



BULLETIN

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Editorial

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

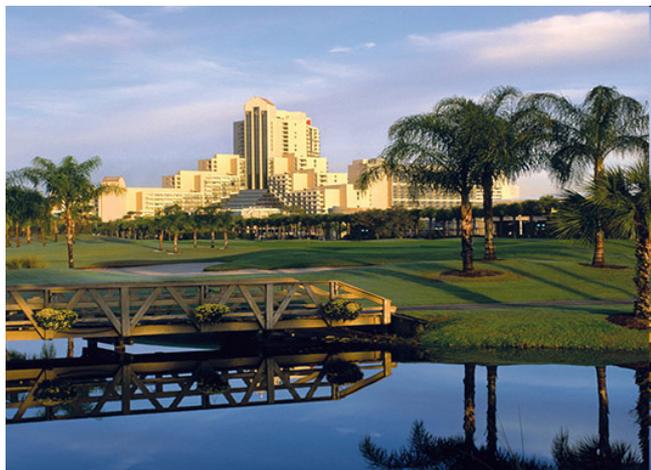
Brad Moss and Steve Weinstein have made an impassioned plea on Bridge Winners exhorting bridge organisations to revoke all titles won by convicted cheats. They present a detailed plan of action. Except for the European Bridge League (EBL), their plea has so far fallen on deaf ears.

The initial 2014 European Team Championship standings were: 1. Israel, 2. Monaco, 3. England, 4. Poland, 5. Bulgaria, 6. Germany. Astonishingly, pairs from four of those teams (all but England and Bulgaria) were accused of cheating. Those six nations qualified for the 2015 Bermuda Bowl held in Chennai, India. Three of the four NBOs containing accused pairs (Israel, Monaco and Germany) withdrew from the Bermuda Bowl, permitting Sweden, Denmark and France to take their places. Only Poland, of the countries containing accused pairs, played in the Bermuda Bowl, but without the accused pair, who were refused participation by the WBF Credentials Committee, but had not yet been convicted. Wouldn't you know it, Poland won.

Last month, the EBL announced revised standings for its 2014 Open Teams Championship: 1. Monaco, 2. England, 3. Poland, 4. Bulgaria, 5. Sweden, 6. Denmark. Why, you might ask, are two of the countries (Monaco and Poland) containing accused cheats, one of whom declined the WBF invitations to the Bermuda Bowl, still on the Top-6 list? It's complicated, to say the least. Monaco's accused pair, Fantoni and Nunes were convicted by the Italian Bridge Federation (FIGB), the conviction was ratified by the EBL and Fantunes were banned by the FIGB for three years (the maximum permissible under Italian statutes) and for five years by the EBU. They appealed to the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS), who deemed that the EBL had not proved their case beyond the shadow of a doubt. Therefore, CAS overturned the conviction. Poland's accused pair, Balicki/Zmudzinski, was convicted by the Polish Bridge Union (PBU), but the case was deemed to be outside PBU's statute of limitations, so no punishment was assessed. The cases of Fisher/Schwartz (Israel) and Smirnov/Piekarik (Germany) were clearer, with those pairs receiving ten- and four-year bans respectively from their NBOs and the EBL. Smirnov/Piekarik, alone among the accused pairs, admitted guilt, if only in a lukewarm fashion (they admitted unethical behaviour only).

Immediately after the EBL's announcement, Poland, in what many believe was an empty gesture, declined to accept the bronze medals from Opatija. There was almost unanimous agreement among the players in Chennai that Poland should have withdrawn from or been denied entry to that Bermuda Bowl after Balicki/Zmudzinski were refused accreditation by the WBF Credentials Committee. Instead, Poland was allowed to play with a substitute pair. Monaco did decline to appear in Chennai – should they now decline the gold medal from Opatija, despite the CAS decision? We say yes, but these are difficult questions. Nevertheless, we shall see how serious Monaco and Poland are about eradicating cheating and cheats from their midst by their actions in the near future, especially as they'd have to abdicate titles to do so.

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Orlando Magic

More Deals from the World Series of Bridge

A Rap on the Knuckles (David Berkowitz, Boca Raton, FL)

Rosenblum Round of 16, Segment 2 –
WOLFSON v. TORNAY

Board 20. Dealer West. Both Vul.

<p>♠ J 10 4 2 ♥ J 4 3 ♦ Q J 2 ♣ K 8 7</p> <p>♠ A Q 9 6 5 3 ♥ A 9 7 ♦ K 5 3 ♣ 9</p> <p>♠ — ♥ K 8 6 5 2 ♦ A 10 8 6 ♣ Q J 6 5</p>	<p>♠ K 8 7 ♥ Q 10 ♦ 9 7 4 ♣ A 10 4 3 2</p>
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West	North	East	South
<i>Stan Subeck</i>	<i>Berkowitz</i>	<i>Suzi Subeck</i>	<i>Hamman</i>
1♠	Pass	2♠	Double
3♠	Pass	4♠	Pass
Pass	Double	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Having elected to punish the opponents for their audacity, I led the queen of diamonds. Hamman won with his ace and returned the six of diamonds. Subeck won with his king, led a club to the ace and ruffed a club. He led the five of spades – ten – king – heart two. Another club ruff with the nine of spades followed, stripping me of that suit. I began to feel uneasy.

Declarer exited with a diamond to my jack. I then had the unenviable choice of by leading a trump, giving up my trick in the suit and giving declarer an entry to dummy in the process, or of leading a heart. I led a heart. Declarer played the ten from dummy and Hamman's king was taken by Subeck's ace. A heart to the queen, a

spade to the ace and a heart ruff meant minus 790 for us. That was well done by Stanton Subeck.

I might have tested declarer by leading back a trump instead of a heart. Then declarer would have had to win in dummy and lead the queen of hearts, effectively keeping South off lead to force declarer and bring back my trump trick.

Once I'd failed to unblock the jack of diamonds under the king, the contract was always makable.

Killing Lead (Charles, Odense, Denmark)

Young Signe Buus Thomsen is a rising star in Denmark – she travels to all North American Bridge Championships to improve her game.

In the World Championships in Orlando, Signe was a member of the McAllister team in the Mixed Teams. Her partner was the young Swedish player, Mikael Rimstedt, who was World Champion in the Open Pairs with his twin brother Ola.

On this deal from the Round Robin, Signe found a spectacular lead, dooming the contract.

Board 12. Dealer West. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Buus Thomsen</i>		<i>Rimstedt</i>	
Pass	1♦	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♥	Pass	2♠
Pass	4♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Declarer explained dummy's distribution as 4=4=5=0, 4=4=4=1 or possibly 4=4=3=2, and it gave Signe the clue to the lead. The lead? The two of spades!

A trump lead is necessary to beat the contract. Declarer won with the nine in hand, and followed with three rounds of hearts, ruffing the third in hand. The ace of clubs took the next trick, but the club king was ruffed. Buus Thomsen continued with the queen of spades. Declarer was forced to open up the diamond suit herself, losing three red-suit tricks. In spite of the trump lead, Buus Thomsen made a trump trick anyway. Down one.

Seventy-eight tables played in four spades, and Buus Thomsen was the only one who chose a trump as

the lead. A few failed after the lead of the jack of clubs, but the contract made at most tables.

When Your Ship Comes In (Barry Rigal, NYC)

Bill Pollack found himself in one of the less-fancied games of the tournament here, but at least it wasn't down in top tricks. This came from the Mixed Teams round of 64.

Board 13. Dealer North. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>R. Pollack</i>		<i>B. Pollack</i>	
—	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♥	Pass
4♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

Both Rozanne and Billy had their rose-coloured spectacles on, and they reached a four-heart game with 21 HCP and nothing extra in the way of fit or a source of tricks.

Billy received the lead of the eight of diamonds to his ten. He led another diamond to the ace and slipped a spade through to his king. When that held, he pitched dummy's spade on the king of diamonds, ruffed a spade, ruffed a club, and now had to be careful not to play the winning diamond, since he needed to keep that card until later.

If he had led the queen of diamonds prematurely, South would have ruffed low – Pollack could have over-ruffed and ruffed a club back to hand. Then, when declarer led the third spade, South could have ruffed high and played a trump. North would then have played the ace and jack of hearts. Declarer would have been stuck in hand with two losing spades and no trumps in either hand.

So, when Pollack instead led a third spade at trick seven, it would have done South no good to ruff high and play two more rounds of trumps, since that would have collapsed his side's trump tricks and left declarer with a trump in each hand; South pitched a club. Pollack ruffed, ruffed a club to hand and advanced the fourth spade. Again, ruffing high would have achieved nothing, so South discarded. Declarer could ruff in dummy and ruff the third club to hand, scoring three diamonds, a spade and six trump tricks.

The defence could have prevailed by flying up with ace of spades at trick three and playing either a club or a heart but, once they had ducked, declarer could no longer have been defeated.

Key Cards Are the Key (Jerry Li, Beijing)

Mixed Teams – Round of 16

Board 3. Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

In his match report for the Daily Bulletin, Marc Smith commented that the vulnerable East/West have nine top tricks in three notrumps. However, among the 16 teams remaining in the competition, there was only one pair (Jian-Jian Wang/Yiting Li) who managed to reach three notrump – and they got doubled! The rest of East/West field was split almost equally between negative (minus 170 to minus 100) and positive (plus 50 to plus 110) scores.

West	North	East	South
<i>Wang</i>	<i>Wolpert</i>	<i>Li</i>	<i>Weinstein</i>
—	—	—	1♣
Pass	1♥	2♦	Pass
2♥ ¹	3♥	3♠ ²	Pass
3NT ³	Pass	Pass	Double
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. Although possessing only a 10-count, Jian-Jian Wang believed that, with his ace and two kings, plus a nice diamond fit, the two-notrump bid chosen by several other players wouldn't do this hand justice. So, he decided to cue-bid as a stronger invitational bid, and hope that some extras from partner would be enough for a game contract.
2. With a stiff ace of hearts and the nice diamond suit, Yiting introduced her other suit at her second turn.
3. From partner's first bid of two diamonds instead of a takeout double, it was very reasonable to assume that partner had four weak spades and six good diamonds for her vulnerable two-over-one overcall in fourth seat. Then, some strength in the rounded suits should make three-notrump contract a nice shot.

Weinstein doubled, suggesting a spade lead. However, with a seven-count, along with the club king, Wolpert led a club. Weinstein won with the ace and shifted to

the spade three – the only killing defence if switching North’s club king and West’s spade ace! The declarer was fully aware of South’s intention, and played the deuce from hand, letting dummy’s ten score for an overtrick. That was good enough for plus 950 and a juicy 14 IMPs when Kevin Bathurst (North) finished with nine tricks in two hearts at the other table.

The key to success for reaching three notrumps at the featured table was that both players showed good hand evaluation by giving enough credit to their key cards (spade ace, heart ace and king), as well as the running diamonds). It also illustrates that a beautifully-bid hand is not always necessarily a slam!

Mixed Teams Round of 16 – WILSON v MARTENS (Brian Senior, Nottingham, UK)

Board 21. Dealer North. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Brock</i>	<i>Lall</i>	<i>Willenken</i>	<i>Hamman</i>
—	INT	Pass	2♥
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♥
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Willenken led the ace and another diamond to dummy’s king. Lall drew trumps in three rounds, ending in dummy, then led the queen of hearts to the king and ace. He cashed the top clubs and the jack of diamonds, then ruffed a diamond and led a heart to the jack, claiming 12 tricks for plus 680.

West	North	East	South
<i>Helgemo</i>	<i>Ritmeijer</i>	<i>Larsson</i>	<i>Tichá</i>
—	INT	Pass	2♥
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♥
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♣ ¹
Pass	4♦ ²	Pass	4♠
Pass	4NT ³	Pass	5♣ ⁴
Pass	5♦ ⁵	Pass	6♠ ⁶
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. Control bid
2. ??
3. RKCB
4. 1 key card
5. Queen ask
6. Spade queen, no side king

Whatever the meaning of four diamonds, Ritmeijer next asked for key cards, then for the queen of spades. Tichá jumped to the small slam to say that she had it but no king that she wished to show (she of course had the diamond king, but no interest in a grand slam, so why tell the defence about it?).

Larsson also led the ace and another diamond. Ritmeijer won with dummy’s king and drew trumps, then led the queen of hearts to the king and ace. He cashed the minor-suit winners then ruffed a club and cashed the last trump, discarding his diamond loser. Helgemo threw a heart, coming down to the eight of hearts and the queen of clubs, while Larsson had the ten of hearts and the jack of clubs. Ritmeijer led a heart and played ... the jack! The fall of the ten meant he had 12 tricks and his contract for plus 1430 and 13 IMPs to WILSON.

Why did Ritmeijer get the heart right, when Helgemo would have had to discard a heart at trick 11 if down to nothing but hearts? Perhaps he simply didn’t believe that Larsson would have led the ace of diamonds had she held the queen-jack-ten-nine-seven of clubs as an alternative, in which case Helgemo had to hold the jack or queen of clubs and was playing games with him. So, should Helgemo have pitched the queen of clubs and kept two hearts – he presumably knew the distribution by then, so knew that he didn’t need the queen of clubs.

Anyway, if ever one play decided a match, this was it. Had Ritmeijer got the heart wrong, WILSON would have lost 13 IMPs instead of gaining them, and would have lost the match.

Mixed Teams QF – WILSON v McALLISTER (Brent Manley, Memphis, TN)

Board 19. Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Grossack</i>	<i>Brock</i>	<i>Combesure</i>	<i>Willenken</i>
—	—	—	INT
Pass	3NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Grossack led the jack of diamonds to Willenken’s queen. At trick two, Willenken played a heart to the queen, taken by Combesure with the king to return the five of diamonds (an unlikely club shift is needed to ensure

the defeat of the contract). Willenken won with the ace and played a heart to the nine and ten. He then played dummy's last heart to his jack (ironically, declarer needed to play clubs at this point to ensure making the contract). Grossack won with the ace and cashed the eight before continuing with the ten of diamonds (a spade shift was required). Willenken won with his king and cashed the other diamonds, putting pressure on both opponents. This was the situation as the eight of diamonds was about to be played:

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

In the diagrammed position, declarer can always make the contract if East's third spade is the eight and the defence can prevail if it is the five. In practice, West discarded two spades on the diamonds to keep his club holding intact and East let two clubs go. Willenken took full advantage, playing his two of spades to the jack and ace, led a club to the ace, stripping East of that suit, then leading the ten of spades. East could win the with his king, but then had only the nine of spades left to lead to dummy's queen. Plus 400 to Willenken.

At the other table, North played in one notrump making two for plus 120 after an opening spade lead from East. That sent 7 IMPs MANFIELD's way.

Mixed Teams Semifinal – FERM v MANFIELD (Marc Smith, London)

Board 14. Dealer East. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
De Wijs	D. Rosenberg von Arnim	M. Rosenberg	
—	—	3♠	Pass
4♠	5♣	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Debbie Rosenberg bought a suitable dummy in five clubs. Daniela von Arnim opened with a top spade but then switched smartly to her heart. When Simon de Wijs won the first round of trumps he duly delivered his partner's heart ruff to beat the contract by a trick; East/West plus 50.

West	North	East	South
Pettis	Ferm	Manfield	Brink
—	—	2♠	Pass
Pass	3♣	Pass	Pass
3♠	Pass	Pass	4♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Melanie Manfield opened a 'weak two-bid', and it looked to have cost a game swing that a previous similar effort had gained.

When Brink backed in with a four-heart bid, those watching on VuGraph scrambled to check the video: surely North must have doubled three spades, but, apparently not!

With the king of diamonds onside, declarer seems to have ten fairly straightforward tricks. Things do not always turn out as they seem, though. Pettis happened upon the devastating lead of the four of diamonds. Fearing club ruffs if ducking lost to East' king, declarer was persuaded to rise with the ace of diamonds and start trumps. When East showed out on the second round, declarer had to abandon that plan and switch to clubs. Pettis won with the ace of clubs, cashed his king of diamonds, crossed to his partner's hand in spades, and duly received his club ruff to flatten the board.

The 2018 Norwegian Pairs Championship



Knut Kjærnsrød, Tore, Norway

The field for the final consisted of 54 pairs who had qualified from tournaments throughout Norway and was played in Lyngdal, a scenic place on our south coast, from September 21 to 23. For the first time in the history of the championship, the title was won by a father-and-son combination. Father Alf and son Stian Andersen, from Lillehammer, emerged victorious after a tight battle with Kurt-Ove Thomassen and Svein Gunnar Karlberg, from Mo I Rana. Stian Andre Evenstad and Espen Larsen from Sørreisa took the bronze medals.

East, Jan Ohren, and West, Finn Brentebråten, executed a nice defence on this board:

Dealer West. E/W Vul.

♠ 10 8
♥ J 4
♦ A Q 9 8 4 3 2
♣ 10 3

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

♠ 7 4
♥ A Q 7 2
♦ K 7
♣ K Q J 8 6

West	North	East	South
<i>Brentebråten</i>		<i>Ohren</i>	
1♠	3♦	3♠	4♦
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Ohren led the six of spades, taken by Brentebråten's king. West played back the knave of spades, overtaken by the queen, and the heart shift ensured one down.

In the last round, Karlberg/Thomassen lost the gold medal on this board:

Dealer East. Neither Vul.

♠ K 10 8 6
♥ K J 10 6
♦ 5 4 2
♣ A 4

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

♠ J 7 2
♥ A 2
♦ 6 3
♣ K J 10 9 7 5

West	North	East	South
<i>Thomassen</i>	<i>Bartnes</i>	<i>Karlberg</i>	<i>Hagen</i>
—	—	1NT	3♣
Double	Pass	Pass	Pass

West led the queen of diamonds, then shifted to a spade, won by East's queen. East continued with the diamond king and ace, trumped by Bjørnar Hagen. A club to the ace and another to the knave revealed the expected lie in trumps. Hagen led a spade to the ten, won by East's ace, and the heart shift went to South's ace. A heart to the king and a heart ruff left everyone with three cards. Declarer led the jack of spades to dummy's king as East helplessly followed suit.

Then, either a spade or a heart from dummy doomed East's trumps.

East could have defeated three clubs doubled by declining to help declarer's trump reduction: after the

spade shift from West at trick two, East simply cashes his four winners and exits with a major-suit card. Then, declarer would not have had the four dummy entries necessary to trump-coup East.

Hans Melby played the following deal almost perfectly, taking advantage of an understandable defensive error.

Dealer West. Neither Vul.

♠ A J 9
♥ A K 10 7 6 2
♦ K 7 4
♣ 7

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

♠ Q 8 7 3 2
♥ Q
♦ Q 10
♣ A K Q J 4

West	North	East	South
<i>Iversen</i>	<i>H. Melby</i>	<i>Uttisrud</i>	<i>J. Melby</i>
Pass	1♥	Pass	1♠
Pass	3♥	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♣	Pass	6♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

East led his singleton spade, won by Melby's nine. Declarer led a trump to the queen and began to run clubs. West erred by ruffing the third; if he discards one diamond and one spade on the clubs, the contract cannot be made. When West ruffed the third club, Melby overruffed and drew the trumps. Next, he played the king of diamonds – West declined to take the trick to prevent Hans from reaching the dummy. North still found the winning line. He ran the trumps, and before the ultimate one, the position was:

♠ A J
♥ 6
♦ 7
♣ —

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

♠ Q 8
♥ —
♦ Q
♣ J

On his last trump, Hans discarded dummy's knave of clubs, and West had to surrender. He let his low diamond go, but was endplayed with a diamond to the ace and had to lead away from his king of spades.

Perfect double-dummy play required declarer to begin clubs before trumps, retaining the queen of hearts as a dummy entry.



Swedish Excellence

Sweden had a superb performance in the 2018 World Youth Teams Championships, winning the Under-26 and Under-21 categories. In the U-26 (also known as the Juniors), the final was played against Singapore, a country which has been steadily placing higher at World Championships in the past few years.

Those who follow Junior bridge know that, at the highest levels, the game is extremely aggressive and well-played, and that the partnerships employ very sophisticated methods with great competence. When the final of the 2018 World Championship began, the first board was an example of all that. These were the cards:

Board 1. Dealer North. Neither Vul.

<p>♠ K 8 ♥ A 9 5 4 3 ♦ J 7 5 4 ♣ 8 6</p> <p>♠ A 9 5 3 ♥ J 8 ♦ A Q 10 3 ♣ 9 5 2</p>	<p>♠ 7 6 4 ♥ Q 10 6 2 ♦ K 2 ♣ A J 10 4</p> <p>♠ Q J 10 2 ♥ K 7 ♦ 9 8 6 ♣ K Q 7 3</p>
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It is not unimaginable that a board like this would be passed out at many tables, but that would not happen in present company. When the Swedes held the North/South cards, they were able to stop low by means of a transfer response:

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

1. Natural, 11-21; or balanced 11-13/17-18
2. Hearts
3. 2/3 hearts, 11-13 balanced

Perhaps East/West should have tried harder to push the Swedes around, but they can't even make one notrump, so that is not without its risks. In any case, North/South cannot make one heart, right? They are slated to lose one spade, two hearts, three diamonds and one club.

However, this is without taking into account the advantage of transferring the play of the hand to South. West has a difficult lead, and picked the five of spades. Ida Grönkvist played the king of spades from dummy, as East discouraged with the seven. Declarer played a second spade. East did his best to encourage a diamond switch by playing the six, but it was not enough; West played a third spade, and declarer seized the opportunity to discard two diamonds from the table, as East ruffed with a natural trump trick. That was that.

Perhaps West should have heeded the old saying that both sides should not be attacking the same suit, but we must credit the transfer response with some part of this result.

That was already a good result for Sweden, but it became even better when Zhou, at the other table, decided to open the North cards with an anemic two hearts. This could have worked out better, of course, as is often the case with preempts, but I suspect that this decision was not purely technical; at the start of a very long match, it is tactically wise to plant doubt in your opponents' minds regarding your style of preempts. In any case, if it had worked out fine, it would have given the Singaporeans a psychological edge. As it happened, though, it backfired when West reopened with a double and East decided to pass rather than to look for a game. (This decision, facing an unpassed partner, was also probably influenced by psychological and tactical considerations – grabbing a penalty on the first board is never unwelcome).

The sum of both decisions was a great board for Sweden. It was compounded by the fact that when South was the dummy, West had little difficulty in switching to a low diamond when on lead with the ace of spades.

A spade was also led here, by East. The Swedes defended carefully to extract the maximum penalty: spade lead, ducked, then West won the spade continuation and shifted to a low diamond; East won with the king, cashed the ace of clubs, and returned a diamond. As West cashed his diamonds, East pitched the last spade. A spade was played for a ruff, and a further trump trick was lost later. Plus 300 and plus 80 for Sweden amounted to a good start: 9 IMPs.

Through the Minefield

This board, from the third segment of the 2018 Junior final between Sweden and Singapore, was very difficult to navigate properly. The traps were dangerous, and they were everywhere. East was the dealer and his side was vulnerable against not. Let's look at it from West's viewpoint:

♠ A
♥ 9 7 3
♦ A J 6 5 4 3 2
♣ 7 4

Continued on page 10 ...



IBPA Column Service

Tim Bourke, Canberra

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

925. Dealer North. Both Vul.

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

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

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

West led the ten of diamonds, which was taken in dummy with the ace. Declarer saw that the slam would be likely to make if he could hold his losers in the black suits to one. The first issue faced was which black suit to play first. Declarer decided that there would be better residual chances if trumps were attacked first. So, at trick two he led the jack of trumps and ran it when East played low. West's discard of a low heart gave declarer pause for reflection.

Declarer's solution was to throw a club on the king of diamonds then to call for the ten of trumps from dummy. East covered with the king and declarer won with the ace. Next, South placed the jack of clubs on the table, a move that guaranteed the contract provided East had at least two clubs.

As the cards lay, the defence had no answer. If West had taken the trick with the queen of clubs, declarer would have used dummy's ten of clubs to pick up East's remaining trumps and claim the contract: he would have made six trumps, a heart, two diamonds and three clubs.

At the table, West played a low club on the jack, which held the trick. Declarer continued by cashing the ace of clubs then ruffing the eight of clubs with dummy's three of trumps. East overruffed this with the seven of

trumps. However, that was the only trick the defence made. After ruffing the return of the queen of diamonds, declarer drew East's remaining trump with the queen and claimed the balance, since his hand was high.

926. Dealer South. Neither Vul.

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

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

Since North's cue-bid of four diamonds suggested a good raise to four hearts, South just bid what he thought he could make.

West led the ten of clubs. After a little thought, declarer formed the plan of endplaying West on the third round of diamonds. Declarer won the first trick with the ace of clubs, crossed to dummy by playing the two of trumps to the four(!) and ruffed a diamond high. Declarer cashed the king of clubs and returned to dummy with a club ruff, eliminating that suit. Next, he ruffed dummy's remaining low diamond with another high trump. South returned to dummy by playing his six of trumps to dummy's seven. Declarer continued with the king of diamonds, discarding the spade five from his hand. West won the trick with the ace of diamonds and had no good return.

West counted declarer for 3=7=0=3 shape, with the ace of spades. So, if he played a fourth round of diamonds declarer would ruff in the dummy and discard his spade loser from hand. When, instead, West exited with a low spade, declarer was able to win the trick with the queen of spades and claim. He made two spades, seven hearts, two clubs and a club ruff for a total of 12 tricks.

927. Dealer East. NS Vul.

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

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

1. RKCB
2. 0 or 3 key cards
3. King ask; guarantees all key cards and the spade queen
4. King of hearts

North felt he'd done enough in the bidding, since South would have jumped to the grand slam with solid hearts, and was content to bid six spades, leaving it up to his partner to bid the grand slam. As it appeared to South that the grand slam would likely depend on good breaks in both majors, he took the conservative approach and settled for trying to make 12 tricks.

West led the queen of clubs which was won in dummy with the ace. Declarer saw that if trumps were 5-0 he would only be able to make the contract if hearts were 3-2. So, declarer played a low trump from dummy to his ace at trick two. Relieved that the trumps were at worst 4-1, declarer cashed the heart ace at trick three. He was about to play the king of hearts next when the thought "What happens if the hearts are 4-1?" flashed into his head. Declarer pushed the king of hearts back into his hand and continued instead with a low heart. West took this with the jack and, in response to East's signal, exited with a diamond.

Declarer won with the ace and asked himself whether anything could be done if East had started with four trumps headed by the ten. Demonstrating that there was an answer to this problem, declarer called for dummy's nine of trumps and won the trick with his jack. He ruffed a heart with dummy's queen of trumps, led the five of trumps and simply covered East's card, drew the last trump and claimed the balance – making four trumps in hand, four hearts, a heart ruff and three tricks in the minors.

928. Dealer North. Both Vul.

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

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

The auction was the same at both tables in a team game, with the respective Norths stretching a bit to bid game on the basis of their four-card trump support.

At both tables the lead was the queen of hearts, which looked to the declarers like an obvious singleton. Both declarers played the king of hearts at trick one. The Easts took the first trick with the ace of hearts and shifted to the king of clubs, much to the annoyance of both declarers.

At the first table, declarer won with the ace of clubs and, without any discernable thought, played a low spade to the king. When East discarded a diamond the contract could no longer be made.

At the second table, the declarer paused for thought after winning with the ace of clubs. As the opening lead had clearly been a singleton, declarer's first thought was that, on a vacant places argument, it was four to three that West had the queen of trumps. Then declarer asked himself, "Why hadn't East given his partner a heart ruff at trick two?" Declarer concluded that West probably had a trump trick and that East believed that his side needed more than just one heart ruff to beat the contract.

So, at trick three, declarer led the jack of trumps from hand and ran it when West played low. Then declarer took the ace and king of trumps before playing a low heart to the jack. When West accurately discarded a club, declarer returned to dummy with the king of diamonds to lead the nine of hearts. East covered this with the ten and declarer ruffed in hand. This time West overruffed with the queen of trumps but now declarer claimed all but one of the remaining tricks, conceding a club. He made four trumps, two hearts, two diamonds, the ace of clubs and a club ruff for a total of ten tricks.

Continued from page 7.

A nice-looking hand. When Adam Stokka held it, his partner passed and his RHO opened one heart. What would you do? Most people would probably make a simple two-diamond overcall, but I think a case can be made (facing a passed partner, vulnerable vs. not) for a three-diamond overcall. Would it have made any difference? Perhaps, for this was the full deal:

Dealer East. EW Vul.

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

... and the bidding went like this:

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

After the first bid by West, the bids were all pretty much forced. I would not say that East could never pass two diamonds with that hand, but I can say that I would never do it. And the final result was 500 for Singapore, when East/West lost the obvious six tricks (two hearts, three diamonds, one club). The spade blockage prevented the king of spades from adding any trick to declarer's total.

After an initial three-diamond overcall, North would not have a natural penalty double. Would South reopen? He should, but there is no doubt that it is easier for North to double three diamonds than for South to do it.

Meanwhile, in the other room, the Singaporean pair nimbly avoided any trouble in the bidding:

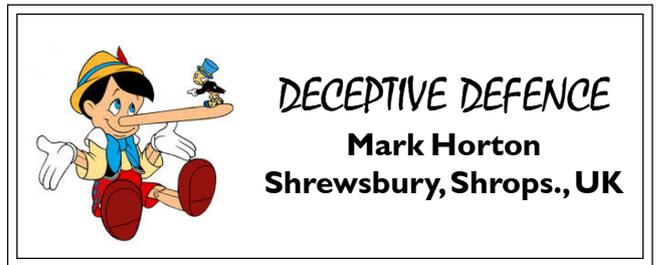
West	North	East	South
—	—	1♠	2♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

There are lots of little things going on in deals like this that explain the big swing. In this auction, the first component is East's light opening (in a Precision context), vulnerable vs. non-vulnerable. Many people refrain from light openings at that vulnerability because they are, allegedly, risky. But any coin has two sides: sometimes a light opening helps you avoid trouble. This is not enough to explain East/West's escape, though: full marks must also be given to Jazlene

Ong's restraint with the West cards (and again, the light opening context of Precision helped a lot there). The 'death holding' of three low in the opponent's suit, the blocking spade ace, the weak (even if very long) suit, were all warning signs that were duly noted. (I speak here as someone who would have a great deal of difficulty in finding this pass).

Also, curiously, this bidding success was followed by a trick lost in defence, enabling North/South to make their two-heart contract. The ace of spades was led. West shifted to a club, won by East's ace; spade king (club pitch), spade ruff, diamond ace, and now, when West played a second diamond, East did not really believe that his partner had passed with a seven-card suit headed by the ace-jack and a side ace, and so ruffed low! Ida Grönkvist gratefully overruffed cheaply, drew trumps, and made eight tricks.

However, Singapore accepted the 9 IMPs (rather than the 11 they would have won had East ruffed high).



This deal from the final of the 2018 Spingold features a sparkling defence by Chris Willenken and Eldad Ginossar:

Dealer East. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Willenken	Helness	Ginossar	Helgemo
—	—	Pass	1♣
1♦	4♥	5♦	5♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

In the other room, Klukowski had led the ace of clubs against five hearts, declared by South. That saw declarer ruff, cross to hand with a heart, pitch a diamond on the king of clubs and continue with the jack of clubs, establishing two more winners for spade

discards. Declarer lost just one spade trick, making an overtrick.

Here, East led the ace of diamonds. The auction strongly suggested that North would have at most one diamond, so West's card could be expected to have suit preference overtones. Appreciating that any club tricks the defenders were entitled to could not run away, Chris Willenken followed to the ace of diamonds with the nine. East switched to the seven of spades and, when declarer played dummy's two, West could win with the queen and return a spade for one down.



Not long ago, I made up 16 deals for one of my classes, to discuss various choices in constructive bidding. This was one of them.

Dealer North. Both Vul.

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

♠ —	♠ 7
♥ —	♥ —
♦ 10 9	♦ J ?
♣ 10	♣ —
	♠ J
	♥ —
	♦ A ?
	♣ —
	♠ —
	♥ 3
	♦ 3
	♣ 9

After one spade from North, two hearts from South, two notrump from North, my recommendation to my students was for South to raise to three notrump. The nine-trick game is often best with fast tricks, while a hand with slow tricks is more often suited for game in the long suit. As I expected, this was too difficult for them, and at all tables South jumped to four hearts. All of them went down.

At the table where I watched, West led the club queen, won by the ace. When East played low, I made a mental note to mention that dumping the club king here might have been a good idea. Still, it shouldn't matter. At trick two, declarer led the five of diamonds. I noted that a good defence might be to jump up with the ace to unblock the club king (necessary if South has the diamond ten instead of the three) and wondered if I should mention it. But East played second hand low,

and West beat the queen with the king. Returning the ten of diamonds at that point would have been smart, I thought, and that was something I intended to mention, but West persisted with clubs. East won with the king and returned the spade queen. Declarer won with the spade ace, drew trumps, led a diamond to the jack, and ended with the expected nine tricks.

“Could I have made four hearts?” the declarer asked afterwards, and I said, “No.”

Later that night, I suddenly woke up because, during sleep, I had realized that my answer might have been wrong. I seldom tell my pupils everything about a deal – if I did, we would never be finished – but I have promised myself never to lie to them. And I was afraid I had done that. What worried me was that if declarer, after drawing trumps, plays a *fifth* round of hearts, discarding a club from dummy, he may embarrass the defenders. West has no problem yet, but East has. Since South's only chance to make the contract is that East has the ace of diamonds, South will drop it if East pitches a diamond. Therefore, East has to discard a spade. After East's spade pitch, South leads a spade to the king, to reach this ending:

When South ruffs dummy's last spade, he strips East of spades, while forcing West to discard a diamond. Then South leads a diamond, covered all around. I remembered that West had ten-nine-eight of diamonds, so the question was, “Who had the Beer Card?” (the seven of diamonds). If North had it, four hearts could indeed have been made, the way the play started (with a strip-squeeze against one defender and a vice-squeeze against the other), but if East had it, it was “just another boring one down.”

There was no way I could go back to sleep without knowing if I had lied or not, so I went to my study, turned on the computer and found the hand record. It showed that East did indeed have the seven of diamonds. I hadn't lied, so I could relax and go back to sleep with a clear conscience (and a good story).



The 2018 Turkish Club Teams Championship was held in the city of Eskisehir from the 21st through the 26th of July. Eighty-eight teams came from all geographic regions of the country after qualifying in their region. Muglaspor won the championship for the first time, having very strong players, three of whom have been on the national team.

Here is a deal played by Gokhan Yilmaz, one of Muglaspor's national players. It is from the semifinals.

Dealer North. Both Vul.

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

1. (7)8-11 HCP; could be unbalanced

West led the jack of clubs – queen – king – ace. When Yilmaz took his ace, he was aware that he must not allow East the lead. After thinking for a few seconds, he continued with the jack of diamonds, winning with the ace in dummy. He then played the two of spades – seven – jack – three. Knowing now from the bidding that the king of spades was originally doubleton, he cashed the ace of spades. After he cashed the ace and king of hearts, West showing out on the second, declarer went to dummy with the queen of spades, then took the diamond finesse. That totalled nine tricks: three spades, two hearts, three diamonds and one club.

That fine declarer play lost 2 IMPs as four hearts made five at the other table.



This is not from the Director's Corner since, amazingly, I heard of no ruling on the board at all:

Board 7. Dealer South. Both Vul.

<p>♠ — ♥ Q 9 8 6 4 3 ♦ 10 9 5 2 ♣ K 7 6</p> <p>♠ Q 10 8 4 3 ♥ K ♦ Q 8 7 3 ♣ A 4 3</p> <p>♠ — ♥ A J 10 7 5 2 ♦ A 6 4 ♣ Q 10 5 2</p>	<p>♠ A K J 9 7 6 5 2 ♥ — ♦ K J ♣ J 9 8</p>
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First, let me explain the title of this article: in 1995, the European Team Championships were held in Vilamoura, Portugal. The coat-of-arms of that city has two rows of six hearts either side – so, a deal with a 6-6 fit in hearts ought to be called a Vilamoura deal. Those turn up every once in a while, but 7-6 fits are quite a bit rarer. And look at the diagram here.

At one table, the bidding went: one heart – one spade – six hearts – six spades – seven hearts.

When South gained the lead and played the ace of hearts, West asked why he had not finessed. "Oh, that's why," he said, when partner showed out.

Let's have a look at what happened around the room:

- 5 East/West pairs bought the hand at the four level.
- 4 North/South pairs were allowed to play in five hearts, one even in four hearts!
- 49 EW pairs had an easy ride in five spades.
- 14 NS pairs bid to six hearts.
- 53 EW pairs allowed themselves to be pushed to six spades. Then, 13 NS pairs topped that with a bid of seven hearts.
- 5 EW pairs went all the way to seven spades, invariably doubled and two down.
- 1 NS pair scored a top with plus 850 in five hearts doubled, making.
- 2 EW pairs shared a top by being allowed to make six spades doubled! We don't know how – perhaps a revoke?

Strangely, the hand was not passed out at any table.



IBPA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Monday a.m., October 1, 2018, Orlando, FL

Minutes

0. **Attendance:** 25 (see list below).

1. **Remembrance** of members deceased since the last AGM: Jean-Paul Meyer and Jon Sveindal. We paid our respect with a moment of silence.

2. **Minutes** of the AGM held on 20th August 2017, Lyon, France – Approved.

3. **Officers' Reports:** President, Chairman, Secretary (attached). Per Jannersten sees a bright future. The IBPA has healthy finances and the number of members is increasing.

4. **Appointees' Reports:** Editor (attached), Membership Secretary (attached): we have 204 members including 1 deceased and 1 no longer active member.

5. **Treasurer Accounts** for the year ending 31st December 2017 were presented to the meeting. The positive balance is \$6464. Budget for 2019 with membership dues of \$43: Approved.

6. **Elections:** The current officers are: 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). Secretary: Elisabeth van Ettinger (Netherlands). All were approved until 2020.

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

7. **Election of Executive Members:** Proposed for a 3-year election to 2021: Geo Tislevoll (New Zealand) Jerry Li (China) Liam Milne (Australia) – Approved. Already elected:

Until 2019: Jan Van Cleeff (NED), Tadashi Yoshida (JPN), Brent Manley (USA)

Until 2020: John Carruthers (CAN), Marek Wojcicki (POL), Gavin Wolpert (USA)

8. **The IBPA Annual Awards:** Barry Rigal presented the Master Point Press Book of the Year award to Kit Woolsey for his book "The Language of Bridge" (at the beginning of the meeting because Kit Woolsey had to play bridge), The Alan Truscott Memorial Award for computer bridge was won by Bridge Baron and author Ron Tacchi. This was the first year for a computer

program to be given this award. Until now no computer play was deemed worthy of an award. Maybe the IBPA, WBF, or Funbridge will sponsor this award in the future. All the other awards will be presented at the Hainan Bridge Festival in October. Dilip Gidwani will present them on behalf of the IBPA. Jian-Jian Wang who is the go-between between China and the West, explained about the rewards. The awards include travel expenses, three days' hotel in Hainan and free entry fees to the tournament. There are also substantial financial rewards, but only for the winners who are present. Barry expressed his gratitude to José Damiani, who had helped throughout the negotiations with the Hainan Festival and had been helpful with negotiations for a new Computer award.

9. **Remission of Subscriptions:** The definition of membership does not permit non-paying members. This means that the membership dues for active members cannot be abolished, but could be sponsored by the organization. The exact parameters for this proposal are still to be determined. The organization is estimated to have a reduced income of about 3500 USD but, because of our financial situation, this is not a major problem. Since our financial position is so healthy, we could spend some of the money in sponsoring active members. This would hopefully stimulate an increase in articles for the Bulletin. Marshall Lewis mentioned that we need to be clearer on what kind of articles are appropriate to be published. At the moment we see mostly reports on past Championships. John Carruthers would be happy to publish articles on technical matters, for instance bidding systems. So, we all have to stimulate potential writers. In any case, we need writers from other parts of the world and younger writers. The partnership with the Hainan Festival makes the benefits of winning an award much more desirable. A discussion is being held about the definition of "active members". Presenting four articles a year for the Bulletin seems a practical definition. Herman De Wael suggested that the sponsoring of dues could also, in some cases, be partial.

At the end of the discussion, a proposal was formulated as follows: *Actively contributing members may have their dues sponsored either fully or in part by the organisation, subject to annual approval by the AGM.* Approved unanimously.

10. **Any Other Competent Business:**

Jan Swaan asked to know the position of the WBF on printed bulletins at championships. With the EBL, there is an agreement that IBPA members can receive printed bulletins free of charge, while others have to pay a reasonable sum for a complete set of the whole championship bulletins. Is the WBF willing to make the same agreement, in which case we would need a suitable printer? Jan Swaan is willing to coordinate the

printing. Gianarrigo Rona is in favour of this idea and will discuss it in the organizing committee. Barry Rigal has presented a copy of the IBPA Yearbook 2018 to Gianarrigo Rona, President of the WBF. Many members have written a dedication to Gianarrigo. The printing of this Handbook was sponsored by Patrick Jourdain's will (bequest) and published in his honour.

List of Attendees to the AGM: Marc van Beijsterveldt, John Carruthers, José Damiani, Marc De Pauw, Herman De Wael, Elisabeth van Ettinger, David Harris, Per Jannersten, Britt Jannersten, Bob Jones, Monika Kümmel, Fernando Lema, Al Levy, Marshall Lewis, Jerry Li, Brent Manley, Barry Rigal, Gianarrigo Rona, Pierre Schmidt, Brian Senior, David Stern, Jan Swaan, Katie Thorpe, Jian-Jian Wang, Kit Woolsey,

Reports to the AGM:

Chairman's Report: I have, longer than I can remember, reported that the state of our organization is good; at the same time as I expressed concerns about the future. This year I am happy to report that the state is excellent, while the future looks bright.
Per E Jannersten

Editor's Report: As usual, I owe a debt of gratitude to my faithful reviewers, Katie Thorpe, PO Sundelin and Phillip Alder. There is no question that the Bulletin would be of lesser quality without their diligent efforts. There are two new incentives to encourage member contributions to the Bulletin. Beginning this year, the Hainan Bridge Festival will be sponsoring some of our awards. Their sponsorship will take the form of expenses to the Hainan Bridge Festival and substantial cash prizes to the winning journalists and players. The second incentive will be that, beginning in 2019, members will have the opportunity to have free dues for the year. To achieve this, members will have to contribute frequently to the Bulletin. The criteria for this incentive are presently under consideration.
John Carruthers

Membership Secretary Report:

Total membership for 2018: 204 I; Over 80 years of age: 4; No-pay members: 25 (list attached)

Distribution of members

Zone 1 (Europe): 119

Zone 2 (N.A.): 48

Zone 3 (S.A.): 2

Zone 4 (Africa +): 6

Zone 5 (C.A.): 2

Zone 6 (Asia): 6

Zone 7 (Down Under): 18

Total: 201 (three unknown Zone, but likely Europe)

Members Pre-Paid for Future Years

2019: 19; 2020: 5; 2021: 2; 2022: 1*

* Includes 1 deceased member and 1 no-pay member no longer active.

Katie Thorpe

NEWS & VIEWS



IBPA Awards at the HBF

The 2018 IBPA Awards Ceremony was held at the Mangrove Tree Resort World, Sanya, China on October 25, 2018 to open the Hainan Bridge Festival. Five awards were presented to the winning players and journalists, with prizes of ¥50,000 for Personality of the Year, Best Declarer Play, Best Defence and Best Bidding. The Junior Deal of the Year received ¥25,000. Generous travel subsidies were also awarded to both players and journalists. Details can be found on the IBPA website at: <http://www.jannersten.org:1500/%7Eserver/IBPA/archive/Awards/>

Netherlands Practice Matches

Marc van Beijsterveldt, Tilburg, The Netherlands, reports that the Dutch bridge club 't Onstein will mark its 20th anniversary in 2019. To celebrate this occasion, 't Onstein will make it possible for the Dutch open and women's teams to practice against strong opponents. The open team played Sweden in October and is scheduled to play Norway (January), England or Monaco (Easter weekend), and Israel (May). The Dutch women will meet France (early December), England (February), Poland (April) and Sweden (May). All matches will be played in 't Onstein's clubhouse, a completely refurbished farmhouse in the village of Vorden, in eastern Netherlands. All matches will be fully covered on BBO.

With this series of international contests, 't Onstein is continuing a long and successful tradition. Hans Melchers, founder and president of the club, supports both the open and women's teams to enable them to practice against the strongest opponents possible. In the past, Mr. Melchers has been instrumental in The Netherlands winning the Bermuda Bowl in 1993 and 2011. This time, not only the Open but also the Women's team will profit from his support. We are looking forward to a series of top bridge.

Polish Bridge Union

From the EBL website:

"The EBL Executive Committee has been informed that the Management Board of the Polish Bridge Union has decided not to accept the 3rd place in the revised rankings which were published recently. This decision was reached after consideration of circumstances surrounding the Polish team's participation in those Championships. (See this month's Editorial. – Ed.)

Funbridge

Funbridge welcomes the Spanish Bridge Federation (AEB), the ninth federation to join the online bridge app, joining, among others, the World Bridge Federation (WBF), the European Bridge League (EBL) and the Portuguese Bridge Federation (FPB).

Sweden's Junior Manager

Per Leandersson and Roger Wiklund report that, after three extremely successful years, Martin Löfgren has stepped aside as manager of the Swedish Junior program. In 2018, Sweden won both the U21 and U26 World Team Championships.

Article About the Asian Games

UK newspaper, *The Guardian* reported on bridge in the 2018 Asian Games in the article accessed by the following link:

<https://www.theguardian.com/sport/blog/2018/sep/18/olympics-bridge-esports-asian-games>

Events & Initiatives in Orlando

- **Bridge2success**

A report by Marek Malysa and Ela Tomczuk, inventors of the social initiative "Bridge2success", working with the Polish Federation, was presented at the WBF Congress. It detailed ideas about how to promote Bridge to people in the age group 20-50 – people who often don't play bridge due to priorities in their family or professional life. The idea of Bridge2success is that bridge can be used to develop soft skills and retain a healthy brain, thus making it of interest to companies and student organisations.

- **Hool**

Hool is a teaching tool for kids, developed by Amaresh Deshpande. There are three versions: a board game, a written version and an app. The game is a simplified version of bridge. More information can be obtained from Amaresh at amaresh.deshpande@gmail.com

- **60th Anniversaries**

Both the IBPA and the WBF celebrated 60 years of existence in Orlando.

- **Bridge and AI**

Jean-Baptiste Fantun reported that Véronique Ventos, a senior researcher in Artificial Intelligence at Paris-Saclay University and a bridge addict, is convinced that bridge is a wonderful field for AI and that modern approaches could substantially improve computers' skills at bridge. In 2015, she met Yves Costel, creator of the bridge robot WBridge5, and helped him boost

his program, which won the two following World Computer Championships (in Wroclaw and Lyon).

"Computer programs still cannot compete with humans because they are all based on simulations coupled with double dummy analysis, which has serious flaws," said Véronique. She strongly believes that techniques like deep learning, symbolic machine learning and reinforcement learning can bring computer programs a step further. Thus, the academic project Alphabridge (now called NuBridge) was born, whose ambitious objective is to build a robot that can rise to the level of bridge champions.

More information can be found at the website www.nukk.ai/

- **LoveBridge**

Demonstrations of this tablet-based bridge program were made in Orlando. The North and East players play at one table, while their West and South partners play at another, thus reducing the opportunity for cheating. A number of pairs played a 10-board event; The results can be found at:

<https://vugraph.lovebridge.com/>



www.ibpa.com

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World Bridge Calendar

DATES	EVENT	LOCATION	INFORMATION
2018			
Nov 8-18	24 th International Red Sea Festival	Eilat, Israel	www.bridgedredsea.com
Nov 12-18	WBF Women's Online Festival	BBO	www.worldbridge.org
Nov 22-Dec 2	ACBL Fall NABC	Honolulu, HI	www.acbl.org
Nov 27-Dec 1	3 rd SEABF Championships	Makati City, Philippines	www.pabf.org
Nov 30-Dec 2	9 th Hotel D. Pedro Festival	Vilamoura, Portugal	www.fpbridge.pt
Nov 30-Dec 5	5 th UAE National Day Bridge Festival	Dubai, UAE	www.bridgewebs.com/4jacks
Dec 1-9	3 rd Sitges International Bridge Festival	Barcelona, Spain	www.sunwaybridgefestival.com
Dec 7-9	Città di Milano International Teams	Milan, Italy	www.federbridge.it
Dec 9-16	60 th Winter Nationals	Chennai, India	www.bfi.net.in
Dec 14-16	Junior Channel Trophy	Lille, France	www.ebu.co.uk
Dec 15-17	Warwick Wealth Bridge Festival	Cape Town, South Africa	www.sabf.co.za
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 24-17	Winter in Vienna	Vienna, Austria	www.bridgeaustria.at
Jan 26-Feb 1	60 th Bermuda Regional	Southampton, Bermuda	www.bermudaregional.com
Jan 30-Feb 5	Greece Overseas Congress	Athens, Greece	www.ebu.co.uk
Jan 31-Feb 3	Reykjavik Bridge Festival	Reykjavik, Iceland	www.bridge.is
Feb 3-8	Cavendish VI	Monte Carlo, Monaco	www.cavendish.bridgemonaco.com
Feb 11-16	28 th Sun, Sea & Slams	Christ Church, Barbados, W.I.	www.barbadosbridge.org
Feb 15-23	57 th Gold Coast Congress	Broadbeach, Australia	www.qldbridge.com.au
Feb 19-24	22nd Yokohama Bridge Festival	Yokohama, Japan	www.jcbl.or.jp
Feb 22-28	1 st European National Mixed Teams	Lisbon, Portugal	www.eurobridge.org
Mar 1-3	Camrose Trophy	Coventry, England	www.ebu.co.uk
Mar 8-10	Slava Cup	Moscow, Russia	www.slavacup.com
Mar 21-31	ACBL Spring NABC	Memphis, TN	www.acbl.org
Mar 28-31	Tasmanian Festival	Sandy Bay, Tasmania, Australia	www.abf.com.au
Mar 30-Apr 3	Amazing Bridge Festival	Bangkok, Thailand	www.thailandbridgeleague.com
Apr 9-13	Yeh Bros. Cup	Shanghai, China	jonkychung@gmail.com
Apr 9-14	Venice Bridge Festival	Lido, Venice, Italy	www.festivaldelbridgelidodivenezia.com
Apr 16-21	124 th Easter Regional	Toronto, ON	www.unit166.ca
Apr 26-28	10 th German Bridge Team Trophy	Berlin, Germany	www.bridge-verband.de
Apr 26-May 5	Jersey Festival	Jersey, Channel Is.	www.ebu.co.uk
May 3-7	Schapiro Spring Fours	Stratford-upon-Avon, England	www.ebu.co.uk
May 4-12	Canadian Bridge Week	Burnaby, BC	www.cbf.ca
May 10-19	USBF Open Trials	Schaumburg, IL	www.usbf.org
May 14-20	USBF Women's Trials	Schaumburg, IL	www.usbf.org
May 17-25	CACBF Championships	San Jose, Costa Rica	www.cacbf.com
May 22-29	USBF Mixed Trials	Schaumburg, IL	www.usbf.org
May 24-Jun 1	IX South American Bridge Festival	Mar del Plata, Argentina	www.worldbridge.org
May 24-Jun 2	Juan-les-Pins Festival	Antibes, France	www.festivalsdusoleil.com
May 30	39 th Bonn Cup	Bad Godesburg, Germany	www.bridge-verband.de
May 31-Jun 9	USBF Senior Trials	Schaumburg, IL	www.usbf.org
Jun 11-20	52 nd APBF Championships	Singapore	competition@scba.org.sg
Jun 15-29	9 th Open European Championships	Kusadasi, Turkey	www.eurobridge.org
Jun 28-Jul 7	62 nd Slawa Congress	Slawa, Poland	www.pzbs.pl
Jul 12-19	SABF Congress	Durban, South Africa	www.sabf.co.za
Jul 13-15	Australian National Championships	Melbourne, Australia	www.abf.com.au
Jul 18-28	ACBL Summer NABC	Las Vegas, NV	www.acbl.org
Jul 26-Aug 4	25 th Swedish Bridge Festival	Orebro, Sweden	www.svenskbridge.se
Jul 27-Aug 1	Chairman's Cup	Orebro, Sweden	www.svenskbridge.se
Aug 2-11	Summer Festival	Eastbourne, England	www.ebu.co.uk
Aug 4-10	Wachauer International Bridge Week	Mautern, Austria	www.bridgeaustria.at
Aug 20-29	6 th World Open Youth Championships	Opatija, Croatia	www.worldbridge.org
Aug 22-Sep 1	47 th Grand Prix of Warsaw	Warsaw, Poland	www.pzbs.pl
Aug 24-Sep 1	7 th German Masters Wekk	Berlin, Germany	www.bridge-verband.de
Sep 6-14	58 th International Festival	Pula, Croatia	www.pulabridgefestival.com
Sep 13-22	Guernsey Congress	Guernsey, Channel Is.	www.ebu.co.uk
Sep 14-28	44 th World Championships	Wuhan, China	www.worldbridge.org
Sep 29	2019 IBPA Awards	Hainan Bridge Festival	lijie0511@hotmail.com
Sep 30-Oct 14	Hainan Bridge Festival	Sanya, Hainan, China	wangjj_bridge@yahoo.com
Sep 28-Oct 5	NZB National Congress	Hamilton, NZ	www.nzbridge.co.nz
Nov 4-11	22 nd Madeira Open	Funchal, Madeira, Portugal	www.madeira-bridge.com
Nov 28-Dec 8	ACBL Fall NABC	San Francisco, CA	www.acbl.org