



BULLETIN

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

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Bridge – A Mind Sport for all Ages

The Keep Bridge Alive Campaign

Keep Bridge Alive (KBA) is an academic project which is producing research findings on bridge that will be used in collaboration with bridge organisations to:

- transform the image of bridge
- increase participation
- enhance the sustainability of the mind-sport.



Gianarrigo Rona congratulates the winners of the KBA Pro-Am Pairs, Ed Jones and Richard Bowley

The Sociology of Bridge is a research project at the University of Stirling (Scotland) and an emerging academic field that explores interactions within the mind sport, e.g., well-being, transferable life skills, mental health and social connection. Playing bridge encourages clear thinking, boosts self-esteem, facilitates partnerships, trust and cooperation, and contributes to inter-generational community building.

The global Keep Bridge Alive campaign aims to publicise the benefits of bridge beyond the bridge world, to make a difference to the bridge community by showing others the exciting, challenging and life-enhancing nature of bridge. In particular, the goals of Keep Bridge Alive are to:

- promote the social benefits of bridge
- support an inter-generational approach to learning and playing bridge



The KBA Pro-Am Pairs was held at the historic Stationers' Hall in London

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The 2020 Turkish Winter Teams

Erdal Sidar, İstanbul

The Turkish Winter Open Teams Tournament was held from the eighth to the fifteenth of February at Culture Park in Izmir, with 192 participating teams. The 64-board final was won by DEDEHAYIR over EUROCENTRES by 151-119 IMPs. Although the final margin was 32 IMPs, the outcome was still very much in doubt after 60 boards: DEDEHAYIR 123 – EUROCENTRES 119. The winners were Ahmet DEDEHAYIR/Erhan DEMİRASLAN, Mehmet Gökhan YILMAZ/Okay GÜR and İsmail KANDEMİR/Mustafa Nezih KUBAÇ. Runners-up were Ömer KIZILOK/Dogan ÜZÜM, Levent ÖZGÜL/Süleyman KOLATA and Tevfik SAYILKAN.

Here is a deal from the third match of the Round Robin.

Dealer North. NS Vul.

♠ K 10

♥ K Q 8 6

♦ Q J 8 3

♣ 9 7 4

♠ 8 7 4 3

♥ J 5 3 2

♦ A 5

♣ K 10 6

♠ A

♥ A 10 9

♦ K 10 9 7 4

♣ Q 8 3 2

♠ Q J 9 6 5 2

♥ 7 4

♦ 6 2

♣ A J 5

West	North	East	South
Cem	Aydek	Sohtorik	Altiner
—	Pass	1♦	2♠
Pass	Pass	Double	Pass
4♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

Not being a regular partnership, West was unsure whether three hearts over East's balancing double would promise some values (else go through two notrump, Lebensohl), hence the optimistic four-heart bid.

North led the king of spades. Declarer, Ercan Cem, reckoned that the most likely distribution to allow him to come to ten tricks was the one that actually existed. Accordingly, after he'd won the lead in dummy with the bare ace (South followed with the two, intending it as suit-preference for clubs), he played a club to his ten. The spade ruffs had to wait, so he

continued with the king of clubs (all the counts were friendly). South won and played back a spade (as good as anything). Declarer ruffed it in the dummy, cashed his club trick, played the ace and king of diamonds, then ruffed a diamond, to reach:

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

Declarer had won seven tricks, the defence, one. The time for a second spade ruff in the dummy had still not come (North would have discarded his diamond and made three trump tricks); the ace-ten combination in hearts must first be used to force North to split his marriage. On West's low heart lead, North did indeed split his honours and declarer won with dummy's ace, ruffed a diamond and played his third spade to make dummy's ten of trumps en passant.

Only an initial heart honour lead beats four hearts. Is that too double dummy? The deal was played at all 192 tables and only Ercan Cem bid and made four hearts. At the other table in this match, Cem's teammates played in two spades, one off, so Cem's team, HERO, won 8 IMPs.

The following deal was played in the second session of the final match.

Dealer West. NS Vul.

♠ K Q 9 7

♥ J 7 2

♦ K 8 2

♣ A 6 3

♠ A 10 8

♥ 8 6 5 4

♦ J 9 3

♣ J 5 4

♠ 5 2

♥ A K Q 3

♦ Q 10 7 6

♣ 9 8 2

♠ J 6 4 3

♥ 10 9

♦ A 5 4

♣ K Q 10 7



Winners of the 2020 Turkish Winter Open Teams (DEDEHAYIR)

I. to r.: Okay Gür, Gökhan Yılmaz, İsmail Kandemir, Tevfik Sayılıkan (playing captain of EUROCENTRES), Erhan Demiraslan, Ahmet Dedehayir, Nezih Kubaç.

West	North	East	South
Kubaç	Kızılık	Kandemir	Üzüm
Pass	1♣	1♥	Double
3♡	3♠	Pass	4♦
Pass	Pass	Pass	

East, İsmail Kandemir (Turkish national-team player) led the ace of hearts, then cashed the heart king and shifted to the diamond seven. Declarer, Ömer Kızılık, won in dummy with the ace and came to hand with the king of spades. After ruffing his last heart in the dummy, declarer played the jack of spades. West, Nezih Kubaç took that with his ace and returned his third spade. Kandemir discarded the ten of diamonds. When declarer cashed the king of diamonds, East followed with the queen (he knew that his partner had the diamond jack from the play to the third trick). The trap worked. Declarer played the king and ace of clubs, then finessed the ten of clubs and West took the last two tricks with his minor-suit jacks. Two down.

At the other table, North was down one in three notrump, so DEDEHAYIR won 3 IMPs.

After 61 boards of the final, DEDEHAYIR was leading 129-119. They won 11, 6 and 11 IMPs on the last three boards to win going way. The match was almost put on ice after the following bidding challenge appeared on Board 62:

Dealer East. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Kubaç	Kızılık	Kandemir	Üzüm
—	—	Pass	1♥
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♦	Pass	3♡
Pass	4◊	Pass	4♥
Pass	4NT ¹	Pass	5♣ ²
Pass	5♡ ³	Pass	5♠ ⁴
Pass	5NT	Pass	Pass

- Pass
- 1. RKCB
- 2. 1 or 4 key cards
- 3. Queen ask
- 4. No diamond queen

However Kızılık intended five notrump, Üzüm believed he'd done enough. Certainly, from Kızılık's

viewpoint Üzüm had done more than enough. Declarer escaped the spade lead, which would have defeated even three notrump, when East led a heart. Declarer won two rounds of hearts and shifted his attention to diamonds, leading to the king and then to the jack. The queen-of-spades shift ensured two off, minus 100, after declarer won with the spade ace and ran the diamonds.

West	North	East	South
Kolata	Gür	Özgül	Yilmaz
—	—	Pass	1♥
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♦
Pass	4♦	Pass	4♥
Pass	4♠	Pass	5♦
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Okay Gür and Mehmet Gökhan Yilmaz bid naturally and efficiently to the top spot, losing only the two obvious tricks for plus 400 and 11 IMPs, to take a 21-IMP lead with just two boards remaining. They won another 11 on the last board when EUROCENTRES lost a penalty at both tables, capping the victory for DEDEHAYIR.



The Age of Wisdom

Bridge is a game that encompasses all ages. However, by the time you have reached the point where the collective noun for your friends is “pensioners”, you can hope to have acquired a modicum of knowledge. In the recently concluded English Senior Trials for the European Championships, the fifth session gave some players opportunities to show what they had learnt.

Board 7. Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

Open Room

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

Doubt arose as to the meaning of four notrump, there being some confusion about which suit North, and/or South, was interested in, the result being that the North/South auction didn't get the job done.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Hassett	Mossop	Ward	Hallberg
—	—	—	1♠
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♦	Pass	4♣
Pass	4NT ¹	Pass	5♥ ²
Pass	7♣	Pass	Pass
Pass			

1. RKCB

2. Two key cards, no queen of clubs

The key to the auction was South's decision to show his three-card club support early, leaving no doubt about the meaning of four notrump. Reaching the almost-laydown grand slam was worth 13 IMPs.

Board 14. Dealer East. Neither Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Holland	Mayo	Selway	Kendrick
—	—	1♠	Pass
3NT ¹	Pass	4♣ ²	Pass
4♦ ³	Pass	4♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		
1. Undisclosed splinter			
2. Query			
3. Diamond singleton			

Despite having the machinery to reach slam, East surprisingly made no further move in that direction.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Hassett	Mossop	Ward	Hallberg
—	—	1♠	Pass
4♦ ¹	Pass	4NT ²	Pass
5♥ ³	Double	6♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. Splinter
2. RKCB
3. Two key cards, no spade queen

Appreciating the power of his hand, East asked for key cards and picked up 11 IMPs.

The Villain's Ankle

Erudite readers will recognise this title – it was used by Terence Reese to describe a deal in his masterpiece, *Play These Hands with Me*. I was reminded of it by this deal, also from the same English Senior Trials:

Board 24. Dealer West. Neither Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Hallberg	Callaghan	Mossop	Dhondy
I♦	I♥	Pass	2♦
Double	Pass	3♦	3♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

East led the seven of diamonds. West won with the queen and switched to the three of hearts, East taking declarer's king and returning the heart four. Declarer won with dummy's ten and played a spade to the queen, followed by a club to the ace and the queen of clubs, covered and ruffed. He cashed the ace of spades, ruffed a spade, and pitched a diamond on the jack of clubs. East ruffed and the defenders could cash two diamonds for one down.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Kendrick	Senior	Mayo	Hackett
I♦	I♥	Pass	4♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Here, East led the two of diamonds. West won and switched to a heart. When East withheld the ace, declarer won with dummy's nine, cashed the ace of

clubs and continued with the queen, covered and ruffed. A diamond ruff was followed by a spade to the ten, another diamond ruff, a spade to the queen, the ace of spades and the king of hearts, declarer claiming ten tricks and 10 IMPs.

What if East had won the first heart and returned the suit, eliminating the second diamond ruff? Declarer wins in dummy, plays a spade to the ten, ruffs a diamond and plays a spade to the queen. He then draws trumps, cashes the spade ace and plays off his remaining trumps. When the last of them hits the table West, forced to retain the king-eight of clubs, would have had to come down to a singleton diamond, and could have been thrown in with it to lead into the club tenace.

As Terence might have written, the clubs were like a tin can, attached to the villain's ankle.

Theory & Practice

Pairs at every level spend a lot of time discussing how to bid hands. Generally speaking, most partnerships are accurate in uncontested auctions but, when both sides are bidding, things can be harder. It is especially important to get things right at a high-level.

I was watching the conclusion of the English Open Trials when this deal flashed up on the screen:

Board 9. Dealer North. EW Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Robson	Barden	Gold	Kendrick
—	Pass	I♥	3♠
4♥	4♠	Pass	Pass
5♣	Pass	5♥	Pass
Pass	Pass		

When South bid three spades, I was expecting West to bid four clubs – hadn't he written a book about fit non-jumps? The advantage of bidding four clubs with a heart fit is that, if North then bids four spades, West can leave his partner to make an informed decision. When North did bid four spades, West felt he had to take a second bid, but that resulted in the doomed five hearts, which finished two down when South led the ten of spades. An enterprising double by North might have netted plus 500.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Bell	Hydes	Norton	Handly-Pritchard
—	Pass	I ♠	3 ♠
4 ♣	Double	Pass	Pass
4 ♥	4 ♦	Pass	Pass
Double	Pass	Pass	Pass

Here, West did bid four clubs. The combination of North's lead-directing double and subsequent bid of four spades made it clear to West that five hearts would be a dubious proposition, so he settled for doubling four spades. Warned off a possible club lead, West found the deadly five of diamonds and the subsequent diamond ruff defeated the game.

So far, that's the best auction I have seen in 2020!

A TASTE OF NORWAY



Knut Kjærnsrød, Tored, Norway
 Nils Kvagraven,
 Kristiansand, Norway
 Mike Roberts, Victoria, BC

The Best-Played Deal in Norway in 2019 (KK)

The Norwegian furniture giant, Skeidar, sponsors the prize for the best-played deal by a Norwegian declarer, and one of our most-capable young players, Tor Eivind Grude, earned the 2019 prize for this superb effort:

Dealer North. Neither Vul.

♠ Q J 9 7 4

♥ 9 6

♦ A Q 9

♣ A 4 3

♠ 6 3 2

♥ 10 5

♦ 6 4 2

♣ K Q 10 8 5

♠ A

♥ A K 7 4 3 2

♦ 7

♣ J 9 7 6 2

♠ K 10 8 5

♥ Q J 8

♦ K J 10 8 5 3

♣ —

Grude was South, and the bidding was simple:

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

West led the king of clubs. Grude considered ducking, but finally went up with the ace and found to his surprise that East ruffed. The spade return was taken by the ace, and two rounds of trumps revealed the good news in that suit. Grude decided to place East with the king of spades and found a neat way of bringing home the game by playing a diamond to the nine. East was trapped and returned a diamond to dummy after winning with the ten. Grude now ensured his contract by playing the queen of spades, letting East hold the trick when he covered with the king. East thus had to provide an entry to the dummy, letting Grude get rid of all his remaining losing clubs.

Erik Dahl on Play - Again (NK)

The Norwegian League is an annual tournament played over two weekends in the winter. It is the most popular tournament in Norway with more than 340 teams taking part. The League comprises four divisions; the winners earn an upgrade and the losers face relegation.

Erik Dahl is a bridge legend in the southern part of Norway. He won the First Division in 1984 and has been a feared declarer ever since the 1970s. Dahl is still going strong, but prefers to play at local tournaments these days.

During the final weekend of the Third Division, held in Kristiansand, Dahl got the chance to showcase his skills...

Dealer West. Both Vul.

♠ A K

♥ Q 6 5 4

♦ K 9 7 6 5 3

♣ 2

♠ Q J 10 9 8 2

♥ A

♦ A J

♣ A Q 5 4

Dahl looked for a maximum with this bidding sequence:

West	North	East	South
	J.S. Hansen		E. Dahl
Pass	1 ♦	Pass	1 ♠
Pass	2 ♦	Pass	3 ♣
Pass	3 ♠	Pass	4 NT ¹
Pass	5 ♥ ²	Pass	5 NT ³
Pass	6 ♦ ⁴	Pass	7 ♣
Pass	Pass	Pass	

See top of next page for alert explanations...

1. RKCB
2. Two key cards, no queen of spades
3. Asks for specific kings; guarantees all five key cards and the spade queen
4. King of diamonds, no king of clubs

Dahl is widely known to prefer simple bidding – he was hoping to find North with stronger diamonds or three-card spade support. The dummy was a disappointment, but it didn't stop Dahl from forming a winning plan. How would you have played the deal on a spade lead?

Dahl determined that his best chance was to finesse the queen of clubs, ruff a club and try for a squeeze. That was a successful plan when the full deal looked like this:

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

After winning trick one with king of spades, a club followed to the queen. Dahl led the ace of hearts, ruffed a club, and ruffed a heart in case the king showed up. When Dahl pulled trumps, cashed the ace of clubs and ran the rest of the trumps, he ended with this position:

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

On the queen of spades, West found himself squeezed. To discard the king of hearts would have set up the queen in dummy. The actual diamond discard didn't make things any better, giving Erik his thirteenth trick with the SEVEN OF DIAMONDS! Perhaps West should have discarded the king of hearts, denying Dahl the pleasure of winning trick 13 in a grand slam with the Beer Card!

Once the club finesse worked, this line of play would have succeeded on many distributions: if either East or West holds both diamond honours and five or more clubs; or the queen-ten doubleton in diamonds drops; or West holds the king of hearts and three or more diamonds; or the king of hearts drops doubleton.

Dahl's team won the event, but he is not too happy to compete in next year's Second Division and play against stronger opposition from all over the country. "I just don't care to travel to Oslo to play bridge," was his terse comment.

When I called Dahl to congratulate him on his victory and to discuss this deal, I started out with describing it as a beautifully played hand. "It was all straight forward," replied Dahl. He didn't see much to write about in the play.

I disagree. It was a well-played deal. I doubt I'll get to see many better-played boards in 2020!

My Junior Opponent (MR)

Some deals require expert card reading and some require expert play. I was fortunate enough to watch Boye Brogeland (a World Junior Teams Championship opponent of mine in 1997, although I doubt he remembers) play a board that required both. It was from the fourth quarter of the quarterfinal match between Rosenthal and Zimmerman in the Soloway Knockout Teams at the Fall Nationals. I was directing, but sat down to watch for a bit. Brogeland was South.

First, try it as a single-dummy declarer-play problem.

Board 52. Dealer East. EW Vul.

♠ J 7 3
♥ 10 8 7 4
♦ J 10
♣ K 9 8 7

♠ A Q 9 6 5 2
♥ 5
♦ 6 5
♣ A J 10 3

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

1. Polish: (i.) 12 -14 HCP, balanced; (ii.) 15+ HCP with 5+ clubs; (iii.) any 18+ HCP
2. Natural, non-forcing

West led the king of hearts, then continued with a low heart. Brogeland ruffed and began looking for information, so exited with a diamond. West won with the queen, then led a third heart (East originally held the ace-jack-nine). Brogeland continued with another diamond.

(At the other table, after the same start against the same contract, West won the second diamond with the king to continue with a fourth heart. Declarer couldn't make it after that, and actually guessed badly to go down three.)

At Brogeland's table, West thought for a bit, then ducked the second diamond to East's ace. East continued with a third diamond. Plan the play from here.

The Polish one club denied five diamonds, so Brogeland could confidently place West with king-queen-fifth in both red suits. How about the black cards? Well, there was no club lead or shift, which would tend to place West with 1=5=5=2 or 0=5=5=3. There was no hope if West were void in spades, so Brogeland assumed West had 1=5=5=2 distribution. How about the club queen? Brogeland wasn't sure, but West might have had too much for a non-forcing two hearts with the club queen, so he decided to place East with the queen of clubs.

So now, play it as a double dummy problem, to take the rest of the tricks.

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

East is on lead and plays the eight of diamonds. Declarer has two obvious entries; the ruff in dummy and the club king, but seems to need three entries (unless the spade ten drops), two to finesse the spades, and one to finesse the club. What to do?

Brogeland found the solution. He pitched the club ten, ruffed in dummy, then played the spade jack to the king and ace; the ten didn't drop. Following his plan, he played the club jack to the king, then ran the club seven. He had taken two finesses, and was still in the dummy. He played a spade to the nine and, when West showed out, he claimed plus 590. If East had covered the club, Brogeland could have crossed back to the club eight with his carefully preserved three of clubs to finesse the spade.

In what I assume is phlegmatic Nordic understatement, Brogeland turned to me and, fairly emotionless, said, "Interesting deal." His team went on to win the match. This was the full deal:

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



NUCLEAR WEAPONS

Marek Wójcicki
Przemsyl, Poland

In the early Sixties, "Brydz" – the Polish bridge magazine – published a series of the articles about deceptive plays. The main idea was that if the position was hopeless from a technical point of view, psychology could sometimes be the way to the rescue.

Wlodek Starkowski, a leading Polish player (and one of the current editors of Brydz) has probably read those articles very carefully ...

On the following board, Starkowski sat East:

Dealer East. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Kwiecien	Sobczak	Starkowski	Krasnicki
—	—	Pass	1♣
1♥	1♠	Pass	INT ²
Pass	3NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			
1. Transfer to notrumps			
2. Minimum balanced or semi-balanced hand			

In November 2019, during the ACBL's Fall Nationals, the Soloway Knockout Teams – a new event with an innovative formula, at least for the ACBL – was played for the first time. Ninety-four teams with players from all over the world competed – the first two days was a Swiss qualifying, and then the top 32 teams played in

Johannes Bamberger

Hannes Bamberger was a top player in Austria for five decades. He represented Austria in European and World Championships as a Junior, in the Open class (with his wife Gabriele, who died in 2003), and as a Senior. Hannes lost his longtime battle with cancer in late January.

Hannes and I won the Caransa tournament together in 1976.

Fritz Babsch, Vienna

knockout matches. Thus the winner was determined after seven days, regardless of the number of entries.

The Swiss qualifying was won by the KASLE team – Gaylor Kasle, Joshua Donn, Bartosz Chmurski, Piotr Tuczynski, Michal Kwiecien and Włodzimierz Starkowski. In the first match, they played against the MELMAN team and, in the Closed Room, four Polish players competed.

Starkowski's partner, Michal Kwiecien, led the king of hearts. Declarer ducked – Starkowski followed with the three (upside-down count if not possessing an honour to unblock) and Kwiecien continued with the seven of hearts, a mild suit-preference indicator for clubs. Declarer won with dummy's ace of hearts, crossed to hand by playing a low diamond to the queen and led a low spade, five from West, ten from dummy.

The position looks hopeless – declarer has four diamond tricks, probably three in spades, and one in hearts. The ace of clubs is the ninth trick. If Kwiecien has the ace of clubs, the defence does not matter. But if his potential club entry is the king, it will be too late.

So, Starkowski took the ten of spades with the king(!), and played a club. Declarer won with the ace and took the 'marked' spade finesse to the nine. Here was the full deal:

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

Starkowski took the spade jack and played a club to his partner's king – four down, plus 400 for KASLE.



SWPT & NOT

Ron Klinger
Northbridge, NSW

The Australian National Open Teams uses a four-day Swiss Teams qualifier (denoted as the South-West Pacific Open Teams) to qualify eight teams for knockout play. The event was won in dominating fashion by HANS (Sophie Ashton, Nabil Edgton, Peter Gill, Sartaj Hans, Andy Hung), who won 11 of 12 qualifying matches (losing the twelfth by just 2 IMPs), then won their knockout matches by 125, 90 and 104 IMPs respectively.

This was a nice deal from the qualifying matches.

Round 11. Board 16. Dealer North. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
—	Pass	4♥	Pass
Pass	Double	Pass	4♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

West leads the club ten. The contract looks easy, but special care must be taken.

The popular contract was four hearts by East/West, making 54 times, once doubled, all on a spade lead, and failing twice. The four-spade contract was reached 11 times by North, all making, three times doubled, with a top heart being the common lead. South played four spades twice, both making, once after the spade-ace lead and once, by Matthew Brown, after West led the ten of clubs, on the auction above.

If declarer wins the club lead and plays a trump, West wins and continues with the eight of clubs. West can win the next trump, put East in with a heart and receive a club ruff to take four spades one down. Brown negated that possibility with a 'Scissors Coup'. He won trick one and immediately played a heart. That cut the transportation link between West and East. Any chance of a club ruff had vanished. Brown later led trumps and ultimately played West for the queen of diamonds for plus 620 and 11 IMPs versus five hearts doubled, down one, at the other table.



IBPA Column Service

Tim Bourke, Canberra



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

989. Dealer South. EW Vul.

♠ 8 5
♥ J 7 3
♦ 8 7 5
♣ K Q 6 3 2

♠ 6
♥ Q 8 5 4
♦ Q J 10 4
♣ J 8 7 5

♠ K 4 2
♥ 10 9 6
♦ 9 6 3 2
♣ 10 9 4

♠ A Q J 10 9 7 3
♥ A K 2
♦ A K
♣ A

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

North's rebid of two notrump promised some values three clubs would have shown a second negative.

West led the queen of diamonds. The simplest way the contract could be made was if West held the king of trumps. After winning the opening lead with the ace of diamonds, declarer cashed the ace of clubs and considered the best way to proceed. He soon realized that leading the seven of spades would succeed when West had either the king of spades, or a singleton six.

Declarer's thoughtfulness was rewarded when West did play the six of trumps, and so declarer played dummy's eight.

Whether East had withheld the king of trumps or won it, declarer had his entry to the dummy. In practice, East took the trick with the king of trumps and returned the ten of hearts. Declarer rose with the ace, then crossed to dummy with his three of trumps to the five. Declarer's heart loser was thrown on the king of clubs and, after ruffing a club back to hand, declarer drew the last trump and claimed the balance of the tricks.

990. Dealer South. EW Vul.

♠ K 7 2
♥ Q 8 6
♦ A Q 9 5
♣ 6 5 3

♠ A J 10 8 4
♥ 9
♦ 6 3
♣ K Q J 9 2

♠ 9 3
♥ 7 4 2
♦ K J 7 4
♣ 10 8 7 4

♠ Q 6 5
♥ A K J 10 5 3
♦ 10 8 2
♣ A

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

The auction was fairly straightforward at both tables in a team match. However, one declarer was fairly accomplished, while the other was not. West led the king of clubs to declarer's bare ace. Each declarer counted nine sure tricks – one spade, six trumps and the minor-suit aces. Both declarers drew trumps in three rounds with the queen, ace and king of the suit. Next they ran the eight of diamonds to East's jack. Both East players exited with the nine of spades.

The mediocre declarer played low from hand and dummy's king was allowed to win the trick. After ruffing a club to hand, he ran the ten of diamonds to East's king and the spade return saw West take two spade tricks. What was worse, declarer complained about his bad luck in diamonds!

The other declarer correctly played the queen of spades on the nine of spades shift. What could West do? If he ducked it, then declarer would make two spade tricks and his contract. Thus, West took the ace of spades and tried to cash a club. Declarer ruffed then ran the ten of diamonds to East's king. After winning the spade return with dummy's king, declarer

claimed ten tricks: one spade, six trumps, two diamonds and one club.

991. Dealer West. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	Pass	4♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

This deal occurred some years ago in a Chicago rubber bridge game. This was to be the last deal of the night. South was not doing well financially and needed to make a game to break even for the session. The honours in hearts would be the bonus.

West began with the king of spades, asking for count. When East signalled that he had started with an even number of spades, West continued with ace and another spade. Four hearts was a very poor game, despite North producing four-card trump support and useful cards in diamonds. To make his contract, declarer needed both the king of diamonds and the ace of clubs to be onside. Even if that were so, declarer saw that he would have to play carefully, because the eight of trumps was the only possible entry to dummy.

Accordingly, declarer ruffed the third spade with the ten, retaining his seven of trumps as a conduit to dummy. Declarer then drew one round of trumps with the ace and crossed to dummy by overtaking the seven of trumps with dummy's eight. Declarer next led the queen of diamonds. If East had covered, declarer would have been able to return to dummy in diamonds to lead a club to the king. Alas, East played low and declarer found a fine counter – he dropped the jack of diamonds from hand under dummy's queen. When he led the ten of diamonds, East again played low. When that held, declarer was in the right hand to lead a club towards the king. When that card won the trick, declarer claimed a rather fortunate ten tricks.

Note that if declarer had started with the nine or ten of diamonds on the first round of the suit, East would have ducked, but covered the queen next, and declarer would have been in the wrong hand to play on clubs.

992. Dealer West. EW Vul.

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

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

I. 19-20 points

Three notrump would have failed against repeated heart leads. North's decision to look for a spade fit was based on the belief that a suit contract might have more flexibility.

West led a lowest-from-an-odd-number two of diamonds. On the bidding, declarer figured West to have both missing kings. Declarer decided that the only hope was to endplay West for a heart lead into the ace-queen. The problem was that if he played on trumps immediately, West would be able to avoid such an outcome by continuing with diamonds.

As a result of this line of thought, declarer won the first trick with the dummy's king of diamonds and then cashed his ace and queen of diamonds before leading a low trump. West rose with the ace of trumps and, not wanting to open up either hearts or clubs, continued with the queen of trumps. Reading the tempo correctly, declarer countered this by playing low from dummy! Reluctantly, West shifted to a low club, which was won by declarer with his jack. Next declarer played a trump to the king to draw East's last trump. South continued by playing a club to the ace and followed this with another club.

West won with the king of clubs and had only hearts remaining in his hand. Declarer won the ten of hearts exit with his queen and claimed his contract: he made two trumps, two hearts, three diamonds and three clubs.

It should be noted that, if West had been able to continue with a trump after the queen of spades won the trick, then declarer would have won and played a club to the ace, followed by the queen of clubs. (If West had followed with a low club, he would have been counted as having started with 3=5=3=2 shape with a doubleton king and so would have been endplayed, with only hearts left in his hand.)

Four Continents' Gems

John Carruthers
Kingsville, ON



The following deals were all broadcast on BBO and were played in Paris, São Paulo, Gold Coast, New Delhi and Monte Carlo respectively.

Division Nationale

The ZALESKI team defeated FLEURY 270-203 in the final of France's 2019-2020 Division Nationale, completed in January. ZALESKI comprised Thomas Besis/Frédéric Volcker, Philippe Cronier/Romain Zaleski and Tom Hanlon/Cédric Lorenzini, while playing for the FLEURY team were Xavier Dupuis/Thibaut Charletoux, Hervé Fleury/Marc Girollet and Pierre-Yves Guillaumin/Jean-Jacques Palau.

The final match was 96 boards in length, played over six sessions. After four of those six stanzas, the match was very close, ZALESKI leading 162-147. The fifth session put paid to the FLEURY team's chances, as they were outscored 64-9 in that set. The last board of the fifth set offered a perfect illustration of why the ZALESKI team won the event.

Board 80. Dealer West. EW Vul.

♠ 9 7 5 3 2

♥ A J 9 6

♦ 10 5 2

♣ 10

♠ Q J 6 4

♥ 10 3

♦ A K Q 8 4 3

♣ J

♠ 8

♥ 7 4

♦ J 9 6

♣ A K 9 8 6 4 2

♠ A K 10

♥ K Q 8 5 2

♦ 7

♣ Q 7 5 3

West	North	East	South
Dupuis	Hanlon	Charletoux	Lorenzini
1♦	Pass	3♣!	3♥
3♠	4♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			
1. Natural, invitational			

Dupuis led a high diamond and shifted to a trump. Lorenzini won that with dummy's jack and led a club. Charletoux won and led his spade. Declarer won and cross-ruffed clubs and diamonds, eventually leading a spade toward his hand. It did not matter whether East ruffed or not; Lorenzini would lose either a ruff or a spade to make ten tricks, plus 420.

West	North	East	South
Volcker	Girollet	Bessis	Fleury
1♦	Pass	2♣!	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♦	Pass	5♦	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. Game-forcing unless suit is rebid

Here, South did not bid, even though he could have done so at a level lower than had Lorenzini at the other table. Even if the defence had taken their three top tricks, ZALESKI would have won 8 IMPs. As it was, Girollet led his stiff ten of clubs. Volcker won and ruffed a club high, getting the bad news in that suit. Declarer pulled one round of trumps with a high one from hand, and then made a great play, leading a diamond to the nine! When South discarded, Volcker ruffed another club high, led a diamond to the jack and claimed 11 tricks. He still had a trump in hand to take care of one of dummy's hearts and lost just two tricks at the end for plus 600. It was a brilliant effort and earned 14 IMPs for Zaleski.

São Paulo Cup 2019

Board 9. Dealer North. EW Vul.

♠ K Q 9 8 5 4

♥ 7

♦ K J 7 6

♣ 9 2

♠ A 7 6 3

♠ —

♥ A K 3 2

♥ 10 9 4

♦ A

♦ Q 8 5 2

♣ A K 10 4

♣ Q J 8 6 5 3

♠ J 10 2

♥ Q J 8 6 5

♦ 10 9 4 3

♣ 7

West	North	East	South
Andrade	Carvalho	Tanaka	Perin
—	2♠	Pass	3♠
Double	Pass	4♣	Pass
5♣	Pass	Pass	Pass

Tanaka simply drew trumps and had 12 tricks for plus 620.

West	North	East	South
Sabbag	Campos	Ravenna	Machado
—	2♠	Pass	3♠
Double	4♠	5♣	Pass
7♣	7♠	Double	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Trump leads against grand slams have gone slightly out of favour lately. However, we'll never know what Mauricio Machado would have led against Pablo Ravenna's seven clubs, because João-Paulo Campos took a sacrifice in front of him. Seven spades doubled lost one trump trick, one heart trick, two diamond

tricks and one club trick for minus 1100 and a loss of 10 IMPs. A double-dummy red-suit lead might have produced 1400.

If Campos and Machado had passed out seven clubs, on anything but a trump lead, Ravenna could have arranged to ruff his three diamond losers in the dummy and park his heart loser on the ace of spades. Superficially, it looks as though he'd have had the same option on a trump lead, with three trumps left in dummy to do so. But watch what happens. Declarer wins the trump lead in either hand, cashes the ace of diamonds and the ace of spades and uses three spade ruffs, the last one high, to ruff all three of his diamond losers. Then:

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

Unluckily for declarer, North, who, so far would have shown up with six spades and four diamonds, had two clubs and only one heart, rather than vice-versa, and would have ruffed the second heart.

So, South would have had to lead a trump to give his partner a heart ruff!

The CARVALHO team beat CAMPOS in the final 163-140.

2020 Gold Coast Congress Teams

One of the defence's best tools against a Moysian fit is the ruff-sluff, its aim being to weaken declarer's trump holding, hopefully fatally.

Board 13. Dealer North. Both Vul.

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

Michael Whibley and Matthew Brown found just such a defence on this deal against Nick Jacob's four-spade

contract on their way to winning the recently completed Gold Coast Congress Teams in Australia. Their teammates were Alex Antonios/Nabil Edgerton and Michael Cornell/Ashley Bach. They defeated Michael Ware/Nick Jacob, Geo Tislevoll/Terje Lie and Max Henbest/David Wiltshire by 12 IMPs, outscoring them by 42-0 IMPs on the last three boards of the match, having been 30 IMPs in arrears at that time.

West	North	East	South
Ware	Whibley	Jacob	Brown
—	Pass	INT	Pass
2♣	Double	2♠	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♦	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♣	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Playing a weak notrump, Jacob opened one. Had Michael Ware bid a simple three notrump, Jacob might have made it against less-than-stellar defence, perhaps being able to slip a diamond past South before he became aware of North's powerful club holding. However ...

When it became obvious that neither East nor West had a club stop, Ware supported spades and avoided the notrump trap. Brown led a club and Whibley played three rounds of the suit; Jacob discarded a diamond from hand and ruffed in the dummy. Needing a diamond trick to make four spades, declarer then led a diamond to the king. Brown won with his ace and continued Whibley's good work by leading a fourth club, dooming the contract to defeat with spades 4-2.

It is possible to go down in four spades on a different lead, or if North shifts after two club winners have been taken, but declarer can always make the contract by cashing the ace and king of spades, then playing on diamonds, denying North a ruff.

Delhi Gymkhana 2020 Open Teams

On the following deal, one side had no chance at its contract, while the other might have made theirs ...

Board 12. Dealer West. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Animesh	Sarkar	Srinivasan	Badal Das
1♠	Pass	2♣ ¹	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♥	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♣	Pass
4♣	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. Artificial game-force

On the lie of the cards, four spades was hopeless, losing four trump tricks and a club for minus 100.

West	North	East	South
Bardan	Manna	Rameshkumar	Desai
1♠	Pass	2♥	Pass
2♠	Pass	4♥	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Desai led the king of spades, receiving an ambiguous signal of the two from Manna. Since it was within the realm of possibility that declarer had two or three spades to the jack, South then tried to cash a second spade, giving declarer a losing option. Rameshkumar ruffed and took the top hearts, discovering that he had two losers there. East led a diamond to the dummy and ruffed a spade, trying for a three-three break. South over-ruffed, cashed his other heart and led a diamond, knowing that declarer had five minor-suit cards and would have a club loser at the end. Minus 50 resulted in 2 IMPs to Rameshkumar's team, Rampage. They won this match, a semifinal, to advance to the final against Poddar Housing, whom they also beat.

East missed a big chance here. To make four hearts, he had to cash three rounds of diamonds, pitching one club, then ruff a spade. If South declined to over-ruff, he could then have been put in with a trump to lead a club away from the king. The odds were against that play succeeding, but North/South's defence had indicated that it might have been a better chance.

Meckles Reigns

Jeff Meckstroth would be on everybody's shortlist for the best declarer on the planet. Here he is at work for the GUPTA team against AGRIPORT of The Netherlands in the 3rd European Winter Games, held recently in Monaco ...

Board 20. Dealer West. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
De Wijs	Meckstroth	Muller	Mahmood
1♦ ¹	INT	2♦ ²	Pass
2♥ ³	Pass	2♠ ⁴	2NT ⁵
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♦
Pass	3♥	Pass	Pass

1. 11-14 HCP, 2+ diamonds
2. One major
3. Pass or correct
4. Natural
5. Takeout, at least two places to play

It is often said that great declarers often play as if they can see through the backs of the cards. This board was a perfect illustration of that adage.

Bauke Muller led the jack of spades, ducked to the queen. Meckstroth took one high trump, gathering the ten from East, then led the king of clubs. When Simon de Wijs received an odd-number count from Muller, he ducked to deny declarer entry to the dummy. Meckstroth led the jack of clubs and again de Wijs ducked. A third club put de Wijs in with the ace. West cashed the ace of spades and had to determine the best continuation. Eventually, West shifted to the diabolical three of diamonds. He had projected what would have happened had he shifted to the queen of diamonds instead: king-ace-two, low diamond-eight-jack-low. The ten of diamonds would then have been an entry to the dummy for the heart finesse. When de Wijs shifted to a low diamond, he hoped that Meckstroth would misguess and play the king, losing to Muller's ace. Over to Meckstroth.

De Wijs' one-diamond opening bid had promised 11-14 high-card points. He had shown up with the major-suit aces and the putative queen of hearts (which Meckstroth had already decided to play him for). West could therefore not have held the ace and either minor honour in diamonds as that would have given him 15 or 16 HCP, enough for a one-club opener in the Tarzan Club system employed by de Wijs and Muller. If de Wijs had just one of the lower honours, there was nothing Meckstroth could have done – Muller would have won two diamond tricks and put declarer back in hand with the king of diamonds, with no entry to the dummy. That would have meant one off if Meckstroth's construction were accurate. So, it came down to playing de Wijs for either the queen-jack of diamonds or the ace of diamonds. Which was it to be?

There was one more consideration for Meckstroth: East had not led a diamond. He certainly would not have led a diamond from the ace, but he might well have led one if he'd held the queen-jack, with or without spots. All of these considerations led Meckstroth to duck the diamond from de Wijs to Muller's ace. It was all over now, Baby Blue. Muller led

another diamond and de Wijs was soon on play with the third round of the suit. He had a spade, a club and the doubleton-queen in hearts left and could not prevent declarer from getting to the dummy. West led a spade and Meckstroth ruffed low and over-ruffed in the dummy, took the trump finesse and claimed plus 140. It was a virtuoso performance.

Suppose de Wijs had won the second club, cashed the ace of spades and exited with a club, putting Meckstroth in the dummy? Would Meckstroth have looked that gift horse in the mouth? It would have been a game of cross and double-cross in that case.

Ironically, the deal was played in identical fashion by Yke Smit of AGRIPORT at the other table. The problem was, Smit was in four hearts, so his equally brilliant play resulted in one down, no acclaim, and a loss of 6 IMPs.



Most books on defence tell us, "Play this, don't play that, because ..." However, at the table, conditions are harder: "Don't hesitate, think quickly, what is partner thinking? ..." etc.

My first deal is from the 2020 Turkish Mixed Team Trials, held in January. Fifteen teams competed over four days. The Final comprised three segments of 16 boards each. Not very rigorous!

Dealer North. Both Vul.

♠ A 10 6 2
♥ Q 7 3
♦ K 9 4
♣ A 9 8

♠ Q 7 3
♥ 10 4
♦ A J 5
♣ Q J 7 6 3

West	North	East	South
—	1♣	Pass	1♥
Pass	1♠	Pass	INT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

As West, you lead the six of clubs. Declarer plays the eight from dummy, Partner the five, and declarer wins the trick with his ten. Declarer leads the eight of spades, you play the three, two from dummy, nine from East. Partner returns the three of diamonds, four, jack,

king. Declarer plays the six of spades from the dummy, five from East ... just now, did you become aware of something interesting?

When declarer wins this trick with his spade king, you should play the queen under it, false-carding, without breaking tempo. Put yourself instead in declarer's shoes: now three tricks in spades may not be possible and he might take a different tack, for example, playing on hearts. If partner has a very good holding in hearts (ace-king to four, for example), and doesn't make a mistake, your side can take seven tricks instead of declarer.

The full deal was:

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

In that case, you could win a trick with your heart ten, yes? Why not?

My second deal is from the Istanbul Open Team Championship which was also in January 2020 and was won by Yilankiran, with Bulgarian experts Nanev and Gunev as teammates.

Dealer West. EW Vul.

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

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

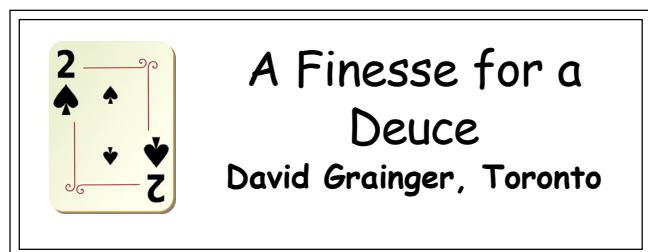
Rightly or wrongly, you led the heart two, four from Partner, ten from declarer. Declarer leads the five of clubs and you...?

It is clear that your card here should be a suit-preference signal, not count or Smith. Count in the club suit will certainly not be important to Partner and he already knows your attitude to the opening lead. Your partner will be as aware of the situation as

you, and if he has both the ace and king of clubs, two diamond leads from him may defeat the contract. The full deal:

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

On the given deal, you could win Partner's first diamond lead and lead a low one back. However, on certain constructions, you'd need to duck the first diamond, in case Partner had a doubleton diamond and the ace of spades, for example. In that case, if you won the first diamond and played another, declarer could succeed by playing on spades. Ducking the first diamond keeps all your options open.



Dealer South. Neither Vul.

♠ J 10 9 8 7 5

♥ A K Q 6

♦ Q 10

♣ 10

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

West	North	East	South
—	—	—	1NT ¹
3♣	Double ²	Pass	4♠
Pass	4NT ³	Pass	5♣ ⁴
Pass	6♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			
1. 14-16			
2. Takeout			
3. RKCB			
4. 0 or 3 key cards			

In a recent regional knockout, I had a chance to execute a rather odd play. I'd never seen the situation before, so I thought I'd write it up.

The opening lead was the eight of diamonds. I tried the ten, misguessing, and that was covered by the jack. With only one real chance left, I won with the ace and started hearts. Thankfully, all followed to the first three rounds as I threw one of my diamonds. Then I led the last heart as my right-hand opponent followed. I pitched my remaining diamond and the only thing that remained was that I needed the deuce of spades 'onside' in my right-hand opponent's hand. If he had it, my left-hand opponent wouldn't have any low trumps to ruff with. That was indeed the case and the slam came home. It could have been "The Tale of the Two of Spades".

I was the dummy on the following deal. The remaining names are being withheld to protect the guilty. It came up in the final round of a regional Swiss event, with the teams involved playing for second place.

Dealer South. EW Vul.

♠ A J 9 5

♥ 10 6 5

♦ 5 4 3

♣ 8 7 4

I was North. My partner dealt and, with the opponents surprisingly silent throughout, the auction went:

West	North	East	South
—	—	—	1♦
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♥
Pass	2NT ¹	Pass	5♥! ²
Pass	6♦	Pass	Pass
Pass			1. Weakness relay

The opponents asked about five hearts and, while I had never seen the bid before, I could only imagine three possibilities: (i) Partner was 6-7 in the reds with great suits; (ii) Partner was 5-7 in the reds with great suits and the singleton ace of clubs (because I had the ace of spades); or (iii) Partner had more than 13 cards, yet still, all of them were red, give or take the ace of clubs. I suggested to the opponents that Partner had something like 15 red cards. West led the ace of clubs; it seemed like a good idea to make it harder for declarer to reach the dummy, even if it didn't rate to live.

Over to partner's seat. He had about what I'd expected:

♠ —

♥ A Q J 9 8 7

♦ K Q J 10 9 8 2

♣ —

Carefully ruffing with the eight, Partner advanced the king of diamonds. Unfortunately, West showed out, so there was no longer any hope of reaching the dummy. This left the only realistic chance of making the contract being the singleton king of hearts with East (as West, the hand with the void in diamonds, surely would have bid something with the ace of clubs and 12 black cards). Nonetheless, East won the king of diamonds with the ace and fired back the four of hearts.

That seemed very strange. Could it really have been that West had passed one diamond with the bare king of hearts, a diamond void and the ace of clubs, and East was trying to protect it? That seemed impossible. Could East have been trying to get a ruff for down two? Surely that was the most likely case.

The final possibility was that East was actually underleading the king of hearts, trying to convince declarer that it was offside so that he'd rise with the ace not to lose a ruff. Taking a huge risk like that, expecting that your opponent would never play you to have done it, is known as the Grosvenor Gambit¹. It is very rare, and to risk letting the opponents make a vulnerable slam at IMPs to execute it would take some serious commitment.

My partner stared at this card for a while, considered the three alternatives, and finally decided that a singleton was the only real possibility and rose with the ace of hearts. West followed low and declarer drew trumps and conceded down one, with East proudly displaying his king of hearts! It had been onside all along, and partner had fallen for the riskiest Grosvenor I'd ever seen. Whether RHO should be praised or committed is a matter of opinion. I just laughed at it all. The full deal:

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

1. *The Grosvenor Gambit was unveiled in a years-ago article in The Bridge World. It involves making a ridiculous play to give declarer a chance to make an unmakeable contract you'd have defeated with normal play. Declarer does not believe you'd take such a foolish risk and plays accordingly, achieving the normal result, but giving the perpetrator a psychological edge.*



Correspondence

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

Hi John,

Regarding your editorial (*on changes to the scoring system – ed.*), you might be interested in the link below (and note the overwhelming vote).

<https://bridgewinners.com/article/view/for-those-of-a-certain-age/>

Richard Fleet, London

(When I checked out the Bridge Winners link, it indicated that an overwhelming majority of players do not want to go back to the old, but more adventurous, scoring method of 100-300-500-700-etc. for doubled non-vulnerable undeticks. The ratio was about 10-1 for retaining the current system. It was not the first, nor will it be the last, time I was in a righteous minority. :-) – Ed.)

Hi,

Funbridge is pleased to announce its partnership with the Swedish Bridge Federation (SBF). New SBF tournaments have started on Funbridge on 1 March. All weekend tournaments in March will be free.

For more information about partnerships with NBOs, feel free to contact me at:

virginie.delattre@goto-games.com or Jérôme Rombaut at: jerome.rombaut@goto-games.com

Best regards, Virginie Delattre, Funbridge

Hi John:

When I read your editorial on the scoring changes in the IBPA Bulletin of February 2020, I saw that you said Meckstroth bid seven spades against Kaplan/Kay. Could you tell me when that happened, because Chinese readers know that Meckstroth did bid seven spades against seven hearts in the Bermuda Bowl final in 1981, in which the USA defeated Pakistan. That board is in the first session (Board 12) of the final. Meckstroth bid seven spades, non-vulnerable, after Munir bid seven hearts. The penalty was minus 1700 (although the defence could have collected 1900). The other table also went to seven hearts, but undisturbed, so the USA won 11 IMPs.

I don't know if Meckstroth bid seven spades twice, but it would be an interesting story if he did. Could you tell me more so that I can introduce that article and story to Chinese readers?

Best regards, Jerry Lie, Beijing

(My memory was faulty on this. Edgar was the Chief Vu-Graph commentator in Rye, NY, where the Bermuda Bowl was played, not a combatant. Munir Atta-Ullah and Jan-e-Alam Fazli had bid confidently to seven hearts in nine bids; Meckstroth ‘balanced’ in seven spades on ♠J9852 ♥854 ♦K4 ♣J53. Edgar wrote so passionately about the deal later that I must have projected that it was against him. Nevertheless, Edgar was indeed instrumental in getting the scoring method changed to the current one. – Ed.)

John,

In the Editorial, you write in terms of ‘our’ and ‘we’ e.g. ‘... Here’s our suggestion ...’ & ‘... If we had to choose ...’ Editorials are usually the expression of thought of the Editor so, naturally, I am most interested to learn who the ‘our’ and ‘we’ are that you refer to?

Kind regards, Peter Hasenson, London

(I replied to Peter that I had used the ‘editorial we’, similar in intent, but by no means comparable, to the ‘royal we’, meaning ‘I’. However, it seems that such usage might indeed imply that there are others included in ‘we’. That has never been my intent, as evidenced by the editorial disclaimer on page one. Since this was not the first time I’d been queried on my use of ‘we’, I also said that I’d reconsider that usage. For sure I’ll do it if the whole English-speaking world ceases to use ‘their’ as a politically correct third-person singular pronoun substitute for ‘his’ or ‘her’. – Ed.)

NEWS & VIEWS



Keep Bridge Alive - continued

- develop bridge in schools, universities, libraries, workplaces and community centres
- establish resources to support widening access to bridge
- embed bridge into strategies for combatting social isolation and loneliness.

Programme of Work

Phase 1: publish academic papers (four are currently under development) and establish the sociology of mind sports as a new area of teaching and research

Phase 2: create accessible resources from the research findings for different groups such as teachers, parents, employers, policy-makers and children

Phase 3: develop a global Keep Bridge Alive network to share best practices

Phase 4: conduct new research within the bridge community to co-develop solutions and roll out practical projects for sustaining bridge.

Bridge: A MindSport For All
Connects People, Challenges Minds

Keep Bridge Alive Pro-Am Fund-Raiser

Keep Bridge Alive, the initiative of Scotland international player Professor Samantha Punch of the University of



Zia Mahmood greeted the players and patrons with an amusing welcoming speech

Stirling, staged a Pro-Am in London on February 20 at Stationers’ Hall, Ave Maria Lane, London. As well as from England, players from 11 other countries came to the event: Bulgaria, Croatia, Denmark, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Norway, Poland, Scotland, Sweden and Wales. The WBF and EBL Presidents, Gianarrigo Rona and Jan Kamras, participated, plus those from the Scottish Bridge Union (Eddie McGeough) and the English Bridge Union (Ian Payn, Chairman). There was a great sense of community spirit that the attendees were there to celebrate and promote bridge as a mind sport.

KBA is now going to only be used as a name for fundraising. The new project name is **Bridge: A MindSport for All**, BAMSA for short, with the tagline: *Connects People, Challenges Minds*.

Money raised to date is:

- £10K on the night from a silent auction (£3920), raffle (£1050) and donations (£5030)
- £10K from an anonymous donor who agreed to match the amount raised on the evening
- £30K raised in advance from the online auction, KBA patrons and KBA supporters.



The competitors at work and play in the Stationers' Hall

More pledges are still coming in.

The money raised will enable two part-time researchers to work with Professor Punch on BAMSA research to publish academic papers on bridge. Then the BAMSA team will work with bridge organisations as part of a global BAMSA network to create accessible resources from the findings (for schools, universities, employers, public libraries, parents, children and young people) to promote bridge and to disseminate the results widely.

There is an event website for the KBA Pro-Am: <https://keepbridgealive.bridgecloud.com/> with results, photos and a comprehensive bulletin (with contributions from Simon Cochemé, Mark Horton, Tim Rees and Ron Tacchi), plus a booklet of the deals played, with analysis by Adam Grossack, Mike Lawrence, Adam Wildavsky, Jenny Wolpert, Joel Wooldridge and Kit Woolsey.



The doyenne of KBA, Professor Samantha Punch, and Victoria Coren Mitchell, champion poker player and TV host, share a laugh while addressing the throng



www.ibpa.com

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

World Bridge Calendar

**Please check to ensure that any tournament you plan to attend is still going ahead,
 especially those in Asia, Italy and France. Some tournaments are being cancelled
 due to the spread of the novel coronavirus COVID-19.**

2020

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 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	Cancelled
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 13-19	Abano Festival (New Dates)	Abano Terme (Padua), Italy	www.eurobridge.org
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.tbricfed.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	Schaumberg, IL	www.usbf.org
May 6-12	12 th SBU Overseas Congress	Majorca, Baleairic 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	Schaumberg, IL	www.usbf.org
May 25-31	Sofia Bridge Festival	Sofia, Bulgaria	www.sofiabridgefestival.com
May 26-Jun 1	USBC Senior Trials	Schaumberg, IL	www.usbf.org
May 27-Jun 8	Canadian Bridge Week	Niagara Falls, ON	www.cbf.ca
May 28-Jun 1	52 nd Graz Bridge Festival	Graz, Austria	www.bridgegraz.at
May 28-Jun 2	USBC Women's Trials	Schaumberg, 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 16-26	Festival Mondial de Bridge	Deauville, France	www.mondial-deauville-bridge.com
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 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
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
Sep 28-Oct 3	18 th HCL International Championship	New Delhi, India	www.hcl-bridge.com
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