



BULLETIN

www.ibpa.com

President

Barry Rigal (USA)
+1 212 366 4799

barryrigal@mindspring.com

Chairman

Per Jannersten (Sweden)
ibpa@jannersten.se

Executive Vice-President

David Stern (Australia)

david.stern.bridge@gmail.com

Organizational Vice-President & Bulletin Production Manager

Dilip Gidwani (India)
+91 98214 53817

dilipgidwani@hotmail.com

Secretary

Elisabeth van Ettinger
(Netherlands)

+31 655 680 120

e.ettinger@chello.nl

Treasurer

Richard Solomon (NZ)
+64 9 232 8494

rsolomon@xtra.co.nz

Awards Secretary

Brent Manley (USA)

brentmanley@yahoo.com

Membership Secretary

Katie Thorpe (Canada)

+1 519 981 9248

thorpe.katie@gmail.com

Honorary Auditor

Richard Fleet (England)

richardjfleet@gmail.com

Honorary General Counsel

David Harris (England)

davidrharris@ntlworld.com

President Emeritus

Tommy Sandsmark (Norway)

THE INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE PRESS ASSOCIATION

Editor: John Carruthers

This Bulletin is published monthly and circulated to members of the International Bridge Press Association, comprising the world's leading journalists, authors and editors of news, books and articles about contract bridge, with an estimated readership of some 200 million people who enjoy the most widely-played of all card games.

Bulletin No. 639

April 10, 2018

Editorial

The opinions expressed here are solely those of the Editor, and do not necessarily represent those of the IBPA Executive or its members.

In choosing its international teams, only the USA has the luxury of having many teams in all categories capable of winning a World Championship. Other countries are lucky if they can produce one or two such teams. The United States thus conducts perfectly-democratic Trials to determine its teams, the Trials winners being declared their representatives. Other NBOs either conduct democratic Trials or choose a team based on who they believe are their best pairs. Sometimes, NBOs adopt a combination of Trials and selection. Thus, this year, the English Bridge Union's Selection Committee declared that they would choose their Women's Team from teams-of-four Trials, with the Trials winner being declared the team to compete in the European Championships. A third pair was to be added after the Trials at the Committee's discretion, taking the winning team's wishes into account.

This year, as the Women's Trials approached (in March), it became evident that the British Isles were going to be hit by a gigantic spring snowstorm. Since one of the BROCK team's players, Yvonne Wiseman, lives and works in Sweden, the team alerted the Committee that they might need an emergency substitute. The Committee informed the team that the Conditions of Contest mandated that the on-site Tournament Director must make that decision, taking into account the nature of the emergency and whether the substitute would disadvantage the rest of the field. (The Conditions of Contest, in expecting the TD to make an on-site decision, did not take into account such an 'anticipated emergency'.) In the event, Wiseman was indeed delayed in Stockholm as her plane was unable to land in London. The TD allowed the substitute, Kay Preddy, to play on the first day of the Trials (two matches) and the Selection Committee declared that, to level the playing field, she must play all three matches of the BROCK team's first of three round robins (four teams played a triple round robin of 24-board matches over four days, (48-60-60-48 boards), nine matches in all.

The BROCK team (Sally Brock/Fiona Brown, Nicola Smith/Yvonne Wiseman) won the Trials at the table. That, however, was not the end of the story. The Conditions of Contest required the Selection Committee to consider what effect the substitute had on the event. The Selection Committee made the difficult decision that Preddy had indeed disadvantaged the other teams, however slightly. In a complex decision, the Committee took into account, amongst other things, that she and Smith had led the cross-IMPs and that the BROCK team effectively had become a five-person team with the substitute, whereas the other teams in the gruelling event were limited to four-person teams. That resulted in the Committee making the decision to declare the SENIOR team (Nevena Senior/Heather Dhondy, Catherine Draper/Gillian Fawcett) winner of the event.

The Selection Committee has since been unfairly vilified, both in person and on social media, including BridgeWinners. Part of the reason for this was that the Committee was initially chaired by Gillian Fawcett of the SENIOR team and included Jeremy Dhondy, husband of Heather Dhondy, also of the SENIOR team. However, both recused themselves from the Committee's deliberations and took no part in the decision-making process.

All of this illustrates that the job of Selector is, at best, a thankless task, and can be extremely contentious and unpleasant. In this case, the Selection Committee was trying to make the right decision and made a brave choice. Whether one agrees with the decision or not (we do not), one has to admire the Committee for its dedication and courage.

Address all IBPA Bulletin correspondence to: JOHN CARRUTHERS
1322 Patricia Blvd., Kingsville, Ontario, N9Y 2R4, CANADA
Tel: +1 519-733-9247 email: ibpaeditor@sympatico.ca



Viking Bridge
Nils Kvangraven,
Dalsbygda, Østerdalen,
Norway
www.kvangraven.no
Liam Milne,
Sydney, Australia

King Criss-Cross (NK)

Christian Bakke is still a junior in age, but he handles the cards like a grand champion; he was close to being selected for the Norwegian Open team for the European Championships in June. The following deal shows why he is both a successful and a popular bridge player.

I was lucky enough to partner Bakke at a recent tournament. I gave him a difficult challenge with my too-aggressive bidding, but Christian's beautiful declarer play vindicated my bids. He was able to change what should have been a lost board into a winner with a nice criss-cross squeeze.

Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

♠ 7 6 5
 ♥ 9 2
 ♦ J 5
 ♣ A Q J 6 5 3

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

♠ K 8 3 2
 ♥ K Q 3
 ♦ Q 9
 ♣ K 9 7 2

West	North <i>Kvangraven</i>	East	South <i>Bakke</i>
—	—	—	1♣
Pass	1♥ ¹	Pass	2♠
Pass	4♣ ²	Pass	4♥
Pass	6♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			
1. Spades			
2. Splinter			

I admit that my bidding was not too smart. I knew Bakke didn't have a control in diamonds and that he held a 12-14 notrump with four spades. Therefore, I should have realized that chances for slam could not be too good.

West did not find his best lead, starting with the ace of clubs, Bakke ruffed with the nine of spades and continued with a low heart. East didn't do his best either when he grabbed the ace then played another

heart to Bakke's king. A club was ruffed with the ace of spades and next came the queen of spades. The jack of spades was overtaken with the king and a third club was ruffed with the ten of spades. Now, the perfectly saved spot – the four of spades – proved its value when Bakke could enter his hand with the eight of spades.

Declarer led the three of spades, West discarding a club, dummy and East a diamond each. Then the killer hit the table when Bakke pulled out the king of clubs in this position.

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

On the king of clubs, dummy discarded the ten of diamonds, but what about East? He did his best, discarding a diamond, but Bakke made no mistake, continuing with a diamond to the ace. East had to follow with the king. A heart to the queen then gave Bakke the contract with the queen of diamonds.

What a day: a criss-cross squeeze for making a slam after an early unblock at the first trick and winning the two last tricks with the red queens. That's just about how a king at the bridge table should be served. Maybe that declarer play was worthy of a prize?

Friday Night Lights (NK)

When the weekend hits, I like to enjoy my great interest in life – bridge. Since I have kids, it can be complicated to get away for the weekend. Luckily for me, BBO Vugraph shows most of the great tournaments live, so I can kibitz them directly from my favourite chair in the living room and still be able to answer my wife and kids when they ask all kinds of silly questions.

On a recent Friday in March, I aimed for my favourite chair and plugged in the computer. Sadly, there was no Vugraph to enjoy. So I headed for a BBO tournament instead – the regular Norwegian tournament “Norsk på Norsk”. A lot of my friends play, and Friday at 8:00 p.m. is very popular.

I spotted the Norwegian international Lars Arthur Johansen at one of the top tables. He was playing with his father, Arnfinn, facing another strong Norwegian pair. This deal, featuring Lars Arthur, came up right away.

Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Sunde	A. Johansen	Lutro	L.A. Johansen
—	—	—	1 ♥
Pass	2 ♣	Pass	2 ♥
Pass	4 ♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Most of us would go down in this contract on this lie of the cards. I guess my preferred line would be to play a club from hand hoping the 50% chance of finding the ace in West would work. This time East/West can return diamonds and leave me helpless, losing a trump, a diamond and two clubs.

Johansen found a better line. Maybe it was more appropriate for a Friday night tournament than the boring 50% chance fellows like me would try?

Sunde led the jack of spades. Johansen took the ace and led a diamond, ducked to the eight. West returned a trump to the king and ace. Johansen continued with a diamond to the ace, then ruffed a diamond in hand. He then cashed the queen of trumps, followed by a spade, ruffed in dummy. Johansen read the deal perfectly when he next ruffed a diamond and cashed the king and queen of spades. This was the position:

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

With all the side suits but clubs eliminated, Johansen exited with a heart, hoping that East had the jack and would have to surrender a trick to the club king. When the heart was taken by West, that defender found himself forced to lead a club anyway. He shifted to the five of clubs. Johansen had made up his mind to play East for the ace of clubs, so he called for a low club from dummy and made the contract.

It was a shame this deal came up only during a BBO event, but it was truly a wonderfully-played deal, making a bridge-lover's heart smile. I enjoyed every second; I hope you did too.

Unwanted Gift (LM)

When one must give declarer something eventually, it is often right to make that gift as soon as possible. Sometimes an early concession will come at an inconvenient moment for your opponent.

Board 27. Dealer South. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	3 ♠	4 ♥	Pass
Pass	Pass		

This deal is from the 2018 North Island Teams in New Zealand.

South (Michael Ware) led the ace of spades. With a singleton of the suit led in dummy, North/South play suit preference at trick one, so North (GeO Tislevoll) played the two of spades to signal for clubs. Ware duly played the ace of clubs followed by the five of clubs to the king. With three tricks in the bag, Tislevoll paused to consider the situation. Let's walk with him through what we know as North, followed by what we must assume to beat the contract.

Partner is a passed hand and has already shown up with two aces. He can't hold the ace of diamonds as well, and if he has a natural trump trick, declarer will go down whatever we play.

How many clubs do partner and declarer have? It looks like partner has four clubs and declarer has two, but it's possible that partner is the one with the doubleton. If so, we'll have to hope partner turns up with a trump trick. So, we can safely assume declarer has no more clubs left.

What about the spade suit? With four spades, partner would definitely have bid four spades, and with three he would often have pushed on to four spades anyway, knowing that there looked to be a ten-card fit. Besides, if declarer has only one spade left, it's hard to see what we can do to create another trick.

Given the lack of prospects in the minors, is there any chance of promoting a trump trick for partner? Yes: if partner has no spades left, we can simply play a spade, and partner will be able to ruff in front of dummy with a heart higher than the five. But is there any real rush to do this? Not really. If declarer has 4=6=1=2 shape, we can afford to play anything. Declarer can't run the diamonds, as they are blocked, and he will have to play spades himself. Partner can ruff in front of dummy and return a trump, and we shall make two more spades later.

How can we beat the contract if declarer has only three spades? A trump shift would appeal to many, given dummy's spade shortness and lack of long trumps. Projecting the play, however, the trump shift can't really work. Declarer will win the switch and either draw trumps and run the diamonds, or ruff a spade over to dummy and play off dummy's myriad minor-suit winners. Denying declarer two ruffs doesn't do anything because he was never going to take two ruffs.

If declarer can run a minor suit, we aren't likely to beat this contract. The focus must be on declarer holding good trumps, the bare ace of diamonds, no more clubs, and three spades. On the critical layouts, therefore, declarer most likely has 3=7=1=2 shape. Declarer's key problem is where to park the two spade losers. The 3=7=1=2 shape is one of the many layouts where a trump shift does nothing good for us, and likewise a diamond shift won't work. Declarer will win the diamond, take one round of trumps and then play as if we had switched to trumps.

Assuming our play matters, neither a diamond nor a heart is doing anything good, so it has to be a spade and it has to be now, counter-intuitively giving declarer a chance for a ruff in the dummy immediately. Which spade – the king or a low one?

If partner has the jack of spades, both plays are the same, so assume declarer started with three spades to the jack. Playing the king, ruffed in the dummy, sets up declarer's jack. He will draw trumps and claim, still assuming the trumps are solid. So, Tislevoll played a low spade at trick four. The full deal was exactly as he had imagined it to be, and this time his play mattered a lot! Declarer won with the jack, but this unwanted gift came too early to be useful. If declarer drew trumps, he'd be left with a losing spade. If declarer instead tried to ruff his last spade, South would have ruffed in front of dummy to beat the contract.

This deal was aesthetically appealing, not only because of the nice play and unusual theme, but also because of the situation declarer found himself in at the end: he had been gifted a cheap trick by the opponents and there were about fifteen tricks between declarer's hand and dummy, yet there was no way to come to ten tricks!



Steve Robinson, Arlington, VA
Barry Rigal, NYC
Paul Linxwiler, Memphis, TN
Tarek Sadek, Cairo
Marcelo Caracci, Santiago, Chile
Wafik Abdou, Bakersfield, CA
Oren Kriegel, Chicago

NABC Major Event Winners

Vanderbilt KO Teams:

Marty Fleisher, Chip Martel, Brad Moss, Joe Grue,
 Geoff Hampson, Eric Greco

Jacoby Swiss Teams:

Josef Blass, Jacek Pszczola, Sjoert Brink, Bas Drijver,
 Michal Nowazadski, Jacek Kalita

Platinum Pairs

Steve Weinstein, Bobby Levin

Open Pairs

Simon Cope, Peter Crouch

Grand National Pairs

Adam Grossack, Zack Grossack

IMP Pairs

Mark Jones, Clay Hall

Fast Pairs

Mark Dahl, Richard Oshlag

Mixed Pairs

Pat McDevitt, Sheila Gabay

Life Master Women's Pairs

Sally Brock, Fiona Brown

Silver Ribbon Pairs

Richard Chan, Michael Heymann

Sneaky D – Steve Robinson

Espen Lindqvist found a neat defence against me on this deal from the second qualifying session of the Platinum Pairs. I was playing with Peter Boyd, while Lindqvist partnered Boye Brogeland.

Board 8. Dealer East. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Brogeland</i>	<i>Boyd</i>	<i>Lindqvist</i>	<i>Robinson</i>
—	—	2♦	2♥
3♦	3♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Brogeland led the three of diamonds. I won with dummy's ace and attacked trumps, Brogeland winning with the king and continuing with diamonds. I ruffed and led another trump to West's ace, and again, I ruffed the diamond return. After drawing the last trump with the queen, I led a low club toward dummy, inserting the seven, as Lindqvist won with the queen. He exited with a low spade, which I won with my ace. When I played the ten of clubs, West produced the five, the eight was played from dummy, and East played an in-tempo two.

Convinced that Brogeland had started with king-nine-five-four of clubs (it would not have helped Brogeland to cover with the putative king since he was known to hold the nine), I then played my remaining club, covering West's nine with dummy's jack. Lindqvist unexpectedly won with the king, however, cutting me off from the club ace in dummy. There was then no way to avoid a spade loser, so I finished down one. Lindqvist's nice play earned them a 69% score.

Take Your Tricks – Barry Rigal

The first session of the Platinum Pairs featured some deals where the defenders needed to send the right message to their partners – or the wrong one to declarer. Here are two:

Board 9. Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

South opens one notrump and is raised to game by North. As East, partner's fourth-best three-of-spades lead goes to your king and declarer's ace. You let the king and queen of diamonds hold, as partner follows with the diamond jack and then pitches the three of clubs (odd encouraging). On the third round of the suit, West pitches the four of hearts (even discouraging) as you win with the ace. What message do you think partner is trying to send you?

Partner must have a top club honour, of course, but he didn't discard spades to force you to play clubs. If he holds spades ready to run or the jack of spades behind declarer's queen, he'd call for a spade through. And if he had the ace of clubs, he'd probably want you to play clubs through. So, he must have the king of clubs.

So, shift to a club and let partner score his king of clubs and queen of spades to hold declarer to ten tricks. Declarer will take 11 tricks if you woodenly return a spade.

A declarer-play problem:

Board 13. Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

As South, you open one notrump (no, you don't have to like it) and are raised to three notrump. You are treated to the fourth-best six-of-hearts lead to the jack and king. Four rounds of diamonds gives you the chance to pitch your remaining heart before deciding on a continuing plan. West follows to all four diamonds while giving a Smith Echo to indicate he likes his lead. East also encourages hearts then pitches the eight of clubs (even discouraging). What do you do next?

At the table, declarer made the reasonable assumption that if the club finesse was losing, he should play East for the queen of spades. This was the full deal:

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

I guess even on the first day of the Platinum Pairs you can't trust anyone! Three notrump down one was a cold top for East/West.

Misplaced Trust – Barry Rigal

Playing South, you find yourself in the somewhat elevated level of two notrump on this deal from the second qualifying session of the Platinum Pairs:

Board 8. Dealer West. Neither Vul.

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

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

1. 1+ clubs (1 only if 4=4=4=1)
2. No major

As North, you notice the absence of the major suits with curiosity. You can work out that West must be 4=4=4=1 and hope South can do so too. The defenders lead and continue diamonds. You win the third round and play the king of clubs: two, five, nine. You studiously review the auction and advance the eight of clubs to the three, six ... and West wins with the ten! The defenders cash out for down one, and you ask East what his shape was. Yes, a 3=4=3=3 pattern apparently doesn't qualify to hold a four-card major!

Stepping Out – Paul Linxwiler

Clay Hall and Mark Jones won the IMP Pairs and this deal from the first qualifying session helped them to the win.

Board 5. Dealer North. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Hall		Jones	
—	1♣	Pass	1♦
1♠	1NT	Double	Pass
Pass	2♦	Pass	Pass
Double	Pass	Pass	Pass

Responding with light values has many champions in the modern game, but such advocates typically prefer to do so with unbalanced hands, or when not vulnerable. There would be much less enthusiasm for responding to a one-club opener with South's balanced junk pile. Hall and Jones, however, encountered an opponent who believed otherwise on this deal – the play was bloody.

Hall began with the ace of hearts and switched to the queen of clubs. The defence cashed three rounds of clubs and East exited with a spade. Declarer won, cashed the trump ace, and played a low trump toward the queen, but East rose with the king, returned a heart to West, and ruffed the spade return. Then, a fourth round of clubs from East promoted West's jack of diamonds.

Down four doubled gave the winners plus 1100 for a large pickup of 12.26 IMPs.

Calling Deep Finesse – Barry Rigal

This deal is from the second qualifying session of the Platinum Pairs.

Board 2. Dealer West. NS Vul.

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

At the table, a routine auction (two hearts-double-pass-three notrump) saw West lead a top diamond. This sped up the play to make 11 tricks easy. On a passive lead, declarer cashes three tricks in each black suit (pitching a heart from hand) and runs the jack of diamonds. West will win and broach hearts, letting declarer win and set up a diamond. But that isn't 'par' for North/South. Deep Finesse tells us six clubs can be made by South. Let's revisit the hand on a club lead from West. Declarer can ruff a spade in hand and draw only two trumps to leave transportation in place within the trump suit. Then he can run the jack of diamonds to West, creating this ending:

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

On a diamond continuation, declarer can claim, so West must lead a heart. Declarer can win with the heart queen and execute a Vienna Coup by cashing the ace of diamonds and running the black-suit winners. If West instead tries the heart-king exit, declarer wins with the ace then runs clubs and spades pitching diamonds from hand. And that gives declarer a crisscross squeeze! In the three-card ending, West must reduce one red suit to a singleton. Declarer plays on that suit for the twelfth trick.

Hindsight – Barry Rigal

The weak notrump kept East/West out of the auction on this deal from the first semifinal session of the Platinum Pairs:

Board 5. Dealer North. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
—	Pass	Pass	INT ¹
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	
1. 11-14 HCP			

On a top diamond lead, declarer won in dummy and finessed in hearts. West won and cashed the queen of diamonds and then played a third diamond. East won with the jack to lead the thirteenth diamond to promote the nine of hearts. Declarer discarded, and now had to guess the queen of hearts to make his contract.

The best declarer play (if he can read the diamond layout) is to duck tricks one and two to cut the defensive communications – not an easy thing to do!

Fun Finale – Barry Rigal

Fans of unusual endings should admire this deal from the first semifinal session of the Platinum Pairs:

Board 22. Dealer East. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
—	—	1♣ ¹	Pass
1♥ ²	1♠ ³	2♠ ⁴	3♦
Pass	Pass	Pass	
1. 2+ clubs			
2. 4+ spades			
3. Takeout			
4. 4-card spade support			

West led the nine of spades to the queen and ace. Declarer played a heart to dummy's jack, East winning with the ace. East then cashed the king of spades and played a low heart to the queen and dummy's king. Declarer drew three rounds of trumps ending in hand to reach this position:

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

Declarer drew the last trump, pitching a club from dummy as East let go of a spade. On the jack of spades, another club was pitched from dummy. What was East to do? A heart pitch is obviously fatal, but after a club discard, declarer could play the ace and jack of clubs. If East won, he would be endplayed to give up a heart, but if West won (East unblocking the queen of clubs under the ace), he would concede trick 13 to South's nine of clubs.

Tough Deal – Barry Rigal

As North/South, if you managed to stay out of three notrump on this deal from the second semifinal session of the Platinum Pairs, well done.

Board 2. Dealer East. NS Vul.

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

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

1. Lebensohl; intended as a puppet to 3♣

East avoided a spade lead and, while a diamond would have worked well, the low heart lead cannot be faulted. Declarer, of course, peeled off the clubs and hearts to reach this position:

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

The low diamond lead from dummy put West under the gun, but he defended sensibly by winning with the jack and shifting to the queen of spades. Now the spotlight shifted to East. If West had an original pattern of 2=3=3=5, it was incumbent on him to duck this.

On the actual layout, the duck was fatal. Dummy's king won the trick, and the exit of the king of diamonds forced West to win the trick. He could cash his diamonds and concede a club to North, or he could lead a low diamond to East to concede a trick to the jack of spades at trick 13.

East and West were both contrite: West could have ducked the diamond on the lead of that suit from dummy to allow East to win with the ten; and East could have won the queen of spades shift with his ace to lead a diamond through the king.

Dutch Treat – Barry Rigal

Check out this deal from a Swiss Teams event in the match between Barbara Sonsini's squad and the one captained by Ton van Overbeeke, featuring an all-Dutch cast. East/West were Bauke Muller and Simon De Wijs, while North/South were Maarten Schollaardt and van Overbeeke.

Dealer East. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>De Wijs</i>	<i>Schollaardt</i>	<i>Muller</i>	<i>V. Overbeeke</i>
—	—	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♥	Pass	2♣
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♦
Pass	3♥	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Declarer was lucky to find clubs blocked. On opening lead, de Wijs made the most of it by cashing the club ace and king, then shifting to a diamond. Declarer pitched his last club on the second top heart, ruffed a heart low, ruffed a diamond in dummy, and ruffed a club high, West pitching a diamond. Now came another diamond ruff and another club ruff high (West under-ruffing) to give this ending:

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

Van Overbeeke led the queen of diamonds, forcing West to ruff and lead a trump into his tenace. Maybe West could have under-ruffed twice (and unblocked the king of diamonds to hope his partner had the queen), but as the cards lay, the defenders could not get out of their own way. (Give East the king of

diamonds, and the double underruff would set the game.) Because three notrump went down 300 in the other room, that was worth 14 IMPs as part of a 54-12 win for van Overbeeke.

Are You a Hero? – Barry Rigal

Dealer South. Neither Vul.

♠ 9 8 4
♥ A 5
♦ K Q 7 5 2
♣ A K Q

♠ A 10 7 6 5 3 2
♥ K 9
♦ 10
♣ 8 6 4

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

The first board of a Vanderbilt KO match sees you with a vicious defensive problem after an unexpected dummy comes down in four hearts.

You lead the ten of diamonds: queen, ace, eight. Back comes the six of diamonds. Declarer plays the three and you ruff. What now? The missing diamonds are the jack, nine and four so, a priori, the six might be more likely to be partner's lowest from the remaining cards. I think you can safely assume that partner has an original two-card spade holding because, otherwise, he might have shifted to his singleton honour. So, it looks 2:1 that he has the king-queen or king-jack of spades and you can put him in for another diamond ruff.

There are additional complexities though. Say partner has a slow trump trick, such as jack-fourth or ten-eight fourth. Now underleading spades might cost the setting trick!

I can't tell you what is right, but this was the full deal:

♠ 9 8 4
♥ A 5
♦ K Q 7 5 2
♣ A K Q

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

♠ Q
♥ Q J 10 7 2
♦ J 9 8 3
♣ 10 3 2

When the second defensive ruff got away, declarer led a low trump to the ace and brought home plus 420.

Not Intuitive – Tarek Sadek

This deal is from an early round of the Vanderbilt.

Dealer South. NS Vul.

♠ A Q 9 8 7 5 4
♥ A
♦ A
♣ K Q 5 2

♠ J
♥ K Q J 7 5 2
♦ K Q 6 4 2
♣ 4

West	North	East	South
—	2♣	Pass	2♥
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♥
Pass	4♦	Pass	4NT ¹
Pass	5♣ ²	Double	6♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	
1. RKCB			
2. 0 or 3 key cards			

West leads the club eight to the king and ace. Back comes the jack of clubs. Play on.

The best (and winning) line is to pitch the spade jack from hand and take the trick with dummy's queen of clubs. Then you ruff a low spade in hand, cross back to the heart ace, ruff another low spade and draw trumps. The diamond ace is the entry to run spades.

The defenders had a chance to beat the slam after the club lead. East can remove an entry to the dummy by shifting to either red suit. This was the full deal:

♠ A Q 9 8 7 5 4
♥ A
♦ A
♣ K Q 5 2

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

♠ J
♥ K Q J 7 5 2
♦ K Q 6 4 2
♣ 4

Dropping the King – Marcelo Caracci

Board 3. Dealer West. NS Vul.

♠ Q
♥ Q 9 8 5 4 2
♦ 9 8 4
♣ 10 8 4

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

♠ K J 9 8 4 3
♥ A K 10
♦ A Q
♣ A K

West	North	East	South
	<i>L. Caracci</i>		<i>M. Caracci</i>
Pass	Pass	3♣	Double
Pass	4♥	Pass	6NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

I was playing in the Silver Ribbon Pairs with my wife Loreto when I picked up the South hand. I decided to bid six notrump to protect my tenace in diamonds.

The lead was the jack of clubs. I took the trick with my ace of clubs, and it looked like, with a favourable position of the ten of spades, I would have my 12 tricks

I played a spade to the queen and was happy to see West play the ten. The queen of spades won the trick, but when I came back to my hand with a heart, I got some bad news: East discarded a club. Hearts were 4-0, and the suit was blocked!

When I played a top spade, West won the trick with the ace (I discarded a diamond from dummy) and played another club, which I won with my king.

The situation was now this:

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

I'd taken four tricks the defence had one. I had seven more sure tricks: four spades, two hearts and the ace of diamonds. But where was the twelfth trick? Should I finesse in diamonds? Try to squeeze West in the red suits?

The solution was a non-simultaneous double squeeze, first against West and then against East, squeezing West in the red suits and East the minors.

I cashed my four spade tricks, and West had to discard four diamonds. The dummy also came under pressure, so after pitching a diamond and two hearts, I also discarded the heart menace. Now was the moment for the squeeze against East, because when I played my two heart tricks ending in dummy, he had to discard two diamonds. With each defender reduced to a singleton diamond, I could then show my hand to claim for a cold top.

Two-Way Finesse – Wafik Abdou

I was playing with Larry Sealey against Mark Lair and Jack Lavigne in the Open Pairs when this deal arose:

Board 2. Dealer East. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Lair</i>	<i>Sealey</i>	<i>Lavigne</i>	<i>Abdou</i>
—	—	Pass	INT
2♥ ¹	4♥ ²	Pass	4♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. Hearts and a minor
2. Transfer

Lair led a top heart and switched to a diamond. I rose with dummy's ace and played a spade to the king and ace. Lair played another diamond, and dummy's queen won the trick. A spade to the queen drew the remaining trumps, and then I ran all of the spades except one, followed by two rounds of diamonds ending in hand. This was the ending when the last diamond was played:

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

When I crossed to the king of diamonds, West had no good discard. If he pitched a heart, I'd ruff a low heart in dummy, establishing the queen, and return to hand with the ace of clubs to enjoy the high heart. If instead West had pitched a club, I'd cash the ace of clubs, dropping the king, to make dummy's jack boss in that suit. A heart ruff would provide the entry to enjoy the club winner.

Plus 650 was worth 38 out of 51 matchpoints.

“It’s So Easy ...” – Barry Rigal

Board 20. Dealer West. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
1♦ ¹	Pass	2♥ ²	2♠
2NT	Pass	3NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		
1. 5+ diamonds			
2. Limit raise: diamonds, minors, or balanced.			

In three notrump, after the nine of spades lead, South discouraged, suggesting he had the king of hearts.

Three notrump is an uninspiring contract. Maybe the right approach is to rely on the club finesse. So, you play the king of clubs and a club to the jack, which holds. Phew! Now you take the diamond finesse. If it loses to the queen, you can reassess what to do.

When a diamond to the jack wins, you are in great shape. Take care to lead a heart to the ace, then don’t cash the ace of clubs or you squeeze your hand. You plan to score two spades, one heart, four diamonds and two clubs.

When you lead a second diamond, however, South shows out! This was the full deal:

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

Nice defence by North, Simon Cope of England. He, along with Peter Crouch, also of the UK, won the Open Pairs.

After registering your minus 200, you check Deep Finesse to see what the best outcome for declarer is. As usual, you have been weighed in the balance and found wanting. DF tells you three notrump is cold.

How do you make it? Simple: Play the king of diamonds at trick two. If the defenders win the first or second diamond, you set up diamonds using the club entry. If the defence ducks twice, you switch your attention to clubs and take four tricks there.

Companologist’s Delight? – Barry Rigal

Readers of bridge problems are always handicapped by the bell going off. When faced with a problem, you are nearly always led to the critical decision and thus may be biased in your thought processes. So, let’s look at a deal from the second final session of the Mixed Pairs ...

Board 13. Dealer East. Both Vul.

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

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

Partner (West) leads a club. When declarer plays the nine from dummy, you win with the queen and return the ten. Partner wins with the ace and clears the suit, declarer winning the jack on the third round. Question: When declarer advances the queen of diamonds, do you win or duck? Answer: It doesn’t matter because you can’t beat three notrump any more. Here is the full deal:

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

Note that if you fail to play the ten of clubs at trick one, you won’t beat the game. Declarer can survive by not winning with the jack, but would he?

Surrogates – Oren Kriegel

Here is a deal from the Open Swiss Teams, featuring David Grainger. Grainger was playing with Greg Hinze against Michael Kamil and Richie Coren.

Continued on page 14 ...



IBPA Column Service

Tim Bourke, Canberra

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

897. Dealer South. Both Vul.

♠ K 10 5 4 3
♥ A Q 6
♦ 4 2
♣ A 8 7

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

♠ A 9
♥ K 5 4
♦ K 10 5 3
♣ K 6 5 3

West	North	East	South
—	—	—	1♦
Pass	1♠	Pass	INT
Pass	2♦ ¹	Pass	2NT ²
Pass	3NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

1. Game-forcing inquiry
2. No 3-card spade support; no 4-card heart suit; no 5-card diamond suit

West led the jack of hearts. Declarer counted seven top tricks and the most likely way to generate the extra two tricks he needed was by developing long tricks in spades. If spades were 3-3, any play would work. However, declarer saw that playing the ace, king and another spade would waste his nine. So, after winning the first trick with the ace of hearts, he led a low spade from the table. East followed with the two and declarer played the nine from hand. After that held, declarer cashed the ace of spades and then crossed to dummy with a low club to dummy's ace. Next he played the king and another spade, throwing two low clubs from hand.

Upon winning the fourth round of spades with the queen, East shifted to the nine of diamonds. Declarer covered with the ten and West took the trick with the jack. As cashing the ace of diamonds was likely to give declarer an overtrick, West exited with a heart. At this point declarer claimed nine tricks: four spades, three hearts and two clubs.

Declarer's play in spades was best. It picks up four tricks against all three-three breaks, queen-jack doubleton with West, East holding four spades with the queen and jack, plus a jack or queen doubleton with East. This

offers slightly more than a 60% chance of making four tricks in spades – quite an improvement over the 39% offered by just banging out the ace, king and another spade. Not to mention that, on the given layout, banging out the ace, king and another spade would have allowed East to lead diamonds through declarer's hand twice.

898. Dealer South. Neither Vul.

♠ A K Q 7 6 5
♥ K 10 6
♦ 9 8
♣ 8 7

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

♠ J 10 9
♥ A Q J
♦ A Q 10 3
♣ A Q 5

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

1. Transfer to four spades
2. RKCB
3. 0 or 3 key cards

It was clear to West that his opponents had bid a slam on power and that most of the high cards were in declarer's hand, so he chose the passive lead of a trump. Once dummy appeared, declarer counted eleven top tricks. If trumps were 2-2, he saw that he could make certain of a twelfth trick on an elimination play: draw trumps, cash the hearts and play a diamond to the queen – then, if that lost West would be endplayed.

Declarer took the first trick in hand with the nine of trumps and cashed the jack of spades. Alas, trumps were three-one, and so the hypothetical elimination play had to be abandoned. Declarer drew the last trump and was about to play on diamonds when a thought struck him: it would cost nothing to take the heart winners first. So, he cashed the ace, queen and king of hearts then led the nine of diamonds to the queen. West won with the king and had only minor-suit cards remaining. It was clear to West that declarer had the queen of

clubs, so West exited with the jack of diamonds, hoping his partner would produce the ten. Declarer won with the ace and threw a club on his good ten of diamonds: he had six trumps, three hearts, two diamonds and a club to make his contract.

Notice that if declarer hadn't cashed the heart winners, the contract would have failed because West would then have had a safe exit in hearts. Also, if West had had a heart remaining, declarer, after winning his diamond trick, would have ruffed, then cashed the ace of diamonds and ruffed the three of diamonds. If the jack of diamonds was still outstanding, he would have fallen back on the club finesse to make the contract.

899. Dealer South. NS Vul.

```

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

♠ 6
♥ K J 10 8 3
♦ K J 10 6 2
♣ 5 2

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

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

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

1. Michaels, at least five hearts and five cards in one of the minors
2. Good spade raise

This board occurred in a team match where North/South were in need of a swing. Accordingly, North punted the grand slam when South showed a first-round heart control by bidding five hearts.

West led the six of trumps. Declarer took this with the jack and drew the remaining trump with a spade to dummy's ace. Next he cashed the ace of diamonds followed by the ace and king of clubs, throwing the queen and nine of hearts from hand. A club ruff confirmed that West had started with 1=5=5=2 shape. So, declarer led the queen of diamonds. West covered this with the king, which cheered up declarer, because otherwise he would have been in the rather nervous position of having to discard a club or a heart. Declarer ruffed in dummy, ruffed a club back to hand and led a confident nine of diamonds. West covered with the ten and this was ruffed in dummy. After a second club ruff to get back to hand declarer led the eight of diamonds. West covered this with the jack and, after trumping this in dummy, declarer claimed his contract: he made

five trumps, one heart, two diamonds, three diamond ruffs and two clubs.

900. Dealer North. Neither Vul.

```

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

♠ 10 6 4 2
♥ 7 5 2
♦ Q 10 5 2
♣ 9 5

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

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

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

1. RKCB
2. 2 key cards and the queen of spades

After hearing East's weak-jump overcall in hearts and learning of North's spade support, South pressed just a little to bid the slam in spades after making a Roman Key Card Blackwood inquiry.

West led a third-highest two of hearts, confirming that hearts were 6-3. After winning the first trick with the ace of hearts, declarer drew four rounds of trumps, throwing a low heart from the dummy, while East also parted with hearts. Next, declarer cashed the king and queen of clubs, then led a club towards the dummy. West had to throw a heart; otherwise declarer would have played the ace, king and another diamond to set up a long diamond for his twelfth trick.

At this point, declarer counted West for an original 4=3=4=2 shape and deduced that West had one heart and four diamonds remaining. So South ruffed a heart then played a diamond to the king and a low diamond toward his hand, intending to cover East's card cheaply. When East produced the nine of diamonds declarer covered it with the jack. West won with the queen, but then had to lead from the ten of diamonds into declarer's ace-eight tenace.

Note that if West had followed to the clubs with three low cards and East with two low ones, declarer intended to rise with the ace of clubs. In that case, if East had held the jack of clubs, declarer would have cashed the ten of clubs and then taken the diamond finesse for an overtrick. If, instead, it turned out that West still held the jack of clubs, then his original distribution would have been 4=3=2=4. In that case, declarer would have made certain of three diamond tricks by cashing the ace and king of diamonds before leading a low diamond towards his jack-eight.

Dealer East. Neither Vul.

♠ K Q 7 5 2
 ♥ 10 4 2
 ♦ 9 6
 ♣ Q J 5

♠ A J
 ♥ A J 8 7 3
 ♦ A 4
 ♣ K 7 6 4

West	North	East	South
Kamil	Hinze	Coren	Grainger
—	—	2♦ ¹	2♥
3♦	3♥	Pass	4♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. Weak two in diamonds

The opening lead was the three of diamonds. You win with the ace and play three rounds of spades, discarding your diamond loser. West ruffs the third round of spades and returns a diamond. You ruff and ... what's your plan?

Declarer, David Grainger, inferred from the bidding and early play that East's most-likely shape was 4=1=6=2, so he needed to find East with a singleton heart honour to hold his losers to three. So, he cashed the heart ace, dropping the queen from East, then led a club to the jack. Grainger then ruffed a spade with the heart jack, giving West, Mike Kamil, no good options.

This was the full deal:

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

An overruff or an underuff of the heart jack by West would clearly be fatal. Kamil therefore chose to discard a diamond, so declarer simply led a trump toward dummy's ten.

Had West pitched a club on the spade ruff, declarer would have led a club toward dummy. If West had risen with the club ace (ducking would have been no better; declarer would have played another club) and led a diamond, declarer would have pitched a club from dummy and ruffed in hand. Then the club king and another club would have acted as surrogate trumps, limiting the defence to one more trump trick.



**The 2018
 Vanderbilt
 John Carruthers,
 Kingsville ON**

The Vanderbilt was played at the Spring NABC (as it has been since 1958; from 1928 to 1957 it was a stand-alone event in New York City) in Philadelphia in March. The top four seeds were:

- (1) **NICKELL** (Frank Nickell/Ralph Katz, Jeff Meckstroth/Eric Rodwell, Steve Weinstein/Bobby Levin), who were the holders;
- (2) **FLEISHER** (Marty Fleisher/Chip Martel, Brad Moss/Joe Grue, Geoff Hampson/Eric Greco);
- (3) **DIAMOND** (John Diamond/Brian Platnick, Boye Brogeland/Espen Lindqvist), perhaps disadvantaged by being four-handed;
- (4) **LAVAZZA** (Agustin Madala/Alejandro Bianchedi, Antonio Sementa/Norberto Bocchi, Dennis Bilde), who were hampered by the absence of Giorgio Duboin.

A bit surprisingly, the event produced fewer 'seeding upsets' than usual, with not many of the top seeds going out before their time. Three of the top four seeds made it to the semifinals, with only LAVAZZA losing earlier, in the quarterfinals, to the original no. 21 seed BERG (Mary Ann Berg/Jason Feldman, Krzysztof Buras/Grzegorz Narkiewicz, Michal Kwiecien/Marcin Lesniewski).

One can tell how tough the event was from the fact that BERG (with three World Champions) was seeded just twenty-first in a field of 77 teams. In fact, of the top 25 seeds, only one (no. 20) had no World Champions on its roster.

The top two seeds made it to the final. Extraordinarily, FLEISHER shut out NICKELL 56-0 in the first quarter, the worst drubbing anyone could remember NICKELL ever taking. NICKELL made noises about coming back, closing to within 17 IMPs in the second quarter, but FLEISHER pulled away again and eventually triumphed 133-95.

Over the years, the number of boards played in Vanderbilt matches has eroded from 72 to 64 to the current 60, played in 4 x 15-board sets. Here are a few of the deals that appealed to me:



2018 Vanderbilt Winners (l. to r.): Brad Moss, Joe Grue, Eric Greco, ACBL President Jay Whipple presenting the trophy, Marty Fleisher, Chip Martel, Geoff Hampson

Round of 32 - (3) DIAMOND vs. (35) DEMIREV

Board 14. Dealer East. Neither Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Marashev	Lindqvist	Tsonchev	Brogeland
—	—	1♠	Pass
Pass	2♣	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Vladimir Marashev led the three of hearts, ducked to Ivan Tsonchev's jack. Tsonchev shifted to the eight of spades. Boye Brogeland gave that a long look, but eventually put up his ace. Declarer cashed the king of clubs, then ducked a heart to East's ace. Not pushing his luck, East continued with the queen of spades, ducked by South. Declarer won the jack of spades with his king and now, with the nine and seven equals against the ten, led the nine of spades to the ten. On

the spades, West had had to discard the five and eight of diamonds to keep his threats in hearts and clubs intact. Brogeland let go two low clubs and the seven of diamonds from the dummy. Tsonchev shifted to the three of diamonds. Brogeland, with just the queen remaining in dummy and having lost three tricks already, could not duck the diamond to the queen, even though it would have won; he had a heart and a club loser in the dummy.

Instead, he won with the ace of diamonds, the jack falling from West. Declarer then cashed the established seven of spades. West discarded the seven of clubs, so dummy let go of the seven of hearts; East followed suit. When the clubs now ran, declarer had nine tricks for a brilliant plus 400.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Diamond	Karaivanov	Platnick	Gunev
—	—	1♠	Pass
INT	2♣	2♦	Pass
Pass	Double	Pass	Pass
Pass			

At this table, John Diamond took liberties with the vulnerability and responded to Brian Platnick's limited one-spade opener. That resulted in Platnick declaring two diamonds doubled. Rossen Gunev led his king of clubs. When that held, he shifted to the deuce of diamonds to the five, queen and king. Platnick led the queen of spades. Gunev won with his king and continued trumps, leading the ace, then the six, to

dummy's knave (club four from Kalin Karaivanov). Declarer led a spade to the jack, ducked by South. This was the position:

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

Declarer led the ten of clubs to North's queen, South discarding the five of hearts. North continued with the ace of clubs, ruffed by declarer with the nine of diamonds and over-ruffed by South with the ten. When South exited with the two of hearts, declarer played the queen from dummy. North had to play the king to prevent access to the jack of clubs. Platnick won with the ace of hearts, cashed the jack and exited with a spade. South, down to the ace-nine-seven of spades, had to give East a spade at the end for declarer's sixth trick; down two, minus 300, but 3 IMPs to DIAMOND.

To get another trick, the defenders had to (a.) win the jack of spades with the ace, draw declarer's last trump and not play the king of hearts on the heart shift, allowing South to retain a third-round exit in the suit, or (b.) having ducked the spade, South had to discard a spade on declarer's club exit to keep a heart with which to get out of his hand. North then had to shift to hearts before setting up a club winner in dummy. Not easy.

Round of 32 - (13) ZIMMERMANN vs. (20) SCHWARTZ

Both declarers, Geir Helgemo and David Gold, handled the poor trump break on this deal very well.

Board 32. Dealer East. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Stamatov	Helness	Danailov	Helgemo
Dubinina	Schwartz	Gromov	Gold
—	—	Pass	INT
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♥
Pass	4♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			

In the Open Room, Jerry Stamatov led the eight of clubs (low from a doubleton). Declarer, Helgemo, won with dummy's ace (seven, discouraging, from Diyan Danailov, East) and led a low heart. When the jack appeared, Helgemo won it with his ace, led a club to the jack, then tried a second trump, ducking it to West's ten when East showed out. West shifted to the seven of spades, five, queen, ace. Declarer cashed the king of hearts and ran spades, discarding a diamond on the fourth. West declined to ruff, so declarer cashed the king of clubs, West again declining to ruff. Helgemo could practically claim now, exiting with a heart to Stamatov's queen for the forced diamond return, establishing a trick for the king of diamonds. Plus 620.

In the Closed Room, Gold played exactly as Helgemo did, the only difference being that, when in with the ten of hearts, Alexander Dubinin shifted to the nine of spades (rather than Stamatov's seven) to the jack, queen and ace. That meant a well-earned push.

On the following deal, four spades was one of those contracts with just one obvious loser but not nearly enough winners.

Board 40. Dealer East. Both Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Stamatov	Helness	Danailov	Helgemo
—	—	INT	2♣ ¹
3NT	4♣	Pass	Pass
Double	Pass	Pass	Pass
1. Both majors			

Danailov led the king of diamonds. Tor Helness ruffed, cashed the ace of clubs and ruffed a club low. Declarer ruffed another diamond and ruffed another club low. Danailov over-ruffed with the jack of spades and returned the four of spades to the seven, queen and

ace. Helness ruffed a third diamond, this time with the king of spades and led a heart to the ace. He drew West's last trump and led a diamond, hoping they were 4-4. When they were not, he had to concede one down, having lost a club over-ruff, two diamonds and a heart to come. That resulted in minus 200,

We can see that one successful line involves leading a heart to the jack early, then ruffing down the king of hearts while drawing trumps, saving a second diamond ruff or the king of spades as the entry to the ten of hearts. Another winning sequence entails ruffing three diamonds in the dummy while not playing a third round of clubs.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Dubin	Schwartz	Gromov	Gold
—	—	INT	Double ¹
Redouble	4♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

1. Spades and another suit

Richie Schwartz was in fine company, playing card-for-card as had Helness. He was the same one off but, as he was undoubled, SCHWARTZ won 3 IMPs.

Round of 16 - (3) DIAMOND vs. (19) ZAGORIN

Board 56. Dealer East. Both Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Fredin	Platnick	Røn	Diamond
—	—	2♥	Pass
4♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

Diamond led the four of clubs. Jacob Røn put in the queen, losing to the king, and followed with the six, concealing the three. Platnick led another club anyway, the ten, and Diamond ruffed with the five of hearts. Diamond shifted to the five of spades, ducked to North's king. North continued the club attack. Declarer ruffed with the jack of hearts and led the queen of trumps to North's ace, South completing his echo. With four tricks in, we can see that a fourth round of clubs would have promoted a trump trick for the defence. However, Røn had cleverly played the six of

spades (concealing the three of a suit for the second time in three tricks) on Diamond's lead of the five, raising the possibility in Platnick's mind that Diamond had led fourth-highest (their conventional lead) from a five-card spade suit. Rather than play Diamond for the eight of hearts, Platnick saw that he could get another trick if declarer were 2=6=3=2 by playing a spade, blocking the suit or requiring declarer to use the ace of spades prematurely. As it was, declarer could then win with the queen of spades, draw the remaining trumps, lead a spade to the ace and discard his diamond loser on a club. That was one off, minus 100.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Brogeland	Bertheau	Lindqvist	Zagorin
—	—	1♥	Pass
1♠	Double	Redouble	2♦
Double	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

Daniel Zagorin also led the four of clubs. Espen Lindqvist rose with the ace and played a trump, eliminating the chance of a second undertrick. Nevertheless, he had a trick to lose in each suit when Peter Bertheau shifted to a diamond upon winning with the heart ace. That was also one off for a push.

Quarterfinal - (1) NICKELL vs. (9) GUPTA

Board 3. Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Upmark	Levin	Nyström	Weinstein
—	—	—	2♠
Double	Pass	3♦ ¹	Pass
3♠	Pass	3NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. Shows values

Steve Weinstein led the six of hearts (second-highest from poor suits). Fredrik Nyström played low from dummy and Bobby Levin put in the seven, Nyström winning with the ten. Declarer led the jack of diamonds to the ace, then followed that with the king and another diamond. Levin won with the queen and, in response to Weinstein's encouraging three and four of spades,

led the ten of that suit. Declarer ducked, and South won with his queen. The moment of truth had arrived.

For example, on a heart exit, North can win with the ace and exit with a red card. Declarer wins, cashes all the winners outside clubs, then leads a club, covering South's card. North would be endplayed to concede the ninth trick in clubs. However, Weinstein unerringly shifted to club, killing the endplay and declarer's chances. Down one for plus 100 to North/South.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Katz	Gupta	Nickell	Miller
—	—	—	2♠
Double	Pass	2NT ¹	Pass
3♣ ²	Pass	3♦ ³	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. Lebensohl: requests 3♣ from West unless the idea of declaring there is repulsive
2. Content with 3♣ if East is very weak
3. To play

Nick Nickell evaluated the East hand less strongly than did Nyström. Billy Miller led the king of spades, five, ten, ace. Nickell played another spade to cut transportation between the North and South hands. South won with his queen and led the eight of hearts, five, ace, three. Vinita Gupta returned the jack of hearts. Nickell won with dummy's king and played three rounds of trumps, losing the third to North's queen. Declarer later lost a club finesse to North and made nine tricks, losing one trick in each suit. That was plus 110 and a win of 5 IMPs for NICKELL.

Board 6. Dealer East. EW Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Upmark	Levin	Nyström	Weinstein
—	—	1♦ ¹	2♣
Pass	Pass	3♦	Double
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♣
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. 5+ diamonds (can be 4♦ if 4441 any)

Weinstein was able to describe his hand well on the auction: 3 or 4 spades, only three hearts, good clubs

and a good hand. Levin was not sufficiently enamoured of his hand to try four hearts, a contract that Johan Upmark would surely have doubled and one that Levin would in all likelihood have made with the favourable heart position and West having to follow to four rounds of clubs.

That favourable heart layout enabled Weinstein to make four clubs on the six-of-diamonds lead for plus 130, West ducking hearts twice to kill the suit.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Katz	Gupta	Nickell	Miller
—	—	1♦	2♣
Pass	Pass	2♦	3♦
Pass	3NT	Pass	Pass
Double	Pass	Pass	Pass

The auction timed out better (or worse, depending upon the outcome) for Miller, allowing him to ask for a diamond stop for three notrump. Ralph Katz expressed doubt that that contract could be made.

It was extraordinary that East, on lead against three notrump, has just two cards in his hand (either singleton) that would have defeated that contract. Equally extraordinary was that he found one of them, the four of clubs. Well done. Declarer played four rounds of clubs, allowing East to encourage in both spades and diamonds. Declarer led a heart; a cow flew by; Katz played low. That was declarer's ninth trick for plus 550 and 9 IMPs to GUPTA.

Semifinal - (2) FLEISHER vs. (3) DIAMOND

Board 6. Dealer East. EW Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Diamond	Grue	Platnick	Moss
—	—	Pass	INT
5♦	Double	Pass	Pass
Pass			

What an extraordinary one-notrump bid by Brad Moss. When I saw it, I thought they must have the directions reversed and Joe Grue was South.

Nevertheless, Diamond made the obvious 11 tricks for plus 750.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Hampson	Lindqvist	Greco	Brogeland
—	—	Pass	1♠
2NT ¹	4♠	Pass	Pass
5♠	Pass	6♣	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. Minors

Geoff Hampson made a Bid-of-the-Year contender with five spades: after having shown the minors, he could have bid five diamonds as had Diamond (albeit more directly) at the other table. Had he instead bid four notrump, that would have forced Eric Greco to pick a minor; six clubs would have emphasized clubs. How could he emphasize diamonds? Hampson found the solution: five spades. Not only did he bid five spades, he trusted that he and Greco were on the same wavelength by passing six clubs. Hampson's performance won him plus 1390 and garnered 12 IMPs for FLEISHER when Boye Brogeland led a diamond.

Had Hampson been 1=0=7=5, would five hearts have conveyed a similar message of longer diamonds with a spade loser rather than a heart loser? No, he would not have risked it – the concern was that five hearts might show a gigantic 0=3=5=5 after the earlier two notrump.

Final - (1) NICKELL vs. (2) FLEISHER

Board 12. Dealer West. NS Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Moss	Levin	Grue	Weinstein
1NT	Double	2♥ ¹	Pass
2♠	Double	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♥	3♠	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. 14-16
2. Transfer

Moss produced another of his bid-notrump-when-ever-conceivable-and-sometimes-when-

inconceivable one-notrump openers and eventually found himself on lead against three notrump. He was not hard-pressed to acquire plus 100.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Katz	Greco	Nickell	Hampson
1♦	4♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Katz opened a more-prosaic one diamond. Nickell led the king of clubs against four hearts. Greco ducked, in theory fatal, but when Nickell switched to the six of diamonds, intending it to convey no further interest in diamonds, Katz played two rounds of the suit, thinking East had a doubleton. Greco ruffed high and was back in the game. He drew trumps, ducked a club, won the spade return with his ace, cashed the hearts and the club ace and eventually took a spade finesse for his contract; plus 620 and 12 IMPs to FLEISHER.

Ducking the club was intended to allow declarer to test clubs before relying on the spade finesse. With, he thought, the king-queen of clubs in the East hand, West rated to hold the spade queen. Unlucky.

This board was part of the 56-0 run with which FLEISHER began the match. However, we'd seen enough NICKELL comebacks over the years to know the match was far from over.

NICKELL narrowed the margin to 33 IMPs with wins of 11 and 12 in the first four boards of the second set. This was next ...

Board 20. Dealer West. Both Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Martel	Katz	Fleisher	Nickell
Pass	Pass	1♥	1♠
Pass	1NT	Pass	Pass
Double	2♣	2♦	Pass
Pass	Pass		

With each side having about half the deck, two diamonds seemed a reasonable spot. Indeed, North/South can make two clubs fairly easily, but a ninth extra trick is nigh-impossible.

Two diamonds made an overtrick quite handily. Nickell cashed the high diamonds and shifted to a club. Marty Fleisher won with his ace, drew the last trump and led a spade. Nickell split his honours, not that it mattered, and so Fleisher made nine tricks for plus 110.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Meckstroth</i>	<i>Greco</i>	<i>Rodwell</i>	<i>Hampson</i>
Pass	Pass	2♥	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♦	Pass
3♥	Pass	3NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Meckwell are renowned for bidding and making three notrump on few high cards and with few tricks. Despite that, no one thought they'd make it here.

Greco led the Rusinow jack of clubs to the ace, four and five. Meckstroth led the diamond queen off the dummy. Hampson won with his king and backed the eight of clubs to the nine and ten, dummy discarding a heart. Greco shifted to the king of hearts. Declarer won with dummy's ace and played a spade. Hampson played low and Meckstroth put in the ten, perking up a bit when it held. A diamond toward dummy (ten from Greco) put South in once again. Each side had taken three tricks.

When Hampson returned a club after winning the second diamond, allowing the contract to make, it appeared that he had taken his eye off the ball. He knew (or should have known, we thought) that declarer had three spade tricks, one heart trick, three diamond tricks and two club tricks.

However, it was more complicated than that (isn't it always?): the location of the king of clubs and queen of hearts were still in doubt. Even though we could see them, Hampson could not. Against notrump, Hampson and Greco play Rusinow honour leads, but they also lead the jack from king-queen-jack-to-four. Thus, if the clubs had been distributed 4=4=1=4 (Greco with king-queen-jack-ten), North could have led the jack, Hampson thought, although the king, the power lead asking for an unblock, seems a better choice.

Furthermore, it appeared that Greco had only two diamonds, so he could have been attempting to knock out the ace of hearts before the diamonds were established, holding something like king-jack-ten-low in the suit and playing both Meckstroth and Hampson for three cards in diamonds. Then, from Greco's point of view, Hampson could duck the second diamond, thus isolating the dummy.

Also from Greco's point of view, Hampson could (perhaps should) have held the eight-four-two of clubs, having played the four (discouraging), then the eight

on the first two rounds of the suit. So, if he, Greco, knocked out the king of clubs, Hampson would not have one to return when in next. However, Greco could be certain of five tricks (two hearts, two diamonds and one club) by shifting to the king of hearts.

Only an expert partnership could have had that problem. Would a shift to the jack of hearts have been better? Even if it would, how could anyone think of it?

With the 10 IMPs won on that board, NICKELL had closed the gap to 23 IMPs. Four boards later, the margin had narrowed further, to 17. That, however, was the high-water mark for NICKELL.

Board 41. Dealer South. Neither Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Moss</i>	<i>Levin</i>	<i>Grue</i>	<i>Weinstein</i>
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	1♠	Pass	3♦ ¹
Pass	Pass	Double	Pass
3♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. Invitational

Nothing unusual here. Levin led the diamond seven. Moss discarded a spade from the dummy and Weinstein won with his ace, then shifted to a low heart. Moss beat the queen with the ace and led another. Weinstein won and shifted to a spade. Moss was able to negotiate a club discard from each hand, losing just one club and one more heart to make nine tricks for plus 140.

Weinstein had had two chances to defeat three hearts: he had to lead a club when in with the ace of diamonds or when in the jack of hearts.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Meckstroth</i>	<i>Fleisher</i>	<i>Rodwell</i>	<i>Martel</i>
—	—	—	3♦
Pass	Pass	Double	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Not having a weak two in diamonds available, Martel perpetrated a three-diamond opening that would not

have been a universal choice. A few moments later, he was declaring it doubled.

Meckstroth led the queen of spades to the king and ace. Rodwell returned the five of spades. Martel ruffed; West's jack fell. Martel led the jack of hearts; Rodwell won and returned the three of spades. Martel ruffed with the ten, West discarding the nine of clubs. Declarer led the two of clubs to the three, king and ace. East persisted with spades, leading the seven; Martel ruffed with the queen of diamonds and Meckstroth discarded his last club. Martel took dummy's two heart tricks, discarding a club and led a club to his queen. Meckstroth ruffed that and Martel was one off when he also lost the setting trick to the king of diamonds. That was minus 100 and a 1-IMP win for FLEISHER.

You know it's your day when you play three diamonds doubled, go down one, and win an IMP, when you could have made it. That's what happened here.

With six clubs and five hearts between the two hands, Martel perhaps should have played on clubs first to ensure being able to get a trick there. That would have made three diamonds doubled. Had he done so, Meckstroth might have discarded hearts instead of clubs, forcing Martel to finesse the ten of clubs.

FLEISHER won the match 133-95.



GOLD COAST QUIZ

John Carruthers, Kingsville ON

Here are two declarer-play problems from this year's Gold Coast Congress Teams Championship in Broadbeach, Australia. Can you handle these dummies with your usual deft touch?

Problem 1. Dealer West. Both Vul.

♠ A K 4
♥ A K J 6
♦ A K 8 4 3
♣ 3

♠ 10
♥ 10 8 3
♦ Q 10 9
♣ A 10 9 8 6 4

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

1. Waiting
2. RKCB
3. 1 or 4 key cards
4. Grand slam try with all 5 key cards and the queen of trumps guaranteed

How do you like your bidding? Opening two clubs as North with no really good suit and not nearly enough for game in your own hand was a bit presumptuous. Not to mention South's assuming captaincy. It was a partnership effort. Let's hope you play them better than you bid them.

West, obedient partner that he is, leads the five of clubs (lowest-from-odd/third-highest-from-even). East plays the knave and you win with the ace – good start. Plan the play.

Problem 2. Dealer North. EW Vul.

♠ A
♥ A 9 6 3 2
♦ A Q 7 3
♣ A J 8

♠ K Q 9 3 2
♥ 10 4
♦ 9 8
♣ Q 10 6 4

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

No one could fault your bidding on this one. All you have to do is make it. West leads the six of spades (fourth-highest). East follows with the jack under dummy's ace. How do you plan to take nine tricks?

Solution 1.

There are three plausible lines of play:

- (i.) Lead a spade to the ace, ruff a spade, lead a diamond to the ace, cash a high heart, lead a diamond to the queen, lead a heart to the jack. If the queen has not appeared (and you're not already down), draw trumps, hope hearts are 3-3. This line needs trumps 3-2 or the singleton jack and the heart queen onside, doubleton or third. You can improve it significantly by leading a heart to the ace at trick two, playing the ace and ruffing a spade, then taking the heart finesse. If the queen has not appeared, cash the king of spades, pitching your third heart and ruff a heart;

cash the queen of diamonds, ruff a club with the eight of diamonds and draw trumps.

- (ii.) Lead a spade to the ace, ruff a spade and cash the ace-king of hearts. If the queen of hearts has not politely dropped, cash the king of spades and ruff a heart. Hopefully, the queen has appeared by now but, if not, ruff a club, ruff dummy's last heart, and ruff another club. Hope all those ruffs survive; dummy remains with ace-king-eight of diamonds – hope the jack drops doubleton.
- (iii.) Follow line (ii.), more or less, but ruff clubs early and hope to pick up jack-third or -fourth of diamonds in West: Ruff a club at trick two, play the ace and ruff a spade, cash the ace and king of hearts. If the queen has not appeared, discard a heart on the spade, ruff a heart, ruff a club (if the heart queen has not dropped), ruff a heart and ruff a club with the eight of diamonds. Claim with the ace-king of diamonds.

What happened at the table? Here was the full deal:

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

As you see, lines (ii.) and (iii.) would have worked. However, declarer got a little careless, cashing only one high heart before taking his heart pitch on the high spade, then ruffing a spade. Thus, when he cashed the high hearts, the queen fell from East, but he now needed to ruff dummy's six of hearts. When he did, East was able to discard the club king, then over-ruff the dummy when declarer tried to reach the table with a club ruff.

Note how clever East was: he doubled the five-club response to the key-card ask (his odds were 4:1 that North had the ace), put in the jack of clubs at trick one as a discovery play, then discarded the king of clubs on the third round of hearts. That was a fine performance by Joey Silver.

Solution 2.

It appears that West has five or six spades. You can play on hearts or clubs. Which is it to be?

Surely it must be right to try the hearts. If they turn out to be 3-3, your worries will soon be over. Even if hearts are 4-2, the clubs could be 3-3 or the diamond finesse might be on. Then, the clubs will provide an entry to the spade winners; the diamond spots offer some protection there even if the king is offside. So, you win the ace of spades and lead a low heart – East plays the jack and returns the five of spades. You win with the king, discarding a diamond from the dummy, as West follows with the four. You play to the ace of hearts and split the hearts out 3-3 with a third round of the suit. West wins with the king of hearts and shifts to the seven of clubs; you play the eight and East the nine.

That's nine tricks, easy-peasy. You cash the queen of spades throwing a diamond from dummy and try the diamond finesse for an overtrick. It works. Here is the full deal:

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

This was not a particularly difficult deal to play. At the table, declarer made a hash of it. He won the ace of spades at trick one and played the ace and jack of clubs. East was uncooperative and did not win with the king. Declarer played a third round of clubs to East's king. West could see that declarer had at least three winners in hand (the king-queen of spades and the club queen), so there was a good chance to lock declarer out of his hand – he discarded the ten of spades, denying further interest in the suit and hoping that it would be read as suit preference. It was: East shifted to the queen of hearts. Declarer won with the ace and played another heart. East won with the jack and played a third heart to West's king. West shifted to a low diamond; declarer ducked in the dummy and East won with the ten. A diamond to the king and ace completed the débâcle. Declarer lost a diamond at the end for one off. Minus 50, when plus 430 was made at the other table. And yes, it was the same declarer who'd made a meal of seven diamonds earlier (and mercifully, who shall remain anonymous).

NEWS & VIEWS



“Say No to Cheats”

Dozens of top-level players gathered for a public event at the Philadelphia NABC to raise awareness of what they described as a threat to “the very soul of the game.” Although well-publicized disciplinary hearings in North America and Europe have resulted in the permanent banning of several top pairs convicted of collusive cheating, some of the accused have turned



to civil courts and have had their sentences reduced or even overturned.

The group in Philadelphia, led by Zia Mahmood and Boye Brogeland, created buttons that read, “SAY NO TO CHEATS,” and posted a petition that was available for anyone to sign. More than a hundred players proudly sported the buttons throughout the day, and roughly an equal number signed the petition.

The petition read:

“This is a letter from concerned bridge players. It is a result of issues arising from the recent cheating scandals.

We believe bridge is a game of matchless beauty and unending pleasure. Its standards of excellence and pursuit of perfection blend perfectly with the love of competition. But these are meaningless unless matched by the highest standards of honor and moral purity, in the absence of which the very soul of the game is in jeopardy.

We appreciate and applaud the efforts of the world and national federations in dealing with this cancer. We have no doubt that they share our common cause. Yet we may also see that there are times when their hands are tied by the red tape of bureaucracy and the haze of legal interpretations. It is no coincidence that the players who are signing this letter have reputations of the highest pedigree, but it is also an inherent right of each of us to decide where we play and against whom.

It is for this reason that we request that all the organizers of major events allow prospective participants to have notice of who is invited to their tournaments. Players can then make their own decisions as to whether they wish to play.

We desire nothing more than the perfect standards that our own game merits, clean from any inferences of wrongdoing.

We hope you will support us in this, and wear these badges with pride.”



www.ibpa.com

This Bulletin:

You can access an electronic copy of this Bulletin at www.ibpa.com/639mg.pdf

Subscriptions:

You can apply to join the IBPA or renew your subscription on the website by clicking on the appropriate button on the top of the homepage.

Members' Addresses:

You can find fellow members' contact details at: www.jannersten.org. If you have forgotten your access code: thorpe.katie@gmail.com

The 2016 Handbook:

To access the electronic version of the Handbook, go to the IBPA website: www.ibpa.com

Personal Details Changes:

Whenever your contact details change, please amend them as appropriate in the database found at: www.jannersten.org or inform the Membership Secretary, Katie Thorpe: thorpe.katie@gmail.com

World Bridge Calendar

DATES	EVENT	LOCATION	INFORMATION
2018			
Apr 9-15	WBF Online Women's Festival	BBO	www.worldbridge.org
Apr 13-20	22 nd APBF Youth Championships	Jakarta, Indonesia	www.pabf.org/APBF/Index.aspx
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://comandatuba2018.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.tbricfed.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 4-10	3 rd Asia Cup	Goa, India	www.pabf.org
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 22-28	52 nd International Festival	Tel-Aviv, Israel	www.ibf-festival.org
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 1-5	Yeh Bros. Cup	Beijing, China	www.pabf.org
Jul 7-12	International Festival	Ajaccio, Corsica, France	www.corsebridge.com
Jul 13-15	Batam International	Batam, Indonesia	bert_toar@hotmail.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	www.svenskbridge.se
Jul 28-Aug 9	Australian National Championships	Hobart, Tasmania, Australia	www.abfevents.com.au
Jul 29-Aug 3	Chairman's Cup	Örebro, Sweden	www.svenskbridge.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 8-18	24 ^h International Red Sea Festival	Eilat, Israel	www.bridgeredsea.com
Nov 22-Dec 2	ACBL Fall NABC	Honolulu, HI	www.acbl.org
Nov 28-Dec 2	3 rd SEABF Championships	Manila, Phippines	www.pabf.org
Dec 27-30	Year-End Congress	London, England	www.ebu.co.uk