the king to play the queen of clubs! Now declarer had eight tricks but the defenders were ready to run clubs when they got in with ace of diamonds. In the other room, Stock played much more deceptively, winning the heart ace and playing the king of diamonds. Justin Hackett ducked this and now declarer turned his attention to spades with his ninth trick already in the bag. That won 10 IMPs for Buchen.

In the other match, on a blind auction, Hyett led a diamond and the defence was over. Jessica Brake, for Bouton, led a heart. Weston won with the ace to play the king of diamonds. Brake took this and accurately shifted to a club. Now declarer could not survive, whatever he did. That was also 10 IMPs to Bouton.

Open Teams Quarterfinal Two**Board 15. Dealer South. NS Vul.**

<p>♠ 8 7 5 4 ♥ Q 7 6 ♦ K J 5 ♣ A Q 5</p> <p>♠ J 10 3 ♥ K J 9 5 4 2 ♦ A 9 4 ♣ 9</p> <p>♠ A K 9 2 ♥ A ♦ 8 3 2 ♣ J 10 8 7 2</p>	<p>♠ Q 6 ♥ 10 8 3 ♦ Q 10 7 6 ♣ K 6 4 3</p>
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Both rooms reached four spades after East/West had competed in hearts, but that was the only thing they had in common.

In the Open Room, Gue, sitting North, won the heart lead, cashed a top spade and played a club to the queen, losing to the king. The defence continued with a club, which West ruffed with his natural trump trick. Hirst unblocking the ace.

Not surprisingly, West continued with a low diamond and Hirst, realising that if the ace of diamonds were

on his left, he was going down to a second club ruff, rose with the king, drew the trumps, and pitched his losing diamonds on the long clubs.

In the Closed Room, declarer lost a trump, a club and two diamond tricks for one down, 13 IMPs to Hirst.

Board 20. Dealer West. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Williams	Gue	Brake	Hirst
Pass	2♥	Pass	3♦
Pass	3NT	Pass	4♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

West	North	East	South
Eginton	Bouton	Hyett	Rew
Pass	Pass	3♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		

My co-editor, Barry Rigal, after being consulted on the North hand, commented that he would open two hearts, very much based on the jack-high sequence in hearts and would like it far less if the heart suit were broken. "But it is Australia, and it is a six-card suit, making it almost compulsory," he added.

The decision to open the hand with two hearts proved to be critical on the deal. By opening, Gue heard partner bid an 'encouraging' three diamonds, an excellent bid in case the opponents declared the hand so that partner could lead the right suit. After all, South did hold secondary support for partner. When Gue bid three notrump, Hirst, looking at a singleton spade, knew this wasn't the place to be and chose to bid four hearts. This contract is a little lucky inasmuch as, had the defence's trumps not been tangled up, they could have beaten four hearts by playing trumps, thereby denying declarer spade ruffs.

In the Closed Room, where Bouton had elected not to open with two hearts, Hyett opened three spades on a hand that may have received the majority of votes, but certainly would not be a universal choice. Interestingly, three spades can be beaten on VERY careful defence after the king-of-diamonds lead. North, upon winning the ace of spades, must switch to the king and another club, won by South's ace. On the queen of diamonds, North discards a club and then

receives a club ruff. That defence was not found and Hirst scored plus 650 and plus 140 for 13 IMPs .

Open Teams Semifinals Set One

Hinden chose Hirst for its semifinal, leaving Thorpe to do battle with Buchen. No matter the outcomes, there would be English versus Canadians in the final, with Australians on all four teams.

We shall distinguish the Gartaganises (of the Thorpe team) by referring to them by their first names, Judith and Nicholas.

Board 1. Dealer North. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Cooper	Weston	Dyke	Foster
—	Pass	1♣	Pass
1♥	Pass	1NT ¹	Pass
2♦ ²	Pass	2♥ ³	Pass
3NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. 18-19
2. Checkback, FG
3. 3-card heart support

The first deal saw a delicate four-spade game for East/West. Dyke/Cooper, however, bid to three notrump, which presented few problems today, especially on a spade lead from South. Dyke guessed hearts for his tenth trick, plus 430.

At the other table...

West	North	East	South
Hirst	Osborne	Gue	Hinden
—	Pass	1♣	Pass
1♥	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		

In four spades by West, declarer had to take some good views. Osborne led the seven of diamonds, third-from-even. South won with her ace and returned the deuce. Declarer won in hand with the king and ran the jack of spades, ducked, and another to South's king. Hinden exited with a spade and Hirst won, then tried to cash the queen of diamonds. South could ruff, but then had to lead from one of her jacks. She chose a heart, keeping the defence in the game – until Hirst put in the ten, forcing the king from North. That

flattened the board. Even if South won the first spade and returned one, declarer could have achieved the same position by cashing a third trump.

In the other match...

West	North	East	South
Klinger	Stock	Mullamphy	Yuen
—	Pass	2♦ ¹	Pass
2♠ ²	Pass	2NT ³	Pass
3♣ ⁴	Pass	3♦ ⁵	Pass
3NT ⁶	Pass	4♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. 18-20 balanced
2. Puppet to 2NT
3. Forced
4. Stayman
5. At least one 4-card major
6. Both majors

Ron Klinger, West, received a third-and-fifth-highest five-of-diamonds lead from North. South won with the ace and returned the diamond deuce. When North followed with the four of diamonds, this was consistent with each player holding four diamonds. Klinger ran the jack of spades to South's king and Yuen led back another trump, North discarding the six of diamonds. With two tricks already lost, Klinger had to decide whether to try to guess hearts for one loser or, alternatively, ruff the fourth club in hand and discard a heart on the queen of diamonds. When he went for the club ruff and tried to cash the queen of diamonds, playing North for an initial 1=4=4=4 shape, South was able to ruff and exit in trumps, waiting for the setting trick in hearts; minus 50.

West	North	East	South
Thomson	Nick	Buchen	Judith
—	Pass	1♣	Pass
1♥	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		

On a club lead from North, it looks logical to play a diamond to hand and take a trump finesse, but when that lost, Judith cashed the diamond ace and exited with a trump. What should Thomson have done? Recognising the likelihood of a 6-2 diamond break from South's play, Thomson, for the Buchen team, brought home four spades by resisting the temptation to try to cash the third diamond after losing the spade finesse. He drew trumps ending in hand, took the queen of diamonds and cashed off the clubs, throwing South in with the fourth. With only hearts remaining, South exited with a low one and Thomson guessed to put in the ten, forcing the king for his tenth trick. That gave Buchen a 10-IMP lead which they never relinquished.

Open Teams Semifinals Set Three

This was an excellent bidding exercise:

Board 30. Dealer East. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Eginton</i>	<i>Osborne</i>	<i>Hyett</i>	<i>Hinden</i>
—	—	Pass	1♣
Pass	1♦ ¹	Pass	1♠
Pass	3♥ ²	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♣	Pass	5♣
Pass	5♥	Pass	Pass

1. Transfer to hearts
2. Forcing

Since it was obvious that neither North nor South had a diamond control, Hyett led the ace of diamonds and, when he received encouragement, continued the suit to Eginton's king. That was plus 650 to Hinden.

West	North	East	South
<i>Dyke</i>	<i>Gue</i>	<i>Cooper</i>	<i>Hirst</i>
—	—	Pass	1♣
Pass	1♥	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♦ ¹	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♠	Pass	4NT ²
Pass	5♥ ³	Pass	6♣ ⁴
Pass	7♠	Pass	Pass

1. Fourth-suit forcing
2. Key-card ask
3. 2 key cards without the queen of spades
4. An attempt to play but interpreted as a grand-slam try

Dyke needed no time at all to lead a diamond and Hirst was soon three off for 14 IMPs to Hinden.

West	North	East	South
<i>Thomson</i>	<i>Klinger</i>	<i>Buchen</i>	<i>Mullamphy</i>
—	—	Pass	1♣
Pass	1♦ ¹	Pass	1♠
Pass	3♥ ²	Pass	4♣ ³
Pass	4♥	Pass	Pass

1. Transfer to hearts
2. Forcing, sets trumps
3. Spade and club control, no diamond control

Klinger and Mullamphy had the machinery to stop at the four level, making all the tricks on a spade lead.

West	North	East	South
<i>Carruthers</i>	<i>Stock</i>	<i>Silver</i>	<i>Yuen</i>
—	—	Pass	1♣
Pass	1♥	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♦ ¹	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♠	Pass	3NT
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♥
Pass	6♥	Pass	6NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

It is a good job that we don't have to comment on the merits of the North hand setting spades as opposed to hearts as the trump suit. Two of our Norths set spades and regretted it later – not entirely a surprise. In the other match, when Hirst had tried to get out of spades, he had found himself two levels higher a round later. In this match, when Stock used keycard, he might have passed five hearts, but no doubt he assumed Yuen might have a diamond control for his three-notrump call. In a way, six notrump was more likely to make than six hearts, given the lie of the opponents' cards, but Carruthers led a diamond from West and the defenders cashed out for four down. That was a 15-IMP gain for Thorpe.

Open Teams Final Set Three

Hinden and Buchen had won their semifinal matches for the right to contest the final.

Board 9. Dealer North. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Yuen</i>	<i>Osborne</i>	<i>Stock</i>	<i>Hinden</i>
—	3♥	4♦	4♥
Double	Pass	5♦	Double
Pass	Pass	Pass	

West	North	East	South
<i>Cooper</i>	<i>Buchen</i>	<i>Dyke</i>	<i>Thomson</i>
—	Pass	5♦	Pass
Pass	Pass		

When Hinden led the ace of hearts, Stock ruffed, drew trumps, crossed to a club to cash the heart winners, ruffed a heart back to hand and ran the diamonds.

South was subjected to a spade-club squeeze for the unusual score of minus 1150, and 11 IMPs to Buchen, now trailing 82-61.

Open Teams Final Set Four

This deal offered both sides the chance to be heroes:

Board 44. Dealer West. Both Vul.

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

	♠ 10 2		
	♥ Q 10 8		
	♦ Q 10 8 3 2		
	♣ 9 8 7		
West	North	East	South
<i>Yuen</i>	<i>Osborn</i>	<i>Stock</i>	<i>Hinden</i>
<i>Cooper</i>	<i>Buchen</i>	<i>Dyke</i>	<i>Thomson</i>
1♦	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♠	Pass	5♦	Pass
5♥	Pass	6♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Hinden led the seven of clubs. Osborne won with his ace and returned a low one. Stock won, drew trumps, cashed the ace of diamonds, crossed to the king of hearts, cashed the king of diamonds, throwing a heart loser and ruffed a diamond. He ruffed the club loser but had to lose a heart at the end for minus 100.

Dyke successfully played for a red-suit squeeze after Buchen played the ace and king of clubs to the first two tricks. Declarer ruffed the club in dummy, came to the ace of diamonds, cashed two trumps ending in dummy, cashed the king of diamonds and ruffed a diamond. Then he simply ran his winners, including the queen of clubs. South had to concede.

Board 47. Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Yuen</i>	<i>Osborne</i>	<i>Stock</i>	<i>Hinden</i>
—	—	—	1♣
Pass	1♦ ¹	1♠	2♥ ²
Pass	4♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			

1. Transfer to hearts
2. 4-card support

West	North	East	South
<i>Cooper</i>	<i>Buchen</i>	<i>Dyke</i>	<i>Thomson</i>
—	—	—	1♣
Pass	1♥	1♠	2♥ ¹
Pass	4♥	All pass	

1. 4-card support

Buchen faced the defence against four hearts of a top spade lead. He won the first and took a diamond finesse. Dyke won the king and played two more rounds of spades, ruffed by the ten and overruffed by the jack. Now declarer switched to a cross-ruff. He cashed two diamonds to pitch a club from dummy and tried to cash the ace and king of clubs. This line was perfectly sensible unless East had a singleton club, but as it was, Dyke could ruff in and had a trump trick still to come, for down one.

Hinden declared four hearts from the South seat on the lead of the jack of spades. She won with the ace and passed the jack of diamonds to East, who won and cashed a spade then exited in diamonds. Hinden won the queen and guessed well, in a sense, to lead a low trump from dummy. East played low, and Hinden won her queen of hearts, drew another round of trumps with the ace and played the cross-ruff. Had Stock taken the king of hearts and returned the suit, declarer would have had no route home.

The match finished 152-80 to Hinden. With the exception of a five-board purple patch where Buchen had scored 35 IMPs, Hinden had held their opponents to less than an IMP a board, and had certainly deserved their win.



Playing for New Zealand in the CNBC, I did not do many things right, but I was able to put my partner Kris Wooles, a New Zealand Champion and international player, into a contract that allowed him to showcase his excellent card-playing skills.

Dealer North. Neither Vul.

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

After an auction that saw West and North express their views of where the bidding should end, West led the king of spades. Wooles won, gave up a heart, ruffed the heart continuation and eliminated the trumps and major suits to reach this position:

♠ — ♥ — ♦ K 10 5 ♣ Q 9 4 ♠ Q 10 6 ♥ — ♦ — ♣ J 7 6	♠ J 9 8 ♥ — ♦ — ♣ K 10 6 ♠ — ♥ — ♦ Q 9 ♣ A 8 5 3
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Declarer knew enough from the auction to lead a low club from hand and cover the club six with the nine, ending play East to lead a club round to the queen or concede a ruff and discard. So far so good, but in the post mortem discussion at the bar (I was sipping lemonade, as is my wont) the question was raised as to whether the defence could have done better. Let's say East can infer declarer's full shape at trick three. He also knows that declarer has no chance to make his game if he is missing the club ace, and no way to go down if he also has the club jack. So the full defence must be to focus West's attention on the precise lie of the cards. Why? So that West can go in with the club jack on the first round of the suit, giving declarer a legitimate choice as to which defender to play for the club ten – if West, declarer must duck the jack, if East, he must cover.

Beware! West needs to know if East has ace-ten-third or king-ten-third of clubs since, in the former case, West must not put up the club jack or he gives declarer a chance to make an unmakeable game. My

suggestion would be that East's play in following with his hearts and spades should perhaps distinguish between the two holdings. With the club ace (with or without the ten), he follows up the line, but with the king-ten he suggests less in the lowest suit by following in spades and hearts from the top. However, lacking the ace, jack and ten in clubs, declarer would undoubtedly have started the suit from the dummy, playing East for a doubleton ace.



Correspondence

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

The EBL has the possibility to either appeal or not against the decision of CAS, made on the 10th January, not later than 26th February 2018. After the decision of CAS, the NBOs expressed some opinions on the present and future situation in Belfast.

On 10th February, when we received the confirmation of this deadline from Mr. Ross Wenzel, our Swiss lawyer, I sent you an email including some elements for or against an appeal; I asked your opinion and your comments to be shared and circulated by email between all EC members. Except for Marc De Pauw, all of you have answered me mostly with detailed comments and proposals for the future. A large majority of you share the opinion of our Swiss lawyer that we not appeal against the decision of CAS:

- The grounds to appeal in the Swiss Federal Tribunal are extremely limited and EBL chances appear minimal;
- Even if successful, the case goes back to the same CAS panel with certainly the same decision;
- If, as it looks like, the EBL would lose this appeal, this would be seen as a new victory for the cheats.

All of us are disappointed and frustrated by this CAS decision. However some elements of reference in the judgement remain positive. CAS indicated:

- The fact that the unusual behaviour of the players justified both the inquiry and the disciplinary procedure conducted by the EBL;
- The EBL did not prove, to the comfortable satisfaction of the majority of the Panel, that the cards were not randomly placed because such apparent conclusion was based on unreliable statistics;
- But such conclusion does not mean that the players are innocent of any wrong doing,

- And future investigations by the EBL, based on more consistent and reliable data, may lead to a different outcome than in the present matter.

As you already know, the decision was made with a 2 to 1 majority vote after a nine-month period of reflection. Now it becomes clear that any claims against cheats cannot be based only on statistics but with additional elements of proof and that the EBL has to modify its Ethics and Code of Discipline.

After this failure before the CAS, we are in the same situation as the IOC which was disappointed with the CAS decision involving the infringements of the anti-doping Code by Russian athletes in Sochi in 2014. In its award, the Panel of CAS did not take into consideration the proven existence of a systematic manipulation of the anti-doping system for 28 cases. CAS required an even higher threshold for the necessary level of evidence. The Secretary General of CAS insisted that the CAS decision does not mean that these 28 athletes are declared to be innocent of any wrongdoing.

In spite of this decision of CAS, the IOC decided not to invite those 28 athletes to the Pyeongchang games by declaring that “not being sanctioned does not automatically confer the privilege of an invitation”.

Similar to the Olympics Games, EBL championships are by invitation. For all these above reasons, on behalf of the members of the EBL Executive Committee, I have decided not to appeal against the decision of CAS made on the 10th January and notified to the EBL on 26th January 2018.

Yves Aubry, President, EBL

NEWS & VIEWS



2018 Commonwealth Nations Teams

The Commonwealth Teams was held immediately prior to and in the same venue as this year's Gold Coast Congress. Victorious were India: Kiran Nadar/Bachiraju Satyanarayana; Jaggy Shivdasani/Rajeshwar Tewari; and Keyzad Anklesaria/Sunit Chokshi.

Worldwide Bridge Contest

The 2018 World Wide Bridge Contest heats will be played on eight different days with simultaneous pairs being held on:

- Tuesday 27th March & Thursday 29th March
- Tuesday 24th April & Thursday 26th April
- Monday 7th May & Wednesday 9th May
- Friday 1st June & Saturday 2nd June

24 Pairs will qualify from the 2018 heats to attend the final, which will be held in either Shanghai or Sanya from 26th-28th October with players arriving on the 25th and departing on the 29th. There will be a subsidy for travel expenses (USD800 for players coming from Asia, USD1200 for players coming from other continents), free B&B accommodation and a great prize fund.

Further details and information can be found at: <http://www.ecatsbridge.com/sims/wwbc/default.asp>

2018 HCL

The 16th HCL International will be held at the JW Marriott Hotel, New Delhi Aerocity, India from August 9 to 14. USD270,000 will be offered in cash prizes. As in previous years, there will be Teams and Pairs. Details can be found at www.hcl-bridge.com.

Lederer Memorial

This year's Lederer, now held in February at the RAC, London, was won by Israel: Michael Barel/Migry Zur-Campanile; Ilan Bareket/Assaf Lengy.



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World Bridge Calendar

DATES	EVENT	LOCATION	INFORMATION
2018			
Mar 8-18	ACBL Spring NABC	Philadelphia, PA	www.acbl.org
Mar 11-18	Dead Sea Bridge Festival	Ein Bokek, Israel	birmand@inter.net.il
Mar 16-18	48 th Kitzbuhl Bridge Days	Kitzbuhl, Austria	www.bridgeaustria.at
Mar 16-18	Swiss Open	Zurich, Switzerland	www.fsbridge.ch
Mar 22-25	Tasmanian Festival of Bridge	Launceston, Tasmania, Australia	www.tasbridge.com.au
Mar 25-30	White House Junior Invitational Teams	Amsterdam, The Netherlands	whjuniors2018@gmail.com
Mar 27-Apr 1	123 rd Easter Regional	Toronto, ON	www.unit166.ca
Mar 28-Apr 1	Nordic Junior Pairs Championship	Falkenberg, Sweden	kansliet@svensktbridge.se
Apr 1-10	Asia Cup	Dhaka, Bangladesh	www.pabf.org
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 3-7	Autumn Nationals	Adelaide, Australia	www.abf.com.au
May 4-8	Schapiro Spring Foursomes	Stratford-upon-Avon, England	www.ebu.co.uk
May 5-7	German Bridge Team Trophy	Berlin, Germany	www.bridge-verband.de
May 10	38 th Bonn Cup	Bad Godeburg, Germany	www.bridge-verband.de
May 11-19	68 th South American Championships	Bahia, Brazil	http://comandatura2018.csabridge.org/?lang=en
May 11-20	United States Bridge Championship	Houston, TX	www.usbf.org
May 14-18	23 rd Barrier Reef Congress	Townsville, Qld., Australia	www.abf.com.au
May 19-27	Turkish Summer Open Championships	Kusadasi, Turkey	www.tbrcfed.org
May 19-28	30 th International Festival	Porto-Vecchio, Corsica, France	www.bridgeclub-portovecchio.com
May 26-Jun 3	Canadian Bridge Week	Montréal, QC	www.cbf.ca
Jun 1-3	31 st OECS bridge Tournament	Fort de France, Martinique	www.cacbf.com
Jun 6-16	54 th European Team Championships	Ostend, Belgium	www.eurobridge.org
Jun 9	Città di Roma Trophy	Rome, Italy	www.federbridge.it
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 1	Marit Sveas IBT	Oslo, Norway	www.msibt.org
Jun 29-Jul 10	Biarritz International Festival	Biarritz, France	www.festival-bridge-biarritz.com
Jul 7-12	International Festival	Ajaccio, Corsica, France	www.corsebridge.com
Jul 18-26	60 th International Festival	Deauville, France	www.mondial-deauville.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@svensktbridge.se
Jul 28-Aug 9	Australian National Championships	Hobart, Tasmania, Australia	www.abfevents.com.au
Jul 29-Aug 3	Chairman's Cup	Örebro, Sweden	mme@svensktbridge.se
Aug 3-7	Summer Festival Pairs	London, England	www.ebu.co.uk
Aug 3-12	Norsk Bridgefestival	Drammen, Norway	www.bridgefestival.no
Aug 8-18	17 th World Youth Team Championships	Suzhou, China	www.worldbridge.org
Aug 9-14	16 th HCL International	New Delhi, India	www.hcl-bridge.com
Aug 15-19	Summer Festival Teams	London, England	www.ebu.co.uk
Aug 18-Sep 2	18 th Asian Games	Jakarta, Indonesia	www.ocasia.org
Aug 29-Sep 2	Territory Gold Bridge Festival	Darwin, NT, Australia	www.ntba.com.au
Sep 7-16	Guernsey Congress	Les Cotils, Guernsey, Channel Is.	www.ebu.co.uk
Sep 8-16	57 th International Festival	Pula, Croatia	www.pulabridgefestival.com
Sep 22-Oct 6	11th World Bridge Series	Orlando, FL	www.worldbridge.org
Sep 28-Oct 1	Canberra in Bloom Bridge Festival	Canberra, ACT, Australia	www.abfevents.com.au
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	Suzhou, China	www.worldbridge.org
Nov 5-11	21 st Madeira Bridge Festival	Madeira, Portugal	www.bridge-madeira.com
Nov 8-10	5 th Marbella International	Marbella, Costa del Sol, Spain	www.marbellabridge.com
Nov 22-Dec 2	ACBL Fall NABC	Honolulu, HI	www.acbl.org
Dec 27-30	Year-End Congress	London, England	www.ebu.co.uk