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www.ibpa.com

Honorary Chairman

ZHU Qingfeng (China)

1546340545@qq.com

Chairman

Per JANNERSTEN (Sweden)

ibpa@jannersten.com

President Emeritus

Tommy SANDSMARK (Norway)

tommy@sandsmark.org

President

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+1 212 366 4799

barryrigal@mindspring.com

Executive Vice-President

David STERN (Australia)

david.stern.bridge@gmail.com

Organizational Vice-President & Bulletin Production Manager

Dilip GIDWANI (India)

+91 98214 53817

dilipgidwani@hotmail.com

Secretary

Elisabeth van ETTINGER

(Netherlands)

+31 655 680 120

e.ettinger@chello.nl

Treasurer

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+64 9 232 8494

rsolomon@xtra.co.nz

Awards Secretary

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brentmanley@yahoo.com

Membership Secretary

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+1 519 981 9248

thorpe.katie@gmail.com

Honorary Auditor

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richardjfleet@gmail.com

Honorary General Counsel

David HARRIS (England)

davidrharris@ntlworld.com

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Editor: John Carruthers

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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.

By now, we've all become used to the new 'Every IMP Counts' Victory Point table. Here are three further scoring changes we'd like to see, one to the value of a penalty, another to the IMP table, and a third to trick values. They are:

1. Nineteen eighty-six saw the introduction of the first scoring changes in bridge in about 40 years. One of those changes was to increase the value of non-vulnerable doubled undertricks from the existing 100-300-500-700-etc. scheme to the new 100-300-500-800-etc. The genesis of this change was a single deal played by Edgar Kaplan and Norman Kay against Jeff Meckstroth and Eric Rodwell. Kaplan and Kay had bid brilliantly and accurately to seven hearts, which was cold. They were in line for plus 2210 when Meckstroth emerged with seven spades, not vulnerable. Kaplan-Kay could do nothing but double and collect the nine-down penalty of plus 1900, a loss of 7 IMPs against their seven-heart contract. Kaplan was incensed, deeming Meckstroth's out-of-the-blue bid on jack-fourth of spades frivolous in the extreme: Meckwell had been silent in the auction up to that point. Meckstroth's bid was anything but frivolous – it showed (a.) an intimate understanding of his opponents' bidding; (b.) the realization that his partner had to have a few spades on the Kaplan-Kay auction; and (c.) an appreciation of the scoring table. It was a brilliant bid which deserved to win IMPs.

At the time, Kaplan was undoubtedly the most-influential bridge personage in the world: he was editor/publisher/owner of *The Bridge World*, the Chairman of the ACBL Laws Commission, an administrator for the Greater New York Bridge Association, the ACBL and the WBF. Oh, and he was also one of the world's best players. To say that Edgar's word was law was not far from the truth, on any bridge matter. If Edgar wanted non-vulnerable, doubled penalties to be 100-300-500-800-etc., the bridge authorities made it so. If Edgar had wanted the trick values of all four suits to be 30 points, that's what we'd have had now.

In this instance, however, Edgar allowed his personal experience to sully his campaign to change the scoring table. Here's our suggestion: go back to the old table, where ingenuity, imagination and daring were rewarded; not to mention that auctions were more interesting, with players being much less stodgy.

2. Since every IMP counts, let's make every point count; at least every 10 points. Let's make a 10-point differential count as an IMP. No more 430-420 pushes: plus 430 wins 1 IMP over plus 420. Plus 430 beats plus 420 at Point-a-Board, so why not at IMPs as well? There seems to be no logical reason for this anomaly.

3. Our third suggested change is a little more radical: let's either (a.) make all game contracts of equal value (i.e., three notrump, four hearts, four spades, five clubs and five diamonds all score 400/600 depending on vulnerability), or; (b.) let's make all notrump tricks worth 40 points. For (a.) to happen, major-suit tricks could be changed to 25 points each. For (b.) to happen, the result would be that a notrump game would be worth the same as a major-suit game.

If we had to choose one of these three suggestions, we'd choose the first. It makes the game more entertaining and allows for heightened boldness.

Address all IBPA Bulletin correspondence to: JOHN CARRUTHERS
1322 Patricia Blvd., Kingsville, Ontario, N9Y 2R4, CANADA
Tel: +1 519-733-9247 email: ibpaeditor@sympatico.ca



The 2019 Premier League Final took place in Taicang, Jiangsu Province, China from December 12-19.

In the first (March 6-10) and second (July 5-11) legs, the top six teams emerged as:

1. **Pioneers** (Patrick Huang, Sjoert Brink/Bas Drijver, Jing Liu, Sun Gang, Zhang Yongge)
2. **Zhejiang Qiantang Club** (Poon Hua/Jack Zhao, Dai Jiaming/Yang Lixin, Chen Gang/Qian Jinsong)
3. **Beijing Shouchuang Club** (Sun Shaolin, Kang Meng, Wang Xiaojing, Li Xiaoyi, Gu Jiang, Ao Hailong)
4. **PD Times** (Fu Zhong/Do Lidang, Fredrick Nyström/Johan Upmark, Hou Xu/Jerry Li)
5. **Pudong Club** (Mikael and Ola Rimstedt, Dai Jianwei, Zhu Minrong, Bao Xiangdong, Jin Kai)
6. **Sunchen Club** (Andrea Manno/Massimiliano Di Franco, Sun Wenhua, Wu Shangjie, Li Rui, Xie Zhaobin)

The first-stage format of the final is that the third-through-sixth placed teams play the first match, with third choosing its opponent from fifth and sixth; the remaining two teams play each other in the other match. The matches are three 16-board sessions in length, with the winners reaching the next stage. The losers contest a playoff, with the winner being No. 5 and the loser No. 6.

In the next stage, No. 1 Pioneers picked their opponent from the winners of the third-through-sixth matches and No. 2 Zhejiang Qiantang met the other team. The format is an upper-and-lower bracket KO. The first match is 96 boards in length, with the winners placed in the Upper Bracket for another 96-board match, with the winner of that second match going through to the final; the loser goes into the Lower Bracket. The losers of the first match play a 64-board match in the Lower Bracket. The winner still survives while the loser is placed fourth in that year's Premier League. The loser of the Upper Bracket and the winner of the Lower Bracket then play 64 boards, the loser being placed third in the Premier League; the winner goes to the 96-board final.

On Day 1, No. 3 Beijing Shouchuang picked Sunchen, while No. 4 PD Times played against Pudong. Beijing Shouchuang won by 60 IMPs (131:71) over Sunchen,

while PD Times won by 3 IMPs (83:80) over Pudong. Beijing Shouchuang and PD Times thus reached the next stage: Upper-Lower Bracket.

Pioneers chose Beijing Shouchuang, leaving Zhejiang Qiantang to play against PD Times. Pioneers won by 58 IMPs (212:164) over Beijing Shouchuang, while PD Times crushed Zhejiang Qiantang so heavily (203:71) that they played just four of the six scheduled sets. Zhejiang Qiantang then resigned to prepare for the next match.

In the Upper Bracket, PD Times were still in excellent form: after three sessions, they were up 110 IMPs (200:90), so Pioneers also resigned and were relegated to the Lower Bracket. Their opponent was Beijing Shouchuang who had beaten Zhejiang Qiantang 128:118 IMPs, so Zhejiang Qiantang finished fourth. PD Times was first to reach the final and they got two days off – this was PD Times' third time going to the final.

When Pioneers again met Beijing Shouchuang, the match was very close: after the third of four sessions, Beijing Shouchuang led by 1 IMP. In the last session, Pioneers lost lots of opportunities and Beijing Shouchuang won by 3 IMPs in the fourth session to win 120:116 IMPs. Thus, they went to the final against PD Times.

In the final, all the Chinese players of Beijing Shouchuang played very well. In the first session, Beijing Shouchuang had a 29-IMP lead. In the next four sessions, amazingly, each team won two sets by 22 IMPs each, so Beijing Shouchuang still led by 29 IMPs entering the sixth and final stanza. In the sixth session, PD Times had an excellent bidding performance, winning three slam swings and two game swings. PD Times won that last set by 77:11, more than enough to win the Championship.

Congratulations to PD Times, winners of the 2019 Premier League. It was the first time Nyström and Upmark had played in the Premier League.

Here are three slam triumphs of PD Times, all by Nyström and Upmark:

Final, Session 5. Board 14. Dealer East. Neither Vul.

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

2019年全国桥牌A类俱乐部联赛



The winners of the 2019 Chinese Premier League, PD Times (background, in red) with the runners-up, Beijing Shouchuang (foreground, in purple)

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

1. 10-15 HCP, 5+ spades
2. Artificial GF Relay
3. 8-10 zz points; short in hearts
4. Relay
5. 4+ clubs
6. 5=1=3=4; 9 zz points

N.B.: zz points – A=3 zz points; K=2; Q=1

After three notrump, Nyström could see that slam would almost never be worse than on a finesse and would often be better than that.

The opening lead was the ten of diamonds. Upmark covered that with the jack, North played the queen and declarer won with the ace. After a losing trump finesse, Upmark ruffed two clubs in the dummy and eventually finessed the eight of diamonds, making 12 tricks. The other table played in five hearts doubled down four, so PD Times won 5 IMPs.

Final, Session 6. Board 4. Dealer West. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Nyström		Upmark	
1♣ ¹	Pass	1♥ ²	Pass
1♠ ³	Pass	2♥ ⁴	Pass
2♠ ³	Pass	3♣ ⁵	Pass
3♦ ³	Pass	3♥ ⁶	Pass
3♠ ³	Pass	3NT ⁷	Pass
4♣ ³	Pass	4♦ ⁸	Pass
4♥ ³	Pass	4♠ ⁹	Pass
4NT ³	Pass	5♣ ¹⁰	Pass
6♣	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. 16+ HCP
2. 5+ zz points and no shortage
3. Relay
4. 5-7 zz points and 5m(3-3-2) or 5m4om(2-2)
5. 2=2=4=5 or 2=2=5=4
6. 2=2=4=5
7. 5 zz points
8. 0 aces
9. 2 kings (so, K/K/Q)
10. No king of clubs

Here, Nyström could not be 100% sure six clubs was a good contract (if Upmark had the queen of hearts, for example), but he could see that it would often be the best contract. Even without the queen of clubs, partner could have had ♠Kx ♥xx ♦KQxx ♣xxxxx or ♠Kx ♥Kx ♦QJxx ♣xxxxx. Only if he had ♠xx ♥Kx ♦KQxx ♣xxxxx would it have no play. Nyström could not afford to ask more over five clubs, since the answer would have got them too high with some hands belonging in six clubs, so he had to make his choice at that time.

The opening lead was the queen of hearts. Nyström set up his spades to make his contract easily. The other table stopped in four spades, so PD Times won 12 IMPs.

Final, Session 6. Board 12. Dealer West. NS Vul.

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

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

See top of next column for alert explanations.

- 16+ HCP
- (4)5+ zz points, GF (with 4 zz points, you have a choice of 1♦ (0-4xx) or 1♥ (5+zz) as a passed hand); no shortage
- Relay
- 4-5 zz points and 2=4=5=2
- 4 zz points (also 8+ HCP)
- 0 aces
- 1 king (so, K/Q/Q) and no king of diamonds

Upmark could not be sure six diamonds was a great contract, but it was with the odds and, also, Nyström would not have responded one heart with all of his honours in the short suits. If Nyström had only four zz points as a passed hand, he would have started with one diamond and forced to game later.

The opening lead was the two of clubs. Nyström won with the ace and played the jack of diamonds, ensuring that he could take one ruff in the short hand. South won with the diamond king and played a heart to dummy. Nyström cashed the ace and king of hearts, led a spade to his queen, ruffed a heart with the ace of diamonds, drew trumps and claimed 12 tricks. The other table bid to three notrump, so PD Times won 10 IMPs.



Here are a few key deals from the Spring Nationals in Sydney this October. First, from the Tony Bemrose Insurance Brokers (TBIB) Open Teams semifinals...

Board 26. Dealer North. EW Vul.

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

Somewhat surprisingly, three Souths opened one diamond; that is the biggest one-diamond opening you

are ever likely to see. Put me down for a two-club opening, forcing to game. Many pairs play that after a two-club opening and a two-diamond response from partner, a three-of-a-major rebid from the opener shows precisely four cards in the major and longer diamonds. This is because two clubs-two diamonds-three diamonds is an awkward sequence. Here, either of those sequences would have resulted in a three-notrump rebid by North.

West	North	East	South
Vadas	Coles	Nunn	Morgan
—	Pass	Pass	1♦
Pass	Pass	Double	Redouble
1♥	Pass	Pass	Double
Pass	3♦	Pass	3♠
Pass	3NT	Pass	5♦
Pass	Pass	Pass	

West led the seven of hearts. East won and switched to the nine of clubs, queen, king. South could not avoid a club loser later, one down, East/West plus 50. Should South have respected North's decision to bid three notrump?

West	North	East	South
Weston	Whibley	Hutton	Milne
—	Pass	2♦ ¹	Double
2♥	Pass	Pass	Double
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♥ ²
Pass	3NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

- Weak, both majors
- Very strong, stopper ask

In the second semifinal, one diamond was passed out at one table, North/South plus 130. At the other table, it began Pass-Pass-1♦; Pass-Pass-Double-Redouble; 1♥-INT (nice bid by Paul Lavings, North)-Pass-3NT; Pass-Pass-Pass, plus 430, and 7 IMPs.

As East was a passed hand and so North/South were highly likely to reach game, given my five-count as West, I might have bid two clubs instead of one heart (despite majors-first always), since the club lead would have been more attractive. That could have made it tougher to reach three notrump.

One semifinal match was between THOMSON (Ian Thomson – Ron Klinger, Ashley Bach – Paul Dalley) and BURGESS (Stephen Burgess – Gabi Lorentz, Ron Cooper – Jon Free, Robert Krochmalik – Paul Lavings). THOMSON, with a 9.5-IMP carry-forward, won Set 1 by 34-18, Set 2 by 25-21 and Set 3 by 21-10. With 14 boards to go, the 89.5-49 margin looked comfortable.

Wrong! BURGESS won 16 IMPs here:

Board 48. Dealer North. Both Vul.

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

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

♠ K Q J 7 4 2
 ♥ 4
 ♦ A 7 4 3 2
 ♣ 7

West	North	East	South
Smolanko	Klinger	Kozakos	Thomson
—	Pass	Pass	1♠
INT	Pass	2♦ ¹	2♠
4♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. Transfer to hearts

West won the spade lead, drew trumps and had 11 tricks, plus 650. However...

West	North	East	South
Dalley	Lavings	Bach	Krochmalik
—	Pass	Pass	1♠
INT	2♣	3♥	4♦
4♥	4♠	Pass	Pass
Double	Pass	Pass	Pass

Leading trumps can beat four spades. West started well with the ace of spades, but with dummy's club suit looking ominous, he shifted to the king of hearts and a second heart. South ruffed, cashed the ace of diamonds and later set up the diamonds with a ruff for ten tricks, plus 790 and 16 IMPs.

In the Women's and Seniors final, each table was in four spades here:

Board 33. Dealer South. Both Vul.

♠ A Q J 6
 ♥ K 10 2
 ♦ K J 2
 ♣ Q 7 4

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

♠ K 9 7 4 3
 ♥ A 8
 ♦ A 9 6 4
 ♣ 9 5

Three declarers made ten tricks routinely – losing two clubs and a diamond – twice by South (diamond three lead and heart seven lead) and once by North (spade two lead). At the last table, Thomson (West) led the ace of clubs, followed by the club jack: queen – king – nine. East returned the ten of clubs and, fearing that West had started with the ace-jack doubleton, South ruffed with the king of spades. That gave East a trump trick. When declarer finessed the jack of diamonds later, he was one down, minus 100 and 12 IMPs away. That was indeed unlucky, but if South does not cover the club jack, East would have been unlikely to play the king. Then South would have been safe.

BOOKALLIL (Marianne Bookallil – Jodi Tutty, Sophie Ashton – Lauren Travis) began the 56-board Linda Stern Women's Teams final with a carry-forward of 14.1 IMPs over PITT (Helene Pitt – Ruth Tobin, Sue Lusk – Viv Wood).

Ashton – Travis did well here:

Board 6. Dealer East. EW Vul.

♠ J 7
 ♥ A 8 6 5
 ♦ K Q 7
 ♣ A J 7 3

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

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

West	North	East	South
Lusk	Ashton	Wood	Travis
—	—	Pass	1♣ ¹
2♥ ²	2NT ³	Pass	3♦
Pass	4♦	Pass	4♥ ⁴
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♥ ⁵
Pass	5♠ ⁶	Pass	6♣ ⁷
Pass	7♦	Pass	Pass
Pass			

See top of next page for alert explanations.

1. Artificial, strong club
2. Hearts plus a minor
3. Balanced, 8+ points, heart stopper
4. 1st or 2nd -round control
5. Two key cards, no queen of diamonds
6. Asking for the king of spades
7. 'I have the spade king and the club king.'

West led the ten of clubs: three – two – king. With trumps 2-2 or 3-1, South could simply have ruffed two spades in dummy and parked the club loser on the ace of hearts. When West pitched a heart on the two of diamonds to the king, two spade ruffs in dummy were no longer an option. South played the ace-king of spades and ruffed the spade four with the seven of diamonds. Then came the queen of diamonds, a low heart ruffed, the diamond ace and jack, then the five of clubs to the eight, jack and three of hearts for 13 tricks and a well-earned plus 1440.

At the other table...

West	North	East	South
<i>Bookallil</i>	<i>Tobin</i>	<i>Tutty</i>	<i>Pitt</i>
—	—	Pass	1♦
Pass	1♥	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♣ [!]	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

1. Fourth-suit forcing, to game

West led the ten of clubs. South put in the jack and made 12 tricks for plus 490. After two clubs, a jump to three diamonds by South might have led to a slam, as might a three-diamond bid by North over two notrump, but it is still hard to reach seven diamonds. In the Seniors' final, both North/South pairs stopped in six diamonds.

Later in the match, an interesting and subtle defensive problem arose...

Board 35. Dealer North. Both Vul.

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

The bidding goes Pass-Pass-1NT; Pass-3NT-Pass-Pass; Pass. What card do you play as East if West leads (a.) the ace of hearts, asking for attitude? or (b.) the king of hearts asking for an unblock or, with no honour, count?

Many play that an ace lead against notrumps asks for attitude and king asks for count. In that case, on the ace-of-hearts lead, East should play the two (natural signals) or the nine (reverse signals). On the heart-king lead, East plays the nine (standard count, high-low = even number) or the two (reverse-count).

The problem, however, is not so simple, and East's play should not be mechanical. If West has led the ace of hearts from ace-king-to-five, you want West to continue, but if the lead is from ace-king-to-four or ace-king-third, a switch might be required, possibly to spades. If West has the ace-king-jack of hearts, he'll know what to do.

Here is the full deal:

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

After the auction above, Helene Pitt led the king of hearts: ten – two – four, followed by the ace: queen – six – seven, and a third heart. That would have been fine if East had started with jack-fourth. On the actual layout, Jodi Tutty (South) won the third heart, cashed the king of diamonds and gave up a diamond to East. The defence could take their heart trick, but South had the rest, plus 600.

At the other table, with East/West silent, it went Pass-1NT; 2♣-2♦ (no 5-card major); 3NT-Pass. Sophie Ashton (West) led the four of clubs. Viv Wood (South) won with the king, cashed the king of diamonds and gave up a diamond to Lauren Travis (East). Travis switched to the ten of spades – jack – queen, and South could not make her contract. Declarer finished two down, minus 200 and 13 IMPs away.

After starting with the ace and king of hearts, West needs to switch to a low spade to beat three notrump. The only chance for that is if East can discourage hearts. Even then, West might switch to a club and then declarer could still succeed. Playing natural signals, East could play the two of hearts and then the nine (suit-preference for spades). Playing reverse signals, East plays the nine, discouraging, and then the eight (suit-preference for spades). All of this is, of course, double-dummy defence. There will be many deals where continuing hearts will be required.

In the Seniors' final, both Souths were also in three notrump. At one table, West led the jack of clubs and declarer could not avoid going one down. At the other table, West led the ace of hearts. I was sitting East and our agreement was to encourage with four rag hearts. West continued with the king and a third heart, so South made three notrump for a loss of 12 IMPs for us.

This topic merits more discussion.



We commence our walk on the amusing side of the street with the first weekend of the Norwegian League, during which this unusual situation popped up:

Dealer West. EW Vul.

<p>♠ K 9 8 ♥ K 8 7 6 5 ♦ Q J 9 ♣ Q 5</p> <p>♠ Q J 10 6 5 ♥ J 3 2 ♦ K 6 ♣ K 10 7</p> <p>♠ 3 2 ♥ Q 10 9 4 ♦ 10 8 5 4 2 ♣ J 2</p>	<p>♠ A 7 4 ♥ A ♦ A 7 3 ♣ A 9 8 6 4 3</p>
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Thanks to the favourable lie of the cards, 13 tricks are there in clubs, spades or notrump, but no one even reached a small slam, 95% declaring a game contract. Where Odin Svendsen was West, partnering Geir Brekka and with Norwegian internationals Tonje Brogeland and Åse Langeland North/South this unusual bidding sequence occurred:

West	North	East	South
Svendsen	Brogeland	Brekka	Langeland
Pass	Pass	1♣	Pass
1♥ ¹	Double	Redouble ²	Pass
Pass ³	Pass		

1. Spades
2. 3-card spade support
3. Confusion

Brekka meant to show three-card spade support with his redouble, but Svendsen misread it for hearts and a good hand. The queen of diamonds was led, and it was an easy task to land eight tricks with two spades, two clubs, ace, king of diamonds, a diamond ruff and the ace of trumps. The unusual score of plus 1120 netted 10 IMPs when the contract was four spades making five at the other table. The women must have felt rather unlucky. (*The dubious double of one heart notwithstanding.* – Ed.)

Espen Lindqvist was definitely on the sunny side of this board from the quarterfinals of the Bermuda Bowl against Italy:

Dealer West. Both Vul.

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

The knave of hearts went to the king, and Sementa shifted to the jack of diamonds. Lindqvist took the ace, led a spade to the ace and rode the nine of spades. A heart to the ace, and a low diamond put West in with the queen. With only black cards left, he shifted to the knave of clubs, taken by the king. Espen now cashed his queen of hearts and, after a diamond to the king, the position was:

<p>♠ K 10 ♥ — ♦ 4 ♣ 8</p> <p>♠ Q J ♥ — ♦ — ♣ A 10</p> <p>♠ — ♥ — ♦ — ♣ Q 7 4 2</p>	<p>♠ — ♥ 10 9 ♦ J ♣ 9</p>
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The king and ten of spades endplayed Bocchi, who had to give Espen his ninth trick with the queen of clubs.

East could have defeated the contract by shifting to the five of clubs at trick two, but that play was not very easy to see. And then, when West beat declarer's king (or queen) of clubs with his ace, he must not continue with a club honour or shift to a spade honour, rather easier to find.



Concurrent with the 38th Jordan International Festival, the Jordan Bridge Federation, on behalf of the Arab Bridge League, conducted the 11th Pan-Arab Inter-Club Championship at Amman Bristol Club from October 16th to 20th, 2019. This year, only eight clubs participated, fewer than the usual number of participants (10 to 12), due to the instability of some of the neighbouring Arab countries.

The Round Robin

In a crucial meeting in the last match of the Round Robin, Saudi League Club, who needed a good win to qualify for the semifinals, faced Orthodox Club. The opening lead on the following deal had a great influence on the match result.

Board 19. Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

Firstly, what would you bid with the North hand after pass, one club? Your choice will, of course, affect Partner's opening lead.

Table 1

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

Table 2

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

Both Easts played in three no trumps. What would you lead with the South hand after each auction? For

Orthodox Club, at Table 1, South led the heart three, defeating the contract. For Saudi League Club, at Table 2, South led the spade four, allowing the contract to make because of the heart blockage. Unlucky? The swing was enough to ensure a 35-20 Orthodox Club win.

After the seven, 12-board, round-robin matches, the scoring table was as follows (the top four to qualify):

	VP
El Ahli Club (Egypt)	87.10
King Hussein Club (Jordan)	80.74
Dubai Club (United Arab Emirates)	78.25
Jordan Bridge Association Club	74.41
Saudi League (Kingdom of Saudi Arabia)	66.64
Orthodox Club (Jordan)	61.68
Lebanon Union Club	61.42
Al Qadeseia Club (Kingdom of Saudi Arabia)	49.76

The Semifinals

With the round-robin winners choosing their semifinal opponent from the third- and fourth-placed teams, El Ahli Club picked Jordan Bridge Association Club, and King Hussein Club was left to play against Dubai Club.

Dubai Club won their match against King Hussein Club 66-34 IMPs after the 24-board match. Jordan Bridge Association Club was leading 39-36 after the 23rd board, and this was the last board:

Board 24. Dealer West. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
1♣	1♦	Pass	?

What would you bid with the South hand?

For Jordan Bridge Association Club, South advanced with two diamonds, ending the auction. North made eight tricks and plus 90 after a club lead, though he could have made one more. At the other table, South responded one notrump and was raised to three notrump, making ten tricks and plus 430, producing 8 IMPs. The lead changed hands to El Ahli Club and the final score was 44-39. In the other semifinal, Dubai Club got to two diamonds making nine tricks and King Hussein Club bid the notrump game, making an overtrick to gain the same 8 IMPs.

The Final

Dubai Club faced El Ahli Club for the 24-board final. Alas, the captain of El Ahli Club, its most-experienced player, Egyptian International M. Muhsen Kamel, had to leave for Cairo to attend to urgent matters back home, and El Ahli had to make do without his efforts.

Board 13. Dealer North. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
—	1♦	Pass	1♥
Double	Pass	1♠	Pass
?			

What should West bid now?

For King Hussein Club, West bid two spades, then three spades after three diamonds by North, to play there. For Dubai Club, West bid two diamonds and raised two spades to game, which was doubled and made, for 12 IMPs. Dubai Club won 66-28 IMPs to raise the 11th Pan-Arab Inter-Club Championship title and Cup.



THE ONE AND ONLY II (WUHAN REDUX)

Jian-Jian Wang, College Park, MD

During the 44th World Team Championships, I had the opportunity to watch quite a few great, close matches in the vugraph theatre of the Wuhan International Conference & Exhibition Centre. It was such fun to join the onsite commentating team in the knockout stage to entertain enthusiastic audiences from all over the world.

As bridge players, we have all experienced mishaps or spectacular disasters. Nevertheless, we still feel that world-class players should take advantage of every chance available to them. Then we realize that the deals are not as easy as they appear at first sight. For that reason, we appreciate it more when players become the only ones who get them right. Those players deserve a big round of applause!

The One and Only Declarer

Bermuda Bowl – Round 14: NZ v. Norway Board 9. Dealer East. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Brogeland</i>	<i>Brown</i>	<i>Lindqvist</i>	<i>Whibley</i>
—	—	Pass	1♠
3♥	4♠	Double	Pass
Pass	Pass		

West leads the diamond deuce, third from an even number or lowest from odd. How would you play?

From the bidding, you can play almost double-dummy, on the assumption that spades are 5-0. Otherwise, how could East, a passed hand, double four spades after his partner's pre-emptive three hearts? So, the rest should be easy, right?

At least, that was what Michael Whibley (the winner of 2019 IBPA Kerry Klinger Memorial Declarer Play of the Year Award) of New Zealand thought. He won trick one with the diamond queen, then cashed the club ace and king and the diamond jack. That was followed by a heart to dummy's ace, taking the diamond ace and king, East following suit all the way, then leading the second heart. At this point, no matter whether East's shape was 5=1=4=3 or 5=2=4=2, there was no way to prevent declarer from taking three more trump tricks. Here was the full deal:

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

Continued on page 12 ...



IBPA Column Service

Tim Bourke, Canberra



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

985. Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

1. Game-forcing spade raise, 4+ trumps
2. Encouraging, no shortage
3. Minimum game force
4. Roman Key-Card Blackwood
5. 0 or 3 key cards

West led the nine of hearts. Declarer could count only ten winners and saw that he would need to play the diamonds for one loser and possibly ruff a diamond in dummy for his twelfth trick. Declarer played low from dummy at trick one and took East's queen of hearts with his ace. At trick two he played the king of trumps – getting the news that West had all four.

The contract appeared to depend on declarer making the slam-going tricks in diamonds. However, declarer saw an extra chance: he embarked on a plan of a partial elimination in case East began with 0=7=3=3 shape. Declarer continued by cashing the king and queen of clubs and then, crucially, leading the five of trumps to West's three and dummy's seven. After throwing the jack of hearts on dummy's ace of clubs, declarer ruffed dummy's remaining heart in hand. As the preliminaries had been accomplished, declarer ran the jack of diamonds to East's queen. As East only had red-suit cards remaining, he was endplayed.

East decided that a diamond return was hopeless and instead exited with a heart. Declarer ruffed this in hand while West and dummy discarded low diamonds. After a diamond to the ace, declarer made the three remaining tricks on a crossruff.

Of note is that this approach would also have succeeded when East began with 0=7=2=4 shape and at most one diamond honour.

986. Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

West led the jack of hearts. Declarer took this with the queen of hearts and led a low diamond towards dummy – his plan was to play two rounds of diamonds then shift to clubs. This would have succeeded as long as diamonds were no worse than 3-1. However, West threw a low club instead of following suit and this plan was dead. East took the king of diamonds with the ace and continued with a heart. Declarer won with his ace then crossed to dummy with a diamond to the queen to lead a club to his jack. West took this with the queen and played a third heart.

After winning this with the king of hearts, declarer played a low club, hoping that hearts were 5=3 and East had the ace of clubs. Alas, West rose with the ace of clubs and cashed his two established heart winners to defeat the contract.

“What bad luck,” said South! “The diamonds were 4-0 and West had both five hearts and the ace-queen of clubs.”

“Luck had nothing to do with the outcome,” proffered a disappointed North. “All you had to do was lead the jack of diamonds at trick two. If East had taken his ace, you could have won the major-suit return and ducked a diamond: you would have made five tricks in the majors and four in diamonds. Alternatively, if East had withheld the ace of diamonds, you could have guaranteed the contract by leading a low club: you’d have made five tricks in the majors, a diamond and three clubs.”

987. Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

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

Declarer may have been a bit optimistic in going on to game after the raise to three hearts. However, he liked his playing strength, good hearts and shape.

West led the queen of diamonds. Declarer saw that nine tricks would be available on a 3-2 break in trumps. Also, the most likely way to gain an extra trick was through a club ruff in dummy. As he did not want a trump shift, declarer took the opening lead with the ace of diamonds and led dummy’s seven of clubs at trick two. East played the nine of clubs, which held the trick. Declarer took the trump shift with the ace and noted that West followed with the jack of trumps.

Declarer realised that if the jack were a true card, he would have to ruff two spades in hand to coup East’s trumps. So, after cashing the ace of spades, declarer played a club to dummy’s ace then ruffed a spade in hand. Declarer continued with his overall plan and ruffed a club in dummy then ruffed a second spade in hand. Next he played the king of trumps and was not too surprised when West discarded a diamond. Declarer had taken eight tricks and was left with the queen-nine of trumps along with a low club and a low diamond. Declarer got off play with a club and had to make both of his remaining trumps, which brought his trick total to ten: a spade, six trumps, a diamond, a club and a club ruff.

988. Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

1. Transfer
2. Stronger than four spades; 3-card support
3. Control bids

West led the jack of hearts. Declarer saw that the contract was a poor one, relying almost entirely on East holding the king of trumps no more than three times. Declarer won the first trick with dummy’s ace then led the jack of trumps and ran it when East followed with a low trump. Declarer continued with a low trump to his queen. Declarer was not particularly surprised when West discarded a heart.

At that point, if he were to succeed, declarer would need East to have started with at least three hearts, one diamond and three clubs. Even so, he would have to guess East’s original distribution. After cashing dummy’s ace of clubs, declarer played his king and queen of hearts and was pleased to see that East followed. Declarer continued with the king of clubs and a club ruff, noting the fall of East’s queen. Next declarer cashed dummy’s ace of diamonds and led a diamond to his king.

Declarer had made ten tricks and was reduced to the ace of trumps and a low card in each minor. He placed West with five hearts and noted he had begun with either 3=4 or 2=5 in the minors. In the former case, declarer saw that he could succeed by ruffing a club. So, declarer led a club and his decision point came when West played the ten of clubs. Eventually, declarer threw a diamond from dummy – playing for the queen of clubs to have been a true card. When East threw the queen of diamonds declarer knew that he had made the right choice.

West continued with a heart, which was ruffed by dummy’s nine of trumps, and East’s king-eight in trumps was smothered. Declarer had to make the last two tricks no matter whether East ruffed high or low.

At the table, declarer ruffed a heart at trick eight and advanced the spade queen to East's king. South won the spade return and exited with a club, waiting for his spade jack to become the tenth trick.

Four spades doubled was played by South 21 times among the 96 tables across four divisions. Whibley was the only one to bring the contract home. Aside from three Wests who found the killing lead of a heart to knock out dummy's crucial entry to take four diamond tricks, how about the other declarers facing a minor-suit lead? Almost all of them played a spade prematurely before grabbing their seven side-suit winners. After that, there were only two spade tricks for declarer instead of three.

The One and Only Defender

Round 17. Board 8. Dealer South. Neither Vul.

<p>♠ A 10 6 ♥ A 6 4 ♦ J 10 7 4 ♣ J 9 4</p> <p>♠ J 9 8 2 ♥ 3 ♦ K Q 8 ♣ K Q 8 3 2</p> <p>♠ K Q ♥ K Q J 10 9 5 2 ♦ 9 2 ♣ 7 6</p>	<p>♠ 7 5 4 3 ♥ 8 7 ♦ A 6 5 3 ♣ A 10 5</p>
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South declared in four hearts, doubled or undoubled, at 58 of the 96 tables. A top club was the most popular opening lead (27 times). There were four obvious minor-suit winners for the defence. So, everyone chalked plus 50 or plus 100, yes? Not at all. Here are a few examples:

Wuhan Cup (Mixed Teams) – England v. Denmark

West	North	East	South
<i>Casersen</i>	<i>Brock</i>	<i>Farholt</i>	<i>Myers</i>
—	—	—	1♥
Double	Redouble	1♠	3♥
Pass	4♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			

West led a high club and continued with a low club to East's ace. East tried the club ten next, which was fatal, and described as lazy by the Daily Bulletin. It was further suggested that East should cash the diamond ace at trick three, then lead another diamond after seeing partner's violent signal with the king. Wait a second; how could East know that declarer's shape was 2=7=2=2 instead of 2=7=1=3? The diamond king wouldn't reveal that, and it would

still have been unclear to East where the fourth defensive trick was coming from: the two of clubs was still missing and could easily have been concealed by declarer.

Bermuda Bowl – England v. USA 1

West	North	East	South
<i>Weinstein</i>	<i>Forrester</i>	<i>Levin</i>	<i>Robson</i>
—	—	—	4♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

East shifted to the spade seven at trick three after winning with the club ace; curtains for the defence. The BBO commentators believed that it was routine to cash the East/West winners: testing with the diamond ace at trick three and continuing the suit after an upside-down welcome signal of the diamond eight (low encouraging) should be the way to go. Nevertheless, how about if declarer held a hand such as:

♠ Q 2
♥ K Q J 10 9 5 2
♦ K Q
♣ 7 6

In this case, the spade shift was a must and cashing the diamond ace would fail.

Venice Cup – England v. China

West	North	East	South
<i>Lu</i>	<i>Senior</i>	<i>Liu</i>	<i>Dhondy</i>
—	—	—	4♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

East did cash the diamond ace at trick three after taking his club ace. But then, after her partner followed with the eight instead of the clearer king, East decided to put the heart seven on the table. Just another minus 420, though this defence was closer to achieving a positive score for East/West.

Actually, only one of 27 pairs prevailed after a club honour lead against four hearts.

Bermuda Bowl – USA 2 v. Indonesia

West	North	East	South
<i>Greco</i>	<i>Bojoh</i>	<i>Hampson</i>	<i>Karwur</i>
—	—	—	1♥
Double	2♥	Pass	4♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

After taking Greco's club three with the ace at trick two, Hampson switched to the diamond three, fourth-highest. This cleared all hurdles for the defence. Greco duly played the diamond queen and king for down one. What was in Hampson's mind at the table?

Firstly, partner's club three was more likely from king-queen-eight-three-two, although king-queen-eight-three was not impossible (declarer having hidden the club deuce).

Secondly, both partner and declarer were quite weak for their bids. So, he expected partner to have four spades and one heart, making declarer 2=7=2=2 or 2=7=1=3.

Thirdly, from declarer's jump to four hearts, it would be relatively unlikely for him to have singleton diamond king.

Finally, if partner had something like: ♠KJ82 ♥3 ♦Q98 ♣KQ832, he could have continued with the club eight, not the three, for two reasons: to make the count clearer and as a suit-preference indicator.

The play of the diamond three was rewarded with 10 IMPs when four hearts made at the other table after the same club king-lead.

The Two and Only Declarers

Quarterfinals

Board 52. Dealer South. Both Vul.

♠ Q 2
♥ A Q 10 6 4
♦ 8 2
♣ A 8 5 3

♠ K 8 6 3
♥ K 5
♦ A K Q J
♣ K Q 2

At 23 of 32 tables in 16 quarterfinal matches, six notrump by South was the final contract. Twenty declarers faced an opening lead of the spade ten. How would you proceed?

Assuming no luck in either hearts or clubs (no further discussion is needed if either suit behaves), you have only one spade, three hearts, four diamonds, and three clubs. Then, some kind of squeeze or endplay would be needed.

Most declarers, actually 17 of them, put up dummy's spade queen. Here was the full deal:

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

All 17 of those declarers' East opponents won with the spade ace and returned another spade. There would have been a double squeeze available if East had switched to some other suit, because East and West would have had to guard hearts and clubs respectively, so neither of them could have covered spades. But, after the second spade, the transportation between declarer and dummy for the double squeeze was broken. The only chance left was a simple squeeze against West in the event that he had length in both hearts and clubs. Not today. All those declarers finished down one.

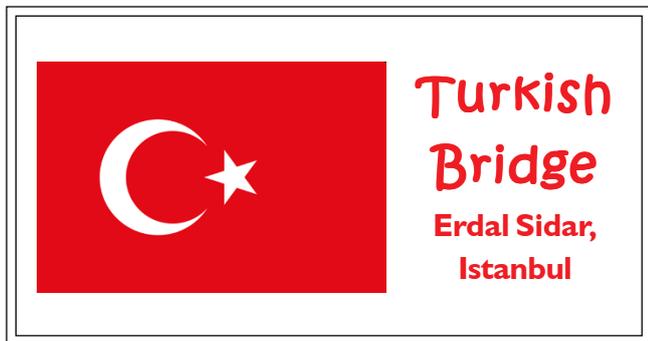
Only three declares managed to bring six notrump home, and all of them played a low spade from dummy at trick one. Sato of the Japanese Venice Cup Team made six notrump easily after East took her spade ace immediately to give declarer two spade tricks. It was more exciting to watch Hans Vergoed of the Netherlands d'Orsi Trophy Team and Jill Meyers of the USA Wuhan Cup Team complete their task.

Both Vergoed and Meyers won trick one with the spade king in hand after East had ducked the ace. They then ran three clubs and four diamonds. On observing the discard of the spade seven and jack from East, they cashed the heart king (and the heart queen as well for Vergoed), and endplayed East with the spade ace to force him/her to lead away from heart jack. A nice strip-squeeze well-played by both players!

So, which line is better, or was it just pure luck? Actually, the successful line is also the superior one. Why?

If you put up dummy's spade queen, with the predictable continuation of another spade, for the squeeze against West to work (there is no squeeze against East because both menaces are with North), it requires West to have length in both hearts and clubs. Playing a low spade from dummy, for the strip-squeeze against East to be effective only requires East to have long hearts. Even if East has club length only, it may provide enough clues for the decisive heart play at the end (or perhaps West's doubleton club will be two of the jack, ten and nine).

Moreover, the lead of the spade ten indicated that West had the spade nine as well, while East held the spade ace and jack. Thus, the odds were in favour of a 4-3 spade split, making it unlikely that West held length in both round suits.



The Haunted

Here is a deal from a Lehman match (three or more tables, each pair playing in a team against one other pair, but with multiple sets of teammates), in the Kup Bridge Club in Istanbul.

Dealer West. EW Vul

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

West	North	East	South
Burak	Can	Mehmet	Ercan
Aralp	Berktaş	Eksioglu	Cem
1NT	Pass	2♦	Pass
3♥	Pass	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

It is not an everyday occurrence that a seemingly immaterial defender holding a near-Yarborough must visualize at trick two what is coming at trick twelve! After an informative bidding sequence, West started with the ace and king of diamonds. On the second trick East discarded the four of hearts – an error that would haunt him at trick twelve!

West continued with the ten of diamonds, which declarer ruffed with the queen of spades in dummy. Declarer played a heart to his ace, went to dummy with the club king, cashed the heart king – discarding a diamond – and ruffed dummy's third heart. With a blueprint of West's hand, declarer now cashed the spade ace, removing West's exit in that suit, went to dummy's club ace and discarded his last diamond on dummy's jack of clubs:

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

West ruffed but was endplayed. On any return, declarer was able to ruff with dummy's six, *underruff* with five, and collect East's trumps at tricks 12 and 13.

Could East have foreseen that he needed to discard two clubs on the second and third diamond plays? He could see that declarer's most likely shape was 5=1=5=2. Still, it is challenging to focus when holding such a poor hand, and such analysis is usually easier after the deal is finished.

The Belief

Here is another deal from the same event, but a different match.

Dealer West. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	1♠	Pass
1NT	Pass	3NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		

North led the two of hearts. Declarer, Can Berktaş, won with the queen in dummy (ten from South) and led the queen of spades(!). When the jack dropped, he kept his eight for a later entry or a finesse if needed, but North, Karadeniz, took the jack with his king and shifted to his king of diamonds. Declarer, who now needed to find the king-ten-third of diamonds in the North hand to block the suit, won with his ace (seven from South, encouraging). Berktaş continued by playing the two of clubs to the jack from dummy. South, Mohammed Eksioglu, followed with a low one, so Berktaş crossed to the eight of spades to lead a second club: five, queen, king, ace. That was nine tricks.

Isn't it a good lesson to believe that the distribution that makes the contract actually exists, then to play for it?



One week before the EBL Champions Cup, which took place in Romania this year, some Russian friends invited us to play a team game on BBO. As we needed to practice, we gladly accepted their invitation and a 12-board match with the 2018 Russian Team Champions was arranged. Martins Lorencs could not play, so he was replaced by Janis Neimanis. Thus, we had a Latvian Mixed Team: Maija Romanovska with Janis and Jelena Alfejeva with me. Although Jelena and I had not played together since the World Championship in China, we started out well, until I was dealt this hand as South:

Board 6. Dealer West. EW Vul.

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

My left-hand opponent, Russian international Vadim Kholomeev, passed, Jelena opened with one club (three-plus clubs), and Ivan Semenov pre-empted with three diamonds. What now? Usually such bids are sound: partner has passed, and the vulnerability is bad for wild pre-empts. I assumed good, long diamonds, some distribution and maybe a picture here or there. My options were threefold: (i.) the ordinary three spades, (ii.) three notrump, or (iii.) pass and hope that my partner would reopen with double so I could pass and collect a penalty.

Three spades was the value bid, but the lack of space made me cautious; if Jelena did not have spade support, she might not have a good rebid and we might end up in a poor four spades or in some other disastrous contract. Pass was a little risky, because Lena might not reopen, and we would then have missed the game bonus. So, I chose to bid three notrump, which became the final contract. The five of diamonds was led and the dummy went down:

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

Hmm ... on a good day, one might make 12 tricks in spades. But this contract was also okay, maybe even laydown: if East had seven diamonds or the king of spades, I would take at least ten tricks. I put the nine on from the dummy; my right-hand opponent thought for a while and I wondered if the diamonds were 6-2, the king of spades was offside, and RHO would duck the first trick. Yes, my nine of diamonds took the trick and the king of spades was offside – a few moments later, I had just seven tricks when the full deal turned out to be:

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

At the other table, Andrey Voronov did not open with the North hand and Neimanis opened with three diamonds. After passes from Dimitry Prokhorov and Maija, North balanced with a double and all passed.

A no-mercy defence began: club ace, club to the king, club ruff, ace of spades. The king of hearts was overtaken by Voronov with the ace and a second club ruff given. Now a heart to the queen and another heart. Seven tricks had been lost and Janis had to decide – if diamonds were 5-0, he must ruff low and hope that hearts were 3-3. If diamonds were 4-1, he had to ruff with an honour and take the rest. After some thought, he ruffed with a low diamond and minus 1100 was his penalty. This board gave 15 IMPs to the Russian team, but it provided little satisfaction, because we won the match 54-18!

<http://webutil.bridgebase.com/v2/tview.php?t=9802-1573153259&u=karlissr>

ERRATUM

In last month's article about Nie Weiping, the Go and bridge player, the photo of Nie playing against Deng Xiaoping initially identified the kibitzer as Deng's wife Zhuo Lin. In fact, the kibitzer was Deng's daughter, Deng Nan.

The online January Bulletin has been corrected. Our apologies to all for the error.



WHNT History

Kees Tammens, Amsterdam



In an article about the White House Junior Internationals 2020, the event was reported to have started in 1993. The tournament's genesis was the year before: in the autumn of 1992, Jan Rijnaarts and Fons van Bokhoven, two great guys from 's-Hertogenbosch with a love for junior bridge, had the splendid idea of organising an international junior team event.

They contacted the coach of the Dutch juniors and, in January, 1993, eight countries competed in 's-Hertogenbosch (better known as Den Bosch) in the first International Youth Bridge Festival.

Juniors seldom show any restraint in the bidding. In the first event, Roland Rohowsky (East) of Germany showed a great example of bluff poker:

Dealer West. Neither Vul.

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

Since five hearts was an easy make, and five spades was already going one off on a diamond lead, the extra undertrick in six spades did not much matter. As well,

it created a big issue for South, who was not up to the task and took the insurance in seven hearts, down two.

England won the inaugural event by beating Germany in the final. Until 2004, Rijnaarts and von Bokhoven contributed one-and-a-half million guilders for the development of junior bridge in the Netherlands, much to the delight of the Junior Coach. This included the yearly Youth Bridge Festival Den Bosch. In 2005, the international junior event moved to Amsterdam, where 'bridge and chess pub' Twee Klaveren (two clubs) hosted a ten-team competition supported by the founder and owner of the pub, Giovanni Falavigna. Poland won that event.

Joao Passarinho, the NPC of Portugal, reported on the bold bidding by one of his juniors, Nuno Matos.

Dealer South. Neither Vul.

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

1. Precision: 16+ HCP
2. 0-8 HCP
3. Waiting
4. Natural, game-forcing

Understandably, the opening lead was the ace of diamonds. Declarer ruffed and played the ace, king and ten of clubs to West, who returned a diamond. Declarer won and had two discards, but still had a choice to make: to finesse for the king of spades or the queen of hearts. Declarer played the ten of hearts and finessed for an excellent 920.

The Portuguese junior had a big smile on his face when he found out the bidding sequence at the other table: one club (natural), followed by three passes. For once, juniors had bid very cautiously.

Max Abram and Herman Drenkelford, Amsterdam-based businessmen and lovers of bridge, bought Het Witte Huis (the former canteen of a tennis club) in 2002 and rebuilt it into a great bridge club. They invited

the juniors to play the team event in 2006 in Het Witte Huis and, at that point, it became the White House Junior Internationals.

In 2020 (March 15-20), the fifteenth 'WHJIT' will take place in Het Witte Huis, still with Max and Herman as the main sponsors. Bob Drijver and Tim Heeres who, in their junior years, played many times in Het Witte Huis, took on, with great enthusiasm, the organisation in 2017 and will certainly run a great tournament

Information: whitehousejuniors2020@gmail.com

In 2019, the final was won on the last board by Denmark (down 73-79), who grabbed a game swing to overtake Israel (83-79). Dutch juniors, Guy Mendès de Léon and Thibo Sprinkhuizen won the prize for the best-bid deal on the following:

Dealer North. EW Vul.

<p>♠ 2 ♥ 10 9 6 2 ♦ K 2 ♣ A J 9 7 6 2</p> <p>♠ K 10 9 6 3 ♥ Q J 8 3 ♦ J 10 3 ♣ Q</p> <p>♠ A 7 5 4 ♥ A K ♦ A 9 6 ♣ K 10 5 3</p>	<p>♠ Q J 8 ♥ 7 5 4 ♦ Q 8 7 5 4 ♣ 8 4</p>
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West	North <i>Sprinkhuizen</i>	East	South <i>Mendès</i>
—	Pass	Pass	1♣ ¹
Pass	1♥ ²	Pass	2♦ ³
Pass	2NT ⁴	Pass	3♣ ⁵
Pass	3♠ ⁶	Pass	4♦ ⁷
Pass	4♠ ⁸	Pass	4NT ⁹
Pass	5♦ ¹⁰	Pass	5♠ ¹¹
Pass	6♦ ¹²	Pass	7♣ ¹³
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. 2+ clubs, forcing 1 round
2. 4+ hearts, 8+ HCP
3. 19-20 balanced or a club/diamond reverse
4. (4 hearts + 6 clubs) or (6 hearts + 4 clubs)
5. Relay
6. 4 hearts + 6 clubs
7. Slam try for clubs (four clubs would have set hearts as trump)
8. Last Train, club slam interest without heart control
9. RKC B
10. 1 key card
11. Grand slam try, stronger than five notrump
12. King of diamonds
13. "This must be an easy contract."

So I look forward to Sunday, the fifteenth of March, 2020, for the opening of the White House Junior Internationals. Forget what it's called; let's just refer to it as the 28th version of the Dutch Junior Internationals.

Denmark's Zia

**Charles (Jens Otto Pedersen)
Odense, Denmark**



Andreas
Plejdrup
(left) and
Christian
Lahrman
of Denmark

Christian Lahrman of Denmark is only 15 years old, but is already a champion. He won the Pro-Am Tournament of the Copenhagen Invitational twice with Per Ola Cullin from Sweden, when he was 11 and 13 years old. Christian recently won the Danish Junior Championship (U-26) for the second time. He is playing in the Danish Premier League with partner Andreas Plejdrup. Lars Nilsson from Sweden calls Christian Denmark's Zia.

Here is a deal from the Danish Junior Championship.

Dealer East. NS Vul.

<p>♠ 7 6 ♥ J 10 9 ♦ 2 ♣ K 9 8 7 6 4 2</p> <p>♠ 5 4 3 ♥ Q 5 3 ♦ A K 5 ♣ A Q J 5</p> <p>♠ K J 10 8 ♥ A K 6 4 2 ♦ J 10 7 4 ♣ —</p>	<p>♠ A Q 9 2 ♥ 8 7 ♦ Q 9 8 6 3 ♣ 10 3</p>
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West	North	East	South
<i>Silas Weber</i>	<i>Andreas Plejdrup</i>	<i>Daniel Brandgård</i>	<i>Christian Lahrman</i>
—	—	Pass	1♥
INT	2♥	Double ¹	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♦	3♥
Double	Pass	Pass	Pass
1. Take-out			

The opening lead was the king of diamonds, followed by the four of spades to East's ace. The heart seven shift was taken by declarer's ace. Lahrman ruffed a diamond in dummy, ruffed the two of clubs in hand in hand and ruffed the ten of diamonds with the last trump in dummy. After declarer played the seven of spades to the jack, declarer cashed the king of hearts and put West on lead with a low trump. This was the position:

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

West could exit with the ace of clubs but, in doing so, he perpetrated a suicide squeeze on his partner! East pitched the nine of diamonds, but Lahrman ruffed and led the jack of diamonds to East's queen and claimed nine tricks (plus 730) on the proven spade finesse.

Note that declarer could also have discarded the jack of diamonds on the ace of clubs, making either the king of clubs and king of spades or two spade tricks.

Deceptive Defence

Peter Ventura, Krylbo, Sweden

The 2019 Swedish Club Championship was played in a pleasant atmosphere since the players are all good friends. Nonetheless, one team must end up as champions. This year's champions were "Bridgeklubb Lavec, Smile" with Peter Fredin, Johan Sylvan, Arne Larsson, Tobias Törnqvist, Jim Nielsen and Pia Andersson. Runner-up was "Harplinge Bridgeklubb" with the siblings Cecilia, Ola and Mikael Rimstedt, accompanied by their father Magnus Eriksson, Per-Ola Cullin and Marion Michielsen.



The twin brothers Ola and Mikael played perfectly on the following deal when they executed an imaginative and deceiving defence:

Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Gunnar</i>	<i>Ola</i>	<i>Frederic</i>	<i>Mikael</i>
<i>Hallberg</i>	<i>Rimstedt</i>	<i>Wrang</i>	<i>Rimstedt</i>
—	—	—	Pass
1♣	Pass	1♥	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass
3♣	Pass	3NT	Pass
5♣	Pass	Pass	Pass

With seven slow clubs, Gunnar Hallberg preferred to play in five clubs rather than in three notrump. There are only two losers, the ace-king of clubs, since the spade finesse will succeed. However, against these sharp twins that was not good enough!

The lead was the seven of diamonds and declarer's jack won the first trick. The trump queen followed and Ola grabbed the trick with the king and continued with diamonds. Gunnar desperately tried to draw trumps, so the trump jack followed. This was won by South's ace. In tempo, Mikael as South continued with another diamond, which looks dangerous up to dummy's tenace. All of a sudden, the contract was not safe any longer. If declarer plays a low trump North might overruff, and if he plays the nine or ten a 4-2 break in trumps would result in one off.

After some serious thinking, Gunnar played a high trump, then tried to draw the trumps with his remaining high club. Yes, North did have only two diamonds, but there was no ruff available. When the trumps broke 4-2, Mikael could claim a trump trick 'out of nothing'. One down in an 'unbeatable' contract.

"Damned youngsters," Gunnar might have thought.

APPEAL

The apartment of retired TD Jeff Alexander and his wife Stephanie has been gutted by fire, destroying most of the contents. Insurance will not cover their losses. A GoFundMe page has been set up to help them at <https://www.gofundme.com/f/major-fire-loss/donate>. Any assistance is appreciated.

The Relay

Marc Smith, Southampton, Hants. , UK

Here is an excerpt from my article for BBO Prime on the 2019 Michael Seamon Junior United States Championships. The deal comes from the Under-21 final and is perhaps a potential candidate for a "Best Bid Hand" award.

Dealer West. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Kolesnik	Zhou	Xu	Hu
1♠	Pass	2NT ¹	Pass
3♦ ²	Double	4♠ ³	Pass
6♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. Game-forcing, 4+-card spade raise
2. Diamond shortage
3. Fast Arrival

Although there are 13 virtually top tricks, this combination proved to be not so easy for natural methods. One could argue, perhaps, whether the most important feature of the West hand is the diamond shortage or the potential source of tricks in hearts. When Kolesnik opted to show the shortage, you can hardly blame East for deciding his hand was now (sub-)minimum, hence the space-consuming jump to game. Should West have made one more try before jumping to the small slam? Maybe, but is he really going to find out enough starting at this level? Probably not, I suspect. East/West plus 1010.

The Strong Club/Symmetric Relay methods being used at the other table were just what the doctor ordered:

West	North	East	South
Xiao	Luba	Jeng	Youngquist
1♣ ¹	Pass	1♥ ²	Pass
1♠ ³	Pass	2♣ ⁴	Pass
2♦ ³	Pass	3♦ ⁵	Pass
3♥ ³	Pass	3NT ⁶	Pass
4♣ ³	Pass	4♥ ⁷	Pass
4♠ ³	Pass	5♦ ⁸	Pass
5♥ ³	Pass	5♠ ⁹	Pass
5NT ³	Pass	6♦ ¹⁰	Pass
7♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. Strong Club
2. Game-forcing with 4+ spades

3. Relay
4. 4+ diamonds
5. 5=3=4=1
6. 11-12 HCP or 13+ HCP with fewer than 4 Neapolitan controls (A=2, K=1)
7. 3 controls
8. Ace or king of both spades and diamonds
9. Denies diamond queen
10. Shows heart queen

Brent Xiao now decided that he had seen enough. That was an impressive demonstration of their methods, for sure.

East/West scored plus 1510 – 11 IMPs to the XIAO team.



Richard Jeng and Brent Xiao



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World Bridge Calendar

2020

Feb 10-15	29 th Sun, Sea & Slams	Barbados	www.barbadosbridge.org
Feb 17-23	Biarritz Winter Festival	Biarritz, France	www.biarritz-hiver.com
Feb 20	Keep Bridge Alive Pro-Am	London, England	www.worldbridge.org
Feb 20-23	XIX Slava Cup	Moscow, Russia	www.slavacup.com
Feb 20-25	33 rd Cairo International Festival	Cairo, Egypt	www.egyptbridge.org
Feb 21-29	59 th 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 6-8	Camrose Trophy	Belfast, Northern Ireland	www.ebu.co.uk
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 16-22	Abano Bridge Festival	Abano Terme (Padua), Italy	www.bridgescanner.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 26-29	Bridge Casablanca	Casablanca, Morocco	www.bridgescanner.com
Mar 27-31	32 nd Cyprus Bridge Festival	Agios Tychon, Cyprus	www.cyprusbridge.org
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 2-5	Hotel Senator Meeting	Starachowice, Poland	www.pzbs.pl
Apr 3-5	Swiss Open	Zürich, Switzerland	www.fsbridge.ch
Apr 6-9	7 th Merit Bridge Festival	Kyrenia, Northern Cyprus	www.bridgemerit.com
Apr 7-12	125 th Easter Regional	Toronto, ON	www.unit166.ca
Apr 10-12	Easter Congress	Singapore	www.bridgewebs.com/scba
Apr 11 -13	Reims Bridge Festival	Reims, France	http://cbrc51.free.fr
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 23-26	Tallin Bridge Festival	Tallinn, Estonia	www.bridgescanner.com
Apr 24-May 3	Lambourne Bridge Festival	St. Helier, Jersey Is.	www.ebu.co.uk
Apr 25-May 3	Turkey Summer Championships	Antalya, Turkey	www.tbicfed.org.tr
Apr 27-May 3	International Festival	Arachon Bay, France	www.festival-bridge-bassin-arachon.com
Apr 30-May 3	58 th 1 st May Tournament	Pula, Croatia	tihana@pilar.hr
Apr 30-May 3	Slavonice Cup	Slavonice, Czech Republic	www.czechbridge.cz
Apr 30-May 4	Australian Autumn Nationals	Adelaide, Australia	www.abf.com.au
Apr 30-May 5	Russian Cup	Chelyabinsk, Russia	alriskin@mail.ru
May 1-3	German Bridge Trophy	Berlin, Germany	bridge.schroeder@t-online.de
May 1-4	Barrier Reef Congress	Yeppoon, Australia	www.abf.com.au
May 5-14	USBF Open Trials	Schaumburg, IL	www.usbf.org
May 6-12	12 th SBU Overseas Congress	Majorca, Baleiric Is., Spain	www.sbu.org.uk
May 7-11	Schapiro Spring Fours	Warwick, UK	www.ebu.co.uk
May 15-24	Festival de Juan-les-Pins	Juan-les-Pins, France	http://www.festivalsdusoleil.com
May 16-23	70 th South American Bridge Festival	Lima, Peru	www.sudamericanolima2020.com
May 16-23	22 nd Deutsches Bridgefestival	Wyk-auf-Führ, Germany	www.bridge-verband.de
May 16-23	USBC Mixed Trials	Schaumburg, IL	www.usbf.org
May 25-31	Sofia Bridge Festival	Sofia, Bulgaria	www.sofiabridgefestival.com
May 26-Jun 1	USBC Senior Trials	Schaumburg, IL	www.usbf.org
May 27-Jun 8	Canadian Bridge Week	Niagara Falls, ON	www.cbf.ca
May 28-Jun 2	USBC Women's Trials	Schaumburg, IL	www.usbf.org
Jun 10-14	39 th Jordan Bridge Festival	Amman, Jordan	jor_bridge@Yahoo.com
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	18 th World Youth Championships	Salsomaggiore Terme, Italy	www.worldbridge.org
Jul 31-Aug 9	Kongres Bałtycki	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
Aug 21-Sep 4	16th World Bridge Games	Salsomaggiore Terme, Italy	www.worldbridge.org
Sep 11-16	FISU World University Championships	Bydgoszcz, Poland	www.fisu.net
Oct 23-27	47 th Vilnius Cup	Vilnius, Lithuania	www.bridgescanner.com
Oct 30-Nov 14	Hainan Bridge Festival	Sanya, Hainan, China	wangjj_bridge@yahoo.com
Nov 2-8	Madeira Bridge Festival	Funchal, Madeira, Portugal	www.madeira-bridge.com
Nov 26-Dec 6	ACBL Fall NABC	Tampa, Florida	www.acbl.org