



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.

Lukasz Slawinski (of the Fantunes lead methods) has produced some radical suggestions for improving bridge. Here are a few of them:

1. Individuals against cheating. Slawinski recommends making all tournaments, including the World Team Championships, individuals, thereby eliminating cheating in one fell swoop. The winner of these events would be the team with the best score of its four top players.
2. Eliminate vulnerability. Slawinski claims it to be nothing more than an artefact of rubber bridge.
3. Don't hide played cards. He claims that the need to remember played cards is pure malice.
4. Eliminate the redouble. Used in gambling (e.g., backgammon) to up the ante, it is totally unsuited to bridge.
5. Majors versus minors. Slawinski feels that since the majors outrank the minors in the auction, they should be awarded fewer points than the minors in scoring.
6. Doubled undertricks. One down=100, two down=100+200, three down=100+200+300, and so on.
7. Do away with the ranking of suits in the auction. Slawinski suggests that one could outbid an opponent (or partner) on the same level in any suit unbid at that level. We could have the auction one spade—one heart, etc.
8. Do away with doubles. This has two aspects: (i) count undertricks as in point 6, and (ii) repeating the last bid by an opponent functions as a double, e.g., one heart—one heart is a takeout double.
9. No points for overtricks. Count points only for contracted tricks.
10. Put the dummy down before the opening lead. It's the only time in the play of any deal where a player has to consider only his own 13 cards.

I scarcely know where to begin! Much of the attraction of bridge is in its intricacy. Memory work, doubles, redoubles, vulnerability, trick values, overtricks, undertricks and suit ranks are all a part of this. Doing away with them might lead to a simpler game, but surely a less-exhilarating one.

Additionally, analysing the opponents' bidding and one's own hand to select an opening lead is an essential skill for an expert bridge player. Should that skill be diminished by allowing a look at the dummy before making the opening lead? Reducing the skill needed to select a killing opening lead is a very dubious goal.

Eliminating cheating is a laudable goal. But bridge is a partnership game and a partnership that puts in the work to improve their game through practice, training and system development ought to be rewarded.

So, I find myself disagreeing with every single proposal made by Slawinski. Nevertheless, if you are interested in Slawinski's ideas, there is more at:

<http://pikier.com/bridgewars/Breedgelindex.htm>

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OZ BRIDGE

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The Australian Team Playoffs

Happy Endings

The following deal arose in Session 4 of the final of the Australian Open Team Playoffs.

Board 54. Dealer North. NS Vul.

<p>♠ A 5 3 2 ♥ A K 10 ♦ Q 10 4 ♣ J 9 8</p> <p>♠ J 8 ♥ 9 6 5 ♦ J 8 7 3 ♣ K 6 4 2</p>	<p>♠ 7 4 ♥ Q J 8 2 ♦ K 9 5 ♣ Q 10 7 3</p> <p>♠ K Q 10 9 6 ♥ 7 4 3 ♦ A 6 2 ♣ A 5</p>
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With East/West silent, North/South bid one club—one spade—two spades—four spades—pass. West leads the five of hearts, third/fifth. Plan the play.

You have nine tricks on top (yes, three notrump is a pianola) and hope for the tenth in diamonds. If you draw trumps and play the ace of diamonds and a second diamond, you will succeed if West has both diamond honours and fail if they are both with East. If the diamond honours are split, you figure to guess right half the time and fail half the time. How can you improve your chances? By having the opponents start diamonds for you.

Bruce Neill (South) took the heart-five lead with the ace, drew trumps in two rounds and played the ace and a second club. East won with the queen and continued with the queen of hearts. Declarer won with the king, ruffed dummy's third club and exited with the heart seven. East captured the heart ten with his jack, but either had to lead from the diamond king or give declarer a ruff-and-discard. Either way, South had his tenth trick. If West had won the third heart and played a diamond, declarer's chance for success would have been 75%, making four spades as long as West has at least one diamond honour.

At the other table, Andy Hung (North) was declarer in four spades after North/South bid one club—one heart (4+ spades)—two spades—four spades—pass. East

led queen of hearts. North played along the same lines for ten tricks, plus 620, no swing.

After six 16-board sessions in the play-off final to select the 2019 Australian Open Team, HANS (Sartaj Hans – Peter Gill, Nabil Edgtton – Andy Hung) led NEILL (Bruce Neill – Avi Kanetkar, Pauline Gumby – Warren Lazer, Dave Beauchamp – Matthew Thomson) by 232-163 IMPs. There were two sessions to go, when ...

Board 103. Dealer North. Both Vul.

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

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

1. 5+ hearts, game-force

West leads the three of diamonds, fourth-highest. What do you play from dummy?

It makes no difference if East plays the diamond ace or a low diamond, but there is an advantage in playing the diamond ten from dummy. If East covers with the jack, you win, but you have concealed the location of the diamond nine from West. If you play low and East plays the jack of diamonds, West knows that South has the nine.

Trick 1 went diamond three—five—jack—king. You play the seven of spades and West discards six of clubs. Plan the play.

Andy Hung (South) played the eight of spades from the dummy, won by Warren Lazer's (East's) jack. Lazer returned the six of diamonds to the ace and Pauline Gumby (West) continued with the diamond deuce—ten—spade three—queen. South switched to the four of clubs—three—ten—jack. Back came the jack of hearts—queen—king—spade nine. West cashed two diamonds for two light, East/West plus 200.

At the other table, North/South bid one spade—two hearts—two spades—three clubs—three spades—three notrump—pass. Peter Gill (West) led the three of diamonds—ten—jack—king. Bruce Neill (South) played the seven of spades, but went up with the ace when West showed out. Neill played the eight of hearts—

jack-queen-king. West continued with the ace and seven of diamonds-eight-spade three-queen. South cashed the ace of hearts, the king and queen of clubs, and led the club deuce to the ace, leaving:

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

South had taken seven tricks so far. Dummy's spades were good for two more tricks. South had made three notrump, plus 600 and a 13-IMP gain.

HANS won Session 7 by 45-25. Down 188-277, NEILL conceded.

Another Happy Ending

In the 128-board final of the 2018 Australian Women's Playoff, PITT (Helene Pitt – Helena Dawson, Lorna Ichilcik – Rena Kaplan, Giselle Mundell – Avril Zets) defeated TRAVIS (Barbara Travis – Candice Ginsberg, Margaret Bourke – Jane Reynolds, Marianne Bookallil – Jodi Tutty) by 236-214.

This deal comes from the semifinals of that event:

Board 37. Dealer East. EW Vul.

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

With East/West silent, it went one spade by South—two clubs (natural, forcing to game)—two diamonds—four spades—four notrump—five clubs—six spades—pass. West led her singleton eight of clubs—three—jack—queen. As this was dummy's suit, Barbara Travis (South) took the lead to be a singleton. She also placed the ace of hearts with East. Why would West lead a singleton in dummy's suit if West had the heart ace?

If South drew trumps and cashed the ten of clubs, she had no sure entry to dummy to reach the clubs. Accordingly, she played the ace of diamonds, ruffed a

low diamond and drew trumps. East shed a low heart, a diamond and a club. Declarer played her fifth trump and East pitched another heart, leaving:

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

South cashed the king of diamonds, discarding the ten of hearts from the dummy, and East was doomed. She discarded the five of hearts. South cashed the ten of clubs and played a heart, using East as the stepping-stone to reach dummy's ace-king of clubs. That was plus 980 and a win of 11 IMPs. At the other three tables, North/South played in four spades.

Brown Ducks

In the 96-board final of the 2018 Australian Seniors' Teams Playoff, NEILL (Bruce Neill – Avi Kanetkar, Pauline Gumby – Warren Lazer, Andy Braithwaite – Arjuna De Livera) defeated LAVINGS (Paul Lavings – Robert Krochmalik, Dave Beauchamp – Mike Hughes, Kim Morrison – Paul Wyer) by the score of 177-160 IMPs.

The following deal is from the semifinal:

Board 67. Dealer West. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Krochmalik	Thompson	Lavings	Klinger
1♦	Double	3♦	3♠
Pass	4♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

West led three of hearts to dummy's ace. After the two of clubs to the king and ace, West shifted to the ace and another diamond. Declarer played the ace and another spade, emerging with ten tricks for plus 620 North/South.

At the other table, after one diamond–one notrump–three diamonds–three spades–pass–four spades–all pass, Terry Brown (West) led the ace of diamonds, then the two of diamonds to the king. Declarer played the ace and a spade to the queen. Brown ducked! Then came the king of clubs. Brown ducked! The position:

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

South can make four spades from here by cashing the hearts, but played the jack of clubs. Brown won with the ace of clubs and led a diamond. South was doomed, whether he ruffed in dummy or in hand.

In the other semifinal, both sides were in four spades on a diamond lead. Both made 10 tricks, no swing.



The victorious French Junior Team: Arthur Boulin, Théo Guillemin, Baptiste Combescure, Colin Deheeger, Julien Bernard, Thibaud Vincent, NPC Christophe Oursel.

The Channel Trophy is an annual encounter among the youth teams of France, Belgium, England and the Netherlands (four countries situated geographically around the Channel). It started with a tournament for juniors in 1985. In 1996, the U-20 teams came in and, from 2007, the girl-juniors got their Channel Trophy. On December 14-16, 2018, president Didier Cuisinier of Lille Bridge Club welcomed the participating teams in a great venue, high above the police station in Lille, for the 34th edition of this special youth event. For three days in a row, the very kind members of the bridge

club took care of the boys, girls and their coaches with great enthusiasm. Frédéric Lacroix, the youth official of the Fédération Française de Bridge, did a smooth job as the onsite technical organiser. To be brief and accurate: France came, saw and conquered in all three categories. Congratulations to the French juniors, girls and schools teams on their excellent performances.

On the following deal, Julien Bernard of France found an excellent defence to defeat a four-heart game contract.

Dealer North. Neither Vul.

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

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

Bernard, West, led his singleton club. Declarer took the ace of clubs and three top spades to dispose of the two clubs from South. Declarer had arrived at an interesting moment – should he play a diamond from dummy to the king, or the jack of spades to see what happens? The latter was the winning move: East ruffs with the ten of hearts and South overruffs with the jack and plays the ace and queen of hearts for the loss of just one trump trick and two diamonds. In real life, declarer played a diamond to his king; West won with the ace and crossed to East's queen of diamonds for a club play. Declarer ruffed with the nine of hearts and West rightfully discarded a diamond. Declarer played the ace and queen of hearts to West's king. Bernard exited with his last spade, and when East was able to produce the ten of hearts, that card uppercut the jack of hearts to promote the eight in West for down one.

Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
—	—	—	INT
2♥	Double	Pass	2♠
3♦	4♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Sam Bahbout of Belgium has already made his appearance in the Belgian Open team; he made a spectacular play on this deal.

West led the king of hearts. Bahout took the ace, cashed the ace of spades, West contributing the ten. How do you proceed as declarer?

At trick three, Sam played a heart to West's queen. West shifted to the queen of diamonds, covered by the king and ace. East continued with the ten of diamonds, overtaken by West's jack. West played a heart. Declarer ruffed in dummy with the king of spades. Declarer led a low spade from the dummy and, when East followed the six, put in the seven for a successful finesse and ten tricks.



The Ruia Gold Trophy is the premier team event in India, equivalent to the Spingold in North America or the Gold Cup in England. For the past two decades it has been the private fiefdom of Kiran Nadar, whose Formidables team have won it or come runners-up 15 times. This year was an anomaly, as the winners were Poddar Housing – Subhash Dhakras, Anal Shah, R.A. Agarwal, Dipak Poddar, Milind Athavale and Rajendra Gokhale – with N.R.K. Moorthy, Uttam Gupta, Bhabhesh Saha, Shambhoo Ghose, and Biswajit Poddar being runners-up.

In their semifinal match against the Arun Jain team, Poddar Housing was leading by 5 IMPs with seven boards to play, when the following deal clamoured for my attention.

Board 50. Dealer East. EW Vul.

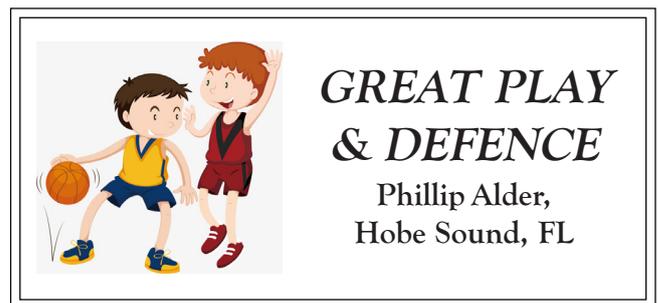
♠ K Q J 9 5 4 2	♠ —
♥ 10 8	♥ A K 9 7 3
♦ 5	♦ Q J 7 6 3
♣ 8 7 2	♣ A 9 4
♠ 7 3	♠ —
♥ Q J 6 5 4	♥ A K 9 7 3
♦ 2	♦ Q J 7 6 3
♣ K Q 10 5 3	♣ A 9 4
♠ A 10 8 6	
♥ 2	
♦ A K 10 9 8 4	
♣ J 6	

West	North	East	South
Desai	Gokhale	Padaye	Athavale
—	—	1♥	2♦
4♦ ¹	Pass	4♥	Pass
Pass	4♠	Pass	Pass
5♥	Pass	6♥	6♠
Double	Pass	Pass	Pass
1. Splinter in support of hearts			

Making six hearts would have been trivial for East and to reach slam was a fine achievement. As I watched on BBO, I was a bit surprised at Athavale's six-spade bid. That took some nerve and even more faith in his opponents, with two aces, despite the spade length. East/West have three tricks against the profitable six-spade sacrifice, for plus 300, a very good result for North/South.

We were in for more surprises as Anil Padaye led the seven of diamonds rather than a heart. Rajendra Gokhale thought long and hard, then put in the ten! The odds were with him, 3:2 that East's singleton was a spot rather than an honour. And the IMP odds were enormously in his favour: he was investing a mere 200 points to win 1210. When the ten of diamonds held and West followed, Gokhale was able to set up the diamonds to discard his three club losers, losing just one heart trick.

At the other table, Raju Tolani and Ajay Khare also saved in six spades over Ramavtar Agarwal/Dipak Poddar's six hearts. The defence took their tricks for plus 300, but it was 17 IMPs to Poddar Housing, propelling them to victory.



The McConnell Cup final in Orlando last September was won easily by Lynn Baker/Karen McCallum, Irina Levitina/Kerri Sanborn (U.S.A.) and Sally Brock/Fiona Brown (England). Their opponents, Nicola Smith/Yvonne Wiseman (England), Paula Leslie (Scotland)/Solvi Remen (Norway) and Kathrine Bertheau/Jessica Larsson (Sweden), conceded after 80 of the 96 boards, down by 232 IMPs to 166.

Board 6 featured excellent play at both tables by the gold medalists. Each West led a low heart against four spades.

Dealer East. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Brock</i>	<i>Bertheau</i>	<i>Brown</i>	<i>Larsson</i>
Pass	1♦	Pass	1♠
2♣	Dble ¹	Pass	4♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	
1. Three-card spade support			

West	North	East	South
<i>Smith</i>	<i>Baker</i>	<i>Wiseman</i>	<i>McCallum</i>
Pass	1♦	Pass	1♠
Dble	Redble ¹	2♥	4♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	
1. Three-card spade support			

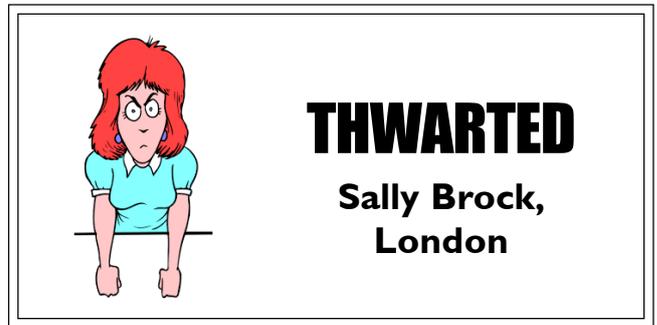
In the Open Room, Larsson won the first trick with her heart king and played a spade to the jack. After East played low smoothly, declarer continued with the spade king ... and could no longer make the contract when East took the trick and shifted to the club *nine*. Now the defenders could tap the dummy without establishing declarer's club king.

When the club nine held, East led a second club. Declarer ruffed in the dummy, played a diamond to her king, cashed the spade queen and drove out East's spade ten. But now a club to the ace gave the defenders four tricks: two spades and two clubs.

In the Closed Room, Smith's takeout double was more revealing than Brock's two-club overcall. McCallum felt sure that West had a singleton, and if it had been in diamonds, surely she would have led it at trick one. So, McCallum was expecting a bad trump break.

After a heart to the king and a spade to the king, declarer turned to diamonds. East ruffed the third round and shifted to the club nine, but South trumped the second club on the board and led a winning diamond, ruffed and overruffed. Then declarer ruffed her last club and lost only three tricks: two spades and one club.

Great play at both tables gave Baker 10 IMPs.



Sometimes the best line of play is not the one that works. I thought my partner, Fiona Brown, found an excellent line on the following deal. Cover up the East and West hands if you want to try to find it.

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

Our sequence to the slam was very artificial but a good natural sequence would have been :

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

South has a difficult rebid, not quite good enough for three diamonds, but very good for two spades. In fact, a three-diamond rebid would not have facilitated reaching the decent slam. The rest of the diagrammed auction is natural; when North shows slam interest with a four heart cue-bid, South uses Roman Key Card Blackwood to confirm that there are not two key cards missing.

West led a club and declarer's queen won the first trick. All the other declarers just drew trumps and claimed 12 tricks, but Brown thought more deeply. She started with a spade to dummy's king and East's play of the ten caused some concern. If it was from jack-ten doubleton all would be well, but suppose it was a singleton? Then, if she tried to draw trumps she would go down. The Principle of Restricted Choice suggested that (assuming East would not play the ten from any holding other than jack-ten or singleton ten

– and, while she might, it didn't seem likely) the ten was nearly twice as likely to be a singleton.

So, Brown played the ace and king of clubs discarding two hearts and took the ruffing heart finesse (if trumps had been 4-1 this play was likely to succeed as West, holding a near-certain trump trick, would have led the ace of hearts had she held it). When the king of hearts lost to the ace, West exited with a trump and dummy's nine was covered by the jack. Declarer was then down, having a diamond loser left in hand.

However, had the king of hearts been covered by the ace and ruffed, Brown would then have cashed her top diamonds and ruffed a diamond in the dummy before discarding her other diamond loser on dummy's top heart. Unlucky, in my view.

BOARD 162

**John Carruthers,
Kingsville, ON**

The Reisinger Board-a-Match Teams is one of the toughest, most-gruelling events in the world, despite the fact that it is only three days long. It consists of one day of qualifying, a one-day semifinal and a one-day final. Every session comprises nine rounds of three boards each on which every single trick is important - that's 2106 tricks on which to maintain focus for the players making the final. And this all comes after seven days of bridge, at the tail-end of the Fall NABCs.

This year, 34 teams entered. The field was trimmed to 20 teams after Day 1 and to 10 teams for the final. In the final, after Session 5, there were still five teams that could be considered to be in the running. They were:

FLEISHER:	19.70
Marty Fleisher/Chip Martel, Geoff Hampson/Eric Greco, Brad Moss/Joe Grue	
MITTELMAN:	19.55
George Mittelman/Ken Bercuson, Ron Pachtmann/Piotr Pawel Zatorski	
BLASS:	18.61
Josef Blass/Jacek Pszczola, Jacek Kalita/Michal Nowosadzki, Sjoert Brink/Bas Drijver	
ROSENTHAL:	18.00
Andrew Rosenthal/Aaron Silverstein, Migry Zur-Campanile/David Berkowitz, Chris Willenken/Eldad Ginossar	

KASLE: 17.03

Gaylor Kasle/Drew Cannell,
Jim Krekorian/Drew Casen,
Michal Kwiecien/Wlodzimierz Starkowski

The sixth-placed team was another two boards behind and had no realistic chance, needing a score of 21 out of 27 to win, mathematically possible but, in this field, about 10,000:1 against.

In ACBL BAM scoring, a team receives one point for a win on a board and ½ a point for a tie – unlike in IMP scoring, a win by 10 points (430 vs. 420) counts as a point at BAM. To avoid half-points, some jurisdictions award two points for a win and one point for a tie, but that is academic when carryover is factored in.

During the final, sixth, session, all five teams were at or near the lead as the evening progressed. However, with one round to go, three boards remaining, only two teams had a shot to win, MITTELMAN, on 34.55, and BLASS, on 34.11. The third-placed team, ROSENTHAL, was three and a half boards in arrears, so had no chance of victory with just three points available to them. MITTELMAN faced ZIMMERMANN (Pierre Zimmermann/Franck Multon, Michal Klukowski/Piotr Gawrys, Tor Helness/Fredrik Helness) while BLASS played against FLEISHER. It was an exciting finish.

Board 160 (the twenty-fifth board of the session) was a universal three notrump, making anywhere from eight to eleven tricks at the four key tables. For convenience, we shall denote the tables as:

Table 1 (MITTELMAN team North/South), vs.

Table 2 (ZIMMERMANN team North/South)

Table 3 (BLASS team North/South) vs.

Table 4 (FLEISHER team North/South).

Board 25 (160). Dealer North. EW Vul.

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

Table 1

West	North	East	South
<i>Klukowski</i>	<i>Zatorski</i>	<i>Gawrys</i>	<i>Pachtmann</i>
—	1♠	Pass	INT ¹
Double	2♣	3NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		
1. FIR			

Pachtmann led the four of spades. Gawrys won and, based on the bidding, tried to drop both red kings singleton offside. He was one for two and, after guessing the club jack's location, lost only to the king of hearts and the ace of clubs. Plus 660 to ZIMMERMANN. That was a very good result.

Table 2

West	North	East	South
<i>Bercuson</i>	<i>T. Helness</i>	<i>Mittelman</i>	<i>F. Helness</i>
—	1♠	Pass	Pass
Double	Pass	1NT	Pass
2NT	Pass	3NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Fredrik led the three of spades. Mittelman took a heart finesse and tried a diamond toward the closed-hand queen. He thus lost to both red kings and the ace of clubs for plus 630 and a loss on the board.

ZIMMERMANN 1 – MITTELMAN 0

Table 3

West	North	East	South
<i>Hampson</i>	<i>Drijver</i>	<i>Greco</i>	<i>Brink</i>
—	Pass	1♦ ¹	Pass
1♥	1NT ²	Double ³	Pass
3NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. 11-15 HCP, 2+ diamonds
2. Takeout
3. 3-card heart support

As it turned out, Drijver did brilliantly by passing in first seat. He led the spade jack. Hampson won with the queen (three, encouraging in context, from Brink) and ran the eight of hearts. Drijver won and led another spade. Hampson won with his king, led a heart to the queen, then a club to the king and ace. North knocked out the ace of spades and Hampson led a diamond to the jack. Curtains. That was five tricks for the defence, two spades, two red kings and the ace of clubs; plus 100 for BLASS.

Table 4

West	North	East	South
<i>Kalita</i>	<i>Fleisher</i>	<i>Nowosadzki</i>	<i>Martel</i>
—	1♠	Pass	1NT ¹
Double	2♣	2♠	Pass
3NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. FIR

Fleisher led the ten of spades. Kalita won and played both red aces, as Gawrys had done at Table 1, and found the jack of clubs for 11 tricks, plus 660.

BLASS 1 – FLEISHER 0

BLASS (35.11) took over the lead from MITTELMAN (34.55) with two boards to go.

Board 26 (161). Dealer East. Both Vul.

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

Table 1

West	North	East	South
<i>Klukowski</i>	<i>Zatorski</i>	<i>Gawrys</i>	<i>Pachtmann</i>
—	—	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♠ ¹	Pass	3♣ ²
Pass	3♥ ³	Double	Redouble ⁴
Pass	3♠ ⁵	Pass	4♣
Pass	5♣	Pass	Pass

1. Range inquiry; could have clubs
2. Maximum
3. Clubs with a singleton heart
4. Ace of hearts
5. 3NT probe

Klukowski led the queen of diamonds. Not being keen to lose a club finesse to East and have Gawrys give Klukowski a diamond ruff, Pachtman won with the ace of diamonds at trick one and ran the jack of clubs through East; plus 620. That was a great result for the contract he was in, but ...

Table 2

West	North	East	South
<i>Bercuson</i>	<i>T. Helness</i>	<i>Mittelman</i>	<i>F. Helness</i>
—	—	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♠ ¹	Pass	3♦
Pass	3♥ ²	Double	4NT ³
Pass	5♦ ⁴	Pass	6♦
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. Minor-suit Stayman
2. Heart shortage in support of diamonds
3. Roman Key Card Blackwood
4. 1 or 4 key cards

... it was not nearly good enough. Helness, père et fils, bid smoothly to the top spot and could not go down. Plus 1370 to ZIMMERMANN.

ZIMMERMANN 1 – MITTELMAN 0

Running score this round ZIMMERMANN 2 – MITTELMAN 0

Table 3

West	North	East	South
<i>Hampson</i>	<i>Drijver</i>	<i>Greco</i>	<i>Brink</i>
—	—	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♠ ¹	Pass	3♦
Pass	3♥ ²	Double	Redouble
Pass	5♣ ³	Pass	5♦
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. (a) Invitational, (b) minors, or (c) weak with diamonds
2. Short hearts, both minors
3. Choice of games with a preference for clubs

The topless trumps convinced Brink that five diamonds was enough. He lost a diamond and a trick to the queen of clubs, plus 600.

Table 4

West	North	East	South
<i>Kalita</i>	<i>Fleisher</i>	<i>Nowosadzki</i>	<i>Martel</i>
—	—	Pass	1NT
Pass	3NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Fleisher, alone among the leaders, blasted to three notrump. Martel was fortunate to escape a heart lead – Kalita led a sixth-best four of spades into the ace-king-jack. Martel lost a club finesse and Nowosadzki shifted to a low heart; Martel had ten tricks for plus 630 and a win on the board.

FLEISHER 1 – BLASS 0

Running score this round BLASS 1 – FLEISHER 1

The score at the top remained:

BLASS	35.11
MITTELMAN	34.55

Board 27 (162). Dealer South. Neither Vul.

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

Table 1

West	North	East	South
<i>Klukowski</i>	<i>Zatorski</i>	<i>Gawrys</i>	<i>Pachtmann</i>
—	—	—	1♠
Double	2♠ ¹	3♦	Pass
3♠	Pass	3NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		

I. Weakest raise

Pachtmann led the Rusinow queen of clubs. Gawrys ducked and South shifted to his middle heart. Gawrys ducked that to Zatorski's king and North's spade six went to the ace. South went back to clubs, leading the king to dummy's ace. Declarer led the ten of hearts to his queen and took a diamond finesse. When that lost to the queen, the defence took their club trick for one off, minus 50.

Table 2

West	North	East	South
<i>Bercuson</i>	<i>T. Helness</i>	<i>Mittelman</i>	<i>F. Helness</i>
—	—	—	1♠
Double	2♠	3♦	Pass
3♠	Pass	3NT	Pass
Pass	Double	Pass	Pass
4♦	Pass	Pass	Pass

When Tor doubled three notrump (on what basis, we wonder?), Mittelman might well have made it had Bercuson left him there, but West ran to four diamonds and Mittelman made that, losing just the ace of spades, the king of hearts and a club trick, picking up the queen of trumps. That was plus 130 and a win on the board, putting MITTELMAN temporarily ahead of BLASS, 35.55 to 35.11.

MITTELMAN 1 – ZIMMERMANN 0

Running score this round ZIMMERMANN 2 – MITTELMAN 1

Table 3

West	North	East	South
<i>Hampson</i>	<i>Drijver</i>	<i>Greco</i>	<i>Brink</i>
—	—	—	1♠
Double	2♠	3♦	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Hampson and Greco are very aggressive opposite their partner's takeout doubles and Greco need not have had as much as he did to bid three diamonds. Greco lost a trick in each suit to score plus 110.

Table 4

West	North	East	South
<i>Kalita</i>	<i>Fleisher</i>	<i>Nowosadzki</i>	<i>Martel</i>
—	—	—	1♠
Double	2♠	3♦	Pass
3♠	Pass	3NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Nowosadzki and Kalita had the more-usual auction to three notrump. If Nowosadzki made it, BLASS would win the Reisinger; if Martel and Fleisher beat three notrump, MITTELMAN would win the Reisinger. Martel led the queen of clubs. Declarer ducked (four from

Continued on page 12...



IBPA Column Service

Tim Bourke, Canberra

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933. Dealer South. EWVul.

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

West	North	East	South
—	—	—	1♠
Pass	INT	Pass	3♥
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♦	Pass	4♥
Pass	4♠	Pass	Pass

Even though the partnership had made moves toward slam, declarer saw that making game would be no easy task. West led the ten of spades, taken by declarer with the jack, while East followed with the six. Declarer had eight top winners, with another trick that could be developed in hearts. Declarer asked himself, "What is the best plan to make a tenth trick?" Also, he wondered, "How can I get to dummy to cash the ace of diamonds?"

Declarer observed that if West held the king of hearts he could succeed by leading a low heart towards the queen. If West had the king of hearts and played it, then declarer would score three heart tricks with the queen, ace, and jack, as well as the ace of diamonds for the overtrick. If instead, West played low when holding the king, then dummy's queen of hearts would win the trick. Declarer would then cash the ace of diamonds, throwing a club, for his eventual tenth trick. He could then try to ruff a heart for trick 11.

However, declarer saw that that plan would fail whenever East held the king of hearts. If declarer did lead a low heart at trick two when this was the case, East would take dummy's queen with his king and return a second trump. In that case, declarer saw that there would be no way to make dummy's ace of diamonds, and he would lose two hearts and two clubs.

Declarer eventually came to the winning play, which would succeed whenever hearts were 4-3: he led the jack of

hearts from hand at trick two! East took this with the king and returned a trump. Declarer won and drew West's remaining trump. Then he crossed to dummy with a heart to the queen. All that remained was to cash the ace of diamonds to guarantee his contract.

Note that, if East had allowed the heart jack to win, declarer would have cashed the ace of hearts and ruffed a heart in dummy. The ace of diamonds would then have provided a bonus overtrick.

Finally, we know that the probability that West has the king of hearts is an even-money bet, 0.5. The chance that hearts are 4-3 is a good deal better than 50% (in fact, it's about 62%). Declarer chose the better plan.

There were a few circumstances where declarer could make four spades even when hearts were 5:2 and East ducked the king—for example, when West had a doubleton in both majors. In that case, West could have ruffed the third heart but would not have been able to prevent declarer from ruffing his fourth heart in the dummy to reach the ace of diamonds.

934. Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
—	—	—	1♠
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♣
Pass	Pass	Pass	

After North's limit raise in spades, South had an easy continuation to game. West led the ten of hearts. Dummy played low and East took the trick with the ace and returned the seven of hearts to declarer's queen and West's six. The contract looked easy until the king of trumps was played and West discarded a club. Declarer had nine tricks, and the tenth trick appeared to depend on West holding the king of diamonds. However, declarer did not rush to explore that possibility as he saw an extra chance: from the carding in hearts, East appeared to have exactly three

cards in the suit. If that were the case, declarer saw that a partial elimination might work.

So, after playing the ace of trumps, declarer crossed to dummy via a club to the ace. He continued by cashing the king of hearts, throwing the queen of clubs from hand. Then he ruffed dummy's remaining club, thereby eliminating the suit. Now, instead of playing a diamond, he exited with a trump. East found himself on lead with only minor-suit cards remaining. If he played a club, declarer would discard a diamond from hand and ruff in dummy: he would lose only a trump, a heart and a diamond. In practice, East exited with a diamond and this ran to dummy's queen. Declarer claimed ten tricks, conceding a diamond. He made five trumps, two hearts, two diamonds and one club.

935. Dealer West. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
1♥	Double	Pass	2♠
Pass	4♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

After South's slightly pushy jump to two spades, North had an easy raise to game. West had a routine opening lead of the king of hearts. Declarer took this with the ace, ran the nine of trumps, and was both surprised and disappointed when it lost to East's king. East exited with the nine of diamonds. After some thought, declarer decided that East was very unlikely to hold any of the unseen high cards, so he rose with the king of diamonds and led a club to the jack and queen. After cashing the ace of clubs, declarer ruffed the eight of clubs with his jack of trumps, while West discarded a heart. Declarer led a trump to dummy's ten, then cashed the queen of trumps.

Declarer paused to consider the situation. West had started with three trumps, five hearts and two clubs so he had an original 3=5=3=2 shape. As West had discarded a heart on the third round of clubs he must have three hearts and two diamonds remaining.

So, declarer advanced the ace of spades and threw a heart from his hand. West threw a heart – a diamond seemed pointless – and was then put on play when declarer exited with a heart. After cashing his remaining winner in hearts, West was forced to exit with the ten of diamonds. This was run to declarer's jack for the game-going trick.

Notice that, if declarer had won the diamond shift on the table, he would no longer have been able to make his

contract. Simply put, there would not have been sufficient entries to draw trumps, ruff a club and cash the ace of trumps. Of course, if he had made the technically inferior move of leading a low trump at trick two he would not have faced this difficulty on the diamond return at trick three.

936. Dealer South. NS Vul.

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

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

1. Michaels cue-bid, promising at least 5-5 in the majors

The auction had some points of interest. South's pass, followed by three diamonds, promised extras, since he would have bid at his second turn with fewer values. South also judged that a vulnerable game or slam was more promising than a penalty from two hearts doubled. After that start, the partnership was forced to game. Control-bidding followed and once South confirmed a club control North ended the auction by leaping to six diamonds.

West led the king of clubs. Declarer took this with the ace and led a low trump toward the ace. He was shocked by West's heart discard. However, declarer did not concede. He saw that he could make twelve tricks provided West had exactly five spades headed by the jack.

Declarer won the second trick with the ace of trumps and continued with the four of trumps to the three and eight. Next he cashed the king of trumps followed by the ace of spades. Then he led a low spade and, playing with the odds when West followed low, finessed the ten. Declarer continued with the king of spades. East saw that ruffing it would allow the contract to make easily (declarer could overruff, draw trumps and claim 12 tricks). So, he threw a heart, and so did declarer. Next came the queen of spades, again eliciting heart discards from East and declarer. The ace of hearts saw club discards from East and declarer.

Declarer ruffed a heart and exited with a club at trick 11. East was reduced to the jack-six of trumps, while declarer held the queen-ten of the suit over him, so declarer made the last two tricks and brought his contract home.

Fleisher, upside-down attitude, count unspecified). Fleisher reasoned that the worst club holding Martel could have had to lead one instead of a spade would have been king-queen-third. If that were the case, declarer would have jack-doubleton and an encouraging four might help Martel. Of course, Martel's club holding could have been better than king-queen-to-three.

Martel shifted to a lowest-from-odd three of spades. The queen won (eight from Fleisher, reverse count) and Nowosadzki played the ace of diamonds, then the ten. Fleisher made a good play, covering with the queen to block the suit. Declarer won with the king of diamonds and led his low heart to the jack and king. Fleisher returned the six of spades to declarer's ten and South's jack. Nowosadzki discarded the jack of diamonds from the dummy. The world held its breath as Chip Martel agonized over his next card. The defence had three tricks in, declarer, three as well. This was the situation:

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

The beauty of board-a-match is in determining how many tricks to play for. At IMPs, it's easy, you defend to beat the contract and you play to make it. At BAM, it's important to take all the tricks you're entitled to, regardless of the contract's success or failure.

In this particular instance, let's examine what Martel knew about Nowosadzki's hand. He knew declarer had king-ten-nine-two of spades; he knew declarer had the queen of hearts when Fleisher took the jack with the king; he knew declarer had king-to-five (or perhaps - six) diamonds. It appeared from the carding that Fleisher had three low spades and three or four clubs to the ten. If all that were true, declarer had started with either:

(i) ♠ K 10 9 2
 ♥ Q 5 2
 ♦ K 9 7 5 3
 ♣ 5

or:

(ii) ♠ K 10 9 2
 ♥ Q 5
 ♦ K 9 7 5 3
 ♣ 8 5

and remained with:

(i) ♠ K 9
 ♥ Q 2
 ♦ 9 7 5
 ♣ —

or:

(ii) ♠ K 9
 ♥ Q
 ♦ 9 7 5
 ♣ 8.

Either construction was consistent with the way declarer played.

After more than 500,000 cards played over the three days of the event, the Reisinger winner would be decided by Martel's next card. (a) If Martel played the king of clubs, declarer's entry to dummy's hearts would be removed prematurely (from declarer's point of view) and he would be held to eight tricks. (b) Conversely, if Martel led a heart, declarer could win with the queen in hand, cash the diamonds and use the club ace to get to the ace-ten of hearts for ten tricks. (c) Cashing the ace of spades would leave declarer with nine winners whatever Martel did next. FLEISHER would win the board if Martel led the king of clubs and MITTELMAN would win the Reisinger. If Martel cashed the ace of spades or led a heart, Nowosadzki would make three notrump and BLASS would win the Reisinger.

Martel eventually decided that four clubs to the ten was more likely than three to the ten in Fleisher's hand and played the ace of spades. Josef Blass, Jacek Pszczola, Jacek Kalita, Michal Nowosadzki, Sjoert Brink and Bas Drijver won a point on the board and were the winners. For George Mittelman, it was his fourth runner-up finish without a win in this supremely difficult ACBL event.

Martel was a little hard on himself afterward, stating that he should have gone for the beat since there was no guarantee that the contract would be the same in the other room with 16 opposite eight. However, that may have been resulting.



Recently, Michael Rosenberg found a very interesting motif and presented it for bridgewinners.com viewers. One may think that a motif can be either declarer's or defenders' but, in the following case, it is both.

Optimal play and defence in our game assumes that both sides find their best moves. If one says that something is the best (move, line, strategy, bid, psychological trick, first lead, and so on), he/she must take into account a best defence against this

'something'. My experience in the play analysis 'business' has convinced me that the work involved in proving that something is the 'best' is very difficult indeed.

Non-trivial double-dummy analysis is possible, and very often necessary, but it can happen that a best double-dummy move is not optimal. That is why robots, whose algorithms are based on double-dummy analysis, still play at a non-expert play level. However, robots, can produce their own beautiful manoeuvres, even though they cannot 'think'.

Here is the deal, from the Australian Team Trials, that illustrated Rosenberg's motif ...

Dealer West. Neither Vul.

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

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

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	1♣ ¹	Pass
1♦ ²	Pass	1♠	Pass
1NT	Pass	3♥	Pass
3NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. 16+ HCP; strong, artificial, forcing
2. 0-7 HCP; negative

North started with the deuce of diamonds. West won South's queen with his ace and finessed in hearts. South won and returned the eight of diamonds, covered by the ten and king, dummy discarding the two of spades. North exited in hearts. Declarer ran the hearts to reach the following ending (declarer had taken five tricks, the defence, two):

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

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

(There are other variations when South keeps a diamond and West does not.) After cashing the ace of

clubs, which dropped the king, declarer cannot exit in clubs to succeed. In that case, South will exit with the spade queen (as occurred at the table). Also, cashing the top spades fails since South can unblock the queen. There is a nice 'compromise' solution: declarer cashes only one of the top spades and then exits in clubs. Earlier, declarer discarded a club spot instead of the diamond seven. Now, because of that diamond seven, North will be squeezed on dummy's club exit.

This nice motif could be ruined earlier if, instead of keeping the 'good' nine of diamonds, North kept a 'doubtful' club card with his king.

One may wonder how this nice motif can be saved even assuming open cards? There is only one distribution in which North can be driven to the desired ending: it is when North has a singleton king of clubs. Consider the North/South holdings to be:

♠ J 9 8 3
♥ 7 3 2
♦ K 9 4 3 2
♣ K

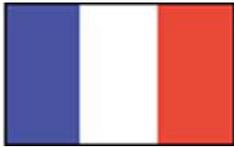
♠ Q 7 6
♥ Q 5 4
♦ Q 8
♣ Q 10 8 5 2

After the same beginning, North will have no other choice but to keep the 'desired' cards in the six-card ending. Then the beautiful motif will be exhibited without any erroneous reasoning on North's part – we hope. But bridge is still much deeper ...

The desired scenario can be broken, not just once, but twice. The first time in a bad way, the second in a good way. After winning the queen of hearts, South can change everything by returning a club or a heart instead of the diamond eight.

More surprising is the fact that, from this second diagrammed position, West can always make the contract. The only condition is that he must duck the first trick. Then the desired scenario can be realized with the only difference being that, in the key six-card ending, instead of the diamond seven with West and the nine with North, there will be the ten with West and the king with North.

South was in too much of a hurry to win the queen of hearts. Had he ducked the first heart (denying declarer an entry with his own second heart), won the second and returned a diamond, North would have been able to take two diamonds and endplay the dummy to win two black-suit tricks for one off.



Le Bridge Français

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2018 Coupe de France

I happened to see this freakish deal on BBO:

Dealer West. Both Vul.

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

With a two-suiter, you want to show both your suits and have partner choose the suit where he has more trumps. A sensible sequence might go this way:

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♥	Pass	3♦
Pass	3♠	Pass	7♣
Pass	7NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Or, if North raises diamonds straightaway ...

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♥	Pass	3♦
Pass	4♦	Pass	7♦
Pass	Pass	Pass	

On the other hand, North might open a weakish bid showing hearts and another or even a weakish bid showing both majors. If North passes, a Junior (or even a Senior) East might open with a weak bid revealing hearts and another suit or even a weak bid to show both majors. That would definitely complicate matters. The bidding might then go something like this:

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	2♦ ¹	Double
4♠	Pass	Pass	4NT ²
Pass	5♦	Pass	7♦
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. 3-9 HCP, at least 9 major-suit cards
2. Pick a minor

On this auction, should South use five notrump (pick a slam), instead of four notrump, and North inconveniently bid six hearts, South's subsequent seven clubs would clearly promise both minors.

This being modern bridge, neither table produced any of those auctions! At one table it went:

West	North	East	South
Beauville	Giard	Iontzeff	Claret
Pass	Pass	Pass	4NT ¹
Pass	6♦	Pass	7♦
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. Both minors, extreme shape

East led a heart and North/South scored plus 2140.

At the other table:

West	North	East	South
Desages	Bretagne	Fonteneau	Roger
Pass	2♥ ¹	Pass	2NT ²
Pass	3♠	Pass	7♣
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. 7-11 HCP, hearts and any other second suit
2. Asks for other suit

West led the jack of diamonds and East ruffed, East/West plus 100 and 19 IMPs.

If South offered a choice of seven clubs or seven diamonds, it is easy to imagine North converting to seven notrump. One can also envision a pair, playing lots of conventions, who might reach the best contract this way:

West	North	East	South
Pass	2♥ ¹	Pass	2NT ²
Pass	3♠ ³	Pass	4♦ ⁴
Pass	4♥ ⁵	Pass	7♣ ⁶
Pass	7♠ ⁷	Pass	7NT ⁸
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. Hearts plus any other suit, weak
2. Asking; 3♦ would not be forcing
3. Other suit is spades
4. Natural, but taken as setting spades
5. Control-bid, assuming spades is agreed
6. Choice of grand slams
7. No idea what 7♣ means, but 4♦ did set spades as trumps
8. Perfect. Great system.

If the East/West pair is polite enough to allow South to show both of his suits and demand a seven clubs/seven diamonds choice, North would be well within his rights to convert to seven notrump with both major-suit aces. The worst that could happen is that South would be dependent on running 13 minor-suit tricks, which he'd have promised anyway (at least in theory).

That deal reminded me of this hand from a 1960s NSW Open Team Trials:

♠ A K Q J 6 5
 ♥ A K Q J 5 3
 ♦ A
 ♣ —

With this hand's partner the dealer, some bid:

Pass 2♣
 2♦ 2♠
 3♣ 7♥
 Pass

Other partners of this hand opened three clubs and the bidding proceeded

3♣ 3♠
 4♣ 7♥
 Pass

Partner held a 1=3=2=7 pattern. One player opened seven spades ("My one chance to open with a grand slam bid.") Unluckily for him, spades were 5-1 and, while seven hearts made, seven spades was one down. Justice!



The following deal arose in the Qualifying rounds for the North American Swiss Teams in Honolulu. It was tricky, both to defend and to play ...

Board 8. Dealer West. Neither Vul.

♠ Q 3
 ♥ J 10 8 2
 ♦ J 7 4
 ♣ A 7 5 4

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

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

West	North	East	South
St. Clair	Gulevich	Frazer	Dikhnova
1♣	Pass	1♥ ¹	Pass
1♠ ²	Pass	4♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		
1. 4+ spades			
2. 3/4 spades, 12-14			

St. Clair took the heart lead in dummy to lead a club to the king and ace, won the next heart and pitched her heart loser on the top club. A winning line now is to ruff out clubs but declarer quite reasonably led a diamond to the king, ducked by South. A plausible line now is to come back to hand with the spade ace and lead a second diamond to dummy's remaining honour. When South wins, she can do no better than return a heart. You ruff in dummy, ruff a diamond, ruff a club, and ruff dummy's fourth diamond with the spade nine. This loses when (in the diagrammed hand) the spade queen and ten are switched, but is otherwise fairly safe.

Declarer chose to cash the king and ace of spades before leading a second diamond up. South could win that and play her last spade, leaving dummy with two diamond losers for down one.

When this deal was defended by Bart Bramley, North, and Kit Woolsey South, Bramley also led a heart. Declarer played to dislodge the club ace, and Bramley won and played a diamond to the king and ace, for a second heart back. Declarer won, took his discard, then crossed to the diamond queen to ruff a diamond, cashed the spade ace and went back to dummy with a heart ruff to ruff the fourth diamond. Bramley overruffed and led the fourth heart to promote the spade ten for down one.



Rubber bridge was played almost every day at the Istanbul Bridge Center. The following deal (from 1989) might be the most spectacular, humiliating and well-known deal of all from those early days. It occurred on a normal day – food, drinks and Chicago-style rubber bridge.

Rubber Bridge. Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

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

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

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

1. Hearts plus a minor
2. Don't move anywhere!
3. Have you lost your minds?

Osman Uluozyurt, sitting West, could not believe his eyes and ears! His opponents had bid slam, his partner had doubled and he held three aces. Could the card he led be critical? He led one of his aces ... unfortunately for him, the heart ace. All hell broke loose! It was as if the sky had fallen – or was it an earthquake, maybe even a tsunami?

Declarer Aydan Sungurtekin made his slam in a trice. He ruffed the ace of hearts and played the king of spades. When it was covered, he ruffed in dummy and discarded his diamonds on dummy's king-queen of hearts. He apologized to his partner: "Sorry partner, I have to lose a trick to the ace of clubs!"

Ian Gillan of Deep Purple could be heard groaning and screaming as "Child in Time" echoed throughout the club. Who played this music, wondered Osman Uluozyurt. As he left the club, Uluozyurt was heard to ask anyone who would listen, "I couldn't find the trump lead ... could I?"



I belong to a Whatsapp group with several good Brazilian players. Once in a while one of the deals discussed there deserves an article.

Adriano Rodrigues, who played in the last U.S. Nationals, brought this delicious hand home with him. Actually, it was held by his partner, Beto Barbosa:

Dealer East. Both Vul.

♠	J 10 9 6 4 3 2
♥	8 5 2
♦	J 5
♣	8

They were playing IMPs, and this hand was fourth to speak, red vs. red. LHO opened with a Precision two clubs. (Of course, Precision players often shade their opening bids, but we must read what's written on the label of the bottle; and they were vulnerable, after all.)

Partner overcalled two diamonds and RHO bid two hearts, not forcing.

If I had held these cards at the table, I would not be able to look myself in the mirror if I lost the spade suit; I would have bid two spades. which is, of course, not forcing either. (At least that's what I said in our chat – before knowing the entire hand).

In any case, Barbosa passed, and the bidding took a surprising turn:

West	North	East	South
Opp 2	B. Barbosa	Opp 1	A. Rodrigues
—	—	2♣ ¹	2♦
2♥	Pass	Pass	2♠!
3♥	?		

1. 11-15 HCP, 6+ clubs or 5+ clubs and a 4-card major

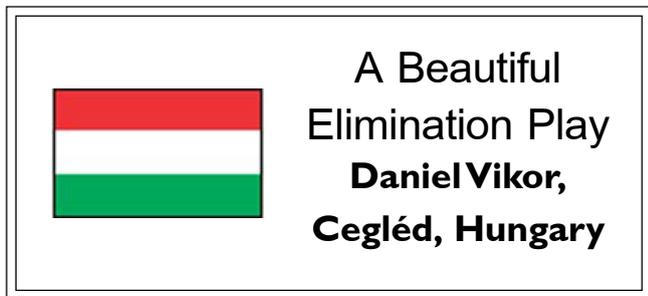
That was surely unexpected. It is not often that you have seven-card support for a suit your partner bid naturally. Sensibly, Barbosa decided that four spades would not be enough now, and bid four clubs, agreeing spades. Rodrigues followed up with a control-bid of his own, four hearts. What now?

A case can be made for four notrump, even though our hand is weak in high cards. After all, any missing honours are probably well-placed for us, in LHO's hand; and Partner has not stopped showing enthusiasm for his hand. But the bid made at the table, four spades, is also reasonable.

But partner was still there: he bid five clubs. After this bid, there was no way Barbosa could be held back, and he bid the slam. The full deal (*EW cards approximate*):

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

With the ace of diamonds and king of clubs well-placed (as indicated by the auction), the hand was laydown. As the narrative showed, there were many other ways to get to slam. The main lesson here is for the partnership to keep the possibility of slam in mind. There is some reticence in looking for a slam after an opposing constructive opening bid, but this kind of hand – with a huge fit and which can foresee successful finesses even during the bidding – is not so rare. Savvy players should be on the lookout for them. Seven-card support is not an absolute requirement!



This deal occurred in the recent Marathon Tournament.

Board 40. Dealer North. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Magyari	Homannay	Vidami	Vikor
—	1♦	Double	Redouble
2♣	2♦	Pass	2♥
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

We all occasionally make the mistake of bidding too-aggressive game contracts in pairs events, even though doing so has a negative expected value. On this particular deal, making four hearts was worth a 90% score, whereas playing in three hearts, making four, would have been worth 65%. Any minus score was very bad.

My partner in the Marathon Tournament was Balint Homannay, a very-talented young player and a member of the Hungarian Junior National Team. We played 80 boards over two sessions. I like playing in the tournament, because the prizes are good, and most of the top Hungarian pairs take part. This year we won the tournament, which was Balint's first victory in bridge (he still has many more chances, being only 22 years old).

On this deal, we played against Zoltan Magyari and Istvan Vidami from Transylvania, who play very solid bridge. Looking at the deal now, I still dislike our bidding, but it was too late to be more careful after the dummy appeared. The opening lead was the two of clubs, third/fifth. I played low from the dummy, Vidami won with the king and played back a club to destroy the link to the dummy. I won the second club with the ace and played a low diamond from the dummy. Vidami won it

with the ace, and shifted to the five of hearts to avoid any cross-ruffing play.

I saw a small chance to make this crazy contract. If East had four spades, including the king, and three cards in all the other suits, I could make it. I needed to have the three of hearts as my last trump in hand, to give the trick to East, when he had only hearts and spades. Even if East had four hearts, my planned play would still give me a spade entry to the dummy for only one down. If I had any other higher heart as my last card in the suit, East would have had the ability to unblock his hearts from the top to avoid the elimination.

So, I won the five of hearts with the ten in my hand, ruffed a club in the dummy, ruffed a diamond in my hand with the queen, and played the seven of heart to the king, I ruffed another diamond with the ace, and when East also followed suit, I was ready, because this was the five-card end-play situation:

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

I played the three of hearts from my hand, discarding a diamond from the dummy, and East was end-played, having only spades, among them the king, in his hand, so he had to let me go to the dummy for the established diamond suit.

We can see that an initial heart lead would have destroyed the contract, but many players would have led a club or a spade.



The Interstate Youth Teams at the Australian National Championships in Hobart was my last-ever tournament as a youth, and one of the best. It had been three long years between ANC appearances for me. SA won the last one I played,

in Perth, despite my partner's hospitalisation with appendicitis on day two.

Before heading to Hobart, I proposed that my partner this year have his appendix removed as a precaution, which he refused to do. Luckily, we fared well this year – everyone returned to SA with all their body parts.

I still remember the first time I played with my present partner, David Gue, years ago. Early in the session, I bid six notrump and at trick two, led a low card from my hand towards four low ones in dummy to rectify the count for a squeeze. The look on his face was classic! Thankfully, he had more faith in my declarer play in Hobart, including in this three-notrump contract against Victoria:

Dealer East. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Gue	Thompson	Travis	Flicker
—	—	1NT	Pass
2♣	2♠	Pass	Pass
2NT	Pass	3NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		

South led the two of spades to North's ten. Looking at dummy, North felt pessimistic about his chances of defeating the contract but decided to set up his spade tricks by continuing with the queen of spades. South discarded a discouraging seven of diamonds, giving me some insight into the diamond suit, and I won with the king of spades in dummy. I then led a heart to the jack and queen (in the safe hand).

South returned a heart to dummy's eight, with North beginning to feel the pressure and pitching the two of clubs. I finessed the club, then cashed the ace of hearts, North discarding the four of spades. Now I took stock of the hand. North had started with five spades and one heart, and I was pretty sure he had the queen of diamonds. He had discarded one club and followed to one, then had refused to part with another one. That suggested he had king-doubleton left in the suit. The remaining cards had to be:

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

I cashed the ace of diamonds to unblock the suit, then exited with a spade to North. He could take his two spade tricks, but then had to give me a finesse in a minor suit, providing my ninth trick.

I recovered from playing too quickly on the following deal in the final to execute another endplay:

Dealer North. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
McMahon	Gue	Ranson	Travis
—	1♦	1NT	4♥

McMahon led the five of clubs. Four hearts should have been easy to play since I could place every missing point with East due to his one-notrump overcall. A better line than mine would have been to win the club in hand with the ace and play a diamond, planning to shorten the hearts and trump coup Ranson.

However, I won the club lead with the king in dummy, cashed the king of hearts, crossed to the jack of clubs and cashed the ace of hearts. I had guaranteed myself two heart losers to go with the diamond, so I couldn't afford to lose a trick to the king of spades, which I knew to be offside. I cashed the ace of clubs to remove Ranson's potential exit card, then played a diamond to the ten and his queen. East led the ace of diamonds, which I ruffed in hand, then I exited the eight of hearts to his ten. There was no answer to this – he cashed the queen of hearts, but then had to lead the king of diamonds, establishing dummy's diamonds, or a

spade into dummy's ace-queen. It was a good thing I made it – in the other room, South never bid his hearts, instead scoring up plus 500 against two spades doubled!

Our South Australian Team put up an excellent fight, but at the end of the 60-board final, New South Wales were victors, scoring 139 IMPs to our 120. Congratulations to the 'Boys in Blue', who played in the right spirit and made it a highly enjoyable match. Watch out next year though – with this experience under their belts, SA look forward to going one better.



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Correspondence

The Editor reserves the right to abridge and/or edit correspondence.
Email: ibpaeditor@sympatico.ca

Dear John,

Great issue as usual. One small error in my article on the bots, the final score was 151–132 (not 151–32). Sorry if it was my error, and forgiven if yours. Anyway, much thanks for publishing.

Best regards, Al Levy, Long Is., NY

NEWS & VIEWS



RUSS EKEBLAD – 1946-2018

Russ Ekeblad represented the United States in two Bermuda Bowls – in 1998 in Chile, where his team finished fifth through eighth, and 2005 in Estoril, where his team earned the bronze medal – and one Senior Bowl – in 2008 in Beijing, where his team earned the silver medal. Russ finished third in the Rosenblum in 1990 and won the IMP Pairs in 1998. Russ won five North American Championships, including three Spingolds, and had five runners-up.

WBF Elections

Giorgio Duboin and Janice Seamon-Molson to the Executive Council

Philippe Cronier as Chair of High Level Players Commission



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World Bridge Calendar

2019

Jan 7-16	78 th International Summer Festival of Bridge	St. Moritz, Switzerland	www.bridge-stmoritz.ch
Jan 9-20	Winter in Vienna	Canberra, ACT	www.abf.com.au
Jan 24-17	60 th Bermuda Regional	Vienna, Austria	www.bridgeaustria.at
Jan 26-Feb 1	Greece Overseas Congress	Southampton, Bermuda	www.bermudaregional.com
Jan 30-Feb 5	Reykjavik Bridge Festival	Athens, Greece	www.ebu.co.uk
Jan 31-Feb 3	Cavendish VI	Reykjavik, Iceland	www.bridge.is
Feb 3-8	28 th Sun, Sea & Slams	Monte Carlo, Monaco	www.cavendish.bridgemonaco.com
Feb 11-16	57 th Gold Coast Congress	Christ Church, Barbados, W.I.	www.barbadosbridge.org
Feb 15-23	22 nd Yokohama Bridge Festival	Broadbeach, Australia	www.qldbridge.com.au
Feb 19-24	1 st European National Mixed Teams	Yokohama, Japan	www.jcbl.or.jp
Feb 22-28	32 nd Cairo International Bridge Festival	Lisbon, Portugal	www.eurobridge.org
Feb 23-26	World University Online Champ'ship	Cairo, Egypt	www.egyptbridge.org/cairo-2019
Mar	Camrose Trophy	BBO	www.worldbridge.org
Mar 1-3	Slava Cup	Coventry, England	www.ebu.co.uk
Mar 8-10	ACBL Spring NABC	Moscow, Russia	www.slavacup.com
Mar 21-31	Tasmanian Festival	Memphis, TN	www.acbl.org
Mar 28-31	Amazing Bridge Festival	Sandy Bay, Tasmania, Australia	www.abf.com.au
Mar 30-Apr 3	Swiss Open	Bangkok, Thailand	www.thailandbridgeleague.com
Apr 5-7	23 rd ABPF Youth Championships	Zurich, Switzerland	aschoellkopf@bluewin.ch
Apr 5-11	Yeh Bros. Cup	Bangkok, Thailand	http://www.bridgewebs.com
Apr 9-13	Venice Bridge Festival	Shanghai, China	jonkychung@gmail.com
Apr 9-14	124 th Easter Regional	Lido, Venice, Italy	www.festivaldelbridge
Apr 16-21	10 th German Bridge Team Trophy	Toronto, ON	www.lidodivenezia.com
Apr 26-28	Jersey Festival	Berlin, Germany	www.unit166.ca
Apr 26-May 5	Schapiro Spring Fours	Jersey, Channel Is.	www.bridge-verband.de
May 3-7	Canadian Bridge Week	Stratford-upon-Avon, England	www.ebu.co.uk
May 4-12	USBF Open Trials	Burnaby, BC	www.ebu.co.uk
May 10-19	USBF Women's Trials	Schaumburg, IL	www.cbf.ca
May 14-20	CACBF Championships	Schaumburg, IL	www.usbf.org
May 17-25	USBF Mixed Trials	San Jose, Costa Rica	www.usbf.org
May 22-29	69 th South American Bridge Festival	Schaumburg, IL	www.usbf.org
May 24-Jun 1	Juan-les-Pins Festival	Mar del Plata, Argentina	www.worldbridge.org
May 24-Jun 2	39 th Bonn Cup	Antibes, France	www.festivalsdusoleil.com
May 30	USBF Senior Trials	Bad Godesburg, Germany	www.bridge-verband.de
May 31-Jun 9	52 nd APBF Championships	Schaumburg, IL	www.usbf.org
Jun 11-20	9 th Open European Championships	Singapore	competition@scba.org.sg
Jun 15-29	20 th BFAME Championships	Istanbul, Turkey	www.eurobridge.org
Jun 23-30	62 nd Slawa Congress	Amman, Jordan	http://bfi.net.in/20th-bfame-championships-2019/
Jun 28-Jul 7	27 th European Youth Team Champ'ships	Slawa, Poland	www.pzbs.pl
Jul 4-11	SABF Congress	Oslo, Norway	www.eurobridge.org
Jul 12-19	Austalian National Championships	Durban, South Africa	www.sabf.co.za
Jul 13-15	Hong Kong Intercity	Melbourne, Australia	www.abf.com.au
Jul 17-21	ACBL Summer NABC	Hong Kong, China	www.hkcba.org
Jul 18-28	EUSAMindsport Championship	Las Vegas, NV	www.acbl.org
Jul 24-28	25 th Swedish Bridge Festival	Budapest, Hungary	www.eusa.eu
Jul 26-Aug 4	Chairman's Cup	Orebro, Sweden	www.svenskbridge.se
Jul 27-Aug 1	Summer Festival	Orebro, Sweden	www.svenskbridge.se
Aug 2-11	Wachauer International Bridge Week	Eastbourne, England	www.ebu.co.uk
Aug 4-10	6 th World Open Youth Championships	Mautern, Austria	www.bridgeaustria.at
Aug 20-29	47 th Grand Prix of Warsaw	Opatija, Croatia	www.worldbridge.org
Aug 22-Sep 1	7 th German Masters Wekk	Warsaw, Poland	www.pzbs.pl
Aug 24-Sep 1	58 th International Festival	Berlin, Germany	www.bridge-verband.de
Sep 6-14	Guernsey Congress	Pula, Croatia	www.pulabridgefestival.com
Sep 6-15	44 th World Championships	Les Cotils, Channel Is.	www.ebu.co.uk
Sep 14-28	2019 IBPA Awards	Wuhan, China	www.worldbridge.org
Sep 29	Hainan Bridge Festival	Hainan Bridge Festival	lijie0511@hotmail.com
Sep 30-Oct 14	NZB National Congress	Sanya, Hainan, China	wangjj_bridge@yahoo.com
Sep 28-Oct 5	Sicily Overseas Congress	Hamilton, NZ	www.nzbridge.co.nz
Oct 8-14	Gold Cup Finals	Palermo, Italy	www.ebu.co.uk
Oct 11-12	22 nd Madeira Open	London, England	www.ebu.co.uk
Nov 4-11	ACBL Fall NABC	Funchal, Madeira, Portugal	www.madeira-bridge.com
Nov 28-Dec 8		San Francisco, CA	www.acbl.org