



BULLETIN

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

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IBPA, WBF & FUNBRIDGE



IBPA, WBF and FUNBRIDGE have entered into a double-pronged agreement:

(1.) Firstly, IBPA members are eligible for five free plays in FUNBRIDGE online tournaments Here is the offer:

IBPA JOURNALISTS SPECIAL OFFER Get 5 WBF Robot Tournaments for free with this gift code: IBPA19

You can download FUNBRIDGE for free at: www.funbridge.com and follow the instructions there to play or simply to try it for free.

(2.) Secondly, FUNBRIDGE and WBF have agreed to sponsor three new IBPA awards for play in online events: Best Declarer Play, Best Defence and Best Bid hand. The agreement is that these awards will carry the same cash value to journalists and players as do the regular annual IBPA awards.

Players and journalists are encouraged to submit their award candidates to the IBPA Bulletin for publication. Players may write up their candidate deals themselves, have a journalist write about them or submit them directly to the editor of the IBPA bulletin at: ibpaeditor@sympatico.ca

In addition to the International Bridge Press Association and the World Bridge Federation, FUNBRIDGE has agreements with the European Bridge League, the ACBL, *Le Bridgeur* and 14 National Contract Bridge Organisations to provide their online tournaments.

Sponsorship by such organisations as FunBridge and the Hainan Bridge Festival will allow IBPA to reduce membership dues.

Call for nominations: members wishing to suggest a candidate for MPP Book of the Year should contact Barry Rigal as soon as possible.

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Mark Horton, Shrewsbury, Shrops., England
Ron Tacchi, Vaupillon, Eure-et-Loir, France
David Bird, Eastleigh, Hants., England
Jos Jacobs, Maarn, The Netherlands

Following the WBF's lead, the EBL's new event qualified the top eight teams for the World Mixed Teams Championship in Wuhan, China this fall. Thirty teams played a round robin of 12-board matches.

Round 2. Germany v. Croatia & Netherlands v. England (Horton)

Board 16. Dealer West. EW Vul.

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

Only two pairs bid to six diamonds and both made it:

West	North	East	South
Mestric	Auken	Brkljacic	Welland
Pass	1♦	Double	1♠
Pass	5♦	Pass	6♦
Pass	Pass	Pass	

With no stopper in clubs, Auken bid what she thought she could make, and so did Welland. Welland could have bid five hearts to ask for key cards, but just raised. East led the eight of spades, so declarer could establish a second spade trick to get rid of her heart losers.

West	North	East	South
Myers	Maas	Brock	Vriend
Pass	1♦	1♥	Double ¹
Pass	3♦	Pass	3♥
Pass	3NT	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♠	Pass	4NT ²
Pass	5♠ ³	Pass	6♦
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. Spades
2. RKCB
3. 2 key cards and the diamond queen

Brock led the five of diamonds, giving the defence a chance. Declarer won in hand and led a club. East won and shifted to a spade, which allowed declarer to establish the fifth spade for a second heart pitch. The winning defence is to return a club, which does not allow declarer the entries to ruff spades three times and return to cash the fifth one.

Round 3. Germany v. Romania (Tacchi)

Board 12. Dealer West. NS Vul.

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

East commenced hostilities with a low diamond to the discovery-play ten and declarer's ace. Declarer drew trumps ending in dummy and led a low diamond, won by West with the jack. She continued with the ace and another heart to her partner's king. East now gave away a ruff and discard. Was this a mistake, a single bluff, or a double bluff? Declarer paid off to East's play and finessed against him for the queen of clubs and so failed to make his contract.

West	North	East	South
G.Mihai	Auken	R.Mihai	Welland
Pass	1NT ¹	Pass	2♥ ²
Pass	2♠	Pass	2NT ³
Pass	3♣	Pass	3NT
Pass	4♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			
	1. 14-16		
	2. Transfer to spades		
	3. Clubs		

The same contract was played from the same side of the table. Here, East led the eight of hearts, taken by West's ace. She then shifted to the jack of diamonds, holding the trick. West continued with another diamond, won by declarer's ace. Declarer drew trumps and ruffed her remaining diamond before exiting to East with a heart. The spotlight now fell upon that defender, who had to return a red card, giving a ruff-and-discard, rather than a club, resolving declarer's

problem. Unfortunately for Romania, he chose to play a club, picking up the suit for a 12-IMP loss.

It was ironic that, at one table, the defender surrendered an unnecessary ruff-and-discard at no cost while, at the other table, where a ruff-and-discard was required, the defender declined to make it.

Round 5. Latvia v. Bulgaria (Bird)

Latvia headed the leaderboard after the first day's play, and I was keen to see their team in action. There was plenty of interest in the boards. So, without any further waffle from me, let's enter the playing arena:

Board 1. Dealer North. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Nanev	Romanovska	Nikolova	Lorencs
—	1♦	Pass	1♠
Pass	3♦	Pass	4♦
Pass	4♠	Pass	6♦
Pass	Pass	Pass	

This Latvian pair uses the Polish Club, where the heavily-loaded one-club opening includes hands of 18-plus points. North's three-diamond rebid showed six diamonds, three spades and fewer than 18 points. Lorencs then bid boldly to six diamonds. Well done, indeed!

The jack-of-hearts lead was won in dummy. Two rounds of trumps revealed a loser there, but declarer turned to the spade suit and was able to ditch her club loser. As you see, the contract would still have been made on a club lead. After the two top diamonds, East would have had to follow to the ace-king-queen of spades and the club would have gone away on the next spade.

West	North	East	South
Rubins	Karakolev	Alfejeva	Mitovska
—	1NT	Pass	2♥ ¹
Pass	2NT ²	Pass	3♥
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

- 1 Transfer to spades
2. Good three-card spade support

Karakolev chose a less descriptive path. His one notrump is described as: '14-16 points (could be 5-



The Gold-Medal Winners: Ida Grönqvist, Mikael Grönqvist, Simon Ekenberg, Sanna Clementsson

card major or 6-card minor)'. He broke the two-heart transfer, but Mitovska had no reason to do any more than re-transfer and allow partner to play at the game level. Twelve tricks were made and Latvia picked up 10 IMPs.

Round 9. Norway v. Sweden (Jacobs)

Only five pairs of 30 managed to reach slam on the following cards. Sweden's Simon Ekenberg and Sanna Clementsson were one ...

Board 10. Dealer East. Both Vul.

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

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

1. Drury
2. Void splinter
2. RKCB
3. 2 key cards and the spade queen

In the Swedish style of bidding, this sort of splinter shows a void, we were reliably informed. After this,

Clementsson had no trouble in checking for key cards and settling for the spade slam. Sweden a fine plus 1430.

West	North	East	South
Anjer	M.Grönkvist	Svendsen	I.Grönkvist
—	—	Pass	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♣ ¹	Pass
4♠	Pass	Pass	Pass
1. Drury			

Anjer, at the other table, was far less-inspired opposite partner's Drury bid than had been Ekenberg and thus settled for game to lose 13 IMPs.

Round 11. Latvia v. Spain (Jacobs)

Board 6. Dealer East. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Panadero	Romanovska	Passarinho	Lorencs
—	—	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♣ ¹	Pass	3♥ ²
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♥
Pass	6♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			
1. Relay, game-forcing			
2. Clubs			

After the 10-12 one-notrump opening bid, South showed his spades and clubs. When next he could control-bid his ace of hearts, North knew enough.

West led the ten of diamonds, which was the best lead, but declarer made no mistake. He won with the ace, unblocked the ace of clubs, crossed to his ace of hearts and ruffed a club. His next move was discard a diamond on the third heart, intending to ruff himself back to hand in diamonds but, when he played dummy's top hearts for a diamond discard, West ruffed the third heart and returned a diamond, ruffed by declarer. Lorencs' only chance now was that West had ruffed from a three-card holding, and also, that the king of clubs would ruff down third. So he continued with the ace and king of spades (good!), then ruffed another club in the dummy (yes!). The last heart, then

a diamond ruff to hand and the now-good queen of clubs concluded an exciting plus 980.

Slam was bid (and made) four times in all. At one other table, East/West found a sacrifice...

West	North	East	South
Rubins	Gonçalves	Alfejeva	Matut
—	—	Pass	Pass
Pass	1♦	1♥	Double
Pass	Pass	Pass	

On the lead of the jack of diamonds, the defence was able to get a diamond ruff with the short-heart hand, but the contract went down three anyway. Defensive communications were far from ideal: the defence could never come to its second club trick – they had to allow declarer to win two club tricks or one club trick and a spade or diamond trick.

Round 12. France v. Norway (Tacchi)

Board 19. Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Bakke	Volcker	Harding	Frey
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	2NT ¹	Pass	3♠ ²
Pass	3NT	Pass	4NT
Pass	6NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			
1. 20-21			
2. Clubs			

What is the best play for only one loser in the club suit? It always surprises me that leading the queen and letting it run gives you the best chance. It gives you a 76% chance of only losing one trick and about 6% to make all the tricks. As expected at this level, declarer took the correct option.

West	North	East	South
B.Cronier	Svendsen	P.Cronier	Anjer
—	—	—	1♣
Pass	1♦	Pass	2♣
—	2♥	Pass	3♣
Pass	4♣	Pass	5♣
Pass	6♣	Pass	Pass
Pass			

After Svendsen showed a strong hand and delayed support for clubs and, when his partner could not make any forward-going move, he settled for the small slam in clubs. Anjer likewise made the correct play in the club suit, but lost 2 IMPs for playing in a minor rather than notrumps.

Round 14. Sweden v. Latvia (Bird)

This promised to be a great match to watch. Sweden fielded four brilliant youngsters who had occupied first place for two or three days and were now lying third. Latvia had been playing well-above expectations, at one point also enjoying first spot on the leaderboard. This was the fourth board:

Board 16. Dealer West. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Lorencs	M.Grönkvist	Romanovska	I.Grönkvist
1♣	2♣	Pass	2♥
Pass	3♣	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

The heart game was clearly a better spot, but would Lorencs find the necessary spade-honour lead to defeat three notrump? He did! When the king of spades appeared on the table, East played the three to show her odd count and Ida Grönkvist won with the ace. She played the four of clubs, West putting in the queen, and dummy's ace won the trick. On the jack of clubs East played the five (would the nine have suggested good spades?) and West won with the king.

When West played the queen of spades, declarer followed with the nine and the only remaining problem for the defenders was to avoid blocking the spade suit. West continued with the eight of spades, and the seconds ticked by as Romanovska considered whether to play her ten. What clues were available? Firstly, declarer would surely have held up the ace for two rounds if she had started with ace-nine-seven. Secondly, it actually says on the Latvian convention card that they lead the queen from king-queen-low. I was not supporting either team in this match, but I do like to see justice done. Sweden had bid the wrong game and West had found a great opening lead. Surely Latvia deserved to pick up a solid handful of IMPs?

Romanovska eventually played low and overtook the next spade, putting the game one down. Well defended, indeed!

West	North	East	South
Ekenberg	Rubins	Clementsson	Alfejeva
1♣	2♣	Pass	2♥
Pass	2NT	Pass	4♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Latvia headed straight to the best contract, making plus 450, and scored 11 well-deserved IMPs.

Round 15. Croatia v. Iceland (Horton)

Tihana Brkljacic sent us this interesting deal.

Board 10. Dealer East. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Sævarsson	Sver	Thorsteinsdottir	Borevkovic
—	—	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♥	Pass	2♣
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♦
Pass	4♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

In the Open Room, the auction was kind of revealing, so Sævarsson found the best lead of a trump. Declarer won perforce in dummy and ran the nine of diamonds, West winning with the ten and continuing with a spade. Declarer won in dummy and tried a low heart, East putting in the queen, which declarer ruffed. The queen of diamonds lost to the ace and West switched to the jack of clubs, which made the subsequent defence very easy. East won a club trick at the end for one down, minus 100.

West	North	East	South
Mestric	Jorgensen	Brkljacic	Palsdottir
—	—	2♥	2♠
Pass	3NT	Pass	4♣
Pass	Pass	Pass	

In the closed room, the auction was far less scientific, so the natural lead of the ace of diamonds helped declarer. West switched to the jack of hearts, covered by the queen and ruffed by declarer, who crossed to dummy with a trump and played a diamond for the queen and king. A spade put declarer back in dummy

and a heart ruff allowed the outstanding trump to be drawn. When declarer continued with a low club, West put up the jack and, when it held, he continued with the three of clubs for the eight, nine and ace. When declarer continued with a club to the ten he was down.

Did you spot declarer's mistake? If she cashes the jack of diamonds before playing a third club East's discard will reveal that West started with three spades, two hearts and five diamonds and thus, cannot have more than three clubs!

Round 17. Bulgaria v. Sweden (Horton)

Board 3. Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

1. 20-21 balanced or game forcing
2. 4+ spades
3. Balanced
4. Enquiry
5. RKCB
6. 0 or 3 key cards

Two spades accepted the spade transfer and showed a balanced hand in context. A series of natural bids at the three level, control-bids at the four level and Roman Key Card Blackwood led to the superior slam.

South led the ten of hearts. Declarer won with dummy's ace, overtook the jack of diamonds with the queen and played the two of spades. When South followed with the three, declarer put in dummy's nine(!) and had 12 tricks. This was the only table where a slam was made. I daresay that, at the other tables, declarer started with two rounds of spades, intending to claim as long as the suit was no worse than 4-2, and then fell back on a 3-3 club break. That was probably declarer's intention here, but I am informed that she noticed an almost imperceptible flicker when she

played the spade. Even had the nine of spades lost to the ten or jack, Clementsson would have been no worse off than the other declarers.

At the other table, declarer won the heart lead, cashed the ace of spades and led another, getting the bad news; minus 100 and minus 17 IMPs.

West	North	East	South
<i>Nanev</i>	<i>M.Grönkvist</i>	<i>Nikolova</i>	<i>I.Grönkvist</i>
—	—	—	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♥ ¹	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♦	Pass
4♠	Pass	4NT ²	Pass
5♦ ³	Pass	6♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. Transfer, game forcing
2. RKCB
3. 0 or 3 key cards

Round 22. Poland v. Scotland (Horton)

Terence Reese and Roger Trézel wrote a series of instructional books, one of which was entitled *Those Extra Chances in Bridge* (incorporated into *Imaginative Cardplay* by Master Point Press). If anyone ever writes a sequel called, for example, *A Little Vigourish*, this deal might be included.

Board 17. Dealer North. Neither Vul.

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

1. 17-19, 6+ spades
2. Control-bid agreeing spades
3. RKCB
4. 2 key cards
5. Specific kings?
6. King of hearts

In the other room, Zmuda and Zatorski also reached six spades and, after a diamond lead, declarer drew trumps and ran the queen of clubs. West won and

exited with a low heart and declarer won and lost a second club – a 76% chance that failed.

Here, East led the ten of diamonds. Peterkin won, drew trumps and then played three rounds of hearts, ruffing, before running the queen of clubs. West won, but was now endplayed.

Seven of the nine declarers who went down in six spades (exactly half, 15 pairs, bid the slam) failed after a diamond lead; two performed the feat of failing on a heart lead. Of the six who succeeded, two each received a heart, diamond or club lead.

Round 24. Latvia v. Turkey (Horton)

Board 24. Dealer West. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Lorencs	Kutuk	Romanovska	Kolata
2♣ ¹	2♥	2♠	3♥
Pass	4♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			

1. 11-15, 5+♣; if only 5♣, then 4♥/4♠ as well

East led the king of clubs and switched to the ten of spades. Declarer won with the ace, cashed the ace of hearts, crossed to the king of hearts and played a diamond. West took the ace and returned a diamond; declarer won with the king and played a club. It would not have helped East to ruff, so she pitched a spade and declarer ruffed, ruffed a diamond and exited with a heart, forcing East to lead to dummy's spade tenace for a well played plus 420.

West	North	East	South
Gur	Rubins	Aluf	Alfejeva
1♣	1♥	1♠	2♥
3♣	4♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Here, East also led the king of clubs, but switched to the four of diamonds. West won with the ace and returned the six to declarer's king. Declarer ruffed a club, played a spade to the ace and ruffed another club as East pitched the jack of diamonds. When declarer tried to cash the king of spades, West ruffed with the two of hearts and declarer had to go one down for a

loss of 10 IMPs. It was a little unlucky, but cashing the king of hearts first would have saved the day.

Round 25. France v. Romania & Poland v. Russia (Jacobs)

Romania were second and France fourth in the standings; Poland and Russia were fifth and seventh respectively. When the first board hit the table, the East and South players had strong 7-5 and 6-6 distributions with which to deal.

Board 1. Dealer North. Neither Vul..

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

In France v. Romania ...

West	North	East	South
Stegarioiu	Bessis	Ionita	Gaviard
—	Pass	2♥ ¹	3♠ ²
Double ³	Pass	Pass	4NT ⁴
Pass	5♣	6♦ ⁵	Pass
6♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. Strong in hearts or weak in spades
2. 2-suiter; assumes weak in spades
3. Values
4. Stronger 2-suiter
5. Strong in hearts but good spades as well

The auction was undoubtedly a voyage in uncharted waters for all four players, all of whom coped well with the uncertainty, except for Gaviard's final pass, allowing the opponents to play in the cold six hearts as opposed to saving for minus 500.

South led the ace of clubs. Declarer had the timing and the entries to both pick up trumps and take care of the potential spade losers. On a spade shift, East won in hand and cashed a high heart. Then the queen of spades was used as an entry to discard two spades on the minor-suit winners and take a trump finesse. Plus 980.

West	North	East	South
Volcker	Balint	Frey	Marina
—	Pass	2♣	4NT ¹
Double	5♣	5♥	Pass
6♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. Minors

Continued on page 10...



IBPA Column Service

Tim Bourke, Canberra

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

945. Dealer North. Both Vul.

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

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

This deal came up in a team game. At both tables, the auction was as shown above and the opening lead was the jack of hearts at each table. It was obvious to both declarers that, if trumps were 2-2, then ten tricks would be easy and, if they were 4-0, then the contract would fail. Both declarers won the opening lead with the ace of hearts and, to try and improve their chances against a 3-1 trump break, each crossed to hand with a trump to lead a low diamond towards the queen.

Both West players rose with the king of diamonds and then placed the queen of trumps on the table. The less-experienced declarer took this in hand with the king of trumps and led a low diamond to dummy's queen. He continued with the ace and another club. East won the trick with the jack and exited with a low heart, with West's ten forcing dummy's king. When declarer tried to return to hand with a club ruff, West overruffed and led the five of hearts to East's queen for the setting trick.

At the other table, when East discarded a club on the queen of trumps, declarer saw the danger of taking the king of trumps. It would have left him with no fast entry back to hand after cashing dummy's queen of diamonds. So, he allowed the queen of trumps to hold the trick. If West had continued with the jack of trumps, declarer could have won, unblocked the queen of diamonds and eventually

got back to hand with a club ruff to discard a heart on the ace of diamonds. A heart ruff in dummy would have been the tenth trick.

In practice, West shifted back to hearts, leading the ten. Declarer won with dummy's king, cashed the queen of diamonds, then came to hand with a trump to the king. All that remained was to discard a heart on the ace of diamonds and ruff a heart. Declarer had ten tricks: four trumps, two hearts, a heart ruff, two diamonds and the ace of clubs.

946. Dealer West. EW Vul.

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

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

After East's pre-emptive raise in clubs and North's second takeout double, South felt his hand was worth the leap to game in spades. West led the king of clubs, asking for a count in the suit. When East indicated an even number of cards in clubs, West cashed the ace of clubs before exiting with a heart. Declarer played low from dummy and won the trick in hand to lead the queen of trumps, running it when West played low. Declarer continued with the jack of trumps, which was covered by West's king and dummy's ace. The 4-1 break was a disappointment because the contract was no longer dependent on just a favourable break in diamonds: it needed West to have at least three hearts and two diamonds.

Declarer continued by cashing the king and queen of hearts. When they held, he played the ace, king and another diamond. On this occasion, it was West

who won the trick and found himself endplayed, with only two trumps and a club remaining in his hand. As a trump exit would have been hopeless, West tried the eight of clubs. Declarer threw dummy's last diamond and ruffed this in hand. After leading the six of trumps to West's seven and dummy's eight, declarer claimed his tenth trick with dummy's master trump.

You should note that if East had won the third round of diamonds, with West discarding a club, declarer would have ruffed the forced club exit in hand. This would have neutralised West's trump holding. It would not have mattered whether West discarded a heart or overruffed, declarer would have been able to avoid a trump loser.

947. Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
—	—	—	1NT
Pass	6NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

This deal came up in an all-expert game. As North/South had a minimum of 34 points, North did not think about trying to play the potential slam in a suit. Instead he relied on sheer power to make a slam in notrump when one in a suit might have been scuppered by bad breaks.

West sensibly avoided a spade lead, which would have gifted declarer his twelfth trick. Instead, he led the ten of hearts. Declarer immediately placed the queen of hearts on his right. Declarer took the opening lead in dummy with the king of hearts then played the ace and another spade. When East threw a low heart declarer still played the jack of spades from hand, to be in a position where he had only one loser remaining.

West took the trick with his queen of spades and exited with a heart, taken by dummy's ace. Declarer cashed the king of spades then ran the diamonds, ending in dummy. Everyone was reduced to four cards. As West had not discarded two spades and East had not parted with the queen of hearts, neither defender could hold four clubs. So, declarer

cashed the three top clubs then advanced the seven of clubs, which was sure to win the trick. Declarer made two spades, two hearts, four diamonds and finally four clubs to make his contract.

In effect, declarer played a simple squeeze in the same way that he would have played a double squeeze.

948. Dealer South. NS Vul.

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

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

This deal was played in an intermediate class on finesses. The auction was given, allowing for South to make a slightly pushy rebid of three spades and North to apply Roman Key Card Blackwood before bidding the slam.

West led the jack of clubs; this was won in hand with the queen. After drawing trumps with the ace and king, all but one of the declarers played a diamond to the queen and king. Every East in this situation then cashed the ace of hearts to set the contract.

When asked, the successful declarer said, "If I'd played on diamonds and the finesse had succeeded, I would still have had to guess how to play the heart suit. On the other hand, if I played West for the queen of hearts, as I did by running the ten at trick four, I would always make the contract when that finesse succeeded. As the choice was between the diamond finesse and a later guess in hearts, as opposed to a simple finesse against the queen of hearts, I went for the less-complicated approach of the latter plan."

The teacher then summed up the lesson as, "When you have a choice of two finesses, try and assess whether taking one of them first allows you to avoid the other one, as here."

Here also, South let East declare in six hearts. South led the king of diamonds. Frey won with the ace, pitching her club loser. After a heart to the ace revealed the 3-0 break, she played four rounds of spades, ruffing the fourth, then picked up trumps for plus 1010 and 1 IMP.

In the Poland v. Russia match, there was a big swing.

West	North	East	South
Dubinina	Zmuda	Ponomareva	Zatorski
—	Pass	1♣ ¹	4NT ²
Double	Pass	6♥	Pass
Pass	Pass		
1. a) 12-14 balanced; b) 4414 11-15; c) any 16+			
2. Minors			

Somewhat to my surprise, South showed his strong minor 6-6 only once, and so conceded 980, despite the king-of-diamonds lead. Declarer won with the ace, pitching her club, led a heart to the ace, a spade to the queen and a heart to the jack, drawing trumps, then losing a spade.

West	North	East	South
Kazmucha	Gromov	Tuszynski	Gulevich
—	Pass	1♥	4NT ¹
Pass	5♣	5♦ ²	6♣
Double	Pass	Pass	Pass
1. Minors			
2. Spades			

Down two, plus 300 to Poland, but 12 IMPs to Russia.

Round 26. Germany v. Russia (Bird)

Board 14 Dealer East Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Von Arnim	Gromov	Rohowsky	Gulevich
—	—	2♦ ¹	3♣
4♥ ²	6♣	Pass	Pass
Pass			

- Multi: a) weak 2 in either major; b) 24-25 balanced
- Pass or correct

North had to guess how many clubs to bid. Testosterone won the day and the small slam was

reached. How would you play the slam when the three of spades is led?

Facing a natural, weak two-heart opening, Von Arnim would probably have led a heart. Here, she did not know which major her partner held. Spade length was slightly more likely, since she held one fewer card in that suit. The three of spades appeared on the table. How should Gulevich have played? Since she would have only one discard on dummy's diamond suit, she decided to run the lead. When the jack of spades won, she drew trumps and claimed the slam. Well done.

West	North	East	South
Dubinina	Auken	Ponomareva	Welland
—	—	2♦ ¹	Pass
4♦ ²	Pass	4♥	Pass
Pass	Double	Pass	5♣
Pass	Pass	Pass	

- Weak 2 in either major
- Bid your major

It was hardly possible to reach six clubs after the start to the auction. (Nor perhaps would they have wanted to be in six, single-dummy, on these cards.) West led a heart, won with the ace. Welland drew trumps in three rounds and then ... led the jack of spades! He read the lie of the spade suit as 4-1 after West's four-diamond response, and it was twice as likely that East would hold a singleton ten or nine rather than a singleton queen. The jack, queen, king and nine completed a heavily laden first round. A subsequent finesse of the eight of spades then demonstrated how the slam could have been made even without a spade lead. Russia clawed back 11 IMPs.

FINAL RANKING OF THE QUALIFIERS

1	Sweden	389.04
2	Latvia	364.89
3	France	356.68
4	Poland	348.06
5	England	340.21
6	Denmark	339.39
7	Italy	338.31
8	Romania	336.81

MEDAL WINNERS

Gold – Sweden: Sanna Clementsson, Simon Ekenberg, Ida Grönkvist, Mikael Grönkvist

Silver – Latvia: Jelena Alfejeva, Martins Lorencs, Maija Romanovska, Karlis Rubins

Bronze – France: Thomas Bessis, Bénédicte Cronier, Philippe Cronier, Nathalie Frey, Danièle Gaviard, Frédéric Volcker.



The Memphis Spring NABC Barry Rigal, NYC

Winners of the Major Events

Vanderbilt KO Teams:

Jeff Wolfson / Steve Garner
Michael Kamil / Michael Becker
Peter Crouch / Alexander Hydes

Jacoby Open Swiss Teams:

Espen Erichsen / Tony Liebowitz,
Tor Eivind Grude / Christian Bakke

Kay Platinum Pairs

Curtis Cheek / Zia Mahmood

Silodor Open Pairs

Mark Dahl / Richard Oshlag

Baldwin North American Pairs

Jeff Edelstein / Matthew Weingarten

Lebhar IMP Pairs

Bob Zeller / Greg Bright

NABC Fast Pairs

Marin Marinov / David Yang

Rockwell Mixed Pairs

Kerri Sanborn / Steve Sanborn

Smith Life Master Women's Pairs

Rozanne Pollack / Cheri Bjerkan

Leventritt Silver Ribbon Pairs

Mark Itabashi / Peter Gelfand

Worth a Beer

The seven of diamonds is known as the "beer card", a game within the game in which dummy must buy declarer a beer if declarer can win the last trick in a non-diamond contract with the seven of diamonds.

Board 24. Dealer West. Neither Vul.

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

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

If you treat the West hand as balanced, then surely East is going to use Stayman and play six notrump – the plurality result. Seven notrump is a fine contract (coming in at better than a two-thirds chance of success), but because of the club nine, the best spot is surely seven clubs. After two clubs-two diamonds-three clubs, the problem is that three diamonds is often played as a second negative. It turned out to be a good hand for transfer responses to two clubs (in the context of two clubs including a balanced 20 to 22 HCP), for example:

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

Two spades was game forcing, requesting two notrump if two clubs was a balanced hand. After that, three clubs and three diamonds were natural. After clubs were set as trump, four diamonds was Roman Key Card Blackwood for clubs, and four notrump showed two key cards without the queen of clubs. After that, five clubs would have been to play, and five diamonds would have asked for the king of diamonds, so five hearts promised that card and asked for the king of hearts. Five spades denied it and five notrump asked for the king of spades, with East then able to bid the grand slam.

On a club lead, the nine won, and declarer could cash the top diamonds and ruff a diamond high, then lead a club to the king to ruff another diamond high. Trumps could be drawn, and now West could cash the ace of hearts and three rounds of spades, ending in dummy, to take trick 13 with the seven of diamonds and earn a beer.

Making seven clubs was worth an 86% result.

Run That Long Suit

Board 1. Dealer North. Neither Vul.

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



ACBL President Russ Jones presents the Vanderbilt Trophy to (l.to r.) Alexander Hydes, Peter Crouch, Jeff Wolfson, Michael Kamil, Mike Becker and Steve Garner

receive more of a challenge when you don't know the deals. Take this board from the final of the Platinum Pairs, reported by John Hurd:

Board 8. Dealer East. Neither Vul.

♠ A Q 8 3
 ♥ J 5 2
 ♦ K Q 4 3
 ♣ A 10

♠ J 10
 ♥ K 10 8 7 6
 ♦ A 10 7 6
 ♣ K 7

West	North	East	South
Beatty	Weichsel	Stewart	Meyers
—	1♠	3♣	Pass
3NT	4♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Here, you reach four hearts from the South seat:

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

Peter Weichsel found a pretty line of play as declarer on this deal from the opening day of the Kay Platinum Pairs. Weichsel was playing with Jill Meyers against Steve Beatty and Fred Stewart.

Stewart led the jack of clubs, ducked all around, and the club continuation went to the queen and king. West exited with a low spade to declarer's king, captured the queen of spades with the ace, and exited with his last spade to declarer's jack. Declarer then ran the trumps to reduce to this four-card ending:

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

The defenders released all of their clubs, and West came down to two cards each in the red suits, so Weichsel crossed to the ace of diamonds and ran the hearts via the finesse. Plus 420 was worth 60 out of 63 matchpoints.

Hurts So Good

Although it is always nice to be able to have played the deals where the great plays occur, sometimes you can

South showed his 2=5=4=2 shape and admitted that he would cooperate with a slam venture over three spades, rejected by North. As declarer, you win the club lead in dummy and have to decide how to play trumps. At the table, declarer, Hurd, led a low heart from the board, took the queen with the king, then ran the eight of hearts. This was the full deal:

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

When Kevin Rosenberg made the nine, he not only had a brilliancy prize entry, but the admiration of his opponents, Hurd and Jeff Meckstroth, and partner David Gold!

VeryWell Bid!

Simon Hult and Peter Bertheau are not a regular partnership, but they improvised very nicely here. This was from the first final session of the Platinum Pairs.

(See top of next page.) Given the space available (yes, West might have done better to bid two notrump, but who knew how the hearts were divided?), the two-club call was intended as forcing without spade support, else some other call such as double, two notrump or three of a minor.

Dealer West. Neither Vul.

♠ 10 9 8
♥ K Q J 10 9 8 5 4
♦ —
♣ A K

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

♠ A K J 6 3
♥ 7
♦ K 9 3 2
♣ Q 10 2

West	North	East	South
	<i>Hult</i>		<i>Bertheau</i>
Pass	1♥	Pass	1♠
INT	2♣	Pass	2♦
Double	4♦	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♠	Pass	6♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

The four-diamond jump showed the void, so Bertheau bravely drove to slam and was absolutely right. The top clubs proved enough to allow the spade loser to be discarded in peace and quiet.

Necessary ... But, Is It Sufficient?

When we initially looked at this deal, we thought that declarer could not succeed after a trump lead. Right, but there is many a slip between cup and lip.

Board 10. Dealer East. Both Vul.

♠ A Q 7
♥ 6
♦ K Q 9 7 3
♣ K 10 8 5

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

♠ J 10 8 4 3
♥ Q 10 5
♦ 4
♣ Q 7 3 2

I was informed that at one table in the Platinum Pairs final, a trump was indeed led. Declarer put up the king and played a spade. This was covered by the ten and ducked and, after the natural diamond shift from a top world champion, declarer cross-ruffed in spades and diamonds. When the ace of spades fell, declarer held his losses to three tricks: one spade, one heart and one club.

The winning defence when the ten of spades holds the trick is a textbook play: shift to the queen of hearts! Now declarer has one fewer ruff available, and if he does ruff in dummy your ten is promoted.

Only Two?

The Regional Swiss Team game on Wednesday saw our opponent in the East seat somewhat disappointed in the number of trump tricks she emerged with. I held:

♠ K 9 7 6
♥ J 10 5 3
♦ A J
♣ A 9 5

and opened one club in second seat. LHO overcalled one diamond, passed around to me. I think now that pass is right (partner surely can't have a penalty double of one diamond, can he?), but I doubled anyway. LHO then bid one heart and partner gave me two clubs, ending the auction. When dummy came down, I realized that trumps were surely not going to break...

Dealer East. Neither Vul.

♠ Q 10
♥ K 9 4
♦ 10 9 7 6
♣ J 7 6 3

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

♠ K 9 7 6
♥ J 10 5 3
♦ A J
♣ A 9 5

However, the king-of-diamonds lead was certainly helpful. I won and returned the jack of diamonds to West's queen, as East followed. Now a third diamond would have let East pitch a heart to get a ruff, but West played the eight of spades to East's ace. Back came a heart to the ace and a heart to the nine, letting me cash the queen of spades and lead the ten of diamonds. East ruffed with the ten of clubs, so I pitched a heart and stuck in the king on the spade return. East followed suit, so I pitched the king of hearts from dummy, then led the fourth spade, ruffed by West's two of clubs and overruffed with the three. This produced the following elegant ending:

♠ —
♥ —
♦ 9
♣ J 7 6

♠ — ♠ —
♥ Q 7 ♥ —
♦ 8 4 ♦ —
♣ — ♣ K Q 8 4

♠ —
♥ J
♦ —
♣ A 9 5

The nine of diamonds was ruffed with the queen of clubs and overruffed with the ace (a heart pitch would have worked as well). I then ruffed the jack of hearts with the jack of clubs. East overruffed and returned the four of clubs at trick 12. This ran to dummy's seven and my nine captured East's eight at trick 13. Contract made!

Changing of the Guard

Howie Weinstein brought in this interesting example of squeeze pressure.

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

Playing with Jeff Juster, Weinstein declared in six notrump from the East seat after West had showed the majors and Weinstein had bid diamonds. South gave him a chance for the overtrick by leading a low club. That let Weinstein win with the jack, unblock the jack of diamonds and the king of clubs, cash one top spade and come to the heart king to run the diamonds. This was the position as East played the last diamond:

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

The defence has no answer. If South releases a club, declarer pitches a heart from dummy, and North must discard a spade. But then comes the ace of clubs and South falls victim to a simple squeeze. If South instead lets go of a spade on the last diamond, dummy again lets go of a heart, and North – forced to guard both black suits – must discard the jack of hearts. However, this then exposes South to a heart finesse, allowing declarer to take the rest of

the tricks. This position is known as a guard squeeze. Note that if declarer cashes the ace of clubs before playing the last diamond, the ending is ruined. After both defenders follow to the ace of clubs (dummy pitching a heart as before), South can simply pitch a spade on the last diamond. Whatever suit declarer chooses to pitch from dummy, North will do the same, and 12 tricks will be the limit.

Opinionated ... and Right

Expert Kit Woolsey is well known for having strong opinions about everything ... and he is generally right. Look at this deal from the first qualifying session of the Silodor Open Pairs where Woolsey was playing with Bart Bramley (soon to be inducted into the Hall of Fame):

Board 20. Dealer West. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Woolsey		Bramley	
1♠	Pass	2♠	Pass
Pass	Double	Pass	3♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

On this auction, Woolsey believes that a spade lead away from the king is far more dangerous than the king-of-diamonds lead because, even if a spade hits partner with the ace or queen, declarer may still have a discard to come on the third round of the suit. After the king-of-diamonds lead, then if partner has the ace or queen, you have struck gold. And even if he doesn't, the lead may break even. Woolsey did lead the king of diamonds, won in dummy, and a low trump ran to Woolsey's ace. A diamond to the queen was followed by a low diamond from Bramley (suit preference). Woolsey ruffed and exited with a low club. Dummy's king won the trick, but when declarer played another trump, Bramley grabbed the king, played his remaining club to Woolsey's ace and got a club ruff. The defenders collected 300 and a cold top for this vicious defence.

NEWS & VIEWS



Anders Wirgren (1951-2019)

The news reached us in Memphis that Anders Wirgren had died. Wirgren had several high finishes in European and World Championship play, including a bronze medal in the 1986 Rosenblum in Miami. Eric Kokish remembers him ...

“Though Anders and I only met in person a handful of times over the years, we were good friends and stayed in touch via email and whenever we could arrange bridge gigs for one another. He was one of my most cherished panelists in the Master Solvers Club for the Bridge World, a publication greatly enriched by his consistently spectacular articles and ideas. Not long after we first met, we had corresponded on an outline for a joint venture, but life got in the way and the project sat on a back burner. I came across the file again recently while cleaning out paper preparing to downsize and wrote to Anders about revisiting the book plan and after a positive reply was looking forward to working together. Two weeks later we got the tragic news at the Memphis NABC. My sadness has not diminished.”

Russ Ekeblad (1946-2018)

Russ Ekeblad of Rhode Island and Florida died on December 12, 2018. Ekeblad won five North American Championships (including three Spingolds) and came second in five others. He won one silver and two bronze medals playing for the USA in World Team Championship play.

Bahar Gidwani vs. ACBL

Ex-CEO of the ACBL, Bahar Gidwani, had submitted for arbitration a claim that he was fired without cause. The ACBL released Gidwani for failing to establish a residence in the Horn Lake/Memphis area. Gidwani claimed he had done so and asked for damages, including full pay and bonuses for the term of his contract. The arbitrator has ruled in Gidwani's favour, stating that, under the terms of the contract, he had indeed established residence in Memphis, but the arbitrator needs more time and documentation to determine the exact extent of the damages.

FunBridge and the ACBL

The American Contract Bridge League recently became the 14th NBO to join Funbridge. IMP and matchpoint tournaments began on March 26.



Correspondence

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

John,

I'd like to add my applause to the two pairs who refused to play against Fantoni and Nunes. F/N are still pariahs in ACBL-land, notwithstanding any imbecilic rulings by the Court of Arbitration for Sport. In my opinion, they should not be allowed to play anywhere honest players compete until they reimburse all opponents and bridge organizations. Furthermore, all titles 'earned' must be relinquished and turned back to the WBF, ACBL, EBL or other bridge organization. (Angry letter to follow.)

Yours sincerely,
Allan Falk, Okemos, MI

(Allan's letter was rather more incendiary than what is published here. It has been abridged for conciseness and to ameliorate his outrage. I trust he'll forgive me. – Ed.)



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

World Bridge Calendar

2019

Apr 9-13	Yeh Bros. Cup	Shanghai, China	jonkychung@gmail.com
Apr 9-14	Venice Bridge Festival	Lido, Venice, Italy	www.festivaldelbridge lidodivenezia.com
Apr 16-21	124 th Easter Regional	Toronto, ON	www.unit166.ca
Apr 19-22	81 st Galway Congress	Galway, Ireland	www.cbai.ie
Apr 24-28	Palace Cup	Warsaw, Poland	www.bridge24.pl
Apr 26-28	10 th German Bridge Team Trophy	Berlin, Germany	www.bridge-verband.de
Apr 26-May 5	Lambourne Jersey Festival	Jersey, Channel Islands	www.ebu.co.uk
Apr 30-May 1	57 th May Day Tournament	Pula, Croatia	www.bridge.hr
May 2-5	52 nd Tallin Bridge Festival	Tallin, Estonia	www.bridge.ee
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 13-19	Sofia Bridge Festival	Sofia, Bulgaria	www.sofiabridgefestival.com
May 14-20	USBF Women's Trials	Schaumburg, IL	www.usbf.org
May 17-25	CACBF Championships	San José, Costa Rica	www.cacbf.com
May 18-25	German Bridge Festival	Wyk-auf-Föhr, Germany	www.bridge-verband.de
May 22-29	USBF Mixed Trials	Schaumburg, IL	www.usbf.org
May 23-26	White Nights Festival	St. Petersburg, Russia	www.whitenights.spbbridge.ru
May 24-Jun 1	69 th 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 6	53 rd Tel-Aviv International Festival	Tel-Aviv, Israel	www.ibf-festival.org
May 31-Jun 9	USBF Senior Trials	Schaumburg, IL	www.usbf.org
Jun 1-5	9 th Tolani Summer Nationals	Pune, India	www.bfi.net.in
Jun 11-20	52 nd APBF Championships	Singapore	competition@scba.org.sg
Jun 15-29	9 th Open European Championships	Istanbul, Turkey	www.eurobridge.org
Jun 21-27	32 nd Bridge Festival of Tunisia	Hammamet, Tunisia	bridgehammamet@gmail.com
Jun 23-30	20 th BFAME Championships	Amman, Jordan	http://bfi.net.in/20th-bfame- championships-2019/ www.pzbs.pl
Jun 27-Jul 6	62 nd Slawa Congress	Slawa, Poland	www.festival-bridge-biarritz.com
Jul 2-13	International Summer Festival	Biarritz, France	www.eurobridge.org
Jul 4-11	27 th European Youth Team Champ'ships	Oslo, Norway	www.eurobridge.org
Jul 5-14	Dansk Bridgefestival	Svendborg, Denmark	www.bridgefestival.dk
Jul 6-11	International Festival	Ajaccio, Corsica, France	www.corsebridge.com
Jul 12-19	SABF Congress	Durban, South Africa	www.sabf.co.za
Jul 13-25	Australian National Championships	Melbourne, Australia	www.abf.com.au
Jul 16-21	Hong Kong Intercity	Hong Kong, China	www.hkcba.org
Jul 18-28	ACBL Summer NABC	Las Vegas, NV	www.acbl.org
Jul 19-28	Hanko Bridge Week	Hanko, Finland	www.bridgefinland.fi
Jul 24-28	EUSAMindsport Championship	Budapest, Hungary	www.eusa.eu
Jul 26-Aug 4	25 th Swedish Bridge Festival	Örebro, Sweden	www.svenskbridge.se
Jul 27-Aug 1	Chairman's Cup	Örebro, Sweden	www.svenskbridge.se
Aug 2-10	Norwegian Bridge Festival	Drammen, Norway	www.bridgefestival.no
Aug 2-11	Summer Festival	Eastbourne, England	www.ebu.co.uk
Aug 4-10	Wachauer International Bridge Week	Mautern, Austria	www.bridgeaustria.at
Aug 5-10	HCL International Championships	New Delhi, India	www.hcl-bridge.com
Aug 14-18	13 th Riga Invites You to Jurmala	Jurmala, Latvia	www.rigainvites.lv
Aug 16-25	International Festival de la Baule	La Baule, France	www.festivalbridgelabaule.com
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 Week	Berlin, Germany	www.bridge-verband.de
Aug 24-Sep 1	43 rd International Festival	La Grande-Motte, France	www.bridgeclub-lagrandemotte.com
Aug 26-Sep 8	Mamaia International Festival	Mamaia, Romania	office@frbridge.ro
Sep 6-14	58 th International Festival	Pula, Croatia	www.pulabridgefestival.com
Sep 6-15	Guernsey Congress	Les Cotils, Channel Is.	www.ebu.co.uk
Sep 6-18	57 th International Festival	Pula, Croatia	http://pulabridgefestival.com/
Sep 14-28	44 th World Championships	Wuhan, China	www.worldbridge.org
Sep 26-29	7 th Bodrum Festival	Bodrum, Turkey	www.tbricfed.tr
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
Oct 8-14	Sicily Overseas Congress	Palermo, Italy	www.ebu.co.uk
Oct 9-13	Vilnius Cup	Vilnius, Lithuania	www.bridgescanner.com
Oct 11-12	Gold Cup Finals	London, England	www.ebu.co.uk
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