



BULLETIN

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THE INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE PRESS ASSOCIATION

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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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November 10, 2019

Elly Ducheyne 1938-2019



Elly at the dinner given for her on the occasion of her retirement as Press Room Manager, flanked by former IBPA President Henry Francis (left) and then-current IBPA President Patrick Jourdain (right).

On October 16, the sad news came to us that IBPA Honor Member and former Press Room Manager Elly Ducheyne passed away the day before at the age of 80. Elly was known to many of us as the Queen of the Press Room. She was a great hostess and made everybody feel welcome. For many years, she held this post with her husband René Ducheyne, who died in 1991. Elly retired from her position at the end of 2003, at which time her brother Jan Swaan took over.

Elly also organised the Forbo Invitational in Scheveningen in the Netherlands, for many years one of the top tournaments in the world. I (JC) have the fondest memories of Elly and the Forbo. Condolences have been pouring in to us and to Jan Swaan. Here are a few:

Dear JS et al,

My first meeting with Elly happened in the Press Room in Santiago, Chile in 1993, during the Bermuda Bowl and the Venice Cup. Elly helped me out with faxing my press reports (I used to write for "The Hindu"; no

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laptops or even PCs then). And it was in 1993 that I joined the IBPA as a full member by paying my annual subscription to Elly!

During the subsequent years, I attended almost every world championship and our friendship grew. I was a house guest of Elly on more than one occasion in Den Haag. I enjoyed cooking Indian food for her, and I remember that she was especially fond of onion Bhajjis, which I was adept at cooking. I was also fortunate to spend time with Elly and her daughter Reini at Juan-les-Pins during one of the championships, where I played with Reini (who also, sadly, passed away some years back). Those were memories that I will always cherish.

Dilip Gidwani, Mumbai

Dear Friends,

I have just been informed by Anna about the passing away of Elly Ducheyne, unforgotten devoted manager of the Press Room of International Championships until 2003 and great friend of the bridge family.

Un abbraccio, Gianarrigo Rona, WBF President

Dear All,

We also heard the sad news yesterday. We have sent a letter of condolences to Jan and have prepared an obituary for the EBL website. Too much sad news lately.

Jan Kamras, EBL President

Dear All,

Sad news: On October 15, 2019, Elly Ducheyne passed away. She was 80.

<http://www.imp-bridge.nl/nieuws-archief/memoriam-elly-ducheyne>

The funeral is on Saturday, October 19. I will say some words on behalf of IBPA. If I am not mistaken Elly is an IBPA Honorary Member. Elly's husband René was IBPA President from 1986-1989.

Jan van Cleeff, The Hague

Jan/JC/et al,

Elly was a truly special person. She will be missed. During the 1980's I used to go to the Netherlands every two years or so to play in the best tournaments on the planet. Elly and René were always the most gracious hosts. This is a great loss to Dutch bridge, as well as world bridge. My condolences to the family.

Best Regards, Drew Cannell, Dollard-des-Ormeaux, Québec



IBPA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Monday morning, 23 September 2019, Wuhan China

Minutes

0. **Attendance:** 31 + 11 proxies (see list below)
1. **Establishing if we have a quorum:** We had a quorum.
2. **Election of the Chairman of the AGM.**
Barry Rigal was elected as Chairman. Proposed by David Stern, seconded by Ton Kooijman.
3. **Approval of the agenda**
Everybody approved. Proposed by John Carruthers and seconded by Ton Kooijman.
4. **Remembrance of deceased members**
Deceased are Anant Bhagwat and George Rosenkranz. We paid our respects with a minute of silence.
5. **Approval of the minutes of the AGM held on October 1 2018 Orlando USA**
Approved. Proposed by Ton Kooijman and seconded by Katie Thorpe.
6. **Officers' Reports**
The President Barry Rigal stated that the success of the IBPA is dependent on three aspects: (i) Number of members, (ii) Contributions to the IBPA Bulletin and (iii) Financial status. Thanks to sponsorship from the Hainan Festival we have financial stability and are able to provide more services to the members and

to make the Press Room a good place to work. He hopes for more contributions to the Bulletin and a greater visibility. There are 15 new members. The President thanked the Awards Committee and Jan Swaan, Monika Kummel, Francesca Canali and Elisabeth van Ettinger for their work in the Press Room and on the Daily Bulletin.

Chairman Per Jannersten reported the IBPA's good judicial and financial status. He emphasised the importance of bringing in a younger generation. The Organization needs more publicity and we need help to find younger writers.

7. Appointees' Reports

John Carruthers had the same report as every year. The Bulletin has run smoothly thanks to the help of Phillip Alder, P.O Sundelin and Katie Thorpe. He is thinking about retirement in maybe 4 or 5 years and would like to find a younger person to replace him.

The membership report by Katie Thorpe was attached. Total membership for 2019 is 211 plus the new members and renewals in Wuhan (15), of which 10 are honorary members and 30, sponsored members.

8. Treasurer's Report

In theory, we had a small loss, but this was due solely to the exchange rate between US dollars and the Euro. Expenses have gone down and sponsor money has gone up. Our economic situation is good. The report was attached. Moved by David Stern that the financial report be accepted as presented, seconded by Ton Kooijman. (*IBPA Financial Reports will be published next month. – Ed.*)

9. Budget for 2019

An idea is to use some of the money we have to translate a number of pages of the bulletin into Chinese. David Stern asked if the bulk of our money could be invested to get some interest. Due to the economic situation in the world, the only way to generate interest is to buy stocks. Marc DePauw strongly advised against this idea for our organization. Moved by David Stern and seconded by Ton Kooijman.

10. Approval of membership fee for 2019 & sponsored membership

It was proposed to keep the membership fee the same as last year, \$43, and half price for junior members. The IBPA would like to sponsor more active members. The definition of a active member is still: *Actively contributing members may have their dues sponsored fully or partly by the organisation, subject to annual approval by the AGM.* Approved nem con.

11. Elections

Proposed for annual re-election were:

Hon. Auditor: Richard Fleet (England). Approved.

Hon. General Counsel: David Harris. Approved.

Proposed for election to the Executive until 2022 are:

Jan van Cleeff (Netherlands), Brent Manley (USA), & Francesca Canali (Italy). Approved.

All candidates were elected on a show of hands, nem con.

12. The IBPA Annual Awards

Three awards were presented at the AGM, all the others were presented at the Hainan Bridge Festival.

The Masterpoint Press Book of the Year award was won by Juppe Juhl for his book: *Master of Bridge Psychology: Inside the Remarkable Mind of Peter Fredin.*

Simon Cochemé received the Alan Truscott Memorial reward for his humorous articles over the last two decades.

The John E. Simon award for Sportsmanship was won by The Australian Junior team. After their match against Japan, which they won by 1 IMP, they discovered a scoring error of 1 IMP. They immediately brought this to the attention of the Tournament Director. Since this meant that the match was now a draw, they had to play four extra boards. After this, the Australians did win the match.

13. Any other competent business:

We still need someone who is willing to occupy himself or herself with our Facebook page. At the moment nothing has been posted for two years.

David Stern confirmed that all IBPA journalists should have access to a program to convert BBO LIN files to Word. He will be writing an article for IBPA in the near future.

List of attendees to the AGM

Barry Rigal, Brent Manley, Brian Senior, Christian Vennerød, David Harris, David Stern, Elisabeth van Ettinger, Fernando Lema, Gianarrigo Rona, Herman De Wael, J. J. Wang, Jan Swaan, Jie (Jerry) Li, John Carruthers, John Wignall, Jon Egil Furunes, Katie Thorpe, Marc De Pauw, Marc van Beijsterveldt, Marek Pietreszek, Marek Wojcicki, Mark Horton, Mirosław Cichocki, Per Jannersten, Trine Furunes, Ton Kooijman, Fu Qiang, Monika Kummel, Francesca Canali, Bo Bilde, Jan Nielsen
Proxies: Patrice Foulon, Bob Pitts, Allan Falk, Dilip Gidwani, Nicolas Hammond, Jan van Cleeff, Pierre Schmidt, Andrew Robson, Tony Forrester, Malgorzata Maruszkin



The venue for this year's Norwegian Pairs Championship was the Storefjell Hotel, spectacularly situated 1001 metres above sea level. Fifty-four pairs fought it out for podium places over the weekend of September 20th through the 22nd. The result was a comfortable win for Jo Arne Ovesen and Sam Inge Høyland, 200 matchpoints ahead of our very capable junior pair of Tor Eivind Grude and Christian Bakke, in second place.

Anton Gunnarson landed this slam contract by means of table presence and technique:

Dealer East. Both Vul.

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

A brief auction led to a sensible contract, which normally would have been a little better than on one of two finesses succeeding:

West	North	East	South
—	Olsen		Gunnarson
—	—	Pass	1♦
Pass	1♠	Pass	2NT
Pass	4NT	Pass	6♦
Pass	Pass	Pass	

West led the two of spades to the ten and king. Gunnarson played a heart to the ace and a trump to the knave, losing to the king. When a heart was returned and not a second spade, Gunnarson correctly assumed that the spade length was with East and that his only chance was a squeeze. He cashed his trumps and the king of hearts, and with one trump remaining, the situation was:

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

Declarer played his last trump, discarding dummy's knave of spades, and East was left powerless.

The Ueland brothers, twins Daniel and David, performed well on the following deals. Daniel finished in seventh place, and showed his expertise as declarer here:

Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Stangeland	Ovesen	Daniel U.	Høyland
—	—	—	1♣
1♦	Double	Redouble	1♠
Pass	2♣	2♥	Pass
3♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

The champion-to-be, Sam Inge Høyland, led the ace of clubs. He continued with the only defence that could cause problems, the king and a third club. Ueland handled it almost perfectly. He ruffed in dummy, discarding a diamond, cashed the ace of trumps and played a diamond to North's ace. He trumped the club return, played the ace, king of spades, then trumped a spade. Finally, he cashed a diamond and played his last diamond. North trumped it, but was forced to lead trumps to Ueland's king-jack of hearts. The finesse of the jack secured the contract.

The way it went, North could have defeated three hearts by winning the diamond ace and exiting with a diamond, denying declarer the trump reduction.

David Ueland showed his colours as a defender on this deal, partnering John Helge Herland:

Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Larsen	David U.	Gunleifsen	Herland
—	—	—	Pass
1♣	1♦	Double	1♠
2♥	Pass	4♥	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Ueland led his singleton spade, won by dummy's ace. Declarer played a trump to the king and a diamond, correctly ducked by Ueland. Larsen took two more rounds of trumps and played the club ace and a club to the queen. Daniel now made the master play of ducking again! When declarer ruffed a club in the dummy and led a spade, South won and led a diamond. As long as the defence did not give declarer a second diamond trick or a second spade trick, there was then no way for declarer to land his contract. Ueland/Stangeland were the only pair to earn a plus score on the North/South cards. Ueland received the prize for the best deal of the tournament for his ducking efforts.

Declarer could have succeeded by playing for a second diamond trick, discarding spades from hand.



Hainan Bridge Festival Challenge Match 2018 vs. 2019 IBPA Award Winners Barry Rigal, New York

The 2018 award winners had brought back Boye Brogeland, Wang Wenfei, Shen Qi and Jian-Jian Wang, augmented by the ex-officio Ping Nie Wei and Barry Rigal. They would take on Liam Milne/Michael Whibley, Kevin Rosenberg/Michal Klukowski, Steve Robinson/

Peter Boyd, and Fernando Lema/Pablo Ravenna. J.J. Wang and Shen Qi would come in for the second half, each of the four pairs in the other team taking it in turns and playing half the four-set, 48-board match.

The first quarter was a very low scoring affair. Each team had one accident (resulting in a penalty of 1100 against a vulnerable game in one case and playing the wrong major-suit game in the other), but I missed a chance when on lead to the following slam:

West	North	East	South
Rigal	Milne	Brogeland	Whibley
—	—	Pass	1♥
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♥
Pass	3♥	Pass	3NT ¹
Pass	4NT ²	Pass	5♠ ³
Pass	6♥	All Pass	

1. Spade control and extras
2. RKCB
3. 2 key cards and the heart queen

On lead as West, holding:

♠ 9 7 4 2
♥ 9 6 4 3
♦ 10 7 2
♣ Q 7

I had to decide whether to play my partner for decent spades and a side-entry or decent clubs. The latter seemed clearly better to me – all it required was the club ace and declarer might have been on a guess.

However, you need to lead a LOW club, as this is the full story:

Board 8. Dealer East. Neither Vul.

<p>♠ Q 10 ♥ A 10 ♦ A K 8 6 5 3 ♣ K J 2</p> <p>♠ 9 7 4 2 ♥ 9 6 4 3 ♦ 10 7 2 ♣ Q 7</p>	<p>♠ 8 6 5 3 ♥ 8 ♦ J 4 ♣ A 10 9 8 5 4</p> <p>♠ A K J ♥ K Q J 7 5 2 ♦ Q 9 ♣ 6 3</p>
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The club queen will not test declarer unduly, but do you fancy being faced with the club guess, knowing that if you put in the jack and West has underled the ace, it will be written up all over China?

Fortunately, our team-mates Wang Wenfei and Ping Nie Wei (the latter being one of the most famous Go players in the world and an excellent bridge player), had been able to diagnose the problem and played six notrump from the North seat.



Combatants (l. to r.) Wang Wenfei, Kevin Rosenberg, Ping Nie Wei and Michal Klukowski are all smiles before the match.

West	North	East	South
Rosenberg	Ping	Klukowski	Wang W.
—	—	Pass	1♣ ¹
Pass	2♦ ²	Pass	2♥
Pass	3♦	Pass	3♥
Pass	4♣ ³	Double	4♥
Pass	4NT ⁴	Pass	5♠ ⁵
Pass	6NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

1. Precision: 16+ HCP
2. 5 + diamonds, 8+ HCP
3. Club control, agrees hearts
4. RKCB
5. 2 key cards and the queen of hearts

We led by 3 IMPs, 16-13, after one set. The second set was a far-wilder affair with nearly three times as many IMPs changing hands. We went into the last two deals of the stanza down 11.

Board 23. Dealer South. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Brogeland	Rosenberg	Rigal	Klukowski
—	—	—	1♥
4♠	5♥	5♠	Pass
Pass	6♥	6♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		

West	North	East	South
Lema	Wang W.	Ravenna	Ping
—	—	—	1♥
Double	4♥	4♠	5♥
5♠	6♥	Pass	Pass
Double	Pass	Pass	Pass

The two different actions by West made a huge difference when both Norths took the winning decision to bid on to six hearts. In one room, it was clear for East to pass the buck, facing a good hand. In the other, it sounded like West might have been 7-5 or 7-4 with good spades, in which case six spades or six hearts might have been cold ... at least that is my excuse. That cost my side 9 IMPs and we trailed by 20 IMPs going into the last deal of the quarter.

It was a freak, and Ping handled it with aplomb ...

Board 24. Dealer West. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Brogeland	Rosenberg	Rigal	Klukowski
2♠	Pass	4♠	7♣
7♠	Pass	Pass	Double
Pass	Pass	Pass	
West	North	East	South
Lema	Wang W.	Ravenna	Ping
2♠	Pass	4♠	6♣
6♠	Double	Pass	7♣
Pass	Pass	Double	Redouble
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Ping is obviously a terrific poker player! At our table, Rosenberg gave a little thought to seven notrump but wisely resisted the urge, collecting 500. In the other room, South was happy to settle for what he could get in six clubs and be pushed to seven if his opponents insisted. They did, and we gained 2160 on the deal (19 IMPs), but lost the set by 1 IMP, to carry forward a 2-IMP lead into the second half of the match. I passed my responsibilities over to JJ Wang and could then blame everyone else should we lose the match.

Not so fast ... I went back to my room to write up the match and got an urgent phone call two hours later. Shen Qi had fallen ill. I was needed back for the last quarter, but we were now down 40-odd IMPs.

Oh well, another chance to play with one of the great players in the world. How bad could that be?

This unfortunate deal came up in that fourth quarter:

Board 42. Dealer East. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Brogeland</i>	<i>Robinson</i>	<i>Rigal</i>	<i>Boyd</i>
<i>Milne</i>	<i>Wang WF</i>	<i>Whibley</i>	<i>JJ Wang</i>
—	—	1♠	Pass
2♥	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♥	Pass	3NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Both Easts played in an awkward three notrump (yes, four hearts, needing only 4-3 hearts, is better). Each declarer had telegraphed the low diamond lead. Declarer ducked the first two diamonds and won the third. Whibley cashed the spade ace-king, then led a club to the ten, hoping he could set up hearts. Down 100.

I ducked a spade instead of cashing the ace-king and, when North won and played back a high spade, I too had no option but to lead a club to the ten and play to establish hearts. North won and had a diamond to cash.

Winning lines generally involve leading a club to the ace early on to play a spade to the ten.

We did actually win a very low-scoring fourth set 14-5, thus taking two of the four sets, but losing the match by 30 IMPs.



The One and Only Defender
Ron Klinger, Northbridge, NSW

Bobby Levin (East) and Steve Weinstein (West) produced a superb defence to defeat four hearts on the following deal from the Bermuda Bowl Quarterfinals. They were the only ones to beat four

hearts across all four divisions of the World Team Championships in Wuhan..

Bermuda Bowl Quarterfinals. England v. USAI
Board 68. Dealer West. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Weinstein	Malinowski	Levin	Bakshi
3♦	Double	4♦	Double
Pass	4♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Levin (East) gauged from the North/South bidding that they had length in both majors. He therefore led the ace of spades: two, six, jack. He continued with the spade nine (suit-preference for diamonds!): four, heart five, spade queen. Trusting partner, Steve Weinstein (West) switched to the nine of diamonds (suit-preference for spades = "I have another trump."): ten, jack, two. The five-of-spades return, ruffed by West, spelled defeat for four hearts, East/West plus 100.

The contract was four hearts at four other tables in the Bermuda Bowl, but declarer was South each time and every West led a diamond winner with the result of North/South plus 620. It was a similar story in the three other events (Venice Cup, d'Orsi Trophy, Wuhan Cup), where the board was played 17 times (at the 24 tables) in four hearts, making 10 or 11 tricks.

The One and Only Declarer
Mark Horton, Shrewsbury, Shrops.

This deal from the opening round of the World Team Championships saw many double-digit swings:

Board 8. Dealer West. Neither Vul.

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

On a bad day, you might go down in three notrump after a diamond lead, a fate that befell several players, including one multiple world champion. Six clubs was attempted several times, but when a diamond was led no one had enough information to get the trumps right.

A couple of declarers were favoured by the lead of the queen of spades, after which only the overtrick was at issue.

At two tables, one in the Venice Cup, the other in the Bermuda Bowl, the opening lead against six clubs was a heart. Declarer won with the king and cashed the top trumps. When the queen of clubs declines to put in an appearance, the winning line is to play a third round of trumps, pitching a diamond, and knocking out the queen. Then, win the likely diamond exit, cash the ace of hearts, ruff a heart and continue with two more rounds of trumps to reach this position:

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

When declarer plays the last trump, South must part with a spade. Having done its work, the nine of hearts is discarded from dummy and declarer scores three spade tricks.

In the match between Sweden and Israel, the latter did make 12 tricks after a diamond lead – but they were only in five clubs. Sweden's Fredrik Nyström followed this line in six clubs to pick up a big swing. Alas, the Venice Cup declarer could not find the winning line.

The One and Only Defence

Brian Senior, Nottingham

Board 31. Dealer South. NS Vul.

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

Here is a deal from the 27th European Youth Team Championships in Stokke, Norway, this past summer. It comes from the Under-26 match between the Netherlands and Poland, two of the favourites for the title. At one table ...

West	North	East	South
<i>J. Patreuha</i>	<i>Kiljan</i>	<i>P. Patreuha</i>	<i>Tijssen</i>
—	—	—	Pass
1♥	3♣	3♥	Pass
4♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

Kiljan cashed the king of clubs, then switched to his spade. Though he was given his ruff, that was all for the defence; ten tricks for minus 420.

At the other table ...

West	North	East	South
<i>Sprinkhuizen</i>	<i>Marcinowski</i>	<i>De Leon</i>	<i>Sobczak</i>
—	—	—	Pass
1♥	2♣	2NT ¹	Pass
4♣	Pass	4♥	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. Limit raise in hearts, 3+ trumps

Marcinowski led his singleton spade, knowing that there could be at most one club to be cashed. Sobczak won with the ace and dealt his partner a ruff. Marcinowski underled the ace-king-queen of clubs to put South back in with the jack to give him a second ruff. Very nicely done and the outcome was down one for minus 50 and 10 IMPs to Poland.

Jos Jacobs reported that the same defence was found by 15-year-old Ronald Goor of the Netherlands in their match against Germany in the Under-21s.



OZ BRIDGE

Ron Klinger,
Northbridge, NSW
www.ronklingerbridge.com
Barbara Travis,
Adelaide, SA

A Rarity (RDK)

Board 12. Dealer West. NS Vul.

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

The following deal, from the Spring Nationals in Sydney, arose in the Bobby Evans Senior Teams and the Linda Stern Women's Teams.

The results in the Women's Teams ranged from plus 750 North/South in five clubs doubled (queen of spades lead to the ace, spade ruff, two high trumps, diamond, East carelessly allowing West's king to hold), to plus 980 East/West in six spades (diamond or club lead, won by East, heart ducked). The datum was minus 280 North/South.

In the Senior Teams, the best result was achieved by a North/South pair who was allowed to play in three notrump which, you'll notice, is cold for ten tricks on the lie of the cards. At every other table, spades was declared, 14 times by East and once by South (yes, that's no typo) on the auction one heart-pass-one spade-three spades-all pass, somehow down only six, minus 600. The datum here was minus 240 North/South.

At Table 1 in our match:

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	1♠	3♠ ¹
4♠	4NT ²	5♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. Asking for a spade stopper for 3NT
2. Offer to play

At Table 2:

West	North	East	South
1♥	Pass	1♠	2♣
2♠	Pass	5♣ ¹	Pass
5♦ ²	Pass	5♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. Exclusion key-card ask
2. 0 key cards outside clubs

That resulted in plus 450 for East/West at both tables, no swing. However, although five spades is cold for East/West, four notrump is unbeatable for North/South. That means that five notrump doubled is the par spot: that's a vulnerable sacrifice against the non-vulnerable five spades. South at Table 1 in our match actually had a chance to find it. Have you ever seen five notrump bid as a winning sacrifice, especially at unfavourable vulnerability?

Junior Bidding, Mature Play (BT)

Two ex-Youth players, who may well have another chance at Youth bridge with the advent of the Under 31-Championship, played together in the

Dick Cummings Open Pairs at the Spring National Championships in Sydney in October.

Both come from slightly remote country locations: Jarrad Dunbar lives in Whyalla, which is more than a four-hour drive from Adelaide, South Australia; Charles McMahon comes from Wagga Wagga, which is a five-hour drive from Sydney. Obviously, from the evidence of the following deal, they have read books on declarer play, rather than learning stylish bidding methods.

Dealer West. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
	Dunbar		McMahon
1♦	Pass	1♥	2NT ¹
3♥	4♠	Double	Pass
Pass	Pass		
	1. 5-5 in spades and clubs		

Fortunately for Dunbar, East led his singleton diamond. Declarer won with the ace and cashed the queen of spades, allowing for a 4-1 break with East (where he could double finesse if East held jack-ten-to-four spades). North led a spade towards dummy, finessing the nine. He continued with a club towards his ace-jack, West splitting his honours and the ace of clubs winning the trick. Dunbar now showed great forethought. He drew the last two trumps with dummy's ace and king, and on the king of spades, he discarded the potentially blocking jack of clubs. He was relying on the clubs either breaking 3-3 or there being a doubleton eight. Then he could continue establishing his club suit whilst also retaining trump control of the deal. He made five spade tricks, four club tricks and the ace of diamonds for ten tricks and plus 590.

Note that declarer could not have continued with the jack of clubs after winning with the ace, since West would have won and cashed two diamonds, with East discarding his remaining club. West would then have given East a club ruff for one off.



IBPA Column Service

Tim Bourke, Canberra



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

973. Dealer North. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
—	Pass	Pass	2NT ¹
Pass	3NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			
1. 20-21 points			

West led the jack of spades. When dummy came down, declarer could count six top tricks. The obvious plan was to play on clubs to develop the three extra tricks required. So, declarer took the opening lead with the ace of spades and ran the ten of clubs, which held the trick. Declarer continued with the queen of clubs, West discarding an encouraging diamond, and East found the good, if easy, defence of ducking a second time.

After a short pause to assess the situation, declarer then led the four of clubs to dummy's ace and played another club, jettisoning the king of spades from his hand.

East won with his king of clubs and, in response to West's signal, shifted to the nine of diamonds. Declarer played low from hand and West won the trick with the queen and exited with the eight of hearts. Declarer played low from dummy and won the trick with his king. He continued with a low diamond toward dummy. West took this with the

king of diamonds and played his remaining heart to the jack, queen and ace. Declarer led the six of diamonds to dummy's jack, which was now good. That was his seventh trick; the queen of spades and the nine of clubs were his eighth and ninth.

974. Dealer West. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
5♣	6♣	Pass	6♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

North might have doubled five clubs for takeout, then followed up with five notrump to bring the majors into play if South had responded with five diamonds, but the thought of playing in five clubs doubled when six of a major rated to be a good contract did not appeal to him.

Against six hearts, West led the ace of clubs. When dummy, appeared, declarer could see 13 tricks unless a major suit was 4-0. So, after ruffing the opening lead with dummy's two of trumps, declarer cashed the ace of trumps. West's discard of a club was hardly a bombshell but, at least, it made the limit of the hand just 12 tricks rather than the hoped-for 13.

Declarer next cashed the ace of spades, expecting to see that suit behave. Alas, West threw a club and declarer now had only 11 sure winners. He saw that

he could still make the contract if East had begun with precisely 4=4=3=2 distribution. So, declarer crossed to hand with a trump to the queen to ruff his remaining club. When East followed, declarer's plan was still alive.

All that remained was to cash the king of trumps followed by the ace, king and queen of diamonds in that order. When East produced a third diamond, declarer knew he was home: he endplayed East by leading the eight of trumps from hand, throwing the seven of spades from dummy. East had to win this with the jack of trumps and had only spades remaining. Dummy's king-queen-ten of spades took the last three tricks for the contract.

975. Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

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

This deal came up in a team game, where the auction was the same at both tables. Both West players began with the three top diamonds, East having signalled an even number of cards in the suit.

At the first table, declarer ruffed the third diamond in dummy. East overruffed and exited with a trump. Declarer won this with the queen of trumps, drew the remaining defensive trump with the king, and took the club finesse. Alas for him, East produced the queen; that was the fourth defensive trick, for down one.

At the second table, declarer saw that if he ruffed the third diamond, East would likely win the trick by overruffing dummy. If that came to pass, declarer would almost certainly need the club finesse for the contract. So, instead, declarer threw the four of clubs from dummy on the third round of diamonds, East discarding a spade.

West shifted to the ten of spades at trick four. Declarer took this in hand with the ace and cashed the ace of trumps, revealing that the suit was not 4-0. Declarer drew trumps, cashed the king-ace of

clubs and ruffed a club in dummy for his game-going trick.

976. Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

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

1. Forcing

South thought that North was a little ambitious in the bidding, feeling that a jump to three spades would have been quite sufficient.

West led the ten of trumps against this delicate venture. Declarer counted five likely trump winners, two aces and at best one diamond ruff in dummy. Thus, the only hope was for trumps to be 3-2 and clubs 4-3 with the ace onside. If that were the case, declarer would need to ruff two clubs in hand. So, declarer took the opening lead with dummy's queen of trumps, crossed to hand with a diamond to the ace and led a club toward dummy's king.

West took the trick with the ace of clubs and exited with the two of trumps. Declarer won the trick with dummy's jack of trumps and then ruffed a club in a hand. After ruffing a diamond in dummy, declarer ruffed a second club, this time with the king of trumps, and was pleased to see that the missing clubs were originally 4-3. Declarer continued by drawing West's last trump with the ace of spades, then crossed to dummy with a heart to the ace. After cashing the king of clubs for his ninth trick, declarer claimed a further trick by way of the established nine of clubs.

Note that the contract would have failed if declarer had not won both of West's trump leads in dummy. If he had not done so, he would have given West the chance to defeat the contract by shifting to a heart when in with the ace of clubs. Finally, had West ducked his ace of clubs, dummy's king would have won and declarer would have been able to ruff two diamonds in dummy.

Spotlight on the Spade

GeO Tislevoll, Auckland, New Zealand

Australian Jim Wallis is a bridge player with a strong aptitude for fun bridge hands where the point is often unusual. He is aptly described as a wily fox at the table. This is a deal he declared in the 2019 Australian National Championships – Bridge Fringe Festival.

Many top players later presented with the declarer problem spent many minutes without coming up with anything clever. At the table, Wallis found, quickly, so he could play in tempo, a play that brought home the doomed contract.

Board 26. Dealer East. Both Vul.

♠ K 5 2
♥ Q 8 7 5 3
♦ 10 7 5
♣ 10 5

♠ A 9 8 3
♥ A J 6 2
♦ J 9
♣ Q 6 2

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

1. Both majors

You may have a comment or two on the bidding, but leave that for now and try the challenge of playing three hearts as North. East cashes the ace and king of diamonds before switching to the spade queen. With two clubs and a spade to lose, it certainly looks like one down, and you may lose a trump trick as well. Can you see any chance?

Here was the full deal ...

♠ K 5 2
♥ Q 8 7 5 3
♦ 10 7 5
♣ 10 5

♠ 7 6 4
♥ 9 4
♦ Q 8 6 4 3
♣ A K 9

♠ Q J 10
♥ K 10
♦ A K 2
♣ J 8 7 4 3

♠ A 9 8 3
♥ A J 6 2
♦ J 9
♣ Q 6 2

On the spade queen switch, it smoothly went low, low and low from North as well – the closed hand. Winning with the spade queen totally lulled East into a wrong

view of the deal. Switching to a club did not look tempting at all from East's holding. When he continued spades, Wallis won, cleared the trumps with a finesse, followed by the ace. Then he could cash two spade tricks and discard a club – nine tricks.

One may argue that West's card to the second diamond trick (when the last diamond in dummy goes away) should be a suit preference signal. Also, perhaps West's card on the first round of spades could be possible for East to read. None of this takes away the beauty of Wallis' simple and logical move that painted a wrong picture for the defender.

Let's move to the other side of the globe to look at another nice declarer play, this one by the rising Norwegian star, Christian Bakke, who is only 23 years old.

This deal is from a recent team event, the Scandic Maritim Cup in Haugesund, Norway.

Dealer East. EW Vul.

♠ A 10 9 7 6 5 2
♥ A 9 2
♦ A 6
♣ K

♠ Q J 4 3
♥ K J 7 6 4
♦ 3
♣ A 8 6

♠ 8
♥ 10 8 3
♦ K Q J 9 7 5
♣ 9 5 2

♠ K
♥ Q 5
♦ 10 8 4 2
♣ Q J 10 7 4 3

West	North	East	South
Nesdal	Bakke	Rekstad	Ekren
—	—	Pass	Pass
1♥	4♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

East led the king of diamonds. The good news was that the trump king was still in dummy as an entry but, when Bakke won the first trick with the diamond ace and played the club king, West found the best defence by ducking. If West takes the king of clubs with the ace, declarer will be able to enter dummy to cash two club tricks. He will get two quick discards for red-suit losers before the fourth round of clubs puts pressure on West. If West ruffs in, he will lose one of his trump tricks. If he doesn't, North's last red-suit loser will disappear, so it would have been ten tricks either way.

When West ducked the king of clubs, the loss of a club trick for the defence looked like a good exchange for three defensive red-suit winners. Together with two trump tricks, that would have set the contract two tricks. One for three is not bad, but it was not to be.

Bakke saw that, to make the contract at that point, West must have no more diamonds and be the victim of an

endplay. After the club king won the trick, Bakke played the spade five to the king. The club queen was covered by the ace and ruffed with the spade six. Without the carefully kept trump deuce an endplay might still work if West is not on the ball. After ruffing out the club ace, declarer plays the spade ace and another, and West gets two trump tricks with his queen-jack before he must lead away from his heart king (or play a club). The declarer gets an entry to dummy to enjoy the clubs for red-suit discards.

However, West can make another sacrifice by unblocking big spades, giving up one of his two trump tricks. The defender wants to exit with the spade three to force declarer to play the rest from North with two heart losers and a diamond loser; one down. West's giving up one of his trump tricks – one trick – gives the defenders three more tricks! But Bakke was prepared for such an unblock. The carefully kept trump deuce ensured that West had no move to beat the contract. This was the position, if West had unblocked trumps:

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

North plays the trump ten; West wins and tries to exit with the three, but North follows with the two!

As the play went, Bakke made 11 tricks by losing only two trump tricks. If, double-dummy, you saw at once that the spade two was the most important card on this deal, you are a very strong player. Bakke saw it at the table, only seeing the North and South cards. Don't be surprised if you hear more of Christian Bakke in the coming years.



Lack of Finesse Tom Townsend, London

The Bridge Great Britain Gold Cup concluded recently at the Young Chelsea Bridge Club. There was one quarter-final match played on the Friday, in which Simon

Gillis's squad, packed with Norwegian and Irish talent, beat Andrew Black's by 47 IMPs.

Dealer South. Neither Vul.

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

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

1. Roman Key Card Blackwood
2. 1 or 4 key cards

Glyn Liggins, the only British-born pro in the Gillis lineup, showed me Board 1. Liggins (South) had an immediate decision as dealer. With no weak two diamonds available, his options were one diamond, three diamonds and pass. The pre-empt did not appeal with four spades, but a diamond bid felt natural. "Points, schmoints", as he tells them at the Acol Club; Liggins bid one diamond. After double, redouble and one heart from East, Liggins rebid one spade to show his distributional minimum. With a sound hand in this position, opener passes first. There was now no stopping below slam.

The king of hearts was led. Liggins took the ace. Expecting bad breaks after the double, he embarked upon a cross-ruff. He took the ace of diamonds, felling the lone queen, and played three rounds of clubs, dropping a heart and ruffing the third in hand. The jack of diamonds was ruffed low and overruffed. Liggins ruffed a club and advanced the king of diamonds, again ruffed low and overruffed. A heart ruff left this position:

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

Liggins ruffed the five of diamonds as West discarded the ten of hearts, ruffed the jack of hearts with the jack of spades and played a diamond. He scored the king of spades *en passant* for his twelfth trick.

To stop the slam as the play went, West must ruff the five of diamonds with the ten of spades! Declarer overruffs in dummy, ruffs a heart and plays a diamond. West now ruffs in with the ace of spades, allowing East to win the last trick with his promoted spade three over dummy's two. To make six spades by force, South must finesse the jack of clubs at trick three.

Almost a Perfect Story

Karlis Rubins, Sigulda, Latvia

Latvia and Estonia have a joint national team-trials tournament. This year, it was held at the beginning of October in Parnu, Estonia, and had seven pairs from Latvia and 15 pairs from Estonia competing. The tournament was played as a 21-match, full round robin, with the pairs getting points for their good performance in this event coupled with points each pair had gathered previously in other tournaments. The two pairs with most points from each nation were granted the right to represent their country in the next European championship.

I played this tournament with Martins Lorencs, with whom I had previously represented Latvia in the Open Team. We had not played much together for the last year as we'd been mostly focused on the Mixed Teams, but thought perhaps we could qualify for next year's National Open Team.

During our match against Estonian Open Team players Oja/Maripuu, I had an almost-perfect story for my first article for the IBPA Bulletin. Sitting in fourth seat with everybody vulnerable, I was dealt this hand: ♠K42, ♥8643, ♦AQJ2, ♣K10. My left-hand opponent opened with one notrump (15-17), my partner and I were silent, and my RHO bid two clubs (Stayman). That was followed by two diamonds (no four-card major) and three notrump from the responder. My partner led the seven of spades (third and fifth) and the dummy came down with:

Board 54. Dealer South. NS Vul.

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

My partner led the seven of spades. Declarer played low from dummy and I played the four (partner could not have the ace; there were not enough HCP in the

deck) and Oja took the first trick with the eight. After a little thought, he played the ace of clubs, three, two, ten, and the eight of clubs, five, four, king. The distribution and high-card layout were almost certain: declarer had ♠Ax8, ♥Kxx, ♦Kxxxx, ♣A8 and maybe one or both major-suit jacks.

If my partner had the jack of spades (likely) and the ten of diamonds, we could defeat this contract if I switched to a diamond. However, if my partner had the nine of diamonds instead of the ten, we might be able to defeat three notrump if I switched to the two of diamonds. After due consideration, I switched to the two of diamonds and declarer took a long time before finally playing a low diamond. My partner took the trick with the seven.

This would have been a perfect story if my partner had returned a diamond but, also knowing declarer was 3=3=5=2 or 3=2=6=2, West returned the spade seven, five, two, ten. Declarer led the king of hearts and the nine of hearts to the queen, then led the jack of clubs to set up the suit. West won with his queen and led another spade, so declarer took three spades, three hearts and three clubs for nine tricks. The full deal looked like this:

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

The results of the tournament can be found here: <http://www.bridge.ee/res/KV/kv19.htm>

The Trash Notrump

Michael Akeroyd, Guiseley, Yorks., UK

Round of 32, Diamond vs. Demirev

Board 14. Dealer East. Neither Vul.

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

An uncommon trash forcing-notrump was played by John Diamond in the 2018 Vanderbilt and immediately reached the dizzying heights of a mention in the IBPA Bulletin (No. 639, April 2018).

In the Open Room, the bidding was orthodox: East bid one spade, followed by two passes, then North protected with two clubs and raised South's invitational two-notrump to three.

In the Closed Room, John Diamond, as West, bid a forcing one-notrump over one spade; North two clubs, two diamonds from partner Brian Platnick and a penalty double from South. A minus 300 score, but 3 IMPs to Diamond.

What was Diamond thinking when he made this bid? Well, South obviously had a decent hand, but had failed to bid, presumably because of values in spades, so North will be prepared to protect. So, there is an opportunity for a semi-psychic one notrump, normally 5-12 points, to try and put off the opponents from bidding three notrump. Remember that, playing five-card majors, there is a 26% chance that a one-of-a-major opening is actually a six-card suit and, if East had opened a maximum weak two-bid, we would think that two spades was a sensible contract to be in. Also, if East had opened a Flannery Two Diamonds, we would think two hearts was an acceptable contract; similarly if East rebids two hearts over one notrump.

Only if the contract is three clubs or three diamonds doubled (after a non-forcing Strong-Club jump shift by East) and a phantom sacrifice does the one-point overbid get punished. So, John Diamond has cemented bridge theory or, at least, roughhouse bridge theory, and other players should copy him.

Well, you might say, they cannot do that else they will be accused of having a private understanding with their partner. No, they will not, IF they declare on their convention card that they are playing a 4-12 point one notrump response. Well, you might say, no national bridge league will legalise a convention as obstructive as John Diamond's hand above.

No, I will say, the bid is constructive. Consider the two hands:

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

Andrew Robson, England's strongest player, would open one spade with East's hand and he would not want the bidding to go pass, pass, pass (he allowed in a private communication). Replace the club six with even the club king and Zia Mahmood has been known to bid one spade as well (see *English Bridge*, Oct 2016, page 48).

Why open one spade rather than two clubs? Well, to show distribution, which is more difficult after a two-club opening. After two clubs—two diamonds—two spades—two notrump—three hearts—four hearts, how does East investigate a slam? In the days before the invention of Exclusion Blackwood, it was simple: East is strong enough to bid five diamonds, showing an ace or a void and drawing attention to West's potential spade king. But these days, East might think it was exclusion RKCB based on ♠AQJ987 ♥KQJ742 ♦ — ♣K and the partnership would stop in five hearts. Okay, you might say, have a discussion with your regular partner that you will never, ever use Exclusion RKCB. But you will often play with other players and it is a council of perfection to insist that Exclusion must be forbidden and remembered to be forbidden.

If you want to continue using a two-club opening bid in this situation, you must have an agreement with your partner that, on West's above hand, after two clubs—two diamonds—two spades—two notrump—three hearts, a bid of five hearts is essential. (*West might also raise two spades to three spades.* — Ed.)

The Rising Sun

David Turner, Toronto

I was thrilled to learn that my Japanese partner, Akiko Yanagisawa, (from my years in Japan) headed the Venice Cup Butler rankings in the World Team Championships in Wuhan. She was relatively unseasoned when we began to play, but clearly had great potential, and we won the NEC Pairs together one year. She shone as declarer on this deal against Canada in the final round of the qualifying matches, when Canada needed to blitz Japan to qualify for the quarterfinals:

Board 5. Dealer South. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Blank	Fukuyoshi	Wolpert	Yanagisawa
—	—	—	1♥
1♠	2♣	Pass	2♦
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♦
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Blank led the queen of spades (Rusinow). Akiko won with the ace and played a heart to the king, a club to the queen and the ace of clubs, pitching a spade. She next led the nine of diamonds, East covering with the ten, which declarer ducked, partner playing the eight. How should East continue?

The Canadian defender went wrong here, as Akiko had hoped, returning the jack of hearts to prevent a diamond ruff. Yanagisawa won and ducked a diamond to West's ace. West forced declarer with a spade; declarer took the tap, drew the remaining trumps and played the king and a low diamond, making ten tricks with one spade, five hearts, two diamonds and two clubs. That was nicely played.

At the other table

West	North	East	South
Kato	Bryant	Miyakuni	Nisbet
—	—	—	1♥
1♠	2♣	Pass	2♦
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♦
Pass	4♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			

The king of spades was led. Declarer won and played a diamond to the king and ace. East cashed a spade and shifted to a club, won by the ace. Declarer led another diamond. East won with the queen and forced declarer with a spade. In attempting to ruff diamonds in the dummy, declarer allowed West to ruff in front of the dummy twice. Declarer lost one spade, two hearts and two diamonds, off two for 13 IMPs to Japan.

While Yanagisawa did well to duck the ten of diamonds, I think it's possible (but not intuitive) to find the winning defence of tapping the two-suited declarer. If East had returned a spade when in with the ten of diamonds, declarer would have ruffed and led a low diamond to West's ace. Another spade, ruffed, would have left:

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

Declarer's only hope would have been to draw trumps and play diamonds, hoping forlornly that both red suits broke evenly.



Bridge players are probably not aware of the way in which their matchpoint scores are calculated for boards that are not played as many times as others in many events. This may occur where a board has been fouled, an average is awarded by the director, or a player becomes ill and has to leave the movement for a round or two. At the club level, it is more often due to the movement dictating the situation where some boards are played a different number of times.

The important and overriding requirement of any pairs tournament is that all boards in the event should be of equal value. Therefore, where some results are missing from a board, a method must be adopted to estimate the scores achieved by the players that is fair and equitable. It must be fair to the pairs that played the board and those who did not.

In 1991 the WBF, ACBL and others chose to adopt a method using the *Neuberg Formula*. The administrators arbitrarily chose this formula from a number of possibilities they had at the time.

At that time, other scoring program writers and I were not aware of, disagreed with, or chose to ignore this political decision. It seems clear that the mathematics of this decision were not properly understood at the time and the authorities chose to ignore any other mathematicians who disagreed with their decision.

The mathematics of this issue are not simple and generally not of interest to most, if not all, bridge players. When I recently presented a discussion paper to Peter Buchen (mathematician and Honorary Associate Professor, Sydney University) on the alternative to the *Neuberg Formula* known as the *Factor Method*, he took a much closer look at the problem. His findings are very interesting, if not surprising.

So there we have it. The *Neuberg Formula* has been in use for about 27 years in bridge tournaments around the world and yet there is no clear reason for using this method. In fact there is no clear mathematical reason for using any of the methods available.

In many situations the alternative called the *Factor Method* is simpler, just as statistically correct as any other method and very easy to understand by all bridge players. This cannot be said about the *Neuberg*

Formula. It is time for the administrators of bridge to review this decision.

Please view this link to see my discussion paper on this subject.

<http://www.asecomputing.com/Downloads/OnEstimatingMatchpoints.pdf>

There you will find that all the alternative methods to this problem are based on the same mathematics. In addition I have supplied another method that I believe is better than the *Neuberg Formula* in many ways. None of the many choices are based on any mathematical certainty and yet the simplicity and accuracy of the easily understood *Factor Method* appears to have been rejected for no good reason.

Also view this link to see Peter Buchen's definitive paper on the mathematics of this subject. <http://www.asecomputing.com/Downloads/Neuberg.pdf>

NEWS & VIEWS



World Online Championship

The WBF has announced a new World Online Championship (WOC) beginning in 2020. Players will purchase tournament entries in batches to play on BBO, FunBridge or Synrey against robots. The plan is to have a player's best results count toward qualification for the WOC Final next fall at a venue to be determined. Details will be published as they are made available by the WBF.

There will be a test before going live that will offer two daylong tournaments (one IMPs one MPs), free of charge. These will be on **Thursday, December 12, 2019 played on the Funbridge WBF Robots site** (https://www.funbridge.com/play_bridge-against-computer).

LIN Converter

David Stern reminds us that there is a conversion program available to IBPA members who wish to convert BBO LIN files to Word for ease of writing bridge articles. Details were published in the January, 2019 IBPA Bulletin and, in any case, be acquired by emailing David at david.stern.bridge@gmail.com.

Teaching Bridge to Beginners

Amareh Deshpande has developed a new teaching tool which he has demonstrated at ACBL NABCs and the World Team Championships in Wuhan. Amaresh writes:

HOOL: A Stepping-Stone to Bridge

Children today learn very differently than they did before the age of the smartphone. Attention spans have shrunk dramatically, with the result that children become easily distracted. Learning is just not happening traditionally through books, lectures and tutorials as it once was.

Rather, children today largely learn through peer-to-peer shared experiences and self-discovery via trial and error. So, we have to re-think how bridge, with its huge learning curve, should be 'taught'. As is well known, the biggest problem that beginners have with bridge is with bidding.

Many years ago, MiniBridge appeared – but there is a big gap between MiniBridge and bridge – and often we lose students in the transition. Also, merely sharing HCPs – what MiniBridge does – in my opinion, just cannot stimulate any meaningful discussion about the unseen hands.

Thus the idea of HOOL emerged, in which the bidding is split into two separate stages – while the third stage is the cardplay just like bridge.

Stage 1: (Sequential) Information sharing

There are three types of information to choose from – HCP, hand pattern (longest suit first) and number of specific cards in any suit. All players must compulsorily share information about their hand, twice in sequence.

Stage 2: (Simultaneously) Bidding

All four players do the first round of bidding simultaneously, while the second and the third round (if necessary) of bidding is done simultaneously in pairs. Double and redouble is for penalty only. By making the bids simultaneously, 'system' is bypassed.

Stage 3: Cardplay, just like Bridge

Bridge-playing youth, whether in schools or universities, are our best bet to spread bridge to their non-bridge playing friends. HOOL was designed with a lot of input from juniors – and it is a game that even excites them to play. If these bridge-playing youth can engage their friends to pick up HOOL, then this will create the right environment for the bridge teacher to step in.

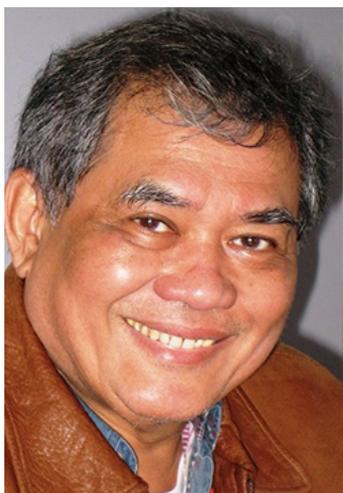
For this to happen, support is needed from NBOs in creating HOOL tournaments where school and university students can participate and thus connect them to the bridge world.

HOOL exists both as a board game as well as an online game. <http://youth.worldbridge.org/introducing-hool-by-amaresh-deshpande/>

The online version is currently in beta-test and can be played at: hool.org. For further information please contact: amaresh.deshpande@gmail.com.

Munawar Sawiruddin

November 29, 1948-July 24, 2019



Munawar Sawiruddin, longtime Indonesian international player and captain, died this past summer due to complications from previous surgeries. Munawar was a fixture at World Championships for the past four decades, either as a player or as an NPC of Indonesian teams. He always had a broad smile for everyone and was well-loved by all. Partner, teammate, and good friend Bert Toar Polii penned this eulogy. – Ed.

A Remembrance by Bert Toar Polii

Munawar's acquaintance with bridge came a bit late, when he was a university student in Makassar. After university, he moved to Jakarta and became interested in mastering the game completely. He left a rather prestigious position in one of the National Airlines and chose to build his own business while pursuing a career in bridge.

In 1995, Munawar played with me at the FEBF Championship in Perth and our team succeeded in qualifying for the 1995 Bermuda Bowl. However, in the following years, we were assigned to official duties: Munawar became NPC of the National Open Team. We were reunited in the Senior Team in 2013, Munawar being the partner of our sponsor, Bambang Hartono. But at crucial times, we were asked to play together. Unfortunately, he became ill in 2016, after a bad fall. He was operated on in August of 2016, but the operation failed, and Munawar declined further surgeries. Since then, he had been bedridden. The last time we were on a team together was in 2015 in Chennai, India.

Munawar leaves behind his beloved wife, Mildred Vera, two daughters, three sons and two grandchildren.

Max Bavin (1954-2019)



Max Bavin, Chief Tournament Director of the English Bridge Union (EBU), the European Bridge League (EBL) and World Bridge Federation (WBF) until his retirement in 2016, died suddenly on October 5, 2019. Upon his retirement, the WBF made him Honorary Head TD and awarded him their gold medal. Max was born on April 3, 1954 in Wigan, Lancashire, UK. He took up bridge in grammar school, its appeal quickly supplanting that of chess.

Eitan Levy of Israel says, "Max's knowledge and interpretation of the Laws of Bridge was unsurpassed. At international events, TD discussions and consultations about rulings invariably ended with, 'What is Max's opinion?' Max had the ability to immediately get to the core of the problem and see the whole picture. Until his retirement, he was active in training courses for EBL TDs. In the over 20 years that I worked with Max, I never heard one bad word said about him. He was an inspiration to all new directors and nearly all of today's top TDs were influenced and guided by him. The bridge world – players, directors and officials – will all be the poorer for his absence. Max often quoted the 10cc rock band song about cricket. To paraphrase the refrain of that song, 'We didn't like Max, we loved him!'"

Gianarrigo Rona says Bavin, "...always played his role with wisdom, vision, skill and modesty. For over twenty years, with his competence, knowledge and insight, he was a pillar of the WBF Laws Committee. Even after retirement, he took an integral part in the 2017 Revision of the Laws of Bridge. Max, you will always be with us."



Correspondence

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Margaret Maruszkin writes from Poland about her efforts to increase the opportunities for visually impaired players to play the game ...

Grand Slam Is the Limit!

Margaret Maruszkin, Poland

lubiebrydza@wp.pl

We all love to say, “Bridge is a game with no boundaries”, a grand slam in notrump being the only limit. There’s no age limit: I’ve seen six-year-olds craving the next board and I’ve played with a 103-year-old. With the Internet, there are no country limits. And with wheelchairs, bidding boxes and card racks, there are no barriers for the disabled. But what about vision-impaired people?

In Poland, bridge for the visually impaired developed in the 1970s. In 1996, the first Polish Championship took place; since 1998, a Team Championship has been organized and in 2002, an Individual. There’s a group of about 30-40 Polish vision-impaired bridge players, some completely blind, who play regularly and, since 2002, have organized training camps in Ustka, at the seaside. I’ve come across groups in Greece, Croatia, Belgium and the Netherlands. A club in the Netherlands organizes an annual bridge drive, played with Braille cards and spoken bidding and play.

I can add that, during tournaments in Poland, visually impaired players also announce the card they play, the intended card, not the card that is actually taken out, which might be accidental. The Tournament Director or a special assistant, always present at the tournament, helps the blind player with locating and distributing the cards, often preparing them in order from spades through hearts, diamonds and clubs, saving time. Some blind players read their cards themselves, thanks to Braille impressions, placing them in a sort of ‘drawer’, making the game easier. There’s a protocol for entering the results, sometimes in a BridgeMate. I have also heard about talking bidding boxes but haven’t seen them yet.

What about going further? I will be meeting with the President of the Polish Paralympics Committee to investigate the possibility of including visually impaired bridge into the Paralympic Games. The next are in 2020, so there’s not enough time for inclusion there, but perhaps the ones after that?

Quoting Zia Mahmood in “Om Parkash Chaudry” in *Bridge My Way*: “While playing in Calcutta, I met an unforgettable bridge player, a young man called Om Parkash Chaudry, who is blind. I was impressed and asked him to play in a tournament with me. He agreed, and we played a few days later in a pair event. We were doing well enough and Om was in the middle of playing a hand, when the electricity failed, a not uncommon occurrence in India. The play around him stopped, but Om, oblivious to what was happening, continued calling a card from the dummy.”

“You’ll have to wait, the lights have gone out,” I informed him. Before I realized the significance of my own remark, Om answered, “I am sorry, I forgot that you can’t play bridge with the lights out.” Just an innocent statement, but a lesson at the same time, equally valuable in life and bridge. Try to understand a situation from the other person’s point of view. Things often look very different from the other side.”

Please, do let know if you are interested in joining in. If so, contact me. It is just the first step, but maybe it will turn into a leap?



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World Bridge Calendar

2019

Nov 13-16	Masters Lisboa	Lisbon, Portugal	www.fpbridge.webs.com
Nov 14-16	18 th European Champions Cup	Bucharest, Romania	www.eurobridge.org
Nov 15-17	Trophy Hutteldorf	Vienna, Austria	www.bkw.or.at
Nov 20-24	6 th Festival el-Gouna	Qesm Hurghada, Egypt	maykhouri@gmail.com
Nov 28-Dec 8	ACBL Fall NABC	San Francisco, CA	www.acbl.org
Nov 29-Dec 4	National Day Festival	Dubai, UAE	www.bridgewebs.com/4jacks
Nov 30-Dec 8	4 th Sunway International Festival	Sitges (Barcelona), Spain	www.sunwaybridgefestival.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 6-15	Festival de Mar del Plata	Mar del Plata, Argentina	www.aba.org.ar
Dec 8-15	61 st Winter Nationals	Kolkata, India	www.bfi.net.in
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 3-5	Christmas in St. Petersburg	St. Petersburg, Russia	www.bridgescanner.com
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 23-26	Winter in Vienna	Vienna, Austria	www.bridgecentrum.at
Jan 24-26	52nd Cork Bridge Congress	Cork, Ireland	corkbridgecongress@gmail.com
Jan 25-31	Bermuda Regional	Southampton, Bermuda	www.bermudaregional.com
Jan 30-Feb 2	Reykjavik Bridge Festival	Reykjavik, Iceland	www.reykjavikbridgefestival.com
Feb 5-11	EBU Overseas Congress	Rome, Italy	www.ebu.co.uk
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 26-Mar 1	43 rd International Festival	Budapest, Hungary	www.ibbf.hu
Feb 27-Mar 1	Delhi Gymkhana India Open	New Delhi, India	www.bfi.net.in
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 9-16	68 th SABF National Congress	Cape Town, South Africa	www.sabf.co.za
Mar 15-20	28 th White House Junior International	Amsterdam, Netherlands	www.jeugdbridge.nl
Mar 15-20	Dead Sea Festival	Be'er Sheva, Israel	www.bridgeredsea.com
Mar 18-28	ACBL Spring NABC	Columbus, Ohio	www.acbl.org
Mar 26-29	Tasmanian Bridge Festival	Launceston, Tasmania, Australia	www.abf.com.au
Mar 29-Apr 4	Festival Puerto de la Cruz	Tenerife, Canary Is., Spain	manuelnegrin@gmail.com
Apr 1-5	Venice Bridge Festival	Lido di Venezia, Italy	festivaldelbridgelidodivenezia.com
Apr 7-12	125 th Easter Regional	Toronto, ON	www.unit166.ca
Apr 15-22	Asia Pacific Bridge Federation Congress	Perth, Australia	www.abfevents.com.au
Apr 22-23	Baltic Cup	Tallinn, Estonia	www.bridgescanner.com
Apr 27-May 3	International Festival	Arachon Bay, France	www.festival-bridge-bassin-arachon.com
Apr 30-May 4	Australian Autumn Nationals	Adelaide, Australia	www.abf.com.au
May 1-3	German Bridge Trophy	Berlin, Germany	bridge.schroeder@t-online.de
May 5-14	USBF Open Trials	Schaumburg, IL	www.usbf.org
May 16-23	USBC Mixed Trials	Schaumburg, IL	www.usbf.org
May 26-Jun 1	USBC Senior Trials	Schaumburg, IL	www.usbf.org
May 27-Jun 7	Canadian Bridge Week	Niagara Falls, ON	www.cbf.ca
May 28-Jun 2	USBC Women's Trials	Schaumburg, IL	www.usbf.org
Jun 17-27	55 th Euro National Team Champs.	Funchal, Madeira Is., Portugal	www.eurobridge.org
Jul 2-12	Kongres Brydzowy	Slawa, Poland	www.pzbs.pl
Jul 3-12	Dansk Bridgefestival	Svendborg, Denmark	www.bridgefestival.dk
Jul 16-26	ACBL Summer NABC	Montréal, Quebec	www.acbl.org
Jul 24-26	Summer Congress	Dublin, Ireland	www.cbai.ie
Jul 24-Aug 2	26 th Swedish Bridge Festival	Örebro, Sweden	www.svenskbridge.se
Jul 25-30	Chairman's Cup	Örebro, Sweden	www.svenskbridge.se
Jul 31-Aug 9	Kongres Baltycki	Sopot, Poland	www.pzbs.pl
Aug 2-8	Wachauer Bridge Week	Mautern, Austria	www.bridgeaustria.at
Aug 21-30	Grand Prix Warszawy	Warsaw, Poland	www.pzbs.pl
Sep 11-16	World University Championships	Bydgoszcz, Poland	www.fisu.net
Nov 26-Dec 6	ACBL Fall NABC	Tampa, Florida	www.acbl.org