



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.

Carryover is a sticky wicket. Although the World Bridge Federation used to mandate carryover into knockout matches of major events, the trend in recent years has been to eliminate it. This is a welcome development, since the goals in a Swiss or Round Robin are quite different than those in a knockout match. Other tournaments offer a 0.5 IMP carryover to eliminate the possibility of ties, quite a good thing in our opinion. In its premier pairs event, the World Open Pairs, there are three stages, Qualifying, Semifinal and Final, with no carry-forward from one to the other. Part of the reason for this is the length of each stage: four sessions, four sessions and five sessions respectively. Another reason is that dropins are allowed at each stage and carryover for dropin pairs is controversial at best. A marked exception to this practice was the World Senior Pairs in Wroclaw in 2016, where carryover was allotted, the reason being that the event was compressed from three stages to two and dropins were thus allowed midway through the qualifying/semifinal stage.

Conversely, the ACBL allots carryover in all of its two- or three-day NABC pairs and Swiss Teams events. Qualifiers to succeeding days always receive carryover based on very specific formulae. For example, the leaders from the two-session semifinal to the two-session final of the von Zedtwitz Life Master Pairs received a 131.76 matchpoint carryover. Since there were 2652 matchpoints (52 boards x a top of 51 on each board) available in the final, that carryover represented 4.97% of the total available matchpoints on that last day.

Somewhat mystifyingly, the top qualifiers to the final day of the Roth Open Swiss Teams received a carryover of 37.22 Victory Points. Since there were just 160 Victory Points available (8 matches x 20VP per match), that represented more than 23% of the VPs available. In this case, the leaders did not win, eventually

Continued on page 19...

Notice to Members

Requested Proxy for AGM Quorum

In order to ensure that we have a quorum for the Annual General Meeting in Wuhan, please send your proxy to Elisabeth van Ettinger (e.ettinger@chello.nl) should you be unable to attend.

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In China, we have four big tournaments each year, the Premier League (in three legs), the National Club Championship, the National Team Tournament, and the National Championship Tournament. Like the NABCs of the ACBL, the National Championship is a very popular tournament with the Chinese. It has open teams, women's teams, mixed teams, open pairs, women's pairs, mixed pairs and side games. The Open Teams is the most important event.

The 2019 Chinese National Championship was held in Hangzhou from May 3-12. The Open Teams started play on the morning of Monday May 6; 56 teams took part. The format was two days of Swiss qualifying, after which the top 32 teams went to the knockout stage. After four rounds of KO, two strong teams met in the final: Jinshuo (Jacek Kalita/Michal Nowosadzki, Ju Chuancheng/Shi Zhengjun, Zhuang Zejun/Jiang Tong) and PD Times (Boye Brogeland/Christian Bakke, Jerry Li/Zhong Fu, Hou Xu/Dong Lidang). The same teams met in the final last year, with Jinshuo winning.

The final comprised 48 boards over four sessions. In the first set, Jinshuo got off to a good start: the score was 40-9 IMPs in their favour. In the second and third sessions, PD Times did well, cutting the margin by 22 IMPs to trail by 9 going into the last set.

This board from the fourth session was very important.

F4. Board 3. Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

As West, with no North/South bidding, you play in six spades. North leads the five of spades. You win with the king in dummy and lead the king of diamonds. North wins with the ace and continues with the ten of spades. What is your plan now?

See top of next column.

Both declarers played in six spades against the same opening lead, the five of spades. They played the same way, winning in dummy and leading the king of diamonds. They won the next trump in dummy and took the heart finesse for down one.

Here is the full deal:

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

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

- Asking for more information
- Diamonds
- Pick a slam
- Having already denied four hearts

West	North	East	South
<i>Brogeland</i>		<i>Bakke</i>	
—	—	—	Pass
1♦	Pass	1♥	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♦ ¹	Pass
2♥ ²	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♥	Pass	3♠	Pass
4§	Pass	4♦	Pass
4♥	Pass	6♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		

- Artificial game force
- 3-card heart support

If declarer had dropped the jack of diamonds, he'd have found out that North had three trumps and two diamonds, making him a favourite to hold the king of hearts (not to mention the passive trump lead pointing in that direction as well). Declarer could then have run the trumps and diamonds to squeeze North. Double dummy, only a club lead can beat the slam.

Why didn't Brogeland and Kalita cash the queen of diamonds? Because it would have been a later entry to hand if the king of hearts had been onside. If the king of hearts were onside, they'd have had four spades, three hearts, one diamond and three clubs. The twelfth trick could have come from hearts 3-3, the diamond jack onside or a squeeze. If North had had four or more cards in clubs, the contract would have been cold. The plan would be to take two rounds of hearts and draw trumps; if trumps had been 3-3,

they would have cashed the heart ace; if trumps had been 4-2, the double squeeze would have been coming. So, on that line of play, the queen of diamonds was very important, and it should not have been cashed earlier.

An alternative play would have been to lead a diamond to the queen and ruff a diamond. If the jack of diamonds had appeared, you could then have played for the heart-club squeeze or taken a heart finesse. If the jack of diamonds had not fallen, you would have needed the heart finesse.

Anyway, if Brogeland had made the slam, PD Times would have won the Championship. The Jinshuo team actually won, 88-75, the third time in the past four years they have won. Congratulations to the Jinshuo team!

The following board exhibited wonderful defence by Kalita and Nowosadzki.

Quarterfinal Session 4.

Board 9. Dealer North. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Kalita		Nowosadzki	
—	1♣	Pass	2♦
2♠	2NT	3♠	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Nowosadzki led the seven of spades; their agreement is that it's attitude. Kalita won with the ace. He knew Partner did not have an honour in spades. As soon as declarer knocked out his ace of diamonds, he'd have at least two spades, one heart, six diamonds, and whatever club tricks he had, to make three notrump. The problem for the defence was to take five tricks before declarer played on diamonds. Clubs were problematic; hearts was a possible shift: if partner had five or more hearts or even four good ones, a heart shift might work.

Kalita shifted to the nine of hearts! When declarer ducked twice. Kalita made a second shift, this time to clubs. East/West got one spade, two hearts, one diamond and one club before declarer make his nine tricks. Well done, guys!



The 2019 Nordic Championships Nils Kvangraven, Kristiansand, Norway

It hurts, but I must tell you about this board. It features Kasper Konow on play and was the best-played deal of the event.

Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Tundal	Askgård	Kvangraven	Konow
—	—	—	1♣ ¹
Pass	2♥ ²	2♠	3♦
Pass	3♥	Double	3♠
Double	4♣	Pass	4♦
Pass	4♥	Pass	4NT ³
Pass	5♣ ⁴	Pass	6♦
Pass	Pass	Double	Pass

1. 16+ HCP
2. Diamonds and clubs, 8+ HCP, game-forcing
3. Key-card ask
4. 1 or 4 key cards

Kasper Konow of Denmark had this test as declarer after I failed to defend properly. The bidding followed a strong club sequence, but was natural, with cue-bidding after the interference.

Tundal led the two of clubs which I ruffed. I shifted to a spade, won by the ace. Konow played the ace of diamonds and discovered the distribution. He ruffed a spade and pulled trumps. The ace of clubs, club king, club queen and a club ruff led to the following position (See top of next page):

When Konow played the last trump, discarding a heart in dummy, what about East? My only hope was to find West with the queen of hearts, so I discarded the jack of hearts. Konow won the last two tricks with the



Nordic Champions – the victorious Swedish team (l. to r.):
 Thomas Karlsson (1),
 Niklas Warne (2),
 Lars Andersson (3),
 Kathrine Bertheau (4),
 P.G. Eliasson (NPC, Men),
 Kenneth Borin (NPC, Women, behind P.G.),
 Sanna Clemmentsson (5),
 Alexander Sandin (1),
 Jessica Larsson (4),
 Tommy Bergdahl (3),
 Emma Övelius (5),
 Krister Ahlsved (2).
 The numbers in parentheses refer to the partnerships.

ace-ten of hearts, making his slam in the most beautiful way.

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

Did you see my mistake in defence? I should have shifted to the king of hearts – that breaks up the squeeze and would have been a beauty.

After the event, Kasper Konow was presented an award for the best play of the tournament, well deserved. But he had to share it with his fellow countrywoman, Bjørg Houmøller, who played the same way!

Does the story end here? No, it doesn't. I was talking with the Swedish women's team and they told me that Sanna Clemmentsson found the defence I had missed! Sanna, a young and promising expert player from Sweden, had returned the king of hearts and broken up the squeeze. I felt she deserved a piece of the award as well. But then it turned out she was only defending five diamonds. The bidding looked like this:

West	North	East	South
—	—	<i>Clemmentsson</i>	1♦
Pass	2♦ ¹	2♠	Double
Pass	3♦	3♥	4♥
Pass	5♦	Pass	Pass
Pass			

1. Limit-raise+ in diamonds

I am not sure who made the best play. If Sanna had defended six diamonds, she certainly would have been the favourite. Anyhow, it was beautiful play by Kasper and Bjørg and beautiful defence by Sanna.

The Nordic Championships are held every other year. The 2019 edition was the 36th and it was won by Iceland (Open) and Sweden (Women). You can read the bulletins and get more information at <http://kvangraven.no/nordic-championship-2019/>

Las Vegas Summer NABC
Barry Rigal, NYC
Jing Liu, Beijing
A. J. Stephani, Cincinnati

Methods Matter (BR)

Most of my articles revolve around the play of the hand, but sometimes can be focussed on the bidding. Forgive me if I get a little technical, but let's start a few basic assumptions:

1. Everybody's methods over one notrump allow for a lot more subtlety than they do over two notrump.
2. There are a lot more balanced 20-22 than 23-24 hands.
3. There are even fewer one- or two-suited two-club hands.

If you buy into this, you might decide to switch your two clubs-two diamonds-two notrump and two

notrump openers. You will be worse placed with 23-24, but better placed with the former if your two-club includes the 20-22 but not the 23-24 HCP hands. Not convinced? Try playing your methods with the East-West cards on Board 1 from the second qualifying session of the von Zedtwitz Life Master Pairs.

Board 1. Dealer North. Neither Vul.

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

I was playing with Glenn Milgrim. Here was our sequence:

West	East
Rigal	Milgrim
—	2♣
3♠ ¹	4♠ ²
4NT ³	5♣ ⁴
5♥ ⁵	5♠ ⁶
5NT ⁷	6♦

1. 1=3=(5-4) pattern and GF facing 20-22
2. Here, 4♣ would set up slam invitational sequences, 4♦ relays to 4♥ for all sign offs, so 4♥, 4♠, 4NT and 5♣ are key card asks for the four suits in ascending order; 4♠ is therefore RKCB for diamonds.
3. One key card
4. ♦Q?
5. Yes (!) but no ♣K
6. ♥K?
7. No

Six diamonds making for plus 920 was a cold top.

Justin “Out-Juniored”? (BR)

Board 18. Dealer East. NS Vul.

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

Finn Kolesnik (16 years old) and partner Harrison Luba (15) taught Justin Lall a thing or two about what it's like to still be a Junior player on this deal from the second qualifying session of the von Zedtwitz Life Master Pairs.

I present the auction without comment ... the play's the thing:

West	North	East	South
Finn	Cecilia	Harrison	Justin
Kolesnik	Rimstedt	Luba	Lall
—	—	1♣	1♥
Pass	Pass	Double	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Kolesnik justified his penalty pass with a low trump lead! That went to the four, nine and jack. Declarer tried a diamond to the nine and ace. Back came the ten of spades. Declarer won and played another diamond; West won and knocked out the ace of trumps. The defenders could then win the ace of clubs, take the second spade in West, draw all the trumps and run the spades, holding declarer to his three meagre winners, for plus 1100!

When You Have Eliminated the Impossible ... (BR)

These deals are from the second semi-final session of the von Zedtwitz LM Pairs.

Board 5. Dealer North. NS Vul.

<p>♠ A 7 4 3 2 ♥ 10 5 ♦ A K 7 6 4 ♣ 8</p> <p>♠ Q ♥ A K 8 ♦ Q J 10 9 2 ♣ K J 9 5</p>	<p>♠ J 9 ♥ Q J 4 3 2 ♦ 8 3 ♣ A Q 7 6</p> <p>♠ K 10 8 6 5 ♥ 9 7 6 ♦ 5 ♣ 10 4 3 2</p>
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Sitting there, minding your own business, you are confronted with a double decision in the bidding and play:

West	North	East	South
—	1♠	Pass	4♠
Double	Pass	5♥	Pass
Pass	?		

Five hearts might or might not make. Your style tells you that South rates to have a singleton and 3-8 points at this vulnerability (he had three notrump available as a splinter, showing 9-12). Because partner rates to be short in diamonds, you could double, but if he's short in hearts, both five hearts and five spades could make! You double and are relieved to see an opening diamond lead. How do you defend?

It may be unsatisfactory, but I really don't have an answer! If declarer is 2=6=2=3, you had better cash out and try for a trump promotion along the way in case partner has the jack-third of hearts. If, on the other hand, declarer has the more likely 2=5=2=4 pattern with partner holding the king of spades or the ace of clubs, you should shift to a club at trick two to give the defence a shot at down two. Now if declarer draws only two rounds of trump and plays a diamond, he can still escape for down one. I believe a club lead might allow you to get 300. Declarer draws two trumps to play a diamond. You win and underlead in spades for the third trump.

On the next deal, I missed the right line in embarrassing fashion. See if you would have done better.

Board 12. Dealer West. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Pass	1♦	4♥	4♠
5♥	6♠	Pass	Pass
7♥	Double	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Partner leads the eight of clubs (third-highest-from-an-even-number). Plan the defence. As East (a noted wise-ass) said after the deal, "The only reason partner doesn't lead a diamond is because he doesn't have one!" Win with the ace of clubs and play the queen of diamonds. East will cover and South ruffs. You can then play on spades and sit back for your two diamond tricks. Plus 1400 won't beat 1430, but it will beat 1370.

Let Me "Enter" tain You (BR)

Board 8. Dealer West. Neither Vul.

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

This deal comes from the first final session of the von Zedtwitz LM Pairs:

East/West were handicapped here when West had to systemically open one club, not one diamond, letting North, France's Cédric Lorenzini, end the auction with a pre-emptive jump to three diamonds. After the opening lead of the queen of spades, it was all about gaining an overtrick or two. Declarer cashed dummy's top spades, pitching a club, and ruffed a spade as West pitched a heart. Lorenzini then crossed to the queen of diamonds, ruffed another spade (West letting go of a club) and cashed the ace of diamonds to find out the bad news. He then exited with a club to West's king in this ending:

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

In with the club, it looks logical for West not to facilitate the trump coup, so he should lead a heart rather than a club. But which one? The ace doesn't work. Declarer unblocks the jack and has two entries to the dummy to execute the trump coup for 11 tricks. Best is for West to lead a low heart. If declarer guesses well and puts in the eight, East must duck! If he puts up the queen, declarer wins with the king and ruffs a club to hand. Then declarer plays the jack of hearts. If West ducks, declarer leads another heart to West's ace, who must then lead diamonds for declarer.

If East ducks the eight of hearts, declarer must lose two hearts or a heart and a diamond for ten tricks.

A Tough Deal (BR)

In our team's loss in the round of 64 to the Meltzer squad, there was a slam decision on opening lead which swung a lot of IMPs. See what you would do. As West, you hold:

♠ 10 6 3 2
♥ 9 8 6 4
♦ 7 3 2
♣ K 5

The auction:

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

1. Waiting
2. Diamonds, GF

Dummy showed six-plus diamonds and delayed spade support. Piotr Nawrocki took his time with the opening lead, but eventually put the king of clubs on the table. The full deal:

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

Glenn Milgrim (South) ducked the first club and won the second, then followed the simple line of ruffing one club and pitching the second. But when the diamond finesse lost, he was down one. I suppose the club-diamond squeeze would have been possible here, but I'm not sure why one would follow that route. That was a 26-IMP swing when they played game in the other room.

It's a Hard-Knocks Life (JL)

In the Spingold Round-of-64 match between the Nos. 32 and 33 seeds, Richard Pavlicek and Jim Munday didn't get to the best spot on this deal. Then Pavlicek had to play the spots off the cards to avoid a big loss.

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

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♥
Pass	2♠	Pass	2NT
Pass	6NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

When Pavlicek treated his hand as a balanced 25-26, Munday opted for notrump. And, yes, six diamonds was rather easier. After the lead of the three of spades, Pavlicek delayed leading a heart until the last moment. Five rounds of diamonds saw East pitch five times: spade, spade, heart, spade, club. West followed three times then pitched a club and a spade. Now it was safe to take the two spades, finishing in hand. RHO threw a heart and a club, West a heart. This was the ending:

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

The opponents remained with five clubs and five hearts between them, and declarer correctly inferred that East had begun with five hearts, and because he had kept three, they had to include the jack. So, he led a heart to the king and ducked the next heart. When the ace fell on his left, he was home. The full deal:

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

Deceptive Defence (AJS)

Dealer North. Both Vul.

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

Losing big to a top team in the Spingold round of 64 doesn't mean you don't have your share of successes.

Here, Bob Lyon and I (playing with teammates Ryan Schultz and Pete Whipple) had just such a board on defence against the Rimstedt twins, Ola and Mikael, of Team Zagorin:

North opened light with one heart, and the auction continued:

West	North	East	South
M. Rimstedt	Lyon	O. Rimstedt	Stephani
—	1♥	Double	2♦ ¹
Pass	2♥	Double	3♥
Pass	Pass	Double	Pass
3♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. Constructive heart raise

North led out the ace and king of hearts, followed by a low diamond switch. Declarer played the nine and South won with his king. A club return allowed North to ruff, and another low diamond was placed on the table. Mikael naturally played the ten and South won with the jack. Another club return was ruffed, followed by a diamond ruff, another club ruff and a second diamond ruff as declarer pitched his remaining club. Another club, however, allowed North to overruff declarer with his remaining jack of spades. If you've been counting, that's six trump tricks, two hearts and two diamonds – down six! Plus 600 was a nice pickup of 9 IMPs against a less-successful defence at the other table.

Easy when You Know How (BR)

This deal comes from the second qualifying session of the Mixed Board-A-Match Teams:

Board 8. Dealer West. Neither Vul.

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

You want to reach seven notrump as East/West, but identifying the key cards isn't easy. Tanaaz Timblo (West) and Jay Patel (East) bid this in enterprising fashion:

West	East
Timblo	Patel
1NT	2NT ¹
3♦ ²	4NT ³
5♦ ⁴	5♥ ⁵
6♣ ⁶	7NT
Pass	

Alert explanations at top of next column...

1. 6+ diamonds(!)
2. Likes diamonds
3. RKCB
4. 0 or 3 key cards
5. Queen-ask
6. Queen of diamonds and king of clubs

Patel could then count 14 tricks.

That's How You Get Your Name in the Paper (BR)

Dealer South. NS Vul.

♠ K J 10 9 7
♥ 10 9
♦ Q 6 2
♣ 10 8 6

♠ A Q
♥ 6
♦ A K J 9 8 7 5
♣ A 9 7

West	North	East	South
Bart		Todd	
—	—	—	1♥
Double	Redouble ¹	Pass	3♥
4♦	Pass	Pass	4♥
Double	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. Spades

Danny Miles showed me this deal from the opening round of the Spingold Knockout Teams where Brad Bart and Bob Todd were defenders. Take the West seat where Bart sat and see how you do.

As West, you lead the king of diamonds and, of course, the spot cards (two, three, ten, upside-down) leave you in doubt as to what to do next.

Here is the full deal:

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

If you try to cash a second diamond, declarer ruffs, cashed one trump, then leads a spade, putting you in a Morton's Fork. If you duck, declarer pitches the second spade on a diamond. If you win, declarer is home on a good guess. A trump switch or a club switch is equally

ineffective. Bart found the winning defence at the table: he played declarer for precisely two spades and shifted to the queen of spades.

Dummy's king won. Declarer took the trump finesse and played a second spade, but Bart won with his ace and played the ace of diamonds, collecting two clubs at the end for down one.

Las Vegas 2019 NABC Major Event Winners

Spingold Knockout Teams

Sjoert Brink, Sebastian Drijver, Jacek Kalita,
Michal Nowosadzki, Jacek Pszczola

Morehead Grand National Teams

Fred Gitelman, Geoff Hampson, Daniel Korbel,
Roger Lee, Haig Tchamitch, Sheri Winestock

Roth Swiss Teams

Bartosz Chmurski, Joshua Donn,
Gaylor Kasle, Michal Kwicien,
Wlodzimierz Starkowski, Piotr Tuczynski

Freeman Mixed BAM Teams

Veri Kiljan, Christina Lund Madsen,
Thomas Paske, Migry Zur Campanile

Truscott Senior Swiss Teams

Ben Blacik, Steve Bruno,
Sundaresan Ram, Marty Schiff

Collegiate Teams Championship

University of California at Berkeley
Armin Askari, Jess Chao, Kevin Rosenberg,
Foster Tom, Stella Wan

National Youth Swiss Teams

Baozhul Jiang, Yufan Liao,
Yuchen Xu, YuQi Wen

Kaplan Life Master Pairs

Vincent Demuy, Brad Moss

Wehrner Open Pairs

Bob Bitterman, Mark Bendure

Wagar Women's Pairs

Bénédicte Cronier, Bronia Jenkins

National Youth Open Pairs

Michael Hu, Arthur Zhou



The 2019 Chinese Premier League, Second Leg Jerry Li, Beijing

The 2019 Premier League Tournament's Second Leg was held at Jiangshan, Zhejiang Province, China, from July 5th to July 11th. After the first leg had been played at Ningbo, Team Zhejiang Qiantang was the leader, followed by PD Times (Marc Chen, Jerry Li, Xu Hou, Fredrik Nyström, Johan Upmark) and Pioneers (which included Patrick Huang, Sjoert Brink, Bas Drijver). This leg was a round robin with 16 teams, after which the top six teams of the combined First and Second Legs will compete in the Final Leg (12th–19th December in Taicang).

This leg was very fierce. However, the leading teams from the First Leg did just so-so, while other teams such as Beijing Capital, Pudong (including the Rimstedt brothers), and Sunchime Fund (including Manno/Di Franco), did very well.

Here are three brilliant deals from the tournament:

Round 13. Board 15. Dealer South. NS Vul.

West

♠ A 7 6 5

♥ A

♦ K J 7 5 2

♣ K Q 6

South

♠ K J 8 3

♥ 9 4

♦ 10

♣ A J 10 8 5 2

West	North	East	South
—	Jerry Li	—	Xi Hou
1♣ ¹	1♥	2♦ ²	Pass
4♥ ³	Pass	5♣ ⁴	Pass
6♦	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. Strong (16+ HCP), artificial, forcing
2. Positive (8+ HCP), natural (5+ diamonds), game-forcing
3. Splinter
4. Control-bid

What your lead?

Hou led the nine of hearts. East won with dummy's ace, led a trump to his hand and played a low club. Although

Continued on page 12...



IBPA Column Service

Tim Bourke, Canberra

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

961. Dealer East. EW Vul.

♠ 10 8 6 2
♥ A K 10 7
♦ 6 3
♣ K 10 2

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

♠ K Q J 9 7 4
♥ Q 6 3
♦ 10 7
♣ A Q

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

After the simple limit raise in spades, South had an easy four-spade bid. West led the king of diamonds. East overtook this with the ace and returned the two of hearts. Declarer read this for what it was – a singleton. As he had three certain losers (two diamonds and a trump) he could not afford to suffer a heart ruff. Declarer observed that there was no chance that East would have defended this way with a singleton in spades; also, he saw that he needed East to have the ace of trumps – otherwise East would always get a heart ruff.

Declarer knew that his only chance to make ten tricks was to cut the transportation link in diamonds between the defensive hands. So, after playing low from hand on the heart shift and taking the jack of hearts with the king, declarer led dummy's seven of clubs to his ace and continued with the queen of clubs to dummy's king. Next he advanced the ten of clubs from dummy and was relieved to see East's jack of clubs appear. As planned, he threw the ten of diamonds from his hand.

East felt that the chance of getting a heart ruff had likely disappeared but nonetheless played the eight of diamonds next. Declarer ruffed this with the nine of trumps then played the king of trumps. East took his ace of trumps and returned a trump. Declarer now claimed ten tricks: five trumps, three hearts and two clubs.

962. Dealer West. EW Vul.

♠ K 8 6
♥ 9 6 4
♦ A Q 6 2
♣ A K J

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

♠ A Q J 7
♥ 5
♦ 8 7 5 3
♣ Q 10 9 3

West	North	East	South
2♥	Double	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

West's opening bid was a standard weak two in hearts – promising a six-card suit and about six to ten points. North felt that he had to do something with his strong hand and so chose to make a takeout double. South's jump to three spades was invitational in the suit while denying a heart stopper (with a heart stopper and four spades he would have bid a Lebensohl two notrump at his first turn then continued with three spades over North's forced three-club rebid).

West began the defence with the ace and king of hearts. As there was no point in discarding a diamond on the second heart, declarer ruffed, then paused to consider his options. He decided that it was unlikely that West had the king of diamonds or that trumps were 3-3: East was a favourite to have started with four trumps. Consequently, declarer had to sever the defensive transportation link in hearts. So, he cashed the ace and queen of trumps, crossed to dummy by playing a club to the ace, then ruffed dummy's last heart. Next, he led a club to the king then cashed the king of trumps, throwing a diamond from hand.

When West discarded a heart on the third round of trumps, declarer led the jack of clubs and was relieved to see that East followed. After winning this trick with the queen of clubs, declarer played the good ten of clubs. East was now faced with a

dilemma: if he discarded, that would be declarer's ninth trick and the ace of diamonds would give him the contact. Alternatively, if he ruffed, he would then have to lead a diamond and declarer would make two diamonds and his contract.

As an aside, West had to lead a club or diamond at trick one for the defence to prevail.

963. Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

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

After North's forcing one-notrump response to one spade, his jump rebid of three spades promised game-invitational values with exactly three spades.

West led the ace of hearts, on which East played the queen, promising the jack. As a result, West continued with two of hearts to East's ten. Declarer saw that he could always make ten tricks provided the diamonds were 3-2 and neither defender could get a club ruff.

Declarer decided to play on those assumptions, which pointed to his best route to ten tricks. His first move was to ruff the ten of hearts. Next, he led a club to dummy's king. East took this with the ace of clubs and, hoping to cause South a problem, played a third heart. After ruffing this with the eight of trumps, declarer cashed his three minor-suit winners and then played a third round of diamonds.

As declarer had already made five tricks, West had no winning defence after he won the queen of diamonds. West took his best shot by exiting with the three of trumps, Declarer played low from dummy and won the trick with the jack of trumps, his sixth trick. Declarer could now win the next four tricks on a high crossruff.

Notice that if East had returned a trump after winning with the ace of clubs, declarer could have cashed dummy's queen of clubs, then played the ace-king and another diamond. As West would not have

a trump to play, declarer would have been able to ruff the card West played, then crossruff the last four tricks. Finally, if West did have a trump and played it, declarer could draw trumps and claim the rest.

964. Dealer South. NS Vul.

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

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

West's overall was the "Unusual Notrump", promising at least 5-5 in the minors. South's double just proclaimed a strong hand and North now had a problem. Clearly, it would be unacceptable to bid just three hearts on a hand containing an ace and a king. So, four clubs was intended and interpreted as a "choice-of-games cue-bid", which South converted to the obvious spot.

West led the king of clubs to declarer's ace. Declarer noted that, as there were five trumps and seven hearts outstanding, it was more likely that West had begun with a singleton trump rather than any other holding in that suit. If that were the case, declarer saw that he would have two likely losers in both trumps and diamonds. Eventually, he found the answer to this problem: he should try to ruff a low fourth diamond in dummy.

So, at trick two, declarer crossed to dummy with a low trump to the king and led a diamond. East saw that if he ruffed this card, he would be wasting a trump trick by ruffing a loser, so he discarded a heart. Declarer won the trick with the ace of diamonds then led a low heart to the ace to play another diamond. Again, East saw the futility of ruffing the diamond, so he discarded a second heart instead. Declarer continued with a third round of diamonds, putting West on lead. Declarer ruffed the club continuation and led his last diamond. When this was ruffed with dummy's five of trumps the defence was helpless. All the defenders could make were two trumps and a diamond.

Hou knew this to be a singleton, so he played low not to give declarer two club tricks. Declarer cross-ruffed two clubs and two hearts, drew Partner's last trump, ending in the dummy and played a low spade. Partner plays the ten, declarer covers with the queen, and you win with your king. What do you do now?

If partner has the nine of spades, you should play a spade, but if partner does not, you will give declarer his extra trick with the nine. After reviewing the count, Hou knew declarer had eight trump tricks, one club, one heart, and one spade, so he played a club to give declarer a ruff-sluff. Declarer had just 11 tricks after this great defence.

The full deal was:

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

Only one route can bring declarer home. Win the heart lead, lead a trump to hand, and play your club. South must play low, whereupon you win, lead another trump to hand, ruff a heart in dummy, and play a low spade to the nine (or queen if North plays the ten). South is endplayed.

Round 10. Board 1. Dealer North. Neither Vul.

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

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Di Franco</i>	<i>Li</i>	<i>Manno</i>	<i>Hou</i>
—	Pass	1♥	2♣
2♥	2♠	4♥	4♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Manno led the ten of clubs. Li played the jack from dummy (South), Franco covered with the queen, and Li won with the king. Li played the six of spades, Manno won with the ace, and Franco followed with the five. What do you do now?

If partner has the ace of hearts, the contract is going down for sure: the defence has three aces and a club ruff. But if partner doesn't have the ace of hearts, can the contract be beaten? You'd need partner to have started with queen-nine-third of clubs to make a club trick, and the king of diamonds so that Partner can shift to a heart before the clubs are set up.

Which key card partner does Partner have? The ace of hearts or the king of diamonds (with the nine of clubs)?

You need help from Partner's signal. Declarer played the jack of clubs and Partner covered; Partner also played the five of spades, trump suit preference perhaps. Since you are missing the queen, jack, four, three, two of spades, perhaps Partner's five is a signal, welcoming hearts? Maybe yes, maybe no.

You need to think further. Why did declarer play the six of spades? If declarer held the ace of diamonds and no ace of hearts, he would have hidden his high spades and played a lower one than the six. Partner covered the jack of clubs with the queen, an inference that he holds the nine. If you trust declarer's play, he was trying break your signal system, and you should shift to a low diamond.

A low diamond has a extra chance: if Partner has the ace of hearts but no king of diamonds, and he has the nine of clubs to stop declarer running the clubs, you can still get two heart tricks, one club and one spade.

This was the full deal:

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

The young Italian star, Andrea Manno, thought for about five minutes, then played a low diamond to Di Franco's king! Franco shifted to a heart to defeat the contract.

Wonderful!

This last board was the most-beautiful deal of the tournament:

Round 6. Board 7. Dealer South. Both Vul.

<i>West</i>	<i>East</i>
♠ A K 7	♠ Q J 10 9 6
♥ Q 8 7 6	♥ A 9 4 3
♦ K 9 8 4	♦ 6
♣ J 7	♣ A 9 6

West	North	East	South
Dai	Bessis	Yang	Moss
—	—	—	Pass
1♦ ¹	Pass	1♠	Pass
1NT	Pass	2♣ ²	Pass
2♦ ³	Pass	2♥ ⁴	Pass
4♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. Precision: 11-15 HCP, 2+ diamonds
2. Puppet to 2♦
3. Forced
4. Invitational with five spades and four hearts

South led the queen of clubs (standard leads). You win with the ace, cash the ace of hearts, upon which South drops the king. What do you do now?

From declarer's point of view, with trumps 4-1, he has two heart tricks, one diamond trick and one club trick to lose, so the only hope is for North to have three or more spades for a club pitch. (That would leave North with $3=4=0=6$ and South with $2=1=8=2$, clearly impossible. – Ed.) When Yang played spades, Bessis trumped the second spade. Was Yang unlucky? No! This was the full deal:

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

When declarer played the ace of hearts, Brad Moss dropped his king! What a beautiful, imaginative play! Can we assure him candidacy for the IBPA's best defence of the year?

After completion of the prescribed 15 rounds (and combined with the 15 rounds of the First Leg), Pioneers, Zhejiang Qiantang, Beijing Capital, PD Times, Pudong, and Sunchime Fund made the top six and reached the Final.

The current strongest team in China, Jinshuo (including Kalita/Nowosadzki), didn't qualify for the final, nor did the defending champion, Hengzhou (including Bessis/Moss). Other strong teams not qualifying for the Final were ORG (including Kranyak/Demuy) and Reignwood (Gawrys/Klukowski). The Chinese League is now really as tough or tougher than most other countries' tournaments.

In the Final, Pioneers and Zhejiang Qiantang, who took the first and second places, will get one day off. Beijing Capital, PD Times, Pudong, and Sunchime Fund were in third through sixth places, thus Beijing Capital will choose its opponent between Pudong and Sunchime Fund, while PD Times will play against the other team in 48-board knockout matches, the winners going on to the semifinals.



The final was played in Stavanger over the last weekend of May and resulted in victory for Studentenes BK, a team of youngsters who completely outplayed the rest of the field. The tournament turned out to be a great disappointment for one of the favoured teams, Heimdal, but, on this board, world champion Glenn Grøtheim defended carefully to be one of the few to beat four spades:

Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
G. Harr	P. Tøndel	S. Iversen	G. Grøtheim
—	—	—	Pass
1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass
2NT ¹	Pass	3♦ ²	Pass
4♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. Game forcing
2. Hearts

North led the heart six to the queen and ace. Gunnar Harr played the ace of trumps followed by the knave to Grøtheim's queen. South paused for a while and finally returned a club to the king. He came back in with the spade ten to the king and once again avoided the fatal continuation of a heart, returning another club to the queen. Harr cashed his eight of spades, played a club to the ace and ruffed a heart to reach this position:

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

Harr played a trump to Grøtheim's seven, but now, since he had retained a heart to return, South could wait for the setting trick with his king of diamonds. If he at one point had returned a heart, he would have been forced to lead a diamond in the end.

Grøtheim's partner, Petter Tøndel, was awarded the prize for the best-played deal of the tournament by his handling of the following deal, on which he overcame a terrible trump break:

Dealer West. NS Vul.

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

With the same line-up as on the previous board ...

West	North	East	South
G. Harr	P. Tøndel	S. Iversen	G. Grøtheim
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♠ ¹
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♦ ²	Pass	4NT ³
Pass	7♣	Pass	Pass

1. Clubs, game-forcing
2. RKCB
3. 2 key cards, no ♣Q

East led the four of hearts to the ten and ace. The king of trumps revealed the bad break. Tøndel now made the only play to secure the contract by playing the ace of spades and ruffing a spade. He returned to hand with a heart and played spades. East ruffed, but Tøndel overruffed and played a trump to the queen. When he continued with his high spades, East had no defence. If he ruffed, Tøndel would remove East's last trump and would still have a heart in dummy to reach his hand. On his last spade, Tøndel would discard dummy's heart and the queen of hearts would end East's hope of defeating the contract.



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

Victor Champion Cup

There were 92 teams in the annual Victor Champion Cup, an Open Teams event held in Melbourne, Australia, in June. The format was ten rounds of 14-board matches, Swiss style. This deal arose in Round 9.

Board 4. Dealer East. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Haffer	Markey	Gold	Spooner
—	—	1♦	1♥
1♠	4♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			

West led the jack of clubs: three – six – ace. Declarer, Youth player Andrew Spooner, played the king of hearts: diamond eight – heart six – heart three, followed by the ten of spades. If West takes the ace and gives East a club ruff, the contract will fail. As there was no clear evidence that East was now void in clubs, West played the seven of spades, three, king. East returned the five of spades – heart two – spade two – spade four. To reduce the risk of a club ruff now, South exited with the king of diamonds: five – jack – ace. To cut down the forthcoming cross-ruff, East exited with the four of hearts: heart five – diamond seven – heart eight. These cards remained:

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

Declarer called for dummy's five of clubs. It would have availed East nothing to ruff this. Declarer would have made the rest of the tricks easily and so East discarded the three of diamonds. South's king of clubs won; West played the two. Declarer ruffed the two of diamonds with the jack of hearts and continued with dummy's eight of spades. East ruffed with the queen of hearts and South pitched the nine of diamonds. This was now the position:

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

So far, declarer had lost a spade, a diamond and a heart. In this ending, if East had played a diamond, South would have pitched a club and ruffed in dummy, ruffed a spade, drawn East's trump and claimed. So, instead, East led the seven of hearts to dummy's ace. That produced a fratricide trump squeeze. If West had thrown a spade, declarer would have ruffed the nine of spades, dropping the ace, crossed to the queen of clubs and cashed the queen of spades. When West threw the eight of clubs, declarer cashed dummy's queen of clubs and claimed ten tricks for plus 620.

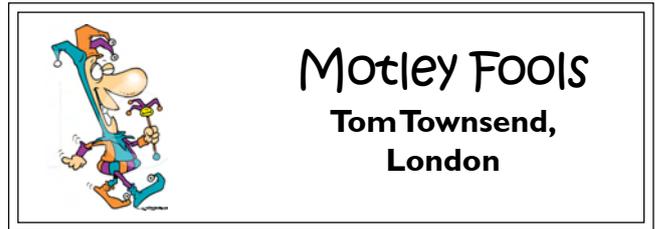
At the other table:

West	North	East	South
Mullamphy	McMahon	Klinger	Ranson
—	—	1♦	1♥
Double ¹	2♦ ²	Double	4♥
4NT ³	Pass	5♦	Double
Pass	5♥	Double	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. 4+ spades
2. Good heart raise
3. Pick a minor

West led the five of diamonds. East won with the ace and switched to the six of clubs: four – seven – queen. South cashed the dummy's ace of hearts, West discarding the eight of diamonds (suit-preference for spades), and played the three of clubs: diamond four – club ace – club two, followed by the nine of diamonds, ruffed in dummy. Next came the five of clubs. East ruffed low and switched to the five of spades to West's ace. West returned a club, allowing East to score the queen of hearts for two down, East/West plus 500 and 11 IMPs.

Phil Markey/Andrew Spooner and Matt Mullamphy/Ron Klinger won by a very narrow margin, 137.90 to 137.70 over Ann Baker/Colin Baker, Keiran Crowe-Mai/Peter Hollands and Laura Ginnan/Lucy Henbest.



The Idiot Coup is one of the lower arts of bridge. It is the unsubtle generation of a losing option for one's opponent (*literally inviting declarer to play the deal as if the defenders were idiots – Ed.*). Here is a suitably crude example:

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

West plays six spades after a Blackwood accident. North leads the ace of clubs. Play dummy's king under it and perhaps, not holding the ace of hearts himself, he may be mug enough to try and cash the queen of clubs. Sounds utterly pathetic, but keep trotting this one out against unsophisticated opposition, and thank me when it wins you a contract.

It would not be ethical, in case you wondered, to say "oops" after calling for the king of clubs, as if you meant to play low.

Dealer North. EW Vul.

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

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

1. Take-out double
2. Borderline at best

Opening Lead ♣3



Heart Failure

Mark Horton,
Shrewsbury, Shrops., U.K.

In any sporting contest, you will see that even the greatest champions make mistakes. It is just the same in bridge, where you sometimes have to rely on minute pieces of information. This deal from the 2019 Mixed USBC USA2 Final is a case in point:

Board 19. Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

In the Closed Room, Sobel and Donner bid to six notrump as follows:

West	North	East	South
<i>Donner</i>	<i>Rosenthal</i>	<i>Sobel</i>	<i>D. Rosenberg</i>
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	Pass	1♣ ¹	Pass
2♦ ²	Pass	4♣ ³	Pass
4♦ ⁴	Pass	6NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. Precision, 16+ HCP
2. 8-10 balanced HCP
3. Ace ask
4. 1 or 4

Declarer took her 12 top tricks.

In the Open Room, East was more ambitious ...

West	North	East	South
<i>Willenken</i>	<i>Grossack</i>	<i>Campanile</i>	<i>Botta</i>
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	2♥	Double	3♥
4♣	Pass	4NT ¹	Pass
5♠ ²	Pass	7NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. RKCB
2. 2 key cards and the club queen

When East bid four notrump, West took it as RKCB. East could count 12 tricks and, at worst, a grand slam would depend on the heart finesse, and might be cold. There was a case for bidding seven diamonds, but it can be terribly tempting to remove all the cards from your bidding box.

South led the seven of clubs. Declarer won in hand and took five rounds of diamonds. She then cashed her top spades, followed by the two top clubs and, finally, tried the heart finesse to lose 17 IMPs.

To make seven notrump, having cashed her diamonds, declarer must give a nod to Vienna and cash the ace of hearts. She then cashes two more clubs, the last of which squeezes South in the majors. Is there any reason for declarer to follow this line? The slender clue is South's failure to lead a heart at trick one – and there is only one reason I can think of why South might not do that.

On the same day, I spotted this deal from the South American Bridge Championships Transnational Teams:

Board 18. Dealer East. NS Vul.

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

In the Open Room, East opened three diamonds and North/South stopped safely in four hearts, taking 12 tricks when East led the five of spades.

In the Closed Room ...

West	North	East	South
<i>Poleschi</i>	<i>Chagas</i>	<i>Angeleri</i>	<i>Muzzio</i>
—	—	3♣ ¹	Pass
3♦	4♥	Pass	4NT ²
Pass	5♠ ³	Pass	6♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. Transfer preempt
2. RKCB
3. 2 key cards plus the queen of hearts

On the spade lead, declarer saw an easy route to 12 tricks by eventually relying on the ruffing finesse in spades, for a 13-IMP pick-up.

It seemed to me that declarer could do even better; after winning the opening lead, declarer plays five rounds of trumps. That will force West down to three spades and four clubs. A diamond to the ace is followed by the queen of spades, and it is not difficult to see that one way or another West will be squeezed in the black suits to give you all the tricks.

Notice that, if East leads a top diamond, even six hearts cannot be made.

George Rosenkranz 1916–2019



George Rosenkranz accepting the 2004 Winthrop-Sears Medal for his work in steroid research

IBPA member and 2016 IBPA Personality of the Year on the occasion of his 100th birthday, George Rosenkranz, died on June 23 at his home in Atherton, California. He was 102. Rosenkranz was an ACBL Grand Life Master and Hall of Fame member, inducted in 2000 as the recipient of the Blackwood Award. He was also a 12-time NABC champion, a bidding theorist and an author. He developed the Romex System and invented the Mexican Two Diamonds, the Rosenkranz Double and Redouble, and spiral cue-bidding. Rosenkranz authored or co-authored 15 books on bridge. He also wrote a column in the ACBL Bridge Bulletin. In 1990, Rosenkranz was named the ACBL Honorary Member of the Year. Rosenkranz represented Mexico in several world championships.

Born in Budapest in 1916, Rosenkranz was the only child of successful middle-class parents of Jewish descent. His childhood was filled with an appreciation for art, music, theater and education. Although he demonstrated a gift for modern languages, his scientific studies, particularly chemistry, held a stronger appeal. In 1933, he left home to attend university at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich, where he took an organic chemistry course taught by the future Nobel laureate Lavoslav (Leopold) Ruzicka. In 1937, Rosenkranz became Ruzicka's doctoral student, receiving his degree in 1940.

Around this time, the fascists rose to power in parts of Europe. Rosenkranz decided to leave the continent, securing a professorship in Ecuador. The plan was to travel to Cuba, via Spain, and then on to Ecuador. He made it as far as Havana, but then the attack on Pearl Harbor sent the world into chaos, and his transportation to Ecuador never materialized. Stranded in Cuba, Rosenkranz was hired by Vieta-Plasencia Laboratorios, where he developed successful treatments for venereal disease.

In 1945, Rosenkranz received an invitation to interview with a company called Syntex in Mexico City. They were attempting to make synthetic hormones from diosgenin, a naturally occurring plant hormone found in wild Mexican yams. Rosenkranz was offered the position of head chemist and moved to Mexico to work for Syntex, where he spent the remainder of his career, much of it as CEO and board chairman of Syntex, until his retirement in 1981.

With an unlimited research budget, Rosenkranz was able to hire the best and brightest organic chemists. Over the years Rosenkranz and his colleagues created and developed revolutionary advances in the understanding of and production techniques for steroid drugs, using native Mexican plant sources as raw materials. In 1951, Syntex synthesized the first effective oral contraceptive substance (norethindrone). Under his direction the firm went on to become the leading supplier of the oral contraceptive pill ("the pill") and other corticoids, changing social structures all over the world. The company's research centre eventually relocated to Palo Alto, California.

Rosenkranz's name is on more than 150 patents and more than 300 scientific research articles.

George Rosenkranz is survived by his wife, Edith, his sons Ricardo and Roberto, and nine grandchildren.

From the *ACBL Daily Bulletin*, *Science History Institute* and *The New York Times*.

Editorial - continued ...

settling for second place. The winners started with 18.02 VPs and needed almost 75% to win. Conversely, the LM Pairs winners scored 56%. It is certainly true that Swiss Teams winners typically score 10-20% higher than pairs winners, however, such a large percentage carryover in the Swiss Teams meant that the bottom two-thirds of the field going into the last day had virtually no chance to win, with the leaders more than a full match ahead of them and 15 teams between them and the leader. Indeed, the last-place qualifier was almost two full matches behind, a ridiculously large margin. Nevertheless, all 104 pairs in the final of the LM Pairs had a chance to win. Let's revise the Swiss Teams carryover formula.

And, by the way, the ACBL's 30-VP scale is better to determine a single winner, while the 20-VP scale is better to determine a group of qualifiers.



Correspondence

The Editor reserves the right to abridge and/or edit correspondence.
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Hi, John,

Just read your editorial in IBPA Bulletin 654 (*about multiple Team Trials – Ed.*). FYI, Australia holds Open Trials first (November), a month later Women's and Senior Trials simultaneously, and then six-seven weeks later Mixed Trials. Players who win a spot on a team are ineligible to compete in a later Trials.

Cheers, Ron Klinger, Northbridge, NSW

Hi John,

In June IBPA, page 19, Letters to the Editor, Hans Werge mentions his writing a weekly bridge column since February, 1968. I know that Len Dixon in Canberra has been writing for the Canberra Times for approximately 50 years. He's now about 95 or 96 years old and still writing! I reckon you could verify this with someone in Canberra, e.g., Tim Bourke.

Barb Travis, Adelaide

Tim enquired of Len Dixon and this was Len's reply ...

Hi Tim,

This is a link to Trove's copy of my first weekly column which appeared in *The Canberra Times* on Thursday 14 October 1968.

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/131677318?searchTerm=%22len%20dixon%22%20%22bridge%20notes%22&searchLimits=sortby=dateAsc>

I am happy to try to answer any further questions you and/or John Carruthers may have.

Regards, Len Dixon, Canberra
<ldixon@grapevine.com.au>

So, it appears that Hans preceded Len by a few months. Are there any other candidates out there? – Ed.

NEWS & VIEWS



Bridge in Chinese Schools

While perusing the Chinese Contract Bridge Association website, I came across this gem: the 2019 National Middle School Bridge Championships were held from August 1st to 5th at Chongqing Hechuan Middle School. Twenty-seven schools were entered in the High School Team Competition and 75(!) schools in the Junior High School Team Competition. More than double those numbers competed in pairs competitions.



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World Bridge Calendar

2019

Aug 12-18	International Festival	Varna, Bulgaria	www.bridge.bg
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 21-30	Buzios Bridge	Armacao dos Buzios, Brazil	www.frankiebridgeholidays.com
Aug 22-25	7 th Kibic Open	Budapest, Hungary	kbbo.kibicbridge.com
Aug 23-25	16 th Batam International	Batam, Riau Islands, Indonesia	http://bridgekepri.com
Aug 23-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 6-11	Festival du Liban	Baada, Lebanon	bridgeliban@cyberia.net.lb
Sep 6-15	Guernsey Congress	Les Cotils, Channel Is.	www.ebu.co.uk
Sep 6-18	58 th International Festival	Pula, Croatia	http://pulabridgefestival.com/
Sep 13-15	Northern Lights Festival	Siglufordur, Iceland	www.vikingbridgeiceland.com
Sep 14-28	44 th World Championships	Wuhan, China	www.worldbridge.org
Sep 18-22	9 th Internationales de Marrakech	Marrakech, Morocco	www.bridge-marrakech.com
Sep 21-22	Città di Roma	Rome, Italy	www.torneocittadiroma.it
Sep 26-29	7 th Bodrum Festival	Bodrum, Turkey	www.tbicfed.tr
Sep 27-Oct 5	NZB National Congress	Hamilton, New Zealand	www.nzbridge.co.nz/congress/
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 2-6	Festival Internacional dos Açores	Azores Is., Portugal	https://fpbridge.pt
Oct 8-14	Sicily Overseas Congress	Palermo, Sicily, Italy	www.ebu.co.uk
Oct 9-13	Vilnius Cup	Vilnius, Lithuania	www.bridgescanner.com
Oct 9-16	The British Club International	Las Palmas, Canary Is., Spain	www.aebridge.com
Oct 11-12	Gold Cup Finals	London, England	www.ebu.co.uk
Oct 16-20	Jordan International Festival	Amman, Jordan	www.jordanbridgefederation.com
Oct 20-27	European Small Federations Champ.	Novi Sad, Serbia	www.eurobridge.org
Oct 24-31	5 th Festival de Bridge du Paris CC	Rueil-Malmaison, France	www.parisbridgefestival.com
Oct 29-31	KCBL Open	Seoul, South Korea	www.pabf.org
Oct 31-Nov 11	22 nd Madeira Open	Funchal, Madeira, Portugal	www.madeira-bridge.com
Nov 7-9	6 th Marbella International	Marbella, Spain	www.aebridge.com
Nov 7-17	Red Sea Festival	Eilat, Israel	www.bridgeredsea.com
Nov 14-16	18 th European Champions Cup	Bucharest, Romania	www.eurobridge.org
Nov 28-Dec 8	ACBL Fall NABC	San Francisco, CA	www.acbl.org
Nov 29-Dec 4	National Day Festival	Dubai, UAE	amr.mekky@hotmail.com
Dec 6-8	SBU Winter Congress	Peebles, Scotland	www.sbu.org.uk
Dec 6-8	Città di Milano	Milan, Italy	www.federbridge.it
Dec 14-16	Cape Town Festival	Cape Town, South Africa	www.sabf.co.za
Dec 27-30	Year End Congress	Blackpool, England	www.ebu.co.uk

2020

Jan 8-19	Summer Festival of Bridge	Canberra, Australia	www.abf.com.au
Jan 13-22	78 th International Tournament	St. Moritz, Switzerland	www.bridge-stmoritz.ch
Jan 25-31	Bermuda Regional	Southampton, Bermuda	www.bermudaregional.com
Jan 30-Feb 2	Reykjavik Bridge Festival	Reykjavik, Iceland	www.reykjavikbridgefestival.com
Feb 10-15	29 th Sun, Sea & Slams	Barbados	www.barbadosbridge.org
Feb 20-23	Slava Cup	Moscow, Russia	www.slavacup.com
Feb 21-29	Gold Coast Congress	Broadbeach, Australia	www.qldbridge.com.au
Feb 28-Mar 8	3 rd European Winter Games	Monte Carlo, Monaco	www.wintergames.bridgemonaco.com
Mar 5-8	Tórshavn Bridge Festival	Tórshavn, Faroe Islands	www.bridge.fo
Mar 18-28	ACBL Spring NABC	Columbus, Ohio	www.acbl.org
Mar 26-29	Tasmanian Bridge Festival	Launceston, Tasmania, Australia	www.abf.com.au
Jun 17-27	55 th Euro National Team Champs.	Funchal, Madeira Is., Portugal	www.eurobridge.org
Jul 16-26	ACBL Summer NABC	Montréal, Quebec	www.acbl.org
Nov 26-Dec 6	ACBL Fall NABC	Tampa, Florida	www.acbl.org