



## BULLETIN

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Bulletin No. 643

August 10, 2018

## THE CHAMPIONS



Photo: Christina Lund Madsen/Fu Qiang

**Yeh Bros. Cup  
Winners:  
John Hurd,  
John Kranyak,  
Vincent Demuy,  
Justin Lall  
(See p.2)**

### Hong Kong Inter-City Teams

**Winners:  
Wen Fei Wang,  
Vincent Li,  
Wei Ming Wang,  
Qi Shen  
(See p.7)**



Photo: Rainy Lai/Edward Cheung



Photo: Jessica Larsson

**Spingold Trophy  
Winners:  
Krzysztof Martens  
(coach),  
Tor Helness,  
Piotr Gawrys,  
Bob Heller  
(presenter),  
Michal Klukowski,  
Geir Helgemo  
(See p.14)**

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**Yeh Bros. Cup**  
 Beijing  
 July 1-5, 2018  
**Barry Rigal, NYC**  
**Fu Qiang, Beijing**  
**John Carruthers,**  
**Kingsville, ON**

**Preamble (JC)**

The Yeh Bros. Cup has a unique format. All of the teams play a Swiss qualifier, then the top 16 teams play knockouts, but in two brackets: the top bracket consists of qualifiers 1 through 8, while the lower bracket contains the teams finishing ninth through sixteenth in the Swiss. The top-bracketed teams play a double KO, falling into the lower bracket with a loss, while the bottom-bracketed teams are eliminated with a single loss. There is a kicker: Chen Yeh's team is automatically the No. 1 seed in the upper bracket for the KOs. Also, late in the KOs, of necessity, the lower bracket plays some three-way matches, with just one team going through, so it's tough to survive from there.

The generosity of the sponsorship means that the players love the event very much and no one ever objects to Mr. Yeh's team qualifying automatically. Maybe the sixteenth-placed team will occasionally have some regrets – but the conditions of contest are clear and the disadvantage to the players so minimal that this is a very good deal for all concerned.

The event moves around the Pacific Rim, and so far has been held in China, Japan, Australia and, of course, Mr. Yeh's home country, Chinese Taipei. This year, we were in Beijing.

*(All deals are reported by Barry Rigal except where noted otherwise.)*

**Qualifying Round 2 - Bulgaria v NZ**

**Board 16. Dealer West. EW Vul.**

	♠ J 7		
	♥ 4 3		
	♦ A 10 5 3		
	♣ A 9 8 3 2		
	♠ 6 4		
	♥ J 7 6		
	♦ Q 8 6 4		
	♣ J 10 7 5		
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Brown</i>	<i>Stefanov</i>	<i>Whibley</i>	<i>Nanav</i>
INT	2♣ <sup>1</sup>	3NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		
1. Majors			

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Aronov</i>	<i>Tislevoll</i>	<i>Damianova</i>	<i>Ware</i>
INT	2♥ <sup>1</sup>	Double	Pass
2NT	Pass	3NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		
1. Majors			

Partner leads the ten of hearts against three notrump. Declarer plays the three from dummy and you play the ... ?

At one table, Michael Ware played the seven, discouraging, but followed with the four of diamonds, (reverse Smith) encouraging (the eight of diamonds would have been discouraging) on declarer's diamond to the ace. He hoped the mixed signal would allow GeO Tislevoll to work out the best defence. At trick three, Tislevoll took the proffered jack of spades with his queen and, believing that declarer must have the ace-queen-jack of hearts, decided to try for gold with a shift to the club king. But this was the full story:

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

As you can see, this line of defence was not a howling success. In the other room, Nanav as South did not burden Stefanov with the problem. He played the jack of hearts on his partner's lead of the ten at trick one. There were no further issues for the defence after that.

**Qualifying Round 3 - India v Chinese Taipei**

On the following deal, North/South were tormented by the curse of having the balance of high cards:

**Board 23. Dealer South. Both Vul.**

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

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Chen</i>	<i>Gupta</i>	<i>Yeh</i>	<i>Tewari</i>
—	—	—	Pass
1♠	2♥	2♠	3♥
3♠	Pass	Pass	4♥
4♠	Pass	Pass	Double
Pass	Pass	Pass	
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Venkatesh</i>	<i>D.Yang</i>	<i>Anklesaria</i>	<i>S.Yang</i>
—	—	—	Pass
1♠	2♥	2♠	3♥
3♠	4♥	Pass	Pass
4♠	5♥	Double	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Students of indiscipline at the table should admire these two auctions for the number of breaches of partnership faith committed here. Both East/West pairs got this deal exactly right, though, bidding on to four spades and doubling the opponents if they dared to do any more bidding.

Against five hearts doubled, the defenders took their club ruff and played a top spade. What would you do now? If you played carefully by ruffing, testing trumps, then trying to ruff a diamond in dummy, well done – but you weren't careful enough. That was what David Yang did, after cashing the heart king and finding the bad news in trumps. East took the opportunity to pitch spades on the third and fourth diamonds, so declarer could ruff the diamond loser, unblock the heart ace, but was still locked in dummy to arrange a trump promotion against himself. There is no diamond-spade squeeze since the communications can be disrupted by another diamond play if you duck a diamond. You have to play three rounds of diamonds without playing even one round of trumps to get out for two down.

There might not appear to be any problem making four spades doubled, despite the 4-0 trump break, but that is not so. After two rounds of hearts, Venkatesh ruffed in and played a top trump – and that should have been fatal. He crossed to dummy in clubs to pass the jack of spades, ducked of course, then led the six of diamonds to the nine and ace with Gupta. That player could win and force declarer once more but, when South won the king of diamonds, he did not have a fourth heart left to tap declarer for the last, and critical, time. Had South risen with king of diamonds on the first round of the suit (not an easy play but still the indicated one, surely?) he can lead a heart and let his partner play the fourth heart when in with ace of diamonds.

On the following deal, readers can decide whose method of handling the East cards they prefer. Certainly, reaching four hearts while concealing the major elements of the East hand has something to recommend it.

**Board 29. Dealer North. Both Vul.**

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

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Chen</i>	<i>Gupta</i>	<i>Yeh</i>	<i>Tewari</i>
—	Pass	1♣	Pass
1♥	Pass	2♣	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Two clubs made two overtricks for plus 130.

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Venkatesh</i>	<i>D.Yang</i>	<i>Anklesaria</i>	<i>S.Yang</i>
—	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass
3♠ <sup>1</sup>	Pass	4♥	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. 4 spades & 5 hearts, forcing to game

Sidney Yang led the queen of clubs and David Yang won the first heart to play back a club. Declarer put in the ten, forcing the jack, ruffed, and led a spade to the king and ace. When a spade was continued, declarer ruffed it with the ten of hearts in hand to lead a heart to the nine and get the good and bad news. Now he led a diamond from dummy and, had North ducked, declarer would have put in the jack and led clubs to neutralize South's trump holding, with a diamond re-entry to hand if South ruffed the first club. North actually took his diamond ace and played back a second diamond, but declarer could simply win in hand and run clubs through South for the trump coup.

Those 10 IMPs saw India win the match 14-6.

**Threading the Needle**

New Zealand hasn't had much to cheer about this tournament, but GeO Tislevoll found a nice line in his game here ...

**Board 19. Dealer North. EW Vul.**

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

As South, declaring in four hearts after a straightforward, if optimistic, but unopposed, Drury sequence, Tislevoll received a club lead. He won with the ace and took a spade finesse, then played the ace and another spade, ruffing with the seven. When that passed off successfully, he played the king of clubs and ruffed a club, led his winning spade ten and, when East followed suit, carefully ruffed it with the jack of hearts as West pitched a diamond. Then he ruffed his last club in dummy, and had reached this position.

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

  

♠ —	♠ —
♥ 10 5 4 3	♥ A
♦ K	♦ A J 5 4
♣ —	♣ —

  

♠	♠
♥ K 8 2	♥
♦ Q 6	♦
♣ —	♣

At this point, declarer led dummy's heart queen. East won, perforce, cashed the diamond ace and gave his partner a diamond ruff, but GeO's trump tenace was good enough to take the last two tricks.

Did you note the defensive resource? When declarer ruffs his winning spade to hand, West must underlead. In the ending shown above (but with West retaining his second diamond), when declarer leads his trump from dummy East wins the heart ace, underleads his diamond ace so that East/West can cash two diamonds ending in East, and now the defenders can promote a trump by leading any plain card.

### Cairo Corner

The Egyptian team is relatively inexperienced, but have produced at least a couple of nice plays that were noteworthy.

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

  

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

  

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

In the match between Australia and Egypt, the Egyptians played in three diamonds North/South, down 100.

Ali el-Selehdar reached three notrump as East by opening a strong notrump and, when South, Joe Haffer,

bid two hearts to show hearts and a minor, Ahmed Nayer bid three notrump. Haffer led a top club and made the natural shift to a diamond to dislodge an entry from dummy in case clubs were about to be established. Haffer may not sound like a Scottish name, but Joe was familiar with the fact that the diamond nine is the Curse of Scotland, so he got that card out of his hand. As it turned out, this was a fatal error – that card will come back and bite you in the strangest way.

El-Selehdar won with the diamond ace, finessed in spades, and led out the club jack. Markey won with his queen and could not play a diamond to allow the finesse, so played a second spade. Declarer won with the eight, crossed to the spade king as Haffer pitched hearts, then played a third club, pitching a heart. Haffer won this to exit in clubs, and that let declarer win a club trick, and cross to the heart ace. This was the ending:

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

  

♠ —	♠
♥ K Q 7	♥
♦ 5	♦
♣ 8	♣

On the heart ace, North suffered the dual indignity of being squeezed out of an immaterial spade (if he pitches a diamond declarer establishes that suit) and, when he chose to pitch a spade, el-Selehdar could cash the ace to denude North of that suit and exit with a low diamond. North was forced to win and return a diamond and declarer could finesse and claim nine tricks.

"I would never have opened a 15-17 notrump without the diamond six," he reassured his partner. And yes, a low diamond at trick two from South prevents the endplay ... but also, playing back a diamond after South wins his second top club prevents declarer from ever reaching dummy's club winner.

### Board 8. Dealer West. Neither Vul.

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

  

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

  

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

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Chen</i>	<i>Zein</i>	<i>Yeh</i>	<i>Salah</i>
1♥	3♥ <sup>1</sup>	4♥	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. Requests 3NT with a heart stop

You may care to consider this declarer play problem by just looking at the East and West cards. As West, you play in four hearts, knowing that North has long running diamonds, and was looking for a heart stopper for notrump. You ruff the diamond lead and play a spade to the king and ace, then the heart ace, North contributing the jack. What now?

I suspect a club finesse is right but declarer played a second spade. Zein played low and Salah ruffed with the ten and played a second top diamond, declarer ruffing. Now declarer assumed the club finesse was losing. He led a low club from hand and South won with the king, cashed the spade queen to let North pitch a club, and returned a second club for North to ruff. Down one! That was the only plus score recorded by North/South on the board.

### Not Much Consolation (Fu Qiang, Beijing)

It is hard to be consoled when you have been eliminated from the main event – but I suppose winning a consolation is a decent way to start the healing process.

The Polish teams swapped partnerships for this event and Michal Klukowski and Piotr-Pavel Zakorski, who play together in the Polish leagues, produced a splendid auction here.

### Board 23. Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

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

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

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

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Klukowski</i>	<i>Marsal</i>	<i>Zakorski</i>	<i>Klumpp</i>
—	—	—	Pass
1♣ <sup>1</sup>	1♥	2♣	Pass
4♣ <sup>2</sup>	Pass	4♦ <sup>3</sup>	Pass
4♠ <sup>3</sup>	Pass	5♣	Pass
5♥ <sup>3</sup>	Pass	5NT <sup>4</sup>	Pass
7♣	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. Polish Club: (a.) 12-14 balanced HCP, or (b.) 15+ with long clubs, or (c.) any 18+ HCP
2. Slammish
3. Controls
4. Nothing further to say, but still interested

After the natural and forcing two-club call, Klukowski set clubs as trump, then bypassed the heart suit, knowing that if his partner did anything but bid five clubs, he would be able to bid the grand slam. When his partner denied a heart control, his five-heart call would let his partner sign off with no extras, bid five spades with second-round control (which would be bad news) or do anything else appropriate. The five-notrump call was intended as, and interpreted as, extra club length or an extra diamond control; i.e., further interest. Klukowski now knew his partner had at least two spades and two hearts, so relatively short diamonds were therefore almost guaranteed. That meant that, if his partner had seven clubs, he would be almost able to claim the grand slam and, of course, as the cards lie, there were 13 top tricks.

### The Final: USA Kranyak-Monaco

The Final of the 2018 Yeh Bros. Cup pitted Kranyak (Vincent Demuy/John Kranyak, John Hurd/Justin Lall) against Monaco (Geir Helgemo/Tor Helness, Lorenzo Lauria/Alfredo Versace, Franck Multon/Pierre Zimmermann). With Kranyak leading by 28 IMPs at the end of the first set, Zimmermann/Multon came in for Lauria/Versace. The last board of the second set pushed the lead into the mid 50's.

### Board 32. Dealer West. EW Vul.

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

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

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

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

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Demuy</i>	<i>Helness</i>	<i>Kranyak</i>	<i>Helgemo</i>
Pass	Pass	1♣	4♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Multon</i>	<i>Lall</i>	<i>Zimmermann</i>	<i>Hurd</i>
Pass	1♣	Pass	1♥
Pass	1NT	2♣	4♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

How would you play four hearts on the three-of-clubs lead?

Helgemo, who had seen East open with one club, nevertheless put in the jack on the low-club lead. He ruffed away the queen, led to the king of hearts and took two diamond pitches on the top clubs. On a spade lead from the dummy, Kranyak rose with the

king and led the king of diamonds, Helgemo winning with his ace. Two more rounds of spades allowed the defence to tap declarer twice in diamonds. When the hearts turned out to be 4-1, Demuy's trump length was longer than Helgemo's, leading to one off. Thus, declarer could never cash his thirteenth spade.

Hurd had seen Zimmermann come in over the one-notrump rebid by Lall, showing a good club suit. On a club lead, he did not finesse, but just played the two top clubs for diamond discards, then played on spades, and could now either ruff the fourth spade with the heart king or set up the thirteenth spade.

Fifty-eight down with 16 boards to play, the Zimmermann team did not give up, but for every swing that came in, an even larger one went out, and Kranyak were worthy winners by 70 IMPs. It was a remarkable transformation from the 70-IMP shellacking that Monaco had handed out the day before, and left me wondering how much of the game is down to the cards working out for your methods rather than just good or bad play.

The prize winners were:

### Yeh Bros. Cup

- |  |           |
|--|-----------|
| 1. Vincent Demuy, John Hurd,<br>John Kranyak, Justin Lall (USA)  | \$180,000 |
| 2. Geir Helgemo, Tor Helness, Lorenzo<br>Lauria, Franck Multon, Alfredo Versace,<br>Pierre Zimmermann (Monaco) | \$48,000  |
| 3. Thomas Bessis, Tom Hanlon, Cédric<br>Lorenzini, Frédéric Volcker (France)                                   | \$16,000  |
| 4. Chen Gang, Ju Chuancheng,<br>Shi Haojun, Shi Zengjun, Yang Lixin,<br>Zhuang Zejun (China)                   | \$8,000   |

### Open Pairs

- |   |          |
|---|----------|
| 1. Krzysztof Jassem, Piotr Zatorski<br>(Poland) | \$20,000 |
| 2. Kazuo Furuta, Hiroki Yokoi (Japan)           | \$10,000 |
| 3. Pauline Gumby, Warren Lazer<br>(Australia)   | \$4,000  |

### Swiss Teams Consolation

- |   |         |
|---|---------|
| 1. Piotr Gawrys, Krzysztof Jassem, Michal<br>Klukowski, Piotr Zatorski (Poland)                   | \$8,000 |
| 2. Yeh Bros. 2: Sabine Auken, Morris Chang,<br>Chunky Jong, Roy Welland (Taiwan)                  | \$4,000 |
| 3. Pauline Gumby, Joe Haffer, Warren Lazer,<br>Phil Markey, Justin Mill, Tony Nunn<br>(Australia) | \$2,000 |

### Open Pairs Consolation

- |   |         |
|---|---------|
| 1. Chao Wen Hsu, Shih Juei-yu (China)             | \$3,000 |
| 2. Georgi Karakolev, Vladimir Mihov<br>(Bulgaria) | \$2,000 |
| 3. Fu Zhong, Hou Xu (China)                       | \$1,000 |



2018  
Chinese  
Premier  
League  
(Second Leg)  
July 7-13, 2018  
Jerry Li, Beijing

The second leg of the 2018 Premier League Tournament was held in Wuxi, Jiangsu Province, from July 7 to July 13. The scores of this leg, again a round robin with 16 teams, were added to those of Leg 1. The top six teams qualified for the Final (14<sup>th</sup> November in Taicang).

Three months ago, when the first leg was played in Ningbo. Sunchime Fund (containing Manno/Di Franco), with 197.96 VP, was the leader; Hengzhou (with Bessis/Lorenzini) and Jinshuo (with Kalita/Nowosadzki) followed Sunchime Fund on 193.53 and 191.97 VP respectively.

This leg was very fierce; the leader after the first leg, Sunchime Fund, only won three of its 15 matches and lost out on qualifying for the Final. The ORG team (Red Bull), containing John Kranyak (USA) and Vincent Demuy (Canada), the winners of the Yeh Cup a week before the second leg, did impressively well here, with more than 200 VP, winning the leg. Zheqiang Qiantang, which has a Singapore pair, were in second place in this leg; PD Times (Marc Chen, Jerry Li, Zhong Fu, Brink/Drijver) were third.

After two legs, the Hengzhou team (Bessis/Lorenzini) and the Zheqiang Qiantang took first and second places. They will go to the final leg one day later than the other four teams, having qualified directly to the semifinals. The ORG team, Jinshuo, PD Times, and Pioneers (Patrick Huang's team) were in third through sixth place, respectively. In the final stage, ORG will choose its opponent from PD Times and Pioneers; Jinshuo team will play against the other team in 48-boards KO matches with the winners going on.

This is a board from the last match:

#### Board 4. Dealer West. Both Vul.

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

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
1♦	Pass	1♠	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		

The contract is four spades by East, North/South never having entered the auction. The opening lead is the king of hearts. You duck, but win the queen-of-hearts continuation with the ace, dropping the ten from North. You play a spade to the king, another to the ten and jack, picking up South's queen-ten-low, and draw the last trump. You play a heart to the eight to set up the nine. South plays his last heart to dummy's nine; you pitch a diamond; North pitches three low clubs on the third spade and the third and fourth hearts. What do you do now?

You've lost two tricks and you have these cards remaining:

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

If the king of clubs is onside, you can finesse the queen to make your contract but, if the club king is offside, is there any other chance for you? There is, as the full deal shows:

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

To make four spades in the diagrammed position, you have to lead the jack of diamonds from the dummy, win the club shift with the ace, and lead another diamond. When the ten appears from South, you need to win with the ace and take the ruffing finesse against North's other honour.

This was very difficult. Only four players made four spades: Patrick Huang, Zhong Fu, John Kranyak and Piotr Gawrys.



## HONG KONG INTER-CITY BRIDGE CHAMPIONSHIPS 2018

17 - 21 July 2018  
Crowne Plaza Hong Kong Kowloon East

### Brian Senior, Nottingham, England

Forty Open teams, 10 Women's teams and 20 Youth teams, all from eastern Asia, took part in this year's Championships. There were half a dozen other secondary events to satisfy everyone. The Open Teams were grouped into four sections of ten teams; the top two in each section qualified for the knockout rounds.

### Open Teams Round One

Our coverage starts with an Open Group B match between Shenha Qiaoyou of China and Chinese Taipei's Haoran.

#### Board 6. Dealer East. EW Vul.

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

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Chen</i>	<i>Ma</i>	<i>Lin</i>	<i>Liu</i>
—	—	1♥	Double
Pass	1♠	Pass	Pass
Double	Pass	2♦	2♠
3♦	3♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Shangxin</i>	<i>Lin</i>	<i>Luan</i>	<i>Wu</i>
—	—	1♥	Double
Redouble	1♠	2♥	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♦	Pass
4♦	Pass	4♥	Pass
5♦	Pass	Pass	Pass

Lin led a diamond against three spades, the nine forcing Ma's ace. Ma played a spade to the queen and king and Chen returned the ten of diamonds to his partner's king. Lin switched to the king and another club, Chen winning with the ace and continuing with a third club,

ruffed with the ten and over-ruffed by the now-bare jack. The king of hearts saw the ace ruffed out, and Chen got out with his last spade. There was still a heart to be lost, so the contract was down three for minus 150.

The diamond game had some play, whatever we might think of the auction. Wu led the ace and another spade to dummy's king. Luan led a diamond to the king and a second diamond to the jack, queen and ace. North found a very good defence by leading back a spade, forcing declarer to ruff in hand. Luan led the king of hearts to the ace and ruff, a club to the king and took a discard on the queen of hearts. Next, he tried to split the clubs with a ruff, but the four-two break meant that there was a club loser in dummy at the end. The contract was one down for minus 100 and 6 IMPs to Haoran.

To make five diamonds after the ace-and-another-spade start, declarer had to either (a.) arrange three ruffs in hand, or (b.) take the ruffing finesse in hearts earlier for a spade discard, or (c.) play on a complete cross-ruff. On line (c.), for example: spade ruff, heart ruff, club king, heart ruff, club ace, club ruff, heart ruff, club ruff, heart ruff, club ruff with the king, heart ruff with the ten.

The fortunate diamond layout allows declarer to draw the trumps while establishing dummy's fifth club if he follows line (a.) or (b.).

### Open Teams Round 4

Round 4 in Open Group A featured a matchup of two Chinese teams, Xiamen Xiashun and Geely Auto. The latter team was the winner last year and had four of the same team-members once again.

#### Board 25. Dealer North. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Chen	Lin	Gao	Huang
—	INT	2♥ <sup>1</sup>	3♥
4♥	4♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			
1. Hearts plus a minor			

West	North	East	South
Zhang	Sun	Lin	Kang
—	INT	2♥	Double
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Both Easts overcalled two hearts. If we can believe the alert/non-alert on BBO, Gao showed hearts plus a minor, while Lin's bid merely showed hearts. Nevertheless, both North/South pairs reached game in spades.

Both Easts cashed the top hearts then switched to their singleton club. Both declarers won that in dummy with the king to run the queen of spades, losing to the bare king. That was a case of good news/bad news for the respective Easts, who now found themselves to be endplayed: in one way or another, declarer's diamond loser would disappear. Both Easts thought for a good while before leading a diamond rather than give a ruff and discard and both declarers ducked the diamond to win the trick cheaply in their hand, as they had to do, and cashed the ace of spades, discovering the trump position. Now came the crucial parting of the ways.

Presumably having no clue from the auction about a possible bad diamond split, Sun attempted to cross to the ace of diamonds (a better percentage play than attempting to cross on a club) to take the finesse against the ten of spades. When Zhang ruffed, the contract was one down for minus 50.

Having been warned that East had a minor suit along with his hearts, Lin crossed to the queen of clubs, knowing that Gao would have got out with a second club had he been able to do so, rather than open up the diamonds. That, of course, passed off peacefully, and Lin could draw trumps and cash out for ten tricks, plus 420 and 10 IMPs to Xiamen.

Should Sun also have taken the inference that East would not have led a diamond when in with the king of spades if he had a safe alternative available to him, exiting with a second club?

### Open Teams Round 6

For the last match of Day Two, we go into Group C for a match between the top two in the rankings going into the match, two multinational teams, Avia Financial and Kosing.

#### Board 26. Dealer East. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Poon	Ng	Yang	Sia
—	—	Pass	1♥
Double	2♥	2♠	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♦	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		

West	North	East	South
Cheng	Jinzhou	Lee	Kwon
—	—	Pass	Pass
1NT	Pass	2♥	Pass
2♠	Pass	3NT	Pass
4♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

For Avia Financial, Alan Sia led his singleton club. Yang took dummy's ace and played a spade to the ten and ace. Sia got off play with a trump, so Ng won that and returned a heart, but it didn't matter what he did. Yang could win, draw the last trump and set up a club for a discard of his fourth diamond; plus 620.

Chuan Cheng declared in four spades after a transfer sequence. Jinzhou led the nine of diamonds to the ten, jack and ace. Cheng led a spade up, but Jinzhou went in with the king and played a second diamond so that, when Kwon won the next trump, he could lead a third round of diamonds for a ruff. There was a slow club to be lost also, so that nicely defended contract was down one for minus 100 and 12 IMPs to Kosing.

### Open Teams Semifinal 2

Two China/Hong Kong combinations met in the Open semi-finals, with Vincent Li leading CCH Power by 56-14 after 16 boards. There were two sets to go, but CCH Power would want to at least make significant inroads into that deficit in the second session so that they did not have too much to do in the third.

#### Board 26. Dealer East. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Weimin	Tam	Li	Lui
—	—	Pass	1♦
1♥	2♣	3♥	4♥
Pass	4NT <sup>1</sup>	Pass	5NT <sup>2</sup>
Pass	7♣	Pass	Pass
Pass			

1. RKCB
2. 2 key cards + a void

Where would you want to be on the North/South hands? Well, I think you'd want to be in six clubs, wouldn't you? That is where Wenfei found herself. Sometimes, however, while we would like to be in a small slam, the grand would be easier to play as there would be fewer options.

Hsu led the queen of hearts. Wenfei took a long time before ruffing, pitching a heart on the ace of diamonds, then ruffing a diamond. She continued by ruffing a heart, a diamond, and the last heart, but the five-two diamond split caused a problem. Suppose that she ruffed another diamond back to hand and it took three rounds to draw the missing trumps. Now if West held the king of spades offside, the finesse would lose, then West would have a red trick to cash. The problem hand was West with 2=5=5=1 and the king of spades, and he is known to be 5-5 from the bidding and play to date. In seven there would be no option, but in six, Wenfei found the line which would overcome this distribution. She called for dummy's jack of spades, setting up her twelfth trick before drawing trumps and without shortening herself. This would even have survived a bare king with West, but not the actual layout. Hsu won the jack of spades with the king and gave Liu a ruff for down one and minus 100. Ouch!

Meanwhile, Lui's aggressive four-heart control-bid in the other room led to the grand slam. The lead was again a heart, ruffed. Tam pitched a heart on the ace of diamonds, ruffed a diamond, ruffed a heart, a diamond, and the last heart. He was in the same position as Wenfei but, in seven, life was much simpler. The king of spades had to be onside and the trumps had to divide evenly as well. Tam took a third diamond ruff then led the queen of spades to the king and ace. A fourth diamond ruff set up the long card and now it remained only to find trumps two-two, cross to the jack of spades and cash the diamond; 13 tricks for plus 2140 and 19 huge IMPs to CCH.

#### Board 28. Dealer West. NS Vul.

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

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
Liu	Wenfei	Hsu	Shen
Pass	Pass	1♠	2♥
2♠	3♥	Double <sup>1</sup>	Pass
4♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. Game-try

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
Weimin	Tam	Li	Lui
Pass	Pass	1♠	2♥
2♠	3♥	4♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Shen led the king of clubs to dummy's ace and Hsu ruffed a club, Shen following low, ruffed a heart, ruffed a club, ruffed a heart, and ruffed another club. A third heart ruff was followed by a winning club, ruffed by North as declarer and South both pitched diamonds. Wenfei tried to cash the ace of diamonds now, no doubt with little hope in her heart, so Hsu ruffed with the jack and had ten tricks for plus 420. All very straightforward, and it appeared that once Shen had not led her bare queen of trumps there was nothing the defence could have done.

Lui also led the king of clubs to dummy's ace and Li too ruffed a club at trick two. Lui dropped the queen on this trick and Li took it seriously. He ruffed a heart then led the ten of clubs and ran it, pitching the diamond loser from hand. If he thought that was a free play, he was swiftly disabused of the notion as Lui won with the jack of clubs and returned the queen of spades. Li won, ruffed a heart with dummy's last trump and attempted to cash the eight of clubs, only to find Tam ruffing in front of him. He over-ruffed, cashed two more trumps and exited with a low heat. That lost to the jack and the ace of diamonds came back. Li ruffed but had to lead away from the king of hearts once again and was a trick short; minus 50 and 10 IMPs to CCH.

### Open Teams Semifinal 3

After a dramatic second set, I felt that the decision had been made for me regarding which of the two semi-finals to watch in set three. It had to be Vincent Li versus CCH Power. Could CCH go from strength to strength and power their way through to the final or would Vincent Li in turn make a comeback – their deficit was, after all, only 10 IMPs, but they had to have been in shock after what had just happened (they had lost the second stanza 66-14 after having led by 40 IMPs).

CCH Power led by 101-96 with three boards to play.

(See top of next column.) Liu led a cunning nine of clubs through dummy's side-suit. Not knowing that there would be two trump losers as well as the ace of diamonds, Chiu thought for a while but then took the lead at face value and went up with dummy's ace.

### Board 14. Dealer East. Neither Vul.

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

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
Liu	Weimin	Hsu	Chiu
—	—	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♥
Pass	2♠	Pass	4♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
Shen	Tam	Wenfei	Lui
—	—	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♣ <sup>1</sup>	Pass	2♦ <sup>2</sup>
Pass	2♠ <sup>3</sup>	Pass	2NT <sup>4</sup>
Pass	4♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

1. Artificial game force

2. Relay

3. 4-card spade support

4. Hearts

Chiu led a heart to the ace then a spade to the king and ace. Hsu played the ace and another diamond and, seeing no other hope, Chiu discarded the losing club. Lui won the with the king of diamonds, and there was still the queen of spades to come. One card, the opening lead, had given declarer a chance to go wrong, and he had taken that chance; minus 50.

Shen led a low diamond at the other table, Wenfei winning with the ace and continuing with a second diamond. Lui had to ruff and he next led a spade to the king and ace and Wenfei returned a third diamond, forcing declarer to ruff once again. Lui took the club finesse now and, when it held, led a spade up. Wenfei won, Shen pitching a diamond, and played a fourth diamond. Lui could not ruff in hand, of course, as that would have been with the jack of spades and would have promoted the ten into the setting trick, so he threw a heart from hand and ruffed in dummy. Then he led dummy's heart and sat and thought. Lui had seen the ten of clubs from East and had reason to suspect that she held the heart length, and anyway, isn't jack-to-four or -five onside more likely than jack-doubleton or -third offside? So, eventually he put in the ten and that lost to the doubleton jack. Worse, much, much worse as it was to turn out, Shen returned a club for Wenfei to ruff and the contract was two

down for minus 100 and 2 IMPs to Vincent Li, who trailed by only 98-101.

Wasn't that great defence to create a situation where declarer could go wrong? Unlike the other table, this was a whole series of plays, but what a nice board, with both defences deserving of a game swing.

Lest you say, 'ah, but declarer could simply play hearts from the top and ruff the last heart in dummy,' he would then have to play the ace of clubs and, if East began with 3=4=5=1 or 3=5=4=1, that would have been ruffed. After Shen's diamond discard on the second spade, 3=5=4=1 was the likely danger hand, when the odds would be 5-2 in favour of East holding the jack. Of course, if East had a doubleton club, the ruffing line would be successful.

The final score: Vincent Li 102 – CCH Power 101. Cre8ive won the other semi-final 123-78 against Avia Financial, so the final would be their all-Chinese squad against Vincent Li's Shanghai/Hong Kong combination. The final comprised three 16-board sessions for the 2018 Hong Kong Inter-City championship.

## Open Teams Final I

### Board 25. Dealer North. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Dong	Wenfei	Liu	Shen
—	1♣ <sup>1</sup>	Pass	2♦ <sup>2</sup>
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♦
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. Artificial, 16+ HCP

2. 8+ HCP, 5+ diamonds, game-forcing

West	North	East	South
Li	Jin	Weimin	Bi
Pass	1♣ <sup>1</sup>	Pass	2♦ <sup>2</sup>
Pass	2♠	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♦	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♣	Pass	6♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. Artificial, 16+ HCP

2. 8+ HCP, 5+ diamonds, game-forcing

This is a tricky slam to get to. Wenfei/Shen stopped in game, each bidding and rebidding their long suits after the strong-club opening. Wenfei won the trump lead and drew trumps, then played the ace of diamonds, a diamond to the king and ruffed a diamond. A club to the king and a second diamond ruff established two extra tricks there, bringing the total to 13, for plus 510.

At the other table, the lead was also a trump, but Jin followed a different line. He won with the jack, cashed the king of clubs and led a diamond to the ace then ruffed his ten of clubs. Next came the king of diamonds and Jin was very lucky that Li had a singleton trump along with his singleton diamond. He ruffed a diamond back to hand, drew trumps and had only to concede a heart at the end; plus 980 and 10 IMPs to CRE8IVE. That was a poor and fortunate line. Presumably Jin simply never saw the superior line played at the other table.

After 32 boards, Vincent Li led by 116-42. There was to be a third session but, down by over 70 and not in the sort of form that might turn that around, CRE8IVE conceded. The 2018 Hong Kong Inter-City champions are therefore team Vincent Li.

The winners:

### Open Teams

Wen Fei WANG, Vincent LI,  
Wei Ming WANG, Qi SHEN

### Women's Teams

Yan LU, Ming SUN, Yong Ling DONG,  
Xia WU, Min ZHOU, Ling GU

### Youth Teams

Niko MAN, Sam TSENG, Vinci WAN,  
Brian TANG, Ryan CHOY

### Feishang Swiss Teams

Shanghai Stonehill

### Xiashun Celebrities Tournament

WONG Sau Ching, LAM Kin,  
Ricky CHU, Bosco HO

### Inter-City Speedball Pairs

Derek WONG, Jackson TSANG

### Avia Financial IMP Pairs

Leo LAM, John TSANG

### Inter-City Mixed Pairs

He PIN, Ping ZHU

### San Miguel "Happy Hour" Continuous Pairs

Brandon POON, Jack WONG

### Geely Automobile Open Pairs

K.F. MAK, W.K. LAI

### Geely Automobile Swiss Pairs

Bob HAM, Paul SO



# IBPA Column Service

Tim Bourke, Canberra

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

## 913. Dealer West. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
1♥	Pass	INT	4♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

After the opening bid and response, South jumped to four spades, despite having only nine likely tricks: maybe dummy would have something of value.

West began with the three top hearts. East signalled a doubleton; declarer ruffed with dummy's nine of trumps. Alas for declarer, East overruffed with the ten and, as he could not then avoid a diamond loser, declarer was set one trick.

"That was unlucky," offered the declarer.

Dummy would have none of it. "Luck had nothing do with it. Obviously, hearts were 6-2. So, all you had to do was take the best chance for the contract: throw a diamond from dummy on the third heart. What could the defence have done after that? You'd win the next trick, draw trumps in two rounds and then ruff your losing diamond in dummy."

Dummy continued, "Ruffing the third heart with the nine of spades would succeed less than half the time, whereas my line would succeed nearly four times out of five when the trumps broke 2-1."

Dummy finished with, "Even if trumps had been 3-0, you would still have made the contract as long as the hand with three trumps couldn't ruff the third round of diamonds."

## 914. Dealer North. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
—	Pass	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♣ <sup>1</sup>	Pass	4♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. Good hand, fit for spades

After North showed a good raise in spades by using Drury, South bid the game without further ado.

West led the jack of hearts, which he would not have done if declarer had bid the suit. It proved to be an unfortunate lead: declarer won with dummy's ace of hearts, then drew trumps with the ace and king. Declarer continued with the king and queen of hearts, on which he discarded one of dummy's clubs. After ruffing the four of hearts in dummy, declarer called for dummy's remaining club. East rose with the ace of clubs and, when declarer followed with the queen, he relied on his partner to give him count in the suit. After West signalled an odd number of clubs, East decided to believe that the queen of clubs was a singleton. So, he shifted to the ace and another diamond. West took the second diamond with his king and exited with the nine of diamonds. Declarer claimed the balance, making ten tricks: five trumps, three hearts, a heart ruff and a diamond.

If East had exited with a club at trick eight instead of a diamond, declarer would have thrown a diamond from hand and ruffed in dummy. As a result, he would have lost only two diamonds and a club, also making his contract.

Note that there would have been no happy ending for declarer if West had led a club.

**915. Dealer South. Both Vul.**

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

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

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

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

1. Roman Key Card Blackwood
2. 0 or 3 key cards
3. Grand slam try; guarantees all key cards and the trump queen and asks for kings
4. King of hearts, no king of diamonds

After a straightforward auction, in which South admitted to three key cards and the king of hearts, West led the queen of clubs. Declarer observed that he might have bid seven spades, as North was unlikely to have three low hearts. Even so, the contract would then have been no worse than on a 2-2 heart split, provided trumps were not 5-0. Declarer then reflected that such considerations were no reason to go down in a small slam.

After winning the first trick with the king of clubs, declarer cashed the ace of trumps. When both opponents followed to the first round of trumps, declarer saw that it would be a mistake to draw a second round of trumps when the full deal was similar to that above, with both major suits 4-1.

Declarer reckoned that if he drew a second round of trumps when both majors were 4-1, he would no longer have the entries to establish the hearts. So, declarer cashed the ace of hearts at trick three and played a low heart next. Declarer was pleased when East showed out: in fact, he would have failed if he had tried to cash the king of hearts! (East would have ruffed and returned a trump, preventing declarer from both ruffing two hearts and drawing East's last trump – declarer would have had the dismal task of conceding a heart trick to West for down one.)

As it was, the defence was now powerless. West took the heart exit with the jack of hearts and played a diamond. Declarer won the trick with the ace of

diamonds, crossed to hand with a trump and ruffed a low heart with dummy's queen of trumps. As there was a trump left in the dummy, declarer could draw East's remaining trumps and claim twelve tricks. Declarer made four trumps, four hearts, a heart ruff and the three tops in the majors.

**916. Dealer South. EW Vul.**

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

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

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

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

In a team match, the auction and lead (the spade queen) were identical.

At the first table, declarer played without apparent thought. He took the first trick in dummy with the ace, drew trumps and cashed the ace of diamonds. Thus, he had to lose two diamond tricks and his contract.

The second declarer was more circumspect. He saw that the only danger to the contract was a 5-0 diamond break. As declarer could do nothing about it if West had five diamonds, declarer turned his attention to the case when East had all of the outstanding diamonds: he would need to lead diamonds twice through East. If diamonds were 5-0, West was likelier to have four trumps. So, declarer decided to keep the ace of spades in reserve as an entry to dummy, in case the diamonds really were 5-0. Consequently, declarer played low from the dummy at trick one and won the spade lead in hand with the king. After drawing trumps in four rounds, while East parted with two spades and two hearts, declarer led the four of diamonds towards dummy.

West discarded a spade and dummy's king of diamonds won the trick. Declarer called for the two of diamonds, which was covered by the nine and queen. Declarer was then in a position to pick up East's diamonds while losing just one trick in the suit, by leading diamonds once more from dummy. South thus claimed twelve tricks: two spades, four diamonds and six trumps.

# ATLANTA

North American Bridge Championships

SUMMER July 26-August 5, 2018



**Barry Rigal, NYC**  
**Shireen Mohandes, London, UK**  
**Paul Linxwiler, Memphis, TN**  
**John Carruthers, Kingsville, ON**  
**Adam Wildavsky, NYC**  
**Paul Barden, Cambridge, UK**

The joke in Atlanta is that people go to Florida for the cooler weather. Whereas the outdoor temperature approached 35°C each day, in the main playing area it was 17°C or so. We had to dress for two climates at the same time!

Here are a few of the more interesting deals ...

## Trying for the Endplay (Rigal)

When District 3 took on the all-conquering District 9 squad from Florida, the District 3 gang lost handily, but they were at least able to land one body-blow:

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

In both rooms, South declared in four spades against opponents who had been silent in the bidding. In one room, Abe Pineles for D3 won the diamond lead and eliminated diamonds while drawing trumps (which were 2-2), ending in dummy. Then declarer led a club to the ten and queen. Jeff Meckstroth shifted to the six of hearts. Pineles played low from dummy and ducked the nine from East (Eric Rodwell). Rodwell was endplayed.

In the other room, declarer ended in hand after one round of trumps, having eliminated diamonds. He then led a low heart to the ten and king, and back came a low heart! When declarer put up the ace and played a third heart, there was no longer any endplay.

There are a number of ways to engineer the endplay after eliminating diamonds and spades; chief among them is to play the ace and another heart, winning against any opposing distribution.

## GNT Quarterfinal, District 17 vs. District 25 (Mohandes)

This deal comes from the quarterfinal match between District 17, led by Josh Donn, and District 25, captained by Doug Doub:

### Board 4. Dealer West. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Walter Lee	Roger Lee	James Streisand	Joshua Donn
Pass	1♥	Double	Redouble
Pass	Pass	2♦	3♥
Pass	4♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			

The Donn team did well to make four hearts, earning their side 12 IMPs, on this board. The auction had advertised a few things: a likely bad break in the heart suit, but to counter that, East was sure to have the ace of clubs. Roger Lee, declaring from the North seat, planned to either make four heart tricks plus two club tricks, or to make five heart tricks and just one club trick, to add to the ace of diamonds, and three top spades, to bring the tally to ten.

Streisand started the defence with the king of diamonds, won in dummy. At trick two, the eight of hearts was led, covered by the ten and queen, with East shedding the three of diamonds. Declarer played a club towards dummy, winning the king, and started an elopement. A diamond was ruffed, the ace of spades cashed, and a spade led to the jack in dummy. Then came another diamond ruff, and back to the spade king for another diamond ruff. Had Walter Lee ruffed in with a high honor, declarer would have discarded, and later made both the ace and nine of hearts. Contract made. If the eight of hearts had not been covered, then declarer could have run it, not caring if it lost to the singleton ten or jack, because then, having heard the auction and seen the carding, clubs would have been 3-3, allowing two club tricks to be made.

In the other room, the Doug Doub/Frank Merblum partnership reached a reasonable three notrump by South, which they might have made had Korbel not found a diamond lead. However, he did, so the table result was three notrump by South, minus one.

### When in Doubt . . . ask Krzysztof (Rigal)

Dealer North. NS Vul.

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

This deal, from the first qualifying session of the von Zedtwitz Life Master Pairs, posed a problem for many North/South pairs defending two spades, a typical auction being this:

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

North led a diamond. What should South do after cashing three diamonds, North pitching a discouraging club?

As the cards lie, leading a fourth diamond gives West an irrelevant heart discard and lets North ruff in with the ten of spades to promote a second trump trick for the defenders. But switch the ten and two of spades, and North ruffing in with the queen is an “anti-trump promotion,” turning one trump trick into zero.

How do the defenders get it right? If South has more than one diamond to lead, it makes sense (according to Krzysztof Martens) to have the following agreement: the lower the spot card you lead, the more you want partner to ruff in.

So, (i.) North should ruff with the ten when he can; (ii.) he should ruff with the jack or queen (when South holds honour-ten-low or the like) only when his partner leads the low diamond, but; (iii.) not if he leads the high diamond, which he would do here.

### Auction Inference (Linxwiler)

Jovi Smederevac of Vienna, Austria, found the right defence on this deal, based on an inference from the bidding. Smederevac was playing with Jade Barrett in the first semifinal round of the von Zedtwitz Life Master Pairs.

### Board 26. Dealer East. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
—	—	1♦	Pass
2♥ <sup>1</sup>	Pass	3NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		
1. 5 spades, 4/5 hearts, weak			

As South, Smederevac decided to attack hearts by leading the ace. Her rationale was based on East’s choice of three notrump. “Declarer doesn’t have 18-19 balanced because with that type of hand she would have agreed spades or tried to figure out if partner had five hearts. Therefore, three notrump must be based on long diamonds.”

Barrett encouraged on the ace-of-hearts lead, so Smederevac continued with the queen and a low heart to the king. This caused declarer some discomfort. Unable to discard a club, declarer discarded the king of spades. So, North cashed the ace of spades and exited with a low club. Locked in hand, declarer could run the diamonds, but was then forced to play clubs from her hand for two down, giving Smederevac and Barrett a top score.

### Partners in Crime (Rigal)

Jan Jansma was declarer on this deal from the second semifinal session of the von Zedtwitz Life Master Pairs. Would you have been good enough to defeat his game?

Dealer South. NS Vul.

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

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

You, North, lead the jack of hearts: queen, king, ace. Declarer plays a low diamond at trick two. You ... play low? If you do, partner wins with the king to play a trump. Declarer plays low from hand and you win with your king and ... shift to a club, I hope. This was the full deal:

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

Jansma's play of the queen of hearts at trick one might have encouraged the defenders to try to cash a heart, but Marshall Lewis, playing with Jan van Cleeff, wasn't born yesterday.

Incidentally, Jansma might have gone up with the ace of spades to play a second diamond but, since van Cleeff was perfectly capable of leading a spade from the king (and van Cleeff is an ex-partner of his), he couldn't risk it. The 5-2 diamond break would have been fatal anyway.

### The Loser Squeeze (Carruthers)

I quite enjoyed this board from the second session of the final of the von Zedtwitz Life Master Pairs; that is, until I saw my score ... then it became a mild disappointment.

#### Board 7. Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Weinstein	Roche	Levin	Carruthers
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	1♣	1♥	2NT
Pass	Pass	Pass*	

\* Slow pass

When Weinstein led the ten of spades, Rusinow, and the dummy came down, I knew that Levin must have all the outstanding high cards and some distribution from his long pause over two notrump-pass-pass. I reasoned that, with the hopeless hand he obviously held, Stevie would have led even a singleton heart if he'd had one. With 6-5, Levin would more likely have bid, so I tentatively placed him with 6-4 in the reds, thus just three black cards. So, I won the first trick with the queen of spades and led a low club. When Bobby followed with the nine, I had a pretty safe play of leading to dummy's eight. Even if it had lost to the doubleton jack, my contract would still have been safe – Levin would have had to lead a red suit and give me my eighth trick (I'd have three spades and four clubs, plus the red trick he gave me).

When Levin pitched a heart, Stevie flinched just a bit and looked at me out of the corner of his eye. I led a low heart and Levin played the jack, forcing my king – that was my eighth trick. At that point, I could have cashed one spade and led another heart to Bobby's queen and he'd have had to give me a red trick. However, just in case I'd misread the table action and Levin had had a third spade, I ran my black tricks – the ending I envisioned was more elegant anyway, and more certain. Before I cashed the queen of clubs, this was the situation (Levin had discarded the jack of diamonds as an attempted smokescreen):

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

Most squeezes by declarer require a defender to discard a winner or a guard in a suit. On the queen of clubs, however, Bobby was squeezed out of a loser! Unlike a run-of-the-mill squeeze, where declarer keeps the suit discarded by the defender, here I'd discard the same suit as he did and make a winner in the suit he kept. In practice he discarded a heart, so I did too. When I led a diamond from the dummy, Levin played low and the queen of diamonds was my ninth trick.

Levin was gracious: "He played it well," he said to Stevie.

So, why was this a mild disappointment? When I checked the frequencies out of curiosity, I discovered that our score on this board was 34%! Then I saw all the minus 200s, 500s and even an occasional 800 that East/West had gone for. Levin had won the board with his final pass – or maybe I'd lost it by bidding two notrump rather than a more-conservative matchpoint one notrump, perhaps luring East into a vulnerable indiscretion. Had I made only eight tricks, we'd have scored 26%. Of the 39 North/South pairs who played this board, 25 of them made a score of 200 or better. I was amused when Deep Finesse informed me that par on the board was plus 600 North/South. Exactly one pair out of 39 achieved that 'par' (and scored 89% for their enterprise). It was only a mild disappointment because we won the event.

### Mixed BAM Duel (Linxwiler)

Debbie Rosenberg reported this fun deal from the first qualifying session of the Freeman Mixed Board-a-Match Teams. Rosenberg was playing with Max Schireson against Lynne Rosenbaum and Valentin Kovachev.

#### Board 15. Dealer South. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Schireson</i>	<i>Kovachev</i>	<i>Rosenberg</i>	<i>Rosenbaum</i>
—	—	—	Pass
1NT <sup>1</sup>	2♥	Double	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♥	Pass
3NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. 14+ to 17 HCP.

Kovachev led the queen of clubs, ducked in dummy. Rosenbaum made the inspired play of rising with the ace of clubs so that she could immediately fire back the jack of hearts. The queen was covered by the king, and the two returned to the ten and ace. Schireson then played a low spade to dummy's king, discovering the 6-0 break when North discarded a low heart. Next came the king of diamonds and a low spade to the ace in the closed hand, North parting with another low

heart. Figuring that North was 0=6=4=3, declarer tried the ten of diamonds next, pinning the nine in the South hand when North ducked. This was the position with West on lead:

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

When a spade was played to the queen, Kovachev was forced to part with a heart, but his choice of the six proved to be costly when Schireson then cashed the queen of diamonds and the king of clubs before exiting with a club. North would win a club and cash a heart, but was then forced to play a diamond to declarer's otherwise stranded ace at trick 13. Had Kovachev pitched the nine of hearts earlier, he would have been able to safely exit with the six of hearts to South's eight to avoid the endplay.

### Reading the Cards (Rigal)

On this deal from the first round of the Spingold, Philippe Soulet, partnering Michel Lebel, played the cards to perfection. Soulet and Lebel are members of the Bernard Payen team from France, playing against a Dutch squad. The swing that resulted on the deal helped Payen to a 116-89 victory.

#### Dealer North. NS Vul.

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

1. Hearts and a minor

West led the ace of diamonds. East encouraged, so West pressed on with the king and another diamond, making Soulet suspect that the spades were divided 4-0. Soulet pitched a club from dummy, East winning with the diamond queen and shifting to the queen of hearts, taken by Soulet with the ace.

Backing his reading of the position, Soulet led the jack of diamonds, encouraging West to discard his last heart. Soulet pitched dummy's jack of clubs and advanced the ten of spades, covered by West with the jack. Soulet now crossed to the queen of spades and finessed again in trumps. This was the ending:

♠ A  
 ♥ K 7 6  
 ♦ —  
 ♣ A

♠ 7 6  
 ♥ 8  
 ♦ —  
 ♣ Q 6

When the last trump was played, East – holding three hearts and the guarded king of clubs – was squeezed. If he pitched a club, declarer would cash the ace of clubs, dropping the king. Declarer would then ruff a heart to his hand, which would be good. If East discarded a heart, Soulet could cash the king of hearts and ruff a heart. Dummy, with the ace of clubs as an entry, would be high. The full deal:

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

At trick five, when declarer led the jack of diamonds, West must ruff in with the nine of spades and ensure that declarer wins the last trump in the dummy to defeat the game. With that defence, declarer has no entry to hand to execute the criss-cross trump squeeze.

### Higher Aspirations (Wildavsky)

This deal comes from the second set of our Spingold match against the Hemant Lall team. We played against Yinghao Liu and Lin Lin Hu. (Spots are approximate.)

#### Dealer East. NS Vul.

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

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

West	North	East	South
Liu	Weinstein	Hu	Wildavsky
—	—	3♦	4♣
5♦	Double	Pass	5♣
Pass	6♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Liu led the club king. My plan was to ruff out the hearts, playing a spade to the ten if they were 4-2. After the king, ace and a low heart, I was happy to see RHO follow, so I ruffed – but I was overruffed! I should have ruffed high, because I needed trumps 2-1 anyway. LHO held the jack-doubleton of spades, so I would have made it had I played it correctly. Minus 200 was a push.

### Unrealised Opportunities (Barden)

The first board of the second set in the Round-of-16 match between the Gawrys and Cayne teams offered some remarkable chances in the play of the cards:

#### Board 16. Dealer West. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Multon	Cayne	Zimmermann	Sontag
1♥	2♣	3♥	4♣
4♥	5♣	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Pierre Zimmermann led the three of clubs against Jimmy Cayne's five-club contract. How should the play go?

Needing diamond tricks, declarer wins in hand and leads the eight of diamonds. If East rises, declarer will be able to finesse later against his ten of diamonds, discarding a spade loser, then guess the spades for his contract. So East ducks and dummy's queen of diamonds wins. Now declarer's plan switches to set up dummy's long spade to discard his diamond loser. He'll have to lose the lead twice to achieve that, and the first time they get in, the defence will knock out the ace of diamonds.

So, declarer needs to lose his second trick to West, not East. Say he leads a spade off dummy at trick three. West puts in the ten, declarer plays the jack, and East ducks. Now declarer crosses to the king of clubs to

lead spades again, but West rises with the queen and the contract dies.

But there's a better plan – the heart jack is in dummy for a reason. At trick three, you ruff dummy's low heart, then lead the king of spades out of hand, ducked by East. You lose the second round of spades, and the defence establishes its diamond trick. But now you can cross to the king of clubs, reaching this position:

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

It's time to use dummy's second entry for its proper purpose – leading hearts. West covers and you discard your remaining spade. And West has nothing better to do than lead his spade, allowing you to ruff the suit good. You cross to the seven of clubs (of course, you kept a lower one) and discard your diamond loser on the thirteenth spade. Well played and defended!

Not surprisingly, all of this did not happen. Declarer correctly played a diamond at trick two – but the two rather than the eight. East rose with the king and tried a heart. Declarer ruffed, drew a second round of trumps, ruffed a heart back to hand, and cashed the ace of diamonds. When the jack appeared, the finesse was roughly three to one on – with jack-ten-nine, West would have had three choices of cards to keep for the third round of the suit, so restricted choice applies with extra strength. But if the Vugraph record is to be believed, declarer had blocked both minors, so he was unable to test the theory and went one off.

At the other table, West chose to save, with perhaps a chance of making.

West	North	East	South
Versace	Gawrys	Tokay	Klukowski
1♥	2♣	3♦	Pass
4♥	Double	Pass	4♠
5♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

Piotr Gawrys made the contract interesting by leading the seven of spades. Declarer won in hand with the ten, cashed the ace of hearts and led the jack of diamonds to dummy's king – a good view. Then he ran the trumps, reaching this position:

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

North had the count by now, so he knew South must have the queen of diamonds, otherwise declarer would have established diamond tricks. He avoided the endplay by discarding the ace of diamonds on the last heart, and that was one off, for a hard-earned 4 IMPS to Gawrys. (Gawrys could also have discarded the ace of clubs to beat the contract.)

## Major NABC Event Winners

### Spingold Knockout Teams

Piotr Gawrys, Geir Helgemo,  
Tor Helness, Michal Klukowski,  
Franck Multon, Pierre Zimmermann

### Grand National Teams

Mike Becker, David Berkowitz,  
Gary Cohler, Jeff Meckstroth,  
Eric Rodwell, Warren Spector

### NABC Swiss Teams

Drew Casen, Bruce Ferguson,  
Jim Krekorian, John Onstott,  
Richard Ritmeijer, Magdalena Tichá

### Mixed Board-A-Match Teams

Doug Doub, Jiang Gu, Yiji Starr, Rose Yan

### Senior Swiss Teams

Cris Barrere, Bill Harker,  
Bruce Noda, Mark Ralph

### Collegiate Bowl Teams

University of California at Berkeley:  
Armin Askari, Chenwei Li,  
Kevin Rosenberg,  
Minyang Zhou, Xinchun Zhu

### Life Master Pairs

John Carruthers, Michael Roche

### Open Pairs

Joaquín Pacareu, Juan Carlos Ventin

### Women's Pairs

Sondra Shubiner, Linda Wynston

# Championship Defence Ostend Redux

**Marek Wójcicki, Nienadowa, Poland**

In the European Team Championships Women's series, from the Poland-Italy match, Justyna Zmuda was sitting East with: ♠ AQ1053 ♥ K8 ♦ A876 ♣ 97

With both sides vulnerable, the bidding went ...

West	North	East	South
Dufrat	Pomares	Zmuda	Campagnano
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♦
Double	2♥	2♠	4♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

After a 15-17 notrump and transfer, Zmuda led the diamond ace. This is what she saw (hands rotated):

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

On the diamond ace, the nine appeared from partner and the two from declarer. What next?

Except for diamond honours, partner has at most a jack. Thus, there is no hope for a trick in clubs. The only chance was in trumps. Zmuda found the only defence to defeat four hearts.

Zmuda cashed the spade ace (Dufrat followed with the four, upside-down signals) and continued with another spade (eight from Dufrat). When declarer took the second spade in hand with the jack and played the ace of trumps and another, Zmuda won with her king and played one more spade, promoting a trick for the trump jack and setting the contract.

## 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	

It was the only table in the Women's series where the contract was set. In the Open and Senior series, the four-heart contract was set only a few times.

# Jean-Paul MEYER 1936-2018



Jean-Paul Meyer was known by all bridge champions, and he was one of their peers. Last year in Lyon, during the World Championships, and even more recently in February in Monaco, he was still the coordinator of the Daily Bulletin. All around the world, for decades, he has been organizing the Vu-graph for major championships.

Jean-Paul Meyer was also a very competent and appreciated manager among bridge administrators. He was well-respected for his role in the commission investigating several cheating cases, the ones that shook the bridge world, as Vice-President of the French Bridge Federation (FFB), and as President of the Ethics and Disciplinary Committee of the FFB.

At the head of the French Selection Committee, or as NPC of successful French teams, JPM demonstrated precious leadership qualities. He made full use of these same qualities as General Manager of the company « Les éditions de la presse spécialisée – Le Bridgeur ». As a writer, he published technical books (*Contrat sous garantie* is the last) as well as *Le bridge raconté à Juliette*, a true novel.

Jean-Paul was also a renowned journalist. As an editorial writer, his famous « *Franchement vôtre...* » which opened every single issue of « *Le Bridgeur* » was feared by all those players and executives who were scratched by his fierce pen when he judged it to be fair. Jean-Paul still was, until his last day, a very active member of the editorial committee of « *Le Bridgeur* » and « *Bridgerama* », the two magazines of the company.

So many occupations would already fill two lives (not to mention his expertise at blackjack and picking the horses), but Jean-Paul Meyer loved nothing more than playing bridge himself. And there too, he was brilliant. Several times a member of the French Open Team, he won his major trophy in 1987: the European Pairs Championship, with his favourite partner Gérard le Royer. Needless to say we can't count his triumphs at the French level.

Can you believe that just one man could have, in the bridge world, so many duties, so many talents, so many passions? However, Jean-Paul Meyer is the proof of it, without doubt a unique example in the entire world.

He is survived by his wife Michelle, their daughter Karine, and two grandsons Jules and Nicolas. All IBPA members offer their sincerest condolences to them.

Pierre Schmidt & Philippe Cronier

## Norwegian Legend, Jon Sveindal 1946-2018

Jon Sveindal was born in 1946 in Moss, a small town in Eastern Norway. University studies led him to Bergen, where he settled for the rest of his life and established himself as one of Norway's best-ever bridge players. Jon's professional life was teaching and journalism, with daily bridge columns in Norway's largest newspaper.

Jon won four Norwegian Premier League championships, six NM Club Teams and an NM Pairs. Internationally, Jon won a silver medal in the 1993 Bermuda Bowl. Jon also won two bronze medals at European Championships and two golds at Nordic championships.

In 2015, Jon made an exceptional comeback when, despite his illness, he competed in the Open European Championships in Tromsø, receiving the bronze medal with his Bermuda-Bowl partner Arild Rasmussen and the Australians Justin Howard and Kieran Dyke. He duplicated this success in 2017 when he – this time with his partner of earliest years Tor Bakke – again earned bronze in the NM Pairs. Severely affected by the disease, the applause he received at the Prize-Giving ceremony was special – many of us had tears in our eyes.

As a bridge journalist, Jon was always No.1. He regularly contributed articles in magazines and for a number of years he could be read in the daily bridge column in 'Aftenposten' and 'Bergens Tidende'. Jon was an active member of Norsk Bridgepresse and he won the Journalist Prize in 1985 and 2017. In 2011, Jon Sveindal was awarded the Ranik Halles Prize (*photo on right*), which is considered the most prestigious award a Norwegian journalist can receive. It was awarded for outstanding journalistic activities to promote bridge.



In addition to achieving success as a player and journalist, Jon was Captain and Coach for Norwegian representative teams on several occasions. I remember when I entered the Norwegian Junior Team in the late 90's, Jon participated in several championships as a bridge journalist and became an important supporter of we novices. He was experienced and skilled; he was a well from which we drew advice.

Jon followed the bridge community until his last days. When Norway became European champions in June, Jon sent me congratulations from his bed. He was

happy, and it was clearly heart-warming for him to follow the team on the road to gold medals during the bad periods he experienced.

When Jon died on July 13, 2018, Norwegian bridge lost a giant. Jon Sveindal's name is written in our history and will forever be one of the true stars. I'm glad I knew you, Jon. Memories live forever.

Nils Kvangraven

### NEWS & VIEWS



### American World Champs

The USA lost three previous World Champions recently: Mark Gordon, winner of the 2013 Transnational Teams in Bali; Margie Gwozdzinsky, winner of the 1989 Venice Cup in Perth; and John Sutherland, winner of the 2000 Senior Teams in Maastricht, all died within the last couple of months.

### ABTA Book Awards

The American Bridge Teachers Association's 2018 winners of their books of the year are:

Newcomers: *A Taste of Bridge*, Jeff Bayonne

Beginner/Novices: *Planning the Play – The Next Level*, Barbara Seagram and David Bird

Intermediate/Advanced: *Judgment at Bridge 2*, Mike Lawrence

Technology of the Year: *Larry Cohen Teaches Bridge*, DVD

### ACBL Hall of Fame

Bridge Base Online, Ralph Katz, Bobby Levin, Mark Molson and Eric Rodwell were inducted into the Hall during the Atlanta NABC. BBO is the first non-human to be inducted.

### University of Stirling

Sam Punch reports that academics at the University of Stirling are bridging the gap between generations – as well as the local community – by inviting people to join a new bridge club. The University Bridge Club has been set up as part of a series of research projects into the health and well-being benefits of playing the card game.

The first study, funded by English Bridge Education and Development, compared the responses of more than 6,400 bridge players with over 10,000 responses from wave six of the English Longitudinal Study of Ageing. It found that those who play bridge have higher levels of well-being than those who do not play. The new club will also help build intergenerational relationships within and beyond the University.



# The International Bridge Press Association

## IBPA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Sunday morning, 20<sup>th</sup> August, 2017

Lyon, France

### Minutes

0. **Attendance:** 35 (see list below).
1. **Remembrance** of members deceased since last AGM: Anna-Maria Torlontano, Sandra Landy, and our President Emeritus Henry Francis. Brent Manley delivered a personal remembrance including a story about Henry during his time as Tournament Director in New York.
2. **Minutes** of the AGM held on 10<sup>th</sup> September 2016 in Wroclaw, Poland - Approved.
3. **Officers' Reports:** President, Chairman, Secretary (attached).
4. **Appointees' Reports:** Editor (attached).  
Membership Secretary (attached)
5. **Treasurer:** Accounts for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2016 is presented to the meeting. The deficit is \$2,946.  
Budget for 2018: Approved.  
Proposal regarding subscriptions for the year 2018 : they should go up by 2% per year, so to be US\$43 for 2018 – Approved.
6. **Elections:** The officers are elected to the 2018 AGM:  
President: Barry Rigal (USA);  
Chairman: Per Jannersten (Sweden);  
Executive Vice-President: David Stern (Australia);  
Organisational Vice-President: Dilip Gidwani (India);  
Treasurer: Richard Solomon (New Zealand).  
The secretary, Herman De Wael (Belgium) has indicated he wishes to resign for personal reasons. Elisabeth van Ettinger (Netherlands) has agreed to take over the position.  
Proposed for annual election are:  
Hon. Auditor: Richard Fleet - Approved.  
Hon. General Counsel: David Harris - Approved.  
David Harris recounts that during the past year, the bank accounts have been moved to accounts under the personal names of Barry Rigal and Per Jannersten. He has received written statements that settle this situation.
7. **Election of Executive members:** Proposed for a 3-year election to 2020: John Carruthers (Canada), Marek Wojcicki (Poland), Gavin Wolpert (USA).  
Before the election, the President wishes to thank Marek for trying to broaden our exposure in Eastern Europe.  
The executive members are elected.
8. **The IBPA Annual Awards:** Barry Rigal presented the awards.
9. **Any other competent business**  
Jan Swaan would like to see a list with the services that IBPA provides in order to attract new members, and asks what the IBPA is planning to adapt to the technology of the future. He proposes that a small working group discusses these things. The president agrees that such a group shall be formed and he asks Jan to be a part of it.  
**List of attendees to the AGM:** Christer Andersson, Sevinç Atay, Yves Aubry, Jade Barrett, Mark van Beijsterveldt, Peter Buchen, Francesca Canali, Mirek Cichocki, Jan van Cleeff, José Damiani, Marc De Pauw,

Herman De Wael, Elisabeth van Ettinger, Patrice Foulon, Dilip Gidwani, David Harris, Josef Harsanyi, Maureen Hiron, Mark Horton, Per Jannersten, Slawek Latala, Fernando Lema, Al Levy, Marshall Lewis, Jerry Li, Brent Manley, Micke Melander, Barry Rigal, Piet Spruit, David Stern, Jan Swaan, Ron Tacchi, Marina Witvliet, Marek Wójcicki, Michael Yuen (35).

## Reports to the AGM

Lyon, August 20, 2017

**IBPA President's Report 2017:** Barry Rigal

**Chairman's Report:** Per Jannersten

**Secretary's Report:** Since the Secretary's duties are mostly just administrative, there is not much to report to the AGM. Over the past year, I have amended the job descriptions, adding the amounts we pay to the winners of the Awards. Sadly however, personal circumstances have forced me to offer my resignation from the post. I have been very happy to be allowed to serve IBPA over the past seven years.

Herman De Wael

## Editor's Report:

Despite the turmoil in the larger bridge world in the past 12 months, for the monthly Bulletin of the IBPA, it was business as usual. My helpers, Katie Thorpe, PO Sundelin and Phillip Alder did their normal great job to make the Bulletin as good as it is. Katie and Phillip proofread each issue and PO checks the analysis. That does not prevent PO from correcting my grammar (which he takes great delight in doing) or Phillip or Katie from detecting an error in analysis. Katie also uploads the Bulletin to the IBPA website and manages the mailing list. I thank all three for their diligence and expertise.

Here are a few statistics: since the last World Championships, we published 12 issues, with 242 pages, 93 articles by 58 authors, from 18 countries.

A special thanks must go to Tim Bourke of Canberra, the author of the monthly Column Service and an occasional contributor of other material. Additionally, Tim provides a fantastic service to bridge journalists by converting BBO lin files to the more usable MS Word doc files. Our other most-frequent contributors were Mark Horton (England), Barry Rigal (USA), Ron Klinger (Australia), Brent Manley (USA), Fernando Lema (Argentina) and Maurizio di Sacco (Italy). We would welcome with open arms more contributions from the lesser-represented continents (Asia, Africa and South America). I remind members that we shall do our best to translate contributions from their native language to English.

John Carruthers, Friday, August 18, 2017

**Membership Secretary's Report 2017:** We have 167 members who have paid but are still chasing those that haven't.



## Correspondence

The Editor reserves the right to abridge and/or edit correspondence.  
Email: [ibpaeditor@sympatico.ca](mailto:ibpaeditor@sympatico.ca)

Dear John,

I see that I am the only one on the Executive Committee without an e-mail address on the front page of the IBPA Bulletin, so if you feel the urge to wipe that slate clean, it is: [tommy@sandsmark.org](mailto:tommy@sandsmark.org)

To lose Herman De Wael from the Executive Committee was a big loss for the IBPA, as I believe that he eventually would have made a good President. Having said that, I really hope that you will remind the Executive of the debt we owe to Herman and get Herman included again.

Yours most friendly,  
Tommy Sandsmark,  
Still Emeritus,  
Still going weak



[www.ibpa.com](http://www.ibpa.com)

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You can find fellow members' contact details at: [www.jannersten.org](http://www.jannersten.org). If you have forgotten your access code: [thorpe.katie@gmail.com](mailto:thorpe.katie@gmail.com)

### The 2016 Handbook:

To access the electronic version of the Handbook, go to the IBPA website: [www.ibpa.com](http://www.ibpa.com)

### Personal Details Changes:

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

# World Bridge Calendar

DATES	EVENT	LOCATION	INFORMATION
<b>2018</b>			
Aug 8-18	17 <sup>th</sup> World Youth Team Championships	Suzhou, China	<a href="http://www.worldbridge.org">www.worldbridge.org</a>
Aug 9-14	16 <sup>th</sup> HCL International	New Delhi, India	<a href="http://www.hcl-bridge.com">www.hcl-bridge.com</a>
Aug 13-19	42 <sup>nd</sup> International Festival	Varna, Bulgaria	<a href="http://www.bridge.bg">www.bridge.bg</a>
Aug 15-19	Summer Festival Teams	London, England	<a href="http://www.ebu.co.uk">www.ebu.co.uk</a>
Aug 17-26	68 <sup>th</sup> International Festival	La Baule, France	<a href="http://www.ffbridge.fr">www.ffbridge.fr</a>
Aug 18-Sep 2	18 <sup>th</sup> Asian Games	Jakarta/Palembang, Indonesia	<a href="http://www.ocasia.org">www.ocasia.org</a>
Aug 25-Sep 2	42 <sup>nd</sup> International Festival	La Grande-Motte, France	<a href="http://www.festivalsdusoleil.com">www.festivalsdusoleil.com</a>
Aug 29-Sep 2	Territory Gold Bridge Festival	Darwin, NT, Australia	<a href="http://www.ntba.com.au">www.ntba.com.au</a>
Sep 7-16	Guernsey Congress	Les Cotils, Guernsey, Channel Is.	<a href="http://www.ebu.co.uk">www.ebu.co.uk</a>
Sep 7-19	57 <sup>th</sup> International Festival	Pula, Croatia	<a href="http://www.pulabridgefestival.com">www.pulabridgefestival.com</a>
<b>Sep 22-Oct 6</b>	<b>11<sup>th</sup> World Bridge Series</b>	<b>Orlando, FL</b>	<b><a href="http://www.worldbridge.org">www.worldbridge.org</a></b>
Sep 28-Oct 1	Canberra in Bloom Bridge Festival	Canberra, ACT, Australia	<a href="http://www.abfevents.com.au">www.abfevents.com.au</a>
Sep 29-Oct 4	22 <sup>nd</sup> World Computer Championship	Orlando, FL	<a href="http://www.worldbridge.org">www.worldbridge.org</a>
Sep 29-Oct 6	New Zealand National Congress	Hamilton, NZ	<a href="http://www.nzbridge.co.nz">www.nzbridge.co.nz</a>
Oct 3-4	XI Open Balkan Yeam Championship	Stara Zagora, Bulgaria	<a href="http://www.bridge.bg">www.bridge.bg</a>
Oct 3-7	22 <sup>nd</sup> Açores Festival	Azores Is., Portugal	<a href="http://www.fpbridge.pt">www.fpbridge.pt</a>
Oct 8-14	Andalucia Overseas Congress	Cadiz, Spain	<a href="http://www.ebu.co.uk">www.ebu.co.uk</a>
Oct 19-21	Vilnius Cup	Vilnius, Lithuania	<a href="http://www.vilniuscup.lt">www.vilniuscup.lt</a>
Oct 25-27	EBL Small Federations Games	Budapest, Hungary	<a href="http://www.eurobridge.org">www.eurobridge.org</a>
Oct 25-28	9 <sup>th</sup> World University Championships	Suzhou, China	<a href="http://www.worldbridge.org">www.worldbridge.org</a>
Nov 6-11	21 <sup>st</sup> Madeira Bridge Festival	Madeira, Portugal	<a href="http://www.bridge-madeira.com">www.bridge-madeira.com</a>
Nov 8-10	17 <sup>th</sup> European Champions Cup	Budapest, Hungary	<a href="http://www.eurobridge.org">www.eurobridge.org</a>
Nov 8-10	5 <sup>th</sup> Marbella International	Marbella, Costa del Sol, Spain	<a href="http://www.marbellabridge.com">www.marbellabridge.com</a>
Nov 8-18	24 <sup>th</sup> International Red Sea Festival	Eilat, Israel	<a href="http://www.bridgeredsea.com">www.bridgeredsea.com</a>
Nov 10-11	2 <sup>nd</sup> YCBC Ladies Swiss Teams	London, England	<a href="http://www.ycbc.co.uk">www.ycbc.co.uk</a>
Nov 22-Dec 2	ACBL Fall NABC	Honolulu, HI	<a href="http://www.acbl.org">www.acbl.org</a>
Nov 27-Dec 1	3 <sup>rd</sup> SEABF Championships	Makati City, Philippines	<a href="http://www.pabf.org">www.pabf.org</a>
Nov 30-Dec 2	9 <sup>th</sup> Hotel D. Pedro Festival	Vilamoura, Portugal	<a href="http://www.fpbridge.pt">www.fpbridge.pt</a>
Dec 7-9	Città di Milano International Teams	Milan, Italy	<a href="http://www.federbridge.it">www.federbridge.it</a>
Dec 15-17	Cape Festival	Cape Town, South Africa	<a href="http://www.sabf.co.za">www.sabf.co.za</a>
Dec 27-30	Year-End Congress	London, England	<a href="http://www.ebu.co.uk">www.ebu.co.uk</a>
<b>2019</b>			
Jan 9-20	Summer Festival of Bridge	Canberra, ACT	<a href="http://www.abf.com.au">www.abf.com.au</a>
Jan 26-Feb 1	60 <sup>th</sup> Bermuda Regional	Southampton, Bermuda	<a href="http://www.bermudaregional.com">www.bermudaregional.com</a>
Jan 30-Feb 5	Greece Overseas Congress	Athens, Greece	<a href="http://www.ebu.co.uk">www.ebu.co.uk</a>
Jan 31-Feb 3	Reykjavik Bridge Festival	Reykjavik, Iceland	<a href="http://www.bridge.is">www.bridge.is</a>
Feb 15-23	57 <sup>th</sup> Gold Coast Congress	Broadbeach, Australia	<a href="http://www.qldbridge.com.au">www.qldbridge.com.au</a>
Feb 22-28	1 <sup>st</sup> European National Mixed Teams	Lisbon, Portugal	<a href="http://www.eurobridge.org">www.eurobridge.org</a>
Mar 8-10	Slava Cup	Moscow, Russia	<a href="http://www.slavacup.com">www.slavacup.com</a>
Mar 21-31	ACBL Spring NABC	Memphis, TN	<a href="http://www.acbl.org">www.acbl.org</a>
Mar 30-Apr 3	Amazing Bridge Festival	Bangkok, Thailand	<a href="http://www.thailandbridgeleague.com">www.thailandbridgeleague.com</a>
Apr 16-21	124 <sup>th</sup> Easter Regional	Toronto, ON	<a href="http://www.unit166.ca">www.unit166.ca</a>
Apr 26-May 5	Jersey Festival	Jersey, Channel Is.	<a href="http://www.ebu.co.uk">www.ebu.co.uk</a>
May 3-7	Schapiro Spring Fours	Stratford-upon-Avon, England	<a href="http://www.ebu.co.uk">www.ebu.co.uk</a>
May 4-12	Canadian Bridge Week	Burnaby, BC	<a href="http://www.cbf.ca">www.cbf.ca</a>
May 10-20	USBF Open and Women's Trials	Schaumburg, IL	<a href="http://www.usbf.org">www.usbf.org</a>
May 17-25	CACBF Championships	San Jose, Costa Rica	<a href="http://www.cacbf.com">www.cacbf.com</a>
May 24-Jun 1	69 <sup>th</sup> South American Bridge Festival	Mar del Plata, Argentina	<a href="http://www.worldbridge.org">www.worldbridge.org</a>
May 29-Jun 6	USBF Senior Trials	Schaumburg, IL	<a href="http://www.usbf.org">www.usbf.org</a>
Jun 11-18	52 <sup>nd</sup> APBF Championships	Singapore	<a href="mailto:competition@scba.org.sg">competition@scba.org.sg</a>
Jun 15-29	9 <sup>th</sup> Open European Championships	Opatija, Croatia (TBD)	<a href="http://www.eurobridge.org">www.eurobridge.org</a>
Jun 28-Jul 7	62 <sup>nd</sup> Slawa Congress	Slawa, Poland	<a href="http://www.pzbs.pl">www.pzbs.pl</a>
Jul 12-19	SABF Congress	Durban, South Africa	<a href="http://www.sabf.co.za">www.sabf.co.za</a>
Jul 18-28	ACBL Summer NABC	Las Vegas, NV	<a href="http://www.acbl.org">www.acbl.org</a>
Jul 26-Aug 4	25 <sup>th</sup> Swedish Bridge Festival	Orebro, Sweden	<a href="http://www.svenskbridge.se">www.svenskbridge.se</a>
Jul 27-Aug 1	Chairman's Cup	Orebro, Sweden	<a href="http://www.svenskbridge.se">www.svenskbridge.se</a>
Aug 2-11	Summer Festival	Eastbourne, England	<a href="http://www.ebu.co.uk">www.ebu.co.uk</a>
Aug 22-Sep 1	47 <sup>th</sup> Grand Prix of Warsaw	Warsaw, Poland	<a href="http://www.pzbs.pl">www.pzbs.pl</a>
Sep 6-14	58 <sup>th</sup> International Festival	Pula, Croatia	<a href="http://www.pulabridgefestival.com">www.pulabridgefestival.com</a>
Sep 13-22	Guernsey Congress	Guernsey, Channel Is.	<a href="http://www.ebu.co.uk">www.ebu.co.uk</a>
Nov 28-Dec 8	ACBL Fall NABC	San Francisco, CA	<a href="http://www.acbl.org">www.acbl.org</a>
Nov 30-Dec 5	5 <sup>th</sup> National Day Bridge Festival	Dubai, UAE	<a href="http://www.bridgewebs.com/4jacks">www.bridgewebs.com/4jacks</a>