



BULLETIN

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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.

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July 10, 2018



The Master Point Press IBPA Book of the Year Shortlist

We have five terrific candidates for Book of the Year. As usual, the hopefuls are a varied bunch, with teaching experts and intermediates the main theme. Only one of the five could be considered pure entertainment. Here they are:

Augie Boehm, Expert Hand Evaluation, 2017, 142 pp, paperback, \$14.95

If bidding were as simple as counting high-card points, most of us would have lost interest in bridge a long time ago. Appreciating the life-long challenge of a game immune to mastery, experts are always trying to hone their bidding judgment. This book's aim is to help you develop good bidding judgment by refining and improving your hand evaluation, which is the bedrock of good bidding. Learning the requirements for everyday sequences suffices to solve a great many situations – but often not when a borderline hand falls into the gray zone. Then, it is important to understand what your hand is worth. And that's the main point of Part I of this book.

Part II explores using judgment for potentially problematic bidding sequences not neatly resolved by your bidding toolbox. Applying the hand-evaluation judgment learned in Part I will help you think outside the box.

Fred Gitelman/Jeff Rubens, Playing Suit Combinations, 2017, 96 pp, paperback, \$16.95

This book serves two purposes: One is to enable the reader to improve card-play technique. The text illustrates how best to handle some specific holdings, and, more importantly, assists in the development of patterns of bridge problem-solving that apply not only to single-suit situations but to declarer-play and defensive problems in general. The other purpose is to share some of the beauties and fascinating variations of the game that can be enjoyed in a restricted setting, freed from external distractions.

In particular, suit combinations often demonstrate how small changes can have large impacts. The book consists of a tutorial (adapted from parts of the highly acclaimed *Expert Bridge Simplified: Arithmetic Shortcuts for Declarer*, a text that provides ways to avoid complex calculations) and a catalog of examples based on a long-running column on suit combinations in *The Bridge World* magazine.

Continued overleaf ...

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Eric Kokish/Mark Horton, Close Encounters: Bridge's Greatest Matches: 1964-2001, Book 1, 2018, 262 pp, paperback, \$21.95

Close Encounters is a two-book series that describes some of the most memorable bridge matches of the last fifty years. It features titanic struggles for World and National titles, involving the greatest players from North America and Europe. There are amazing comebacks, down-to-the-wire finishes, overtime victories, and an insight into how the game has changed over the last half century.

Book 1 starts with Italy's asserting its supremacy over Great Britain in 1964, and ends with Germany's dramatic Venice Cup win over France in Paris, in 2001.

Paul Thurston, Playing 2/1 – The Rest of the Story, 2017, 200 pp, paperback, \$19.95

Paul Thurston's *25 Steps to Learning 2/1* was an instant bestseller, winning the 2003 American Bridge Teachers Association Book-of-the-Year award. In a tantalizing postscript to that book, he promised a sequel, one that would cover the rest of the story for those who wanted to add modern sophistication to their 2/1 bidding. Here at last he delivers, and the long wait will prove to have been worth it. The book describes an understandable and playable version of today's most popular system, something that has been missing from the literature until now.

Paul Thurston is a former Canadian champion who writes a syndicated daily bridge column for *The National Post*.

Kit Woolsey, The Language of Bridge, 2017, 317 pp, paperback, \$19.95

Bridge is a game of communication between partners. As such, the methods of communication used in bridge — the bids we make during the auction and cards we play on defence — constitute a language. Understanding how to speak that language requires more than learning what the different 'words' mean; one must know how and why to use these words.

Like words in a sentence, an individual bid's meaning will be augmented and amplified by the context of the auction and sequence of other bids. In order to learn to speak this language fluently, we also have to learn to think correctly. As when we are speaking English, we use our bridge language (Bringlish) in the pursuit of a goal.

The goal of bidding is to get to the best contract, not to follow some rules or 'describe your hand'. The goal of defence is setting the contract or taking the maximum number of tricks, not telling partner what you hold or giving the 'right' signal.

Kit Woolsey tackles this subject in characteristic style: clear and logical analysis, supported by numerous example hands. Kit's unique perspective on bridge offers insights valuable to players of all levels.



The International Bridge Press Association

IBPA Annual General Meeting

Monday, October 1, 2018
Orlando, FL, USA

Proposed Agenda

0. **Attendance**
1. **Remembrance**
2. **Minutes**
of the AGM held on 20th of August 2017 in Lyon France.

3. **Officers' Reports**
4. **Appointees' Reports**
5. **Treasurer**
6. **Elections**

The current officers are:
President: Barry Rigal (USA)
Chairman: Per Jannersten (Sweden)
Vice-President: David Stern (Australia)
Organisational Vice-President: Dilip Gidwani (India)
Treasurer: Richard Solomon (New Zealand)
Secretary: Elisabeth van Ettinger (Netherlands)

Proposed for annual election are:
Hon. Auditor: Richard Fleet
Hon. General Counsel: David Harris

7. **Election of Executive Members**
8. **The IBPA Annual Awards**
9. **Remission of Subscriptions**
10. **Any Other competent business**

EUROPEAN TEAMS CHAMPIONS !



OPEN TEAMS NORWAY

(l. to r.) Espen Lindqvist
Terje Aa
Allan Livgård
Christian Vennerød (NPC)
Sten Bjertnes (Coach)
Boye Brogeland
Nils Kvangraven
Ulf Tundal

WOMEN'S TEAMS POLAND

(l. to r.) Anna Sarniak
Zofia Baldysz
Cathy Baldysz
Mirek Cichocki (NPC)
Justyna Zmuda
Danuta Kazmucha
Katarzyna Dufurat



SENIOR TEAMS FRANCE

(l. to r.) Guy Lasserre
Michel Abécassis
Philippe Poizat
Michel Lebel
Éric Gautret (NPC)
Philippe Soulet
Alain Lévy
Yves Aubry (outgoing
EBL President)



2018 European Championships

Roll of Honour

OPEN TEAMS

- 1st: NORWAY - Terje Aa, Boye Brogeland, Nils Kvangraven, Espen Lindqvist, Allan Livgård, Ulf Tundal, Christian Vennerød npc, Sten Bjertnes coach
2nd: ISRAEL - Ilan Bareket, Alon Birman, Assaf Lengy, Amir Levin, Dror Padon, Josef Roll, Ehud Friedlander npc
3rd: RUSSIA - Yury Khiuppenen, Jouri Khokhlov, Vadim Kholomeev, Georgi Matushko, Sergey Orlov, Evgeni Rudakov
Sweden, Netherlands, Monaco, England & Italy also qualified for the 2019 Bermuda Bowl.

WOMEN'S TEAMS

- 1st: POLAND - Cathy Baldysz, Zofia Baldysz, Katarzyna Dufurat, Danuta Kazmucha, Anna Sarniak, Justyna Zmuda, Mirosław Cichocki npc
2nd: SWEDEN - Catharina Ahlesved, Kathrine Bertheau, Ida Grönkvist, Maria Grönkvist, Jessica Larsson, Cecilia Rimstedt, Kenneth Borin npc, Carina Wademark coach
3rd: NORWAY - Ann Karin Fuglestad, Liv Marit Grude, Marianne Harding, Torild Heskje, Bodil Nyheim Øigarden, Gunn Tove Vist, Tormod Røren npc, Jon-Egil Furunes coach
Denmark, England, Netherlands, Scotland, & France also qualified for the 2019 Venice Cup.

SENIOR TEAMS

- 1st: FRANCE - Michel Abecassis, Guy Lasserre, Michel Lebel, Alain Levy, Philippe Poizat, Philippe Soulet, Eric Gautret npc, Michel Bessis coach
2nd: SWEDEN - Mats Axdorph, Bengt-Erik Efraimsson, PG Eliasson, Björn Fallenius, Anders Morath, Mats Nilslund, Olle Wademark npc, Carina Wademark coach
3rd: POLAND - Piotr Bizon, Michal Kwiecien, Victor Markowicz, Krzysztof Moszczynski, Włodzimierz Starkowski, Marek Szymanowski, Włodzimierz Wala npc
Ireland, Denmark, Norway, Netherlands & England also qualified for the 2019 d'Orsi Trophy.

WOMEN'S PAIRS

- 1st: TURKEY - Nilgun Kotan, Ferda Zorlu
2nd: POLAND - Katarzyna Dufurat, Justyna Zmuda
3rd: POLAND - Danuta Kazmucha, Anna Sarniak

SENIOR PAIRS

- 1st: POLAND - Andrzej Pawlak, Piotr Tuszyński
2nd: POLAND - Michal Kwiecien, Włodzimierz Starkowski
3rd: ITALY - Aldo Mina, Ruggero Pulga

54th European Bridge Team Championships

Ostend, Belgium • 6 - 16 June 2018

Women/Seniors Pairs • Open/Women/Seniors Teams



The 2018 European Open Teams Championship

David Bird, Eastleigh, UK

Mark Horton, Sutton Benger, UK

Brian Senior, Nottingham, UK

Ron Tacchi, Vaupillon, France

Jos Jacobs, Maarn, Netherlands

Maurizio Di Sacco, Pisa, Italy

RRI NOR v GRE (DB)

As the Championships got underway, Daily Bulletin Editor Mark Horton and I watched the match between Norway and Greece. We were commentating on BBO in the Closed Room, where Boye Brogeland and Espen Lindqvist faced Konstantinos Doxiadis and Petros Roussos.

The match started very positively for Norway. They won a slam swing and a few more IMPs on partscore deals to lead by 29 IMPs after seven boards. Then ...

Board 8. Dealer West. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Brogeland</i>	<i>Doxiadis</i>	<i>Lindqvist</i>	<i>Roussos</i>
1♠	Pass	3♥	Double
Pass	Pass	4♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		

East's three hearts was a mixed raise (6-8 points). Roussos doubled, to show hearts, and this deterred North from finding a diamond lead against four spades. After a heart to the ace and the ten of hearts to the jack, it was still not too late to play a killing diamond. No, North persisted with hearts. Brogeland ruffed, played the ace of spades and eliminated clubs (ruffing the third with the king of spades). He then returned to the queen of spades and led a diamond to the ten and queen. South, who had discarded the diamond seven on the second trump, returned the six of diamonds. Would Brogeland guess correctly now?

Yes, he did. He put up the jack and was able to claim the contract. Mark Horton and I discussed how Brogeland might have guessed correctly. Perhaps he placed South with high cards as well as hearts for his earlier double. Since Mark was on site, he was able to ask Boye after the match. The response was that South's suit-preference ten of hearts had indicated good diamonds, also that the 'general table feel' had guided him in the right direction. Ah, yes, table feel. I've never experienced it myself, but maybe one day ...

West	North	East	South
<i>Filos</i>	<i>Kvangraven</i>	<i>Papakyria-kopoulos</i>	<i>Tundal</i>
1♠	Pass	3NT	Double
4♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

The defence was the same – two rounds of hearts, North then failing to find the necessary diamond

switch. Filios had an easier ride than Brogeland in the elimination ending, because North discarded a diamond and then contributed the nine on the first round of the suit. This eliminated (no pun intended) the guess for declarer on the diamond return.

RR6 ITA v UKR (MH)

Walking back to my hotel very late on Friday evening, I bumped into Giorgio Duboin, who immediately gave me the following deal from Italy's match against Ukraine in Round 6:

Board 19. Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Rovyshyn</i>	<i>Duboin</i>	<i>Shukhmev</i>	<i>Donati</i>
—	—	—	Pass
3♦	Pass	Pass	Double
Pass	3♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Opposite a passed hand, Duboin was more than happy to bid only three spades. In the other room, North/South had reached four spades, which had failed by two tricks.

East led the nine of diamonds. West won with the ace and returned the seven, East ruffing declarer's ten with the three of spades and continuing with the ace of hearts and a heart, declarer ruffing West's king and playing a club to the king and another club. West ruffed and played a diamond, ruffed by East and over-ruffed by dummy. These cards remained:

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

Declarer played dummy's nine of spades and, when West followed with the seven, he finessed the ten on

which East discarded a heart. Then, when North played the king of spades. East was caught in a rare entry-shifting squeeze. If he threw another heart, declarer would overtake the king of spades with dummy's ace, ruff a heart, establishing the suit, and could get back to dummy to enjoy them by ruffing a club. If East parted with a club, declarer would have played dummy's queen of spades. He could then ruff a club, ruff a heart and cash two clubs.

However, there was, as Duboin pointed out, a snag. Suppose West covers the nine of spades with the jack? Declarer wins, but could no longer execute the squeeze. Of course, Duboin pointed out his own mistake. He must overruff at the previous trick with dummy's queen of spades! Then it would not help West to cover the nine with the jack, as declarer would then win with the king and play the ten of spades, whereupon the entry-shifting squeeze would operate as before.

I also spotted something else: after crossing to the king of clubs, suppose declarer ruffs a heart? He then cashes the king of spades and the king of diamonds, then runs dummy's trumps. The last of these will squeeze East in hearts and clubs and give declarer ten tricks. (Defending against four spades at the other table, Bocchi had accurately switched to a spade at trick three, giving declarer no chance.)

RR7 MON v NED (BS)

Board 10. Dealer East. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Molenaar</i>	<i>Helness</i>	<i>Verbeek</i>	<i>Helgemo</i>
—	—	1♦ ¹	Double
1♥ ²	2♣	Pass ³	Pass
2♦	3♣	Pass	Pass
3♦	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. 5+ diamonds unless 4=4=4=1
2. 4+ spades
3. Fewer than 3 spades

West	North	East	South
<i>Multon</i>	<i>DeWijs</i>	<i>Martens</i>	<i>Muller</i>
—	—	1♦	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♦	Pass
3♦	Pass	3NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Against three diamonds, Helgemo cashed the ace of clubs then switched to the queen of hearts. Verbeek won with the ace and played the ace and another diamond. Helgemo won with the king and returned a club to the queen and king, so Verbeek drew the missing trump then led the ten of hearts to his king, took a heart pitch on the jack of clubs and ruffed a heart. There was a heart to lose at the end, so plus 130.

Muller started with the queen of hearts against three notrump. Martens won with the ace and played two rounds of diamonds, Muller winning with the king. De Wijs showed out on the second diamond, discarding the ten of clubs. Having seen a discouraging heart card at trick one and knowing from the ten of clubs that declarer held at least the king and jack in that suit, Muller tried the only suit left to him, finding the killing play of the jack of spades. That was nicely done and left Martens with no winning option. After some thought he called for the queen, losing to the king. De Wijs returned the ten of spades and the defence established two more winners in the suit. Martens won with the ace, cashed the diamonds, then the king of hearts, and was down two for minus 200 and 8 IMPs to Netherlands.

RR8 FRA v RUS (RT)

Board 28. Dealer West. NS Vul.

<p>♠ A Q J 2 ♥ A 4 ♦ A Q 9 8 5 2 ♣ A</p> <p>♠ 6 ♥ 9 8 3 ♦ K 10 7 6 ♣ 9 8 6 5 4</p>	<p>♠ 10 5 ♥ K 6 5 2 ♦ 3 ♣ K Q J 7 3 2</p> <p>♠ K 9 8 7 4 3 ♥ Q J 10 7 ♦ J 4 ♣ 10</p>
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West	North	East	South
<i>Khyuppenen</i>	<i>Rombaut</i>	<i>Kholomeev</i>	<i>Lorenzini</i>
Pass	1♦	2♣	Double
5♣	6♣	Pass	6♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

The contract was in no doubt even after West tried a sneaky low diamond lead and declarer played the ace.

West	North	East	South
<i>Volcker</i>	<i>Matushko</i>	<i>Bessis</i>	<i>Khokhlov</i>
Pass	1♣ ¹	2♣	2♠
5♣	6♣	7♣	Pass
Pass	7♠	Pass	Pass

1. (a) 11-14 balanced (b) 11-16 4414
(c) any 17+

The Russian North started with a Polish Club and this time South bid his suit. West applied the same pressure and North came up with the same solution. But this time East went all-in, or tapis, as we say in France. South passed the decision to partner who called the bet. It was now up to South to gather all the chips that had been pushed into the centre of the table.

After a club lead, won perforce in dummy, the queen and jack of trumps were played, overtaken by the king in hand. The jack of diamonds was now played and covered by the king and taken by the ace. Declarer was now at the crossroads: should he play for the ten of diamonds to be onside or should he play for a 3-2 split. Thirty IMPs depended on this decision. Which would you do? Not too difficult seeing all four hands.

Declarer elected to go for the 3-2 split – no cigar. Should he have played the other way? I cannot say for sure, but East's bid of seven clubs does suggest some additional shape. He overcalled, he did not make a weak jump overcall, so he rates to hold the king of hearts – does a 2=3=2=6 shape look as good as a 2=4=1=6 pattern from the point of view for a sacrifice? It is awfully easy to be wise after the event. But 17 IMPs went into the French column.

RR9 NED v BEL (JJ)

Board 7. Dealer South. Both Vul.

<p>♠ 3 ♥ K J 6 ♦ K 10 8 6 4 2 ♣ Q 4 2</p> <p>♠ J 10 6 4 2 ♥ 9 5 4 2 ♦ — ♣ J 9 8 6</p>	<p>♠ A 9 8 7 ♥ Q 8 3 ♦ 9 3 ♣ K 10 7 5</p> <p>♠ K Q 5 ♥ A 10 7 ♦ A Q J 7 5 ♣ A 3</p>
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West	North	East	South
<i>Bahbout</i>	<i>Verbeek</i>	<i>Vandervorst</i>	<i>Molenaar</i>
—	—	—	2NT
Pass	3♣ ¹	Pass	3♥ ²
Pass	4♦	Pass	4♥
Pass	4♠	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♣	Pass	6♦
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. Puppet Stayman
2. No 4- or 5-card major

East leads a trump. How would you play? The first few tricks are easy enough: two rounds of trumps and lead a spade up. East wins with the ace and returns the suit to dummy's king; you discard a club. On the

run of the trumps, the defenders have to find discards. West, who had already thrown two spades on the first two rounds of trumps, discards his last spade as well as two low clubs and a heart. East discards his two last spades and two clubs. You cross to the ace of clubs and cash the king of spades, on which West discards another heart. What now?

Are you going to play for the squeeze to have worked against the king of clubs and the queen of hearts or are you trying to locate the queen of hearts correctly and thus discard the queen of clubs? Tim Verbeek opted for the latter: he discarded his club queen and took the heart finesse through West, who had probably started with four hearts and thus was the more likely one to hold the queen. No luck, one down, Belgium plus 100.

West	North	East	South
DeWijs	DeDonder	Muller	DeRoos
—	—	—	2NT
Pass	3♣	Pass	3NT
Pass	4♦	Pass	4NT
Pass	6♦	Pass	Pass
Pass			

At this table, too, East led a trump but, here, West discarded the four of hearts. Play then went along the same lines as in the other room but, in the end, declarer threw two clubs on the king and queen of spades and then took the heart finesse through East for a great plus 1370 and 16 IMPs to Belgium.

RR9 ENG v POL (BS)

When is a sure trump trick not a sure trump trick? Well, take a look at Board 13 from Round 9 of the Open Series. The match was England versus Finland and, before this board, England led by 68-11 IMPs.

The English East/West pair, David Bakhshi and Artur Malinowski, had played in three notrump, down one after a club lead, for minus 100. It looked as though the board might be flat when Finland's Artur Karhulahti and Clas Nyberg bid to six diamonds, a contract apparently doomed by the five-zero trump split.

Board 13. Dealer North. Both Vul.

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

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

1. (a) Natural (b) 12-14 balanced (c) any 18+
2. 0-7 or semi-positive with diamonds
3. Artificial game-force
4. Natural, long diamonds

The small slam would have been defeated on a club lead whatever the trump break. However, Tony Forrester led a low heart to Andrew Robson's ace. At this point, Robson must have felt reasonably good about life, looking at his trump holding. He returned a spade to dummy. Nyberg won that, cashed the ace of diamonds and got the bad news. He unblocked the king of hearts, went back to dummy with a spade, and played the queen of hearts. Suddenly, Robson's sure trump trick started to look less secure. If he had ruffed low, everything would have been easy for declarer, who would then have been in a position to draw trumps after over-ruffing and unblocking the trump queen. But if Robson had ruffed with the nine or ten, he would also have been over-ruffed. The play would then have continued on essentially the same lines as if he had not ruffed at all.

If South does not ruff in, declarer's club losers go away on the major-suit winners. He then ruffs a heart or a spade in this position:

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

If South discards a club, declarer next leads a club to the ace and continues with another side-suit card. Down to nothing but trumps, South finally has to split his ten-nine of diamonds. Declarer over-ruffs, leads low to the queen of diamonds, and any card from dummy at trick 12 sees the king-eight of diamonds pick up South's ten-seven.

If South ruffs in earlier, he just gives up his trump holding earlier and declarer can draw trumps then take the discards on dummy's remaining winners. There is no escape from the trump coup.

A club lead would have defeated, not just six diamonds, but even five diamonds as the defence would have come to a heart, a club and a trump trick.

Five diamonds will make after a heart lead to the ace, whatever South plays back, but six diamonds can be defeated, if South finds a club switch at trick two, as this knocks out a late dummy entry that is required to operate the trump coup.

RR10 ITA v ISR (JJ)

One occasionally sees the same opening bid by two players on the same team sitting in opposing directions at the two tables. However, the following board was rarer still: South and West both opened the bidding with two spades!

Board 19. Dealer South. EW Vul.

<p style="text-align: center;">♠ — ♥ J 9 6 5 4 2 ♦ Q 10 9 4 3 ♣ A 7</p> <p>♠ K Q J 10 9 7 ♠ 8 3 ♥ K ♥ A Q 10 7 3 ♦ 8 7 ♦ A K 6 5 ♣ 10 9 8 5 ♣ Q 2</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">♠ A 6 5 4 2 ♥ 8 ♦ J 2 ♣ K J 6 4 3</p>
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West	North	East	South
<i>Padon</i>	<i>Duboin</i>	<i>Birman</i>	<i>Donati</i>
—	—	—	Pass
2♠	Pass	4♠	Pass
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♣
Double	Redouble	Pass	5♦
Pass	Pass	Double	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Duboin did not time his four notrump well, one might say, as his hand did not mesh well with his partner's. Nevertheless, Donati managed to make seven tricks for down four and minus 800, so if four spades in East/West would make, the loss would not be that serious.

At the other table, the issue was how to get to four spades after an opponent had opened two spades.

West	North	East	South
<i>Madala</i>	<i>Levin</i>	<i>Bianchedi</i>	<i>Roll</i>
—	—	—	2♠
Pass	Pass	3♥	Pass
Pass	Pass		

With his suit stolen by South, Madala as West could not find any sensible action over partner's three hearts. Bidding spades as a natural suit was out of the question for him. So Bianchedi had to languish in a far-from-ideal contract and went down two for another plus 200 and 14 IMPs to Israel.

RR12 GER v POL (BS)

Board 29. Dealer North. Both Vul.

<p style="text-align: center;">♠ 9 6 3 ♥ A Q 10 3 2 ♦ K 2 ♣ J 8 7</p> <p>♠ K 2 ♠ A 10 8 5 4 ♥ K J 9 8 7 6 4 ♥ — ♦ 10 4 3 ♦ A Q J 9 8 6 ♣ 4 ♣ 3 2</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ Q J 7 ♥ 5 ♦ 7 5 ♣ A K Q 10 9 6 5</p>	
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West	North	East	South
<i>Welland</i>	<i>Jagniewski</i>	<i>Auken</i>	<i>Gawel</i>
—	Pass	1♦	2♣
2♦ ¹	Pass	Pass	3♣
3♦	3NT	4♦	Pass
Pass	4NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			
1. Hearts			

In four notrump, on a non-diamond lead, there are only nine tricks and, on a spade lead, four notrump can be down five. However, Auken led the ace, then queen, of diamonds, so Jagniewski grabbed his king, rattled off seven club winners, then took the heart finesse for ten tricks and an excellent plus 630.

West	North	East	South
<i>Narkiewicz</i>	<i>Gromöller</i>	<i>Buras</i>	<i>Häusler</i>
—	Pass	1♠	3♣
3♥	Pass	4♦	Pass
4♥	Double	5♦	Pass
Pass	Double	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Häusler cashed the king of clubs, then switched to a heart for the jack and queen, ruffed. Buras ruffed his remaining club then played three rounds of spades, ruffing. That worked out nicely and he next played dummy's remaining trump, overtaking with the queen then cashing the ace. The friendly breaks in both spades and diamonds meant that Buras had 12 tricks for plus 950 and a massive 17 IMPs to Poland.

RR15 ENG v NED (RT)

Board 6. Dealer East. EW Vul.

<p style="text-align: center;">♠ Q 7 5 ♥ 10 5 ♦ 5 4 ♣ A Q J 9 6 3</p> <p>♠ 10 8 3 2 ♠ K J 6 4 ♥ Q J 7 6 ♥ A 4 3 ♦ J 10 9 6 ♦ 8 7 3 ♣ 10 ♣ 8 5 4</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ A 9 ♥ K 9 8 2 ♦ A K Q 2 ♣ K 7 2</p>	
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West	North	East	South
Robson	DeWijs	Forrester	Muller
—	—	Pass	1♣ ¹
Pass	2♣ ²	Pass	2♦ ³
Pass	3♣ ⁴	Pass	3♦ ⁵
Pass	3♥ ⁶	Pass	3♠ ⁷
Pass	3NT ⁸	Pass	Pass

1. 17+
2. Natural, GF
3. Relay
4. 6/7 clubs, no shortness
5. Relay
6. 3=2=2=6
7. Control ask
8. 2 controls (A=2, K=1)

After South's strong opening and relays, South knew they were missing an ace and a king, so went quietly into the night and allowed North to play the notrump game. After a spade lead there was nothing to the play, which succeeded with two overtricks.

West	North	East	South
Nab	Malinowski	Drijver	Bakhshi
—	—	Pass	1♣ ¹
Pass	2♥ ²	Pass	2♠ ³
Pass	3♣ ⁴	Pass	4♣ ⁵
Pass	4♥ ⁶	Pass	4♠ ⁷
Pass	6♣ ⁸	Pass	Pass

1. (a) 12-14 balanced (b) Natural (c) Any 18+
2. Invitational in notrump or either minor opposite a balanced 12-14
3. Asks which
4. Invitational with clubs
5. Key card ask
6. 1 key card
7. Queen ask
8. Queen of clubs, no outside king

West led the jack of diamonds, taken by declarer's ace. He played a trump to the queen and a low heart from dummy. When East ducked, the king won. Declarer then embarked on cashing his trumps. On the second, third and fourth rounds, West discarded three spades, keeping only the ten. East discarded a low spade. That made the contract possible – basically, North's seven of spades was higher than East's six.

Another round of trumps, the fifth, was cashed, East discarding a diamond, South and West, hearts. Declarer now cashed his two diamond honours, parting with dummy's heart. On the third diamond, East threw a spade so declarer played the ace and nine of spades, setting up the queen in dummy with a trump as the entry to it.

To defeat six clubs, East must discard the ace of hearts to avoid being thrown in with it to lead a spade, but must also keep three spades. Equally, West must keep two spades to avoid declarer's leading the queen from

the dummy to pin the ten. It was a difficult defence; 10 IMPs to England.

RRI 6 FRA v ICE (DB)

Board 23. Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Jorgensen	Rombaut	Thorvaldsson	Lorenzini
—	—	—	1♦
2♣	Pass	2♥	Pass
4♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

Lorenzini led the ace of diamonds and switched to the ace and queen of spades, attempting to reveal as many high cards as possible. North overtook the queen of spades with the king to return a diamond. Thorvaldsson won and would now have to divine the trump position. The ace-queen-jack of spades and the ace of diamonds would give South an opening bid, but would North have bid something if he held at least five spades to the king, the king of hearts, and a possible black jack or two? After a couple of suspenseful minutes, Thorvaldsson played the ace of hearts, dropping the king offside. Bravo! It was a brilliant plus 620 on the Icelanders' card.

West	North	East	South
Segaineau	Baldursson	Sebbane	Haraldsson
—	—	—	1♦
Pass	1♠	Pass	3♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

The French pair did not enter the auction. They scored their five tricks in the side suits, but it was 11 IMPs to Iceland.

RRI 7 ISR v ENG (MDS)

Board 16. Dealer West. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Levin	Forrester	Roll	Robson
1♠	Pass	2♥	3♦
3♠	4♣	4♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Robson set the boat of his partnership on a course for troubled waters – three diamonds floats into minus 800 territory – and Forrester sportingly pushed the boat out still further. But his opponents ignored them – I wonder why Josi Roll did not apply the axe to four clubs: if he had done so, Amir Levin could have, in turn, doubled four diamonds as well – and settled for four spades.

Forrester started the defence off on the right foot by leading a diamond, and Levin ducked, giving Robson a choice of defences. Reasoning that declarer would not have ducked if a shift was dangerous to him, South played a second diamond honour.

In turn, Levin could now reason that playing a spade to dummy's queen, then a heart towards the king was no good: the third, then the fourth round of diamonds would promote a trump trick for the defence, and four in all, so Levin carefully avoided this, finding instead a splendid play: he led his low heart from hand, and put up dummy's queen after Forrester's three.

Had Robson won that, and continued with a further top diamond, declarer could have ruffed in dummy, then used the heart king as his re-entry to hand to draw trumps, conceding just one trump trick. Had Robson returned a heart instead, declarer could have led out trumps from the top, again losing just one trump: he takes three top trumps, crosses to the club ace and plays the heart jack to pitch his diamond. But when the first round of hearts went to Forrester's three and dummy's jack, Robson ducked!

Now declarer played a second heart. Robson won with his ace, and carefully shifted to a club into dummy. All declarer could do was to lead dummy's top heart, pitching a diamond, but Forrester ruffed and led a club for his partner to ruff, for down one.

West	North	East	South
Bakhshi	Bareket	Malinowski	Lengy
1♠	Pass	2♥	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♥	Pass	4♥	Pass
Pass	Pass		

With the auction to themselves, Bakhshi/Malinowski arrived in the superior four-heart game. Lengy led the king of diamonds. Declarer won, took the top spades for a diamond discard and played trumps. He lost just one heart and two clubs for plus 620 and 12 IMPs to England.

RR21 POL v ITA (BS)

Board 9. Dealer North. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Narkiewicz	Bianchedi	Buras	Madala
—	1♠	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♠	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

West	North	East	South
Donati	Jagniewski	Duboin	Gawel
—	1♠	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♦
Pass	3♥	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Different versions of the Gazzilli two-club rebid, natural or 16+, and two-diamond (8+) game-forcing response, saw both Souths become declarer in the notrump game.

Donati led the two of clubs. Gawel put up dummy's ten, cashed the ace and queen of diamonds, then played the ace of hearts and a low heart to the eight and nine. Donati returned the two of spades, ducked to Duboin's jack, and Duboin switched to a club for the queen and ace. Donati knew the club situation and could see that the point of the deal was to keep declarer out of his hand, so he switched back to spades, leading the king to dummy's ace. Gawel cashed the hearts, but had to lead a spade next, and lost two of those, so was down one for minus 50.

Narkiewicz too led a low club to dummy's ten and Madala cashed the top diamonds then led a club to the king and ace. Narkiewicz was awkwardly placed now but found the best return of a spade, choosing the king. Madala won with the ace and returned a low spade, Buras winning with the jack and returning the seven of hearts to the jack, queen and ace. Madala continued with ace and a third heart to the nine and Narkiewicz was endplayed. He could cash the queen of spades but then had to give the lead to declarer or dummy, either of whom had only winning cards remaining. That was nicely played for plus 400 and 10 IMPs to Italy.



IBPA Column Service

Tim Bourke, Canberra

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909. Dealer South. Both Vul.

<p>♠ 7 5 3 ♥ 10 2 ♦ 9 7 4 3 ♣ A K 3 2</p> <p>♠ Q 10 8 2 ♥ J 9 8 ♦ Q 10 5 2 ♣ 10 5</p> <p>♠ A K 6 4 ♥ K Q 6 4 ♦ A K 8 ♣ Q 8</p>	<p>♠ J 9 ♥ A 7 5 3 ♦ J 6 ♣ J 9 7 6 4</p>
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West	North	East	South
—	—	—	2NT ¹
Pass	3NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			
1. 20-21			

This was the auction at both tables in a teams match. Each West led a fourth-highest two of spades. The first declarer took the trick with the ace of spades and played the ace, king and another diamond. West won the trick with the ten of diamonds and cashed the queen of diamonds, East discarding a low heart and a low club. Declarer took West's exit of the queen of spades with the king and cashed the queen, ace and king of clubs. Next, he led the two of hearts toward his hand. East played low and declarer's queen of hearts won the trick. Alas, with only king-six-four of hearts left, declarer had to lose the last three tricks and finished down one.

At the other table, the declarer counted seven top tricks with another available in hearts. He judged that the best chance of making the contract was to play West for the jack of hearts. Accordingly, after winning the first trick with the king of spades, since he did not want a shift, this declarer led a low heart at trick two. West rose with the jack of hearts and played the queen of spades. Declarer took this with the ace and continued with the six of hearts. Dummy's ten forced East's ace and declarer claimed nine tricks: two spades, two hearts, two diamonds and three clubs.

910. Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

After North's Jacoby two notrump, promising four-card spade support, South's rebid promised extras while denying six spades and a singleton or void in a suit. After some control-bidding, South asked for key cards and then confirmed that the partnership had them all by bidding five notrump. When North showed that he held the king of clubs by bidding six clubs, South bid what he thought he could likely make.

West led the ten of hearts. When dummy came down, declarer counted twelve winners and saw that, if trumps were no worse than 3-1, he could draw the trumps, discard a diamond from dummy on the fourth round of hearts: and ruff the queen of diamonds in the dummy. So, declarer played low from dummy and won the first trick in hand with his king. He played a low trump toward dummy. When West discarded a diamond, declarer won the trick with dummy's eight of trumps.

Declarer saw that trying to ruff a diamond was too dangerous a policy to pursue. Instead, he decided to ruff two clubs in hand without using the ace of hearts as an entry. So, he cashed the ace and king of

clubs then ruffed a club with the king of trumps. Next, he led the queen of trumps to dummy's ace and ruffed dummy's last club with the jack of trumps. Declarer's remaining trump, the five, was now led to dummy's nine. After drawing East's last trump with dummy's ten, declarer claimed thirteen tricks: four trumps, four hearts, a diamond, two clubs and two club ruffs.

Note that the bad heart break meant that if declarer had been careless with his trump entries to dummy he would have gone down when he tried to cross back to dummy in hearts.

911. Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

South was one of those players who invariably accepted an invitation to bid game. West led the king of clubs. East overtook this with the ace and returned the three of clubs, with West's nine winning the trick. After cashing the queen of clubs, West continued with the ten of clubs. East discarded a second diamond and declarer ruffed.

Declarer paused to assess the situation. The first consideration was which defender to play for the queen of trumps. Declarer saw that if he chose West as the designated holder of that card he would probably need to make four tricks in spades too. As that required a little bit too much luck, declarer decided to play East for the trump queen.

So, declarer began by cashing the king and ace of spades and ruffing a spade. After cashing the ace of diamonds and ruffing a diamond low, declarer ruffed a second spade in hand, reducing himself to the ace and jack of hearts plus a diamond. Now, after ruffing his remaining diamond with dummy's king of trumps declarer led a low trump and covered East's seven with the jack.

When that held, declarer had ten tricks: two spades, five trumps, a diamond and two diamond ruffs.

Note that if declarer had decided to play the ace of diamonds and ruff a diamond before playing on spades, he would have had to lead dummy's low trump and finesse against East's queen next. Then declarer would have cashed the king and ace of spades and ruffed a spade, reducing himself to the ace-jack of hearts and a diamond – the same position as above.

912. Dealer West. Both Vul.

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

1. A forcing, fit-showing, jump with at least five hearts

West led out the ace, king and queen of spades. Declarer ruffed, cashed the king of hearts, followed by the ace. The contract could no longer be made. Declarer had to lose a trump and a club for down one.

"What bad luck," said the declarer.

Dummy rebutted this with "Rubbish! You were unlikely to make the contract if trumps were 5-0 and you would always make eleven tricks if trumps were 3-2. So, you should have concentrated on handling a 4-1 break. Your play was fine if East held four trumps but there was a plan available to make ten tricks whenever trumps were 4-1. Simply cash the king and queen of trumps at tricks four and five. If everyone had followed you would have drawn the last trump with the ace and run the diamonds for the overtrick. When either player showed out, as East did here, you would have played on diamonds. West could have ruffed in and played a fourth round of spades, but you would have been in control. You would have thrown a club from dummy and ruffed in hand. Then, after leading your remaining trump to dummy's ace you would have claimed the balance of the tricks, making five trumps, four diamonds and a club.

RR22 MON v ICE (DB)

After a poor start, Monaco had performed a triple-jump up the table with several big wins and were back 'where they belonged': in the top eight. Iceland, who were also riding high, were likely to provide stern opposition.

Board 19. Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Jorgensen</i>	<i>Multon</i>	<i>Thorvaldsson</i>	<i>Martens</i>
—	—	—	2♥
Double	2♠	Double	Pass
3NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

The trio of Multon/Martens/Zimmermann have a shared convention card but there was a disagreement here on the meaning of two hearts. As I understand it, in this partnership, Martens should have had a two-suiter in the majors for his two-heart bid. This explains Multon's correction to two spades, which East doubled for penalties. Jorgensen jumped to three notrump, hoping to make it clear to partner that he was not attracted towards a spade game.

Still under the impression that South held both majors, Multon led the seven of spades to the ten and jack. Jorgensen played his two top diamonds, cashed the ace of spades and then chose to play the jack of diamonds rather than the eight. North won and switched to the queen of clubs, dummy's king winning.

With a club trick in the bag, declarer would now make the game if he could score four spades, the ace of hearts, three diamonds and one club. He played the queen and another spade to North, who cashed the ace of clubs. When he switched to a heart, declarer won with the ace and cashed the long spade and the ten of diamonds for nine tricks and plus 600.

West	North	East	South
<i>Helgemo</i>	<i>Baldursson</i>	<i>Helness</i>	<i>Haraldsson</i>
—	—	—	Pass
1NT	Pass	2♥	Double
Pass	Pass	3NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Helgemo's pass on the second round denied three spades. North led the three of hearts and South ducked dummy's ten, preserving the North/South

transportation. Declarer finessed the jack of spades successfully.

The contract can now be made crossing to the ace of hearts, crossing back to the ace of spades and exiting with the queen of hearts. South would then have had the unenviable choice of cashing his hearts, squeezing his partner in three suits, or abandoning hearts altogether, allowing declarer the time to set up his winners in the other three suits.

Not being blessed with second sight, despite how it often seems, Helgemo continued with the ace of spades and dropped South's king. He cashed the ace of diamonds and led a club, North rising with the ace to remove dummy's ace of hearts. When a diamond finesse lost, North could cross to partner's hand in hearts and the game was one down, declarer losing three hearts, one diamond and one club. It was 12 IMPs for Iceland.

RR26 ICE v NED (BS)

Board 20. Dealer West. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Nab</i>	<i>Thorvaldsson</i>	<i>Drijver</i>	<i>Jorgensen</i>
2♦ ¹	Pass	2♠ ²	Double
Pass	Pass	3♦	Double
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. Multi
2. Pass or correct

Thorvaldsson led his singleton nine of trumps, Jorgensen winning with the queen and switching to the king of hearts, which held the trick, and a second heart to dummy's ace. With no way to get to hand, Nab tried a low club to his jack. Thorvaldsson won with the king and returned a heart. Nab ruffed in dummy but there was no way to prevent Jorgensen from making all of his remaining trumps. The contract was four down for minus 1100.

West	North	East	South
<i>Olgeirsson</i>	<i>DeWijfs</i>	<i>Magnusson</i>	<i>Muller</i>
Pass	Pass	1♦ ¹	1♥
1♠	2♦ ²	2NT ³	4♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. 2+ diamonds, 11-15
2. Good heart raise
3. Competitive in diamonds or both minors

Olgeirsson led his singleton diamond around to declarer's queen. Muller took the spade finesse and continued with the ace of spades, ruffed and over-ruffed. He ruffed his low diamond and played a trump. Magnusson won with the ace and returned a diamond to the eight, ruffed and overruffed, so Muller ruffed a spade, drew the missing trump and played the ace and ten of diamonds. Magnusson was endplayed to lead up to the king of clubs for declarer's tenth trick; plus 620, but 10 IMPs to Iceland.

RR29 GRE v RUS (MH)

On this deal from the Open Series, East/West had a choice of games:

Board 16. Dealer West. EW Vul.

<p style="text-align: center;">♠ A ♥ 10 7 6 4 2 ♦ J 7 5 3 ♣ J 8 6</p> <p>♠ K J 10 9 8 6 4 ♥ J 5 ♦ 9 8 ♣ A Q</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">♠ Q ♥ A Q 9 8 3 ♦ K Q 4 ♣ 10 7 5 3</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ 7 5 3 2 ♥ K ♦ A 10 6 2 ♣ K 9 4 2</p>
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West	North	East	South
<i>Khiuppenen</i>	<i>Doxiadis</i>	<i>Kholomeev</i>	<i>Roussos</i>
1♠	Pass	2♥	Pass
2♠	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♥	Pass	3♠	Pass
3NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

Having rebid his spades, West was able to show his doubleton heart and then see partner show something useful in spades. It would have been easy enough to bid four spades (the almost universal choice) but West, perhaps with a nod to Bob Hamman, went for the nine-trick game, even though it risked a possibly-damaging lead through his club holding.

When South led the two of diamonds, declarer won with the king, overtook the queen of spades and was eventually able to claim nine tricks when the diamonds proved to be 4-4, plus 600.

In the other room, East/West reached four spades by West and like everyone who was faced with a low heart lead, declarer went down.

Only two of the 32 declarers in the Open Series were in three notrump.

RR31 RUS v SWE (DB)

Russia had exceeded expectations, occupying a position on or near the summit of the table for several days. I was looking forward to my first glimpse of them.

Board 14. Dealer East. Neither Vul.

<p style="text-align: center;">♠ K 7 ♥ 9 7 4 2 ♦ 9 ♣ A Q J 9 8 2</p> <p>♠ 9 8 3 2 ♥ Q 6 3 ♦ A 8 6 4 ♣ 10 6</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">♠ A 10 6 ♥ A K 10 ♦ K Q J 10 7 3 2 ♣ —</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ Q J 5 4 ♥ J 8 5 ♦ 5 ♣ K 7 5 4 3</p>
--	--

West	North	East	South
<i>Nyström</i>	<i>Matushko</i>	<i>Upmark</i>	<i>Kokhlov</i>
—	—	1♣ ¹	Pass
1♦ ²	2♣	2♦	4♣
4♦	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♣	Pass	6♦	Pass
Pass	Pass		
1. 17+			
2. 0-7			

Matushko led the ace of clubs, ruffed in dummy. We could see that declarer could easily eliminate the hearts and clubs. He would then need to endplay a defender in spades, forcing him to give a ruff-and-discard. If a defender held two honours-doubleton in spades, he would not be able to avoid the endplay. If he held the doubleton king, he would have to unblock his king on the first round to avoid this indignity.

Textbooks explain that declarer should not make the endplay obvious by starting the elimination process before playing the ace of spades. Nyström decided to play the ace of spades at trick two. It drew the five, the two and ... oh no (groans from the Russia supporters) the seven! Declarer then drew trumps, eliminated the hearts, ruffed the last club and exited with a spade to the bare king. North had to concede a ruff-and-discard and the slam was made.

West	North	East	South
<i>Khiuppenen</i>	<i>O.Rimstedt</i>	<i>Kholomeev</i>	<i>M.Rimstedt</i>
—	—	1♦	Pass
1♠	2♣	3♣	5♣
5♦	Pass	6♦	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Mikael Rimstedt led the three of clubs to the ace, ruffed by declarer. A trump to the ace was followed by a low spade from dummy. Ola Rimstedt played the king. Brilliant! Declarer won the trick and eliminated hearts and clubs. South was then able to claim two spade tricks with his queen-jack and the slam was one down.

Even the queen-ten with South would have been good enough after North's unblock.

It was 14 IMPs to Sweden and my final task will be to look at the results from the other tables, to assess the current European standard of unblocking. Right, six diamonds was bid 14 times. It was made seven times and beaten seven times. The unblock of the spade king was perhaps more tricky to find when West was declarer and a spade was led towards the ace-ten-six on display.

RR33 SWE v NED (JJ)

On the following board, the issue was how to defeat the (almost) unbeatable four hearts.

Board 4. Dealer West. Both Vul.

♠ K J 9 7 6
♥ A 4
♦ J 3 2
♣ A K 5

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

♠ 2
♥ Q 7 6 5 3 2
♦ Q
♣ Q J 8 6 2

West	North	East	South
<i>DeWijs</i>	<i>Hult</i>	<i>Muller</i>	<i>Ekenberg</i>
Pass	INT	2♠	4♣
Pass	4♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Declarer's losers are a spade, a diamond and a trump trick so, in the Open Room, it looked like a routine plus 620 to Sweden when East led a club.

West	North	East	South
<i>Nyström</i>	<i>Verbeek</i>	<i>Upmark</i>	<i>Molenaar</i>
Pass	INT	2♦ ¹	4♦
Double	4♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			

1. Major/minor two-suiter

The auction enabled East to underlead his ace of diamonds. West won the with his king and shifted to the eight of spades, which held the trick. The next spade was ruffed in dummy and, now, declarer played the ace and another heart. East won with the king and led yet another spade. West's jack of hearts scored the setting trick. Nicely done!

It looks to me that the lead of the ace of diamonds, followed by the ace of spades and another spade, leads to the same trump promotion.

2018 European Women's Teams

Brian Senior, Nottingham, UK

RR3 DEN v NOR

This was one of the rather-more-delicate play problems in the event. How would you (as East) play the contract of six diamonds with the East/West cards?

Board 11. Dealer South. Neither Vul.

♠ Q 2
♥ Q J 9 8 6 3
♦ 8
♣ Q 9 6 5

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

♠ 10 6 4
♥ 7 2
♦ J 9 7 2
♣ K 10 8 3

West	North	East	South
<i>Harding</i>	<i>Rasmussen</i>	<i>Fuglestad</i>	<i>Bilde</i>
—	—	—	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♦	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♣	Pass
4♥	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♥	Pass	6♦	Pass
Pass	Pass		

West	North	East	South
<i>Houlberg</i>	<i>Vist</i>	<i>Lund-Madsen</i>	<i>Heskje</i>
—	—	—	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♦	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♣	Pass
4♥	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♦	Pass	5♥	Pass
5♠	Pass	6♦	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Two similar auctions saw both Easts declare the diamond slam, even though six spades looks to be a better contract

A club lead would have left only a double-dummy line to make the slam: win with the club ace, cash the hearts and the ace of spades, ruff a spade, ruff a heart, then play the king and another spade, on which the club losers are discarded. South ruffs, but that is with her trump trick, and declarer has the rest. However, that is not an obvious single-dummy line, so both declarers were somewhat fortunate to receive a heart lead in real life.

Fuglestad won the heart, cashed three top diamonds, then played a spade to the ace and ruffed a spade. When that established all the long spades, she gave up a diamond and could get to dummy's spade winners via the remaining top heart and claim 12 tricks for plus 920.

That line essentially relied on spades being 3-2 and a bit of vigourish (no heart ruff; no 5-0 diamond split). A very reasonable alternative would have been to play for either a club or heart ruff in dummy and, assuming that passed off peacefully, to come to 12 tricks if diamonds were 3-2, or maybe if there was a bare jack. Playing to ruff a heart doesn't work, as South would ruff in front of dummy and return a spade, and there would have been a club to concede at the end.

Neither is ruffing a club quite so simple as it first appears. Declarer wins the heart and ducks a club, which North arranges to win to push a trump through. If declarer persists with her plan of ruffing a club, her only way back to hand is then to ruff a spade, and she still needs South to hold at least two cards in the suit. With the extra point that South might have led a trump from two or three low cards, my vote goes to the simple line as followed by Fuglestad, but I'm willing to be persuaded otherwise.

Lund-Madsen tried something different. She won the heart and cashed both top spades, discarding a club. She cashed the second heart, crossed to the ace of diamonds and took a heart ruff. When she now came to hand and cashed the top diamonds, she had a loser in each minor, so was down one for minus 50 and 14 IMPs to Norway.

That line seems to be worse than those discussed above as it appears to require both spades and diamonds to break favourably – if the second spade stands up, Fuglestad's line will be successful while Lund-Madsen's line requires both that and also that the diamonds behave.

2018 European Senior Teams

John Carruthers, Kingsville, ON

RRI FRA v POL

Board 5. Dealer North. NS Vul.

♠ 9 6
♥ Q 9 7 3
♦ A 10 7 5
♣ 10 7 2

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

♠ A 3 2
♥ J
♦ Q 9 8 6 3
♣ K 8 6 4

West	North	East	South
Szymanowski	Abecassis	Bizon	Levy
—	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♥	Pass
4♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

Levy made what he thought was a routine lead, his fifth-highest diamond. Abecassis won with his ace and returned the five, hoping to weaken declarer's combined trumps. Bizon won with the king of diamonds, cashed a high heart and led a spade to the king. When that held the trick, declarer tried another spade, playing the queen from hand as South won with his ace. At that point, either the queen of diamonds or a third spade would have destroyed declarer's chances. The queen of diamonds would have forced dummy, allowing North to split his hearts, win the third round and force out a trump from declarer's hand. Should South instead have led a spade, declarer ruffs with dummy's ten, but North must discard, later coming to two trump tricks for one off.

However, Levy shifted to a club when in with the ace of spades. Now it was over to Bizon. He passed the test, putting in the queen, as he needed to do to make the contract, discarding a diamond from hand. Declarer led a low heart from the dummy; North had to play the nine to prevent declarer from putting in the eight. Declarer allowed North to hold the trick with the nine of hearts. When South showed out, Bizon claimed, stating that he would play the ten of hearts, winning the trick, if North led a diamond or a low heart; on the queen-of-hearts-shift, he would unblock dummy's ten to remain in hand. That was a masterful plus 420 for Bizon. And an unhappy one for Levy/Abecassis.

West	North	East	South
Lebel	Starkowski	Soulet	Kwiecien
—	Pass	1♠	Pass
INT	Pass	2♥	Pass
4♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

The French standards for a two-over-one are higher in high-card content than the Poles; thus, Lebel's one-notrump response. With clubs unbid at this table, Kwiecien put declarer to the test at trick one by leading the four of that suit. Leery of being tapped in his hand before the spades were set up, and not knowing of the 4-1 trump split, Soulet won with dummy's ace, discarding a diamond, and led the king of spades. Kwiecien could see the way clearly now: he won with his ace, led a diamond to Starkowski's ace and got a club back. Soulet had to ruff it, fatally eroding his trump strength, just what he'd feared at trick one.

With a sense of impending doom, declarer led a high heart and received the ominous jack on his left. He had to hope for the queen-jack doubleton now, since the contract could no longer be made against 4-1 hearts. So, declarer cashed the other high heart and played spades. North ruffed the third, drew declarer's last trump and led a club to South's king for two down, minus 100 and an 11-IMP gain for Poland.



3rd Asia Cup

Goa, India. June 4-10, 2018

Subir Roy, Mumbai
Anil Padhye, Pune
SK Iyengar, Bengaluru

The Marriott in Goa was the venue for the 3rd Asia Cup. The winners in the eight events came from seven different NBOs:

Men's Teams – China: Chen Gang, Ju Chuancheng, Shi Haojun, Shi Zhengjun, Wang Jianxin, Yang Lixin, Zhuang Zejun

Women's Teams – Chinese Taipei: Chen Yin-Shou, Kuo Li-Hsiang, Lin Yin-Yu, Liu Pei-Hua, So Ho-Yee, Tsai Wen-Chuan, Wu Yu-Fang

Mixed Teams – Australia: David Beauchamp, Margaret Bourke, Stephen Fischer, Catherine Herden, Matthew Thomson, Jodi Tutty

Senior Teams – Chinese Taipei: Cheng K. P., Chi J. L., Patrick Huang, Lin C. M., Shih J. Y., Yeh Chen

Super Mixed Teams – India: Subhash Bhavnani, Feroza Chothiam, Vinay Desai, Fenton Lewis, Aparna Sain

Men's Pairs – Thailand: Kirawat Limsinsopomn, Vithaya Viriyamonchai

Women's Pairs – Korea: Kim C.K., Lee S. L.

Mixed Pairs – Japan: Ohno Kyoko, Yamada Akihiko

Here are a couple of the more-notable deals. The first of these was a bidding test ...

Men's Qualifying – India B vs. Indonesia Anil Padhye & S.K. Iyengar

Board 8. Dealer West. Neither Vul.

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

Closed Room. NS India; EW Indonesia

West	North	East	South
Prayogo	Gupta	Aditya	Sapan
1♣	2♦	2♠	3♥
3♠	Pass	4♦	Pass
4NT	Pass	5NT	Pass
7♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

Seven spades is a pretty good contract. However, there is not even a double-dummy line to make it against the 5-0 trump division. Two off was the Indonesians' punishment.

Open Room. NS Indonesia; EW India

West	North	East	South
Chokshi	Kurniawan	Anklesaria	Gunnadi
1♣	Pass	1♠	3♥
Double ¹	Pass	4♥	Pass
4NT ²	Pass	5♦ ³	Pass
5♥ ⁴	Double	6♦ ⁵	Pass
7NT	Double	Pass	Pass
Pass			

1. 3-card spade support
2. RKCB
3. 0 or 3 key cards
4. Queen ask
5. Queen of spades and king of diamonds

With his solid clubs and queen of diamonds, Sunit Chokshi could count 12 top tricks in notrump. The thirteenth could come from the jack of spades or the jack of diamonds, a 3-2 spade break, a squeeze or a double squeeze. With North holding the sole guard in spades and South holding the sole guard in hearts, neither defender could hold on to four diamonds, so Chokshi scored plus 1520 and 18 IMPs.

Men's Final - Subir Roy

The final was very close and exciting all the way. With just one board to play China Hong Kong led China by 6 IMPs. Then, along came this:

Board 48. Dealer East. EW Vul.

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

Open Room. Hong Kong NS; China A EW

West	North	East	South
Shi C. J.	Zen D.	Ju C. C.	Wan S.
1♥	Pass	2NT ¹	3♥
Pass	3♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

1. 4 hearts, 7-12 HCP

Ju led a trump. Zen drew trumps and ran the jack of diamonds to Shi, making 11 tricks and plus 200.

Closed Room: China A NS; Hong Kong EW

West	North	East	South
Mak K. F.	Shi H. J.	Lai W. K.	Zuang Z. J.
1♥	Pass	3♣ ¹	3♠
Pass	4♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			
1. 4-heart constructive raise			

Mak led a heart. Zuang ruffed, drew trumps and led a club to Mak's ace. Zuang claimed 12 tricks for plus 480 and 7 IMPs to China, winning the match by 1 IMP!

While it's true that declarer can make 12 tricks by discarding a diamond from dummy on the long club, then pushing the ten and nine of diamonds through West for a double ruffing finesse, pinning the six and eight from East, to set up the five, or if West discards a diamond on the clubs, the claim is faulty – there are only 11 tricks at that point. The recorded score differential was 280 or 7 IMPs. If declarer had made only 11 tricks (as he would have done on a contested claim) the score differential would have been 250 or 6 IMPs, resulting in a tied match. This brings to mind Canada vs. Germany in the semifinal of the 1990 Rosenblum in Geneva. – Ed.



Tuana Altun, 8 years old



At the 20th Iskenderun Bridge Festival Hatay, Turkey, you are playing in the Swiss Teams and hold this hand:

Board 30. Dealer East. Neither Vul.

♠ Q 8 5
♥ A
♦ J 7 6 5 4 3
♣ 7 5 4

The bidding has gone:

West	North	East	South
Tuana Altun	Sinan Seyfittinoglu	Toygar T. Altun	Mehmet Ali Kuru
—	—	Pass	1♥
Pass	2♣	Pass	3♣
Pass	4♥	Pass	6♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

What do you lead?

The killing lead was found by Tuana Altun, an eight-year-old girl playing with her brother, Toygar Tuncay Altun.

Tuana led a club. Then, when she regained the lead with the ace of hearts, she led another club. Her brother ruffed the second club to put the contract one down.

This was the full deal:

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

That represented an 11-IMP gain for their team. As a consequence, this win made them the leader of our U-16 teams. Twenty-three of 31 tables made six hearts.

When her dad asked Tuana about her lead and continuation of a club after winning with her ace of hearts, Tuana replied: "I knew from the bidding that the opponents held a lot of clubs. I thought my partner was likely to ruff the first trick. He did not ruff the first trick, but I was sure he was going to ruff on the second round, so I played another club without hesitation."



OZ BRIDGE
Ron Klinger,
Northbridge, NSW
 www.ronklingerbridge.com

A Hunting for Kings

IMPs. Dealer South. Both Vul.

♠ A Q 8 5
 ♥ Q 10 6
 ♦ 6
 ♣ A Q 9 6 3

♠ 3 2
 ♥ A K 5 4 3 2
 ♦ J 7 3
 ♣ K J

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

West leads the ace of hearts: six – seven (low=like) – nine and continues with the heart king: ten – eight – jack. What next?

Do you need a hint? Try counting the points around the table. The deal comes from a Butler Pairs at the New South Wales Bridge Association ...

♠ A Q 8 5
 ♥ Q 10 6
 ♦ 6
 ♣ A Q 9 6 3

♠ 3 2
 ♥ A K 5 4 3 2
 ♦ J 7 3
 ♣ K J

♠ K 7
 ♥ 8 7
 ♦ Q 10 9 8 5 4
 ♣ 7 4 2

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

West has 12 points and dummy has 14. Declarer, a passed hand, figures to have about 9-11 points. That leaves 3-5 points for East, and so West cannot expect East to produce the king of spades and the ace of diamonds. With clubs favourably placed for declarer, there seems to be no genuine chance for the defence to beat four spades.

Ah, you know the clubs are sitting well for declarer, but declarer does not know that. At trick three, young Charles McMahon switched to the jack of clubs! To declarer, that looked like a singleton or top from a doubleton. Since West had opened the bidding with

no king of clubs, West figured to have the king of spades, or so declarer thought. To play the ace of spades and a second spade would fail if West had started with the king-third of spades and a doubleton jack of clubs.

Accordingly, South won the jack-of-clubs shift with the ace, crossed to the ace of diamonds, and led the jack of spades: three – five – king. That was three tricks for the defence and the club king made it four, one off, plus 100 and 9 IMPs to East/West. (The datum: North/South plus 280.)

Dealer East. NS Vul.

♠ J 5 2
 ♥ J 10 8
 ♦ A 7 4
 ♣ K Q 7 2

♠ A Q
 ♥ A Q 9 7
 ♦ 8
 ♣ J 10 9 8 4 3

West	North	East	South
<i>Michael Whibley</i>	<i>Pauline Gumbly</i>	<i>Matthew Brown</i>	<i>Warren Lazer</i>
—	—	2♥ ¹	3♣
3♠	4♣	Pass	5♣
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. Weak, 5 hearts, 4+ minor

West leads the ace of clubs and switches to the king of diamonds, taken by the ace. Plan the play.

The previous problem and deal were reported by young John Newman. So was the following deal from Stage 2 of a Butler Open Trials at the NSWBA.

Dealer East. NS Vul.

♠ J 5 2
 ♥ J 10 8
 ♦ A 7 4
 ♣ K Q 7 2

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

♠ 7 3
 ♥ 6 5 4 3 2
 ♦ Q 6 3 2
 ♣ 6 5

♠ A Q
 ♥ A Q 9 7
 ♦ 8
 ♣ J 10 9 8 4 3

Most players would simply draw the missing trump and take the heart finesse, expecting East to hold the king for the two-heart opening. Aware that his opponents were young players, who might be up to anything, and perhaps recalling his own young days, Lazer played more carefully. At trick three, he ruffed a diamond and continued with a club to the king, a diamond ruff and a club to the queen. Only then did he play the jack of hearts: two – seven ... ?

Turning to Whibley, Lazer said, "Even if you win this, you are endplayed, Michael . . . that is, unless Matt has opened with a four-card heart suit." West won with the king of hearts, but had to lead into South's ace-queen of spades or give South a ruff-and-discard. Nicely defended and well played.



To the Power of Six

The following deal arose in the 2018 Great Lakes Swiss Teams Congress in New South Wales, Australia. The event was won by Susan Humphries – Liz Sylvester – Liam Milne – Peter Gill, who played in every partnership combination. The winning score of 135.62 Victory Points over eight matches was an average of almost 17VP out of 20 per match and more than a full match ahead of second place.

Match 8. Board 22. Dealer West. EW Vul.

♠ Q 9 8 7 4 2
 ♥ 8 6
 ♦ A 10 4
 ♣ 5 3

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

♠ A 6
 ♥ A K Q J
 ♦ K 9
 ♣ A K 10 7 2

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

♠ Q 9
 ♥ —
 ♦ A 10 4
 ♣ —

♠ 10
 ♥ 10
 ♦ 8 6 5
 ♣ —

♠ K J
 ♥ —
 ♦ Q J 7
 ♣ —

♠ A 6
 ♥ J
 ♦ K 9
 ♣ —

West	North <i>Humphries</i>	East	South <i>Milne</i>
Pass	2♠ ¹	Pass	2NT ²
Pass	3♠ ³	Pass	4NT ⁴
Pass	5♣ ⁵	Pass	5♦ ⁶
Pass	6♠ ⁷	Pass ⁸	6NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

- Weak two, six spades, 6-10 points
- Strong inquiry
- Minimum, no singleton, no void
- Roman Key Card Blackwood
- One key card for spades
- Do you have the spade queen?
- Yes, but no outside king.
- A flicker from East, perhaps thinking of doubling six spades

The datum was NS plus 180. The results were: six notrump x 5, made once; six spades x 7, all failing; five spades x 3, made once; four spades x 5, four making; three notrump/four notrump x 8, all making.

Liam Milne was the only successful declarer in slam. He said, "Over six spades, East flickered, clearly considering doubling six spades, which made bidding six notrump even better (as well as protecting the diamond holding). This small flicker also helped me pick the winning line."

In the auction, South had been hoping that North's key card would be the king of spades and that there would be six spade tricks to run. West led the five of hearts. Dummy was a disappointment. East discarded a diamond and South won with the ace of hearts. South cashed the king and queen of hearts, pitching a spade from dummy. East threw first a spade and then a club.

Ducking a club looked a poor play at the start of the play, compared to trying to establish spades. It became much better when hearts were 7-0, given East's consideration of doubling six spades and discard of a club at trick three. So, at trick four, South ducked a club. East won with his eight and returned a club to the ace. South cashed his three club winners and pitched three spades from dummy. East threw a diamond and the five of spades. This was now the position:

When South played the jack of hearts and threw the nine of spades from dummy, East was in a bind. If he ditched a diamond, South would have three diamond tricks if he guessed the position. East therefore let the jack of spades go. South dared not cash the ace of spades yet, lest East still had the king-ten remaining and so he played the king of diamonds and the nine to the ace. Then came the queen of spades: king – ace – ten and South's six of spades won trick 13!

Who has ever seen a doubleton ace-six make two tricks opposite a weak two opening?

Milne thus scored plus 990 and won 14 IMPs. At the other table, North/South were in six spades, one light.

Six notrump is very difficult to defend accurately. On the actual layout, when declarer runs four heart tricks, East must keep three spades and four clubs, surrendering control in diamonds. That could have been the wrong play had South held long diamonds and short clubs.

The Neighbour Challenge

Roy Welland, Copenhagen

Here is a nice deal from the “Neighbour Challenge” (Sweden, Netherlands, Denmark, Germany) played in Frankfurt from May 18-20.

The results were:

Denmark - Dennis BILDE/Lars BLAKSET; Michael ASKGAARD/Kasper KONOW 75.60

Netherlands - Bob DRIJVER/Bart NAB; Berend Van den BOS - Joris Van LANKVELD 74.55

Sweden - Peter FREDIN/Johan SYLVAN; Mats NILSLAND/Björn FALLENIUS 51.72

Germany - Peter JOKISCH/Udo KASIMIR; Sabine AUKEN/Roy WELLAND 38.13

If I were a good writer (*says the man who understands the subjunctive mood - Ed.*), this could make a cute story – upcoming young superstar squanders the beer card, then gets schooled in how seriously the Germans feel about their beer.

Board 36. Dealer West. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Blakset	Auken	Bilde	Welland
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♣ ¹
Pass	2♦ ²	Pass	2♥ ³
Pass	2NT ⁴	Pass	3NT ⁵
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. Puppet to 2♦
2. Forced
3. 4 spades, game-forcing or 5+ spades, invitational
4. Accepts if a game-try
5. 4 spades, choice of games

The lead was the best for the defence, the three of spades (third/fifth), six, jack, king. Declarer led the three of diamonds and East followed with the seven (Reverse Smith, disliking spades) and paid heavily. Declarer won with the ace and continued with the ten of diamonds to the jack, queen and king. East continued with spades,

won in hand by declarer with the queen. The eight of diamonds was then won by East's nine, setting up declarer's six. East led his third spade, taken in dummy with the ace, followed by declarer's cashing the thirteenth spade.

Now, obviously there are many choices for a potential ninth trick: heart finesse, club to the king, or the line chosen at the table by Sabine Auken ...

Sabine threw a heart from hand on the last spade, East pitching a club, crossed to the ace of hearts to cash the good six of diamonds, East discarding another club. Now Sabine exited with the queen of hearts to endplay East with the ace-queen of clubs, in effect playing him for exactly king-low remaining in hearts.

At the end, East (Dennis Bilde) gave Sabine ‘the finger’ in a very complimentary manner (we're all very good friends). It was the second finger that match; I received the first one for leading the queen of spades from ace-queen-jack (RHO had bid spades after a takeout double by LHO). Dummy hit with king-ten to four spades and declarer ducked. I followed with the ace and a ruff to defeat an unbeatable contract.

We lost an IMP on the three notrump board after a diamond lead at the other table, followed by a desperation low-club switch. That was kind of a depressing result after Sabine took such a big position in the play, but that's what's so great about bridge.

I thought it was a pretty amazing deal: the play and defence were perfect except for that Reverse-Smith seven of diamonds, which was unnecessary, given that West cannot have much of anything.

Alas, it didn't help us. Denmark won and Germany finished last (in the words of the president, as a good host should do.)

NEWS & VIEWS



JEAN-PAUL MEYER

Jean-Paul Meyer died on July 9th. JP was a Renaissance Man in bridge: player, captain, editor, writer, administrator. He was an important personage to the FFB, the EBL, the WBF and the IBPA. An obituary will appear next month.

SOLOWAY KNOCKOUT TEAMS

The inaugural Soloway Knockout Teams will be held at the Fall 2019 North American Bridge Championships in San Francisco. The seven-day

contest begins with a two-day Swiss qualifying on Friday, Nov. 29, and Saturday, Nov. 30, followed by a 32-team knockout beginning on Sunday, Dec. 1. The final will be Thursday, Dec. 5. This is the only North American championship featuring a Swiss-qualifying format, guaranteeing participants at least two days of top-level play. The timing allows teams to play in the Reisinger BAM Teams or the North American Swiss Teams at the end of the tournament.

PAIRSWINNERS IN OSTEND



Women's Pairs - Nilgun Kotan/Ferda Zorlu (Turkey)



Senior Pairs - Andrzej Pawlak/Piotr Tuszyński (Poland)

EBL'S OSTEND PRESS CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS

- The EBL's financial situation is again satisfactory after losses incurred during the cheating cases. The EBL has insurance to protect itself against lawsuits brought by convicted cheats.
- There have been problems with the second contract for next year's European Open in Opatija, but officials are confident they can be resolved in the next few weeks.

- A recent change to the bylaws prevents players convicted of cheating from ever playing with each other. This encompasses not just their previous partnerships, but also with others that have been convicted.
- We shall still need the wording in several Laws and Codes to be changed so that the things the CAS reproached the Bridge Community for will not be repeated.
- The 2019 Bermuda Bowl will be held in Sanya, China. There will be 24 teams in each of the four main events (a Mixed Teams has been added), Europe getting the added two teams in each event.
- A special qualifying event, in Lisbon, will be held in the last week of February 2019, to select the eight European qualifiers for the Mixed Teams in Sanya.

FUNBRIDGE UPDATE

FunBridge has announced a new partnership with the Portuguese Bridge Federation. This brings the FunBridge NBO partnership total to six federations, all in Europe.



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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:

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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			
Jul 7-12	International Festival	Ajaccio, Corsica, France	www.corsebridge.com
Jul 11-18	14 th European Youth Pairs	Opatija, Croatia	www.eurobridge.org
Jul 13-15	Batam International	Batam, Indonesia	bert_toar@hotmail.com
Jul 17-21	Hong Kong Inter-City	Hong Kong, China	www.hkintercity.org
Jul 18-26	60 th International Festival	Deauville, France	www.mondial-deauville.com
Jul 22-29	German Championships	Berlin, Germany	www.bridge-verband.de
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 5-10	50 th Wachauer Bridge Week	Mautern, Austria	www.bridgeaustria.at
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 17-26	68 th International Festival	La Baule, France	www.ffbridge.fr
Aug 18-Sep 2	18 th Asian Games	Jakarta, Indonesia	www.ocasia.org
Aug 25-Sep 2	International Festival	La Grande Motte, France	www.festivalsdusoleil.com
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 8-19	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 3-7	22 nd Açores Festival	Azores Is., Portugal	www.fpbridge.pt
Oct 19-21	Vilnius Cup	Vilnius, Lithuania	www.vilniuscup.lt
Oct 25-27	EBL Small Federations Games	Budapest, Hungary	www.eurobridge.org
Oct 25-28	9 th World University Championships	Suzhou, China	www.worldbridge.org
Nov 6-11	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 th International Red Sea Festival	Eilat, Israel	www.bridgeredsea.com
Nov 10-11	2 nd YCBC Ladies Swiss Teams	London, England	www.ycbc.co.uk
Nov 22-Dec 2	ACBL Fall NABC	Honolulu, HI	www.acbl.org
Nov 28-Dec 2	3 rd SEABF Championships	Manila, Philippines	www.pabf.org
Nov 30-Dec 2	9 th Hotel D. Pedro Festival	Vilamoura, Portugal	www.fpbridge.pt
Dec 7-9	Città di Milano International Teams	Milan, Italy	www.federbridge.it
Dec 27-30	Year-End Congress	London, England	www.ebu.co.uk
2019			
Jan 9-20	Summer Festival of Bridge	Canberra, ACT	www.abf.com.au
Jan 26-Feb 1	60 th Bermuda Regional	Southampton, Bermuda	www.bermudaregional.com
Jan 31-Feb 3	Reykjavik Bridge Festival	Reykjavik, Iceland	www.bridge.is
Feb 22-28	1 st European National Mixed Teams	Lisbon, Portugal	www.eurobridge.org
Mar 21-31	ACBL Spring NABC	Memphis, TN	www.acbl.org
Apr 3-7	Amazing Bridge Festival	Bangkok, Thailand	bridgethailand@gmail.com
Apr 16-21	124 th Easter Regional	Toronto, ON	www.unit166.ca
May 4-12	Canadian Bridge Week	Burnaby, BC	www.cbf.ca
May 10-20	USBF Open and Women's Trials	Schaumburg, IL	www.usbf.org
May 17-25	CACBF Championships	San Jose, Costa Rica	www.cacbf.com
May 24-Jun 1	69 th South American Bridge Festival	Mar del Plata, Argentina	www.worldbridge.org
May 29-Jun 6	USBF Senior Trials	Schaumburg, IL	www.usbf.org
Jun 11-18	52 nd APBF Championships	Singapore	competition@scba.org.sg
Jun 15-29	9 th Open European Championships	Opatija, Croatia	www.eurobridge.org
Jul 18-28	ACBL Summer NABC	Las Vegas, NV	www.acbl.org
Nov 28-Dec 8	ACBL Fall NABC	San Francisco, CA	www.acbl.org
Nov 30-Dec 5	5 th National Day Bridge Festival	Dubai, UAE	www.bridgewebs.com/4jacks