



BULLETIN

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THE INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE PRESS ASSOCIATION

Editor: John Carruthers

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.

Bulletin No. 667

August 10, 2020

Maria Teresa Lavazza 1937-2020

Two-thousand-and-twelve IBPA Personality of the Year Maria Teresa Lavazza died on July 21, 2020. She is survived by her son Giuseppe and daughter Francesca, also principals in the coffee company founded by her husband Emilio, who died in 2010. Maria Teresa came to the attention of the bridge world when she built



Photo: La Stampa

the Lavazza Team in Italy in the 1980s. With its success, the Italian Bridge Federation named her Non-Playing Captain of the Italian Open Team in 2000. Under her guidance, Italy won six world titles: the Bermuda Bowl in 2005 and 2013, the Olympiad Teams in 2000, 2004 and 2008 and the Rosenblum Cup in 2002. She and Carl' Alberto Perroux are the most-important figures ever in Italian bridge.

Here are reminiscences from Norberto Bocchi and Alfredo Versace (presented here unabridged), courtesy of Laura Camponeschi and the Neapolitan Club online.

This is a very sad moment for me. Lavazza was an important part of my life, not just with regard to bridge: she was like a mother to me. I have played in her team for 40 years, during which she gave me lots of useful advice. Her personality and charisma have influenced me and enabled me to grow as a person, as well as a bridge player. I will miss her very much and I am sure her memory will carry on making me a better person. Farewell Maria Teresa.

Norberto Bocchi

I have known Maria Teresa since I was a child, because I used to spend my summer evenings with her children Giuseppe and Francesca, at my aunt Marisa's restaurant on the hill, or sometimes in their holiday home in the mountains. When I started playing bridge, Italo Santia spotted my talent and started mentoring me, giving me advice and teaching me the most

Continued overleaf...

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important things, including how to behave at the table and in life. I was only 15 when Maria Teresa and Italo decided to take me to Italian Championships. We won with Belladonna, Garozzo and Guermani. Initially I was nervous in her presence, but gradually we developed a beautiful relationship.

We had great success as a Lavazza team first and then as the National team. Lavazza was a winner. She encouraged you to be your best; she was a leader. One day I decided to move to Angelini's team, because I wanted to live in Rome, close to my children, and reduce my commute. These reasons were valid and yet not sufficient to drop her in favour of her main opponent...and she forgave me. Her generosity was second to none.

Our greatest success was the World Championships in Estoril. Ortensi and she got right every single line up; including the crucial final round (against the USA) where she decided to field the youngest pair (Fantoni-Nunes). And what about the Europeans in Ostend, where Maria Teresa insisted on fielding an Argentinian boy who had been living in Italy for a while: this decision was not popular but it proved right. We won thanks to him and all who criticised her shut up. Today, this young boy is considered the best player in the world and I agree: he is Agustin Madala.

Maria Teresa was like that: she was able to spot talent and turn them into champions. From today we will be more lonely: Italian and world bridge alike will miss her. Now I have a dream: to dedicate to her our medal (perhaps the gold one) in the next Championships, together with Massimo Ortensi (her squire, right hand and coach).
Alfredo Versace

NEWS & VIEWS I



The bridge world is currently being rocked by another series of scandals, as it was in 2015. Unlike then, however, today's revelations involve cheating online, since there is no face-to-face play. So far, they comprise individuals who have self-kibitzed, that is, logged on to BBO with two i.d.s, one to play and another to watch the table at which they play. First, Michal Nowosadzki, Polish World Champion, 'confessed' on Bridge Winners. Here it is, presented in full, courtesy of Bridge Winners:

Confession of a Self-Kibitzer

by **Michal Nowosadzki** - July 13, 2020

EDITOR'S NOTE: Though Mr. Nowosadzki is not a native English speaker, Bridge Winners made an exception to its normal policy of editing featured articles to present Mr. Nowosadzki's statement in his own words.

Hello everyone. I have something terrible to confess. I've cheated. I did some self - kibitzing. Well, a lot of self - kibitzing to be honest. Most of you that know me are probably shocked right now. I have to say I am shocked by myself as well. I will start with apologizing to everybody. I would like especially to apologize to my partner and all teammates. They had no idea what was going on. it was me and me only. I am sorry. In particular I want to apologize to Josef, who is putting his whole heart into the game and by my actions I have also exposed his name into some harm. I want to apologize to all the people that gave me support in 4333 case and in general to all the people and friends who believed in



me. You put your trust in me. I let you down really badly. I cheated you. I lied to you. I am sorry. Obviously I want to apologize to all the opponents that I've cheated. Special apology also goes to Peter Fredin. Most of you don't know that, but Peter apologized to me privately after accusing me of cheating. It turned out that it should be the opposite. Peter, you were right about me and I am truly sorry. Finally I want to apologize to all the bridge enthusiasts for spoiling the integrity of our beautiful game. I hope I did not miss anyone.

I feel really bad for what I did. It was not only very bad but also extremely stupid. I might say it was one of the

most moronic things I did in my whole life. That fact should not really matter - cheating is awful by itself, but I could gain so little by doing that and lose so much (and I probably will) that it made no sense at all. I want to be absolutely clear that I find no excuse for my actions. Therefore the purpose of everything that is written below is not to make myself look less bad, but to give you some details and maybe make things a little better if possible.

It first happened in March, I think near the end of the month. I was really tired in the evening. I have a 7 months old daughter, so I am not getting too much sleep. I also had to take care of her at the time. So the dog was barking, the baby was crying, I was barely conscious at the moment, so I said to myself: ok, let's see all the hands to avoid any stupid mistakes. I will play in a "normal" way anyway. After the match I was like: you idiot, what are you doing?! First of all you are cheating people that know you and trust you (some of them call you a friend) and above of that you are risking your good name and maybe your career for what?! Stop it right now! Well, not exactly. It happened again. If you ask me why I can not give you a clear reason. Maybe because it was so easy and playing this way was so easy. I don't know. I was always thinking of myself as a good guy. I am still trying to think that I am a good guy that has done a wrong thing, but the problem is that good guys usually do the right things. Anyway at some point it became to be like a drug and I was an addict. I felt bad about it. I tried to stop. Sometimes I did put my phone away just not to do it, but after some boards I took it anyway. It took me almost three months to finally wake up. Three months to late. I stopped it completely and definitely like a month ago. I am done with this and this will never happen again. The only good thing about all this is that I stopped by myself. Maybe it will make some difference at least to some of you. I did not "watch" all the time but It was happening regularly during this whole period of time. Obviously I have made some plays which I might not/probably won't/very likely won't or for sure won't find if not knowing all the cards. And obviously those plays changed the outcome of some matches, of which at least a few were knockouts. Some of these plays were really "brilliant". Of course I was trying to be smart and avoid those kinds of plays but apparently I fell into some kind of an illusion and my judgement was not right. Not that it would change anything if I succeed in that matter. Here we are coming to the point that the fact that no one had any idea is not 100% true. After some of these brilliant plays Jacek began to suspect something. He asked me like at least ten times if I am knowing the hands and every time I lied to him that I do not. We are a partnership for eight years. We've been through a lot together. He trusted me. He believed me. He put my word above his feeling, This time he was wrong. I let him down. Once again: sorry Partner. One thing I can

assure you of, that I and we never cheated anyone in live bridge. While you don't have to believe a cheater that already lied to you, you can ask him. He is the one you can trust. We have won a lot together. The fact that even a single person might right now question a fairness of our achievements makes what I did even more stupid.

I don't know if I would get caught if I won't confess. It is likely that at some point someone will examine the boards or the other kind of data and find out, but i might as well get away with it. Doesn't matter right now. I just cannot keep it inside me anymore. I want to sleep at night again. Even if I got hammered here, which I deserve.

It is not my call to apply the proper punishment and actions to make it up a little to a bridge community but I have some ideas:

1. Assuming that anyone would still like to play with me I can offer myself to play some decent number of boards, f.e. 500, either with some juniors or people that will pay some money for it, which would go to some kind of charity. Optionally I can double the amount or pay some kind of fixed amount.
2. For sure I should take some time off. Again it is not me to decide how long it should be. For the very moment I have excluded myself from this week tournament we were supposed to play. That seemed obvious.

I hope one day I will be forgiven.

That was about me. Now I would like to write some words about cheating in online bridge in general. It doesn't at all change the view of what I did but I know (or maybe I should write I am 99% sure) that I am not the only one. I have like ten names in my head. The names of the guys that made many suspicious plays and most of them were successful. (that's kind of funny that I've noticed their actions while at the same time I thought that mine are not suspicious at all). Of course I am not going to write a single name here but I think if you ask ten or twenty ALT or OCBL "regulars", they will mostly come up with the same names. So guys you should know you were not unnoticed. I guess some of you maybe stopped on the way. I am not a sheriff here. I am a bad guy. But if I were you I would strongly consider to confess. Or if for any reason you don't want to, at least stop doing what you are doing. I know some of you better, some a little worse, but my opinion is that none of you would even think of cheating in a live bridge. This online thing is going to last at least for some time, whether we like it or not. We have made a big mess. Let's try to clean it up and start over. Let's try to make this thing as close to a real game as possible. For myself and for all of you: I hope it is not too late.

When I (J.C.) saw Nowosadzski's 'confession', I immediately had three thoughts. The first was that the admission of guilt did not seem voluntary, it seemed coerced, of the nature of, "You have 24 hours to come clean or we will out you." I have no personal knowledge that that is the case, but the statement just seemed a little too ingenuous. My second thought was, "Here's a perfect opportunity for the Polish Bridge Union to consult with the EBL, WBF, ACBL and CCBA (Chinese Contract Bridge Association), all the places where Nowosadzski plays face-to-face bridge, to coordinate a response, decide on a punishment and determine a protocol for further action, since there are bound to be other cases. My third thought was that someone, as they did for the cheats in 2015, ought to go back and check all Nowosadzski's deals that are in the BBO archives to determine if his assertion that he never cheated in face-to-face play is true.

Following through on the second thought, I wrote an email to the president of the Polish Bridge Union, Witold Stachnik, suggesting that he convene a meeting of those organizations to discuss Nowosadzski. Here it is:

Dear Mr. Stachnik,

I am John Carruthers, editor of the International Bridge Press Association. Like everyone else, I was amazed and devastated at the 'confession' on Bridge Winners by Michal Nowosadzski. I had always believed that Kalita and Nowosadzski were honest. Now it appears I was only half right.

In my next editorial (to be published no later than August 10), I am going to suggest the following:

1. that the Polish Bridge Union should take the lead and organise a conference call among the PBU, EBL, WBF, ACBL and CCBA (in other words the jurisdictions where Nowosadzski played most, if not all, of his bridge)
2. that all those jurisdictions come to a consensus on his punishment
3. that that punishment should include a ban of at least five years from all bridge, face-to-face and online – the punishment should be strong enough to deter other cheats but lenient enough for those who confess
4. in the light of his confession, that he be allowed reinstatement after five years as long as there is no other nefarious action by him (such as setting up a BBO account under a different name) – Nowosadzski should be advised of this
5. all online titles won by Nowosadzski and his team be nullified and the second-place team be declared the winner (any other action is too complex).

It is my understanding that Nowosadzski has already been expelled from the Polish National Team. It is not enough.

I am telling you this so that it does not come as a surprise and to give you a chance to comment, if you wish, before my editorial. I would love to be able to report this as a *fait accompli* rather than as a wishlist.

Here is a chance for the Polish Bridge Union to get out in front of this and to organise a unified response with Europe, North America, China and the WBF. Surely it would be better for all organisations to take the opportunity to present a unified front and tell the rest of the bridge world that they care. There does not appear to me to be a downside to this.

I regard the fact that the cheating did not take place in a PBU/EBL/ACBL/CCBA/WBF event as incidental. He cheated, has admitted it and merits punishment. All bridge organisations should be concerned.

Yours sincerely,
John Carruthers

P.S.: I am copying all the organisations I mentioned above.

WBF: Gianarrigo Rona (President)

EBL: Jan Kamras (President)

ABCL: Joe Jones (Executive Director), Robb Gordon (National Recorder), Mitch Dunitz (Chair, ACBL Anti-Cheating Commission)

CCBA: Sun Cheng Mo (I hope I have this name correct, from the email address)

PBU: Marek Wojcicki, Editor, Polish Bridge

An indirect response came from the WBF, whose Management Committee released the following statement from the WBF President, Gianarrigo Rona:



International Sport Federation (IF) recognized by the
International Olympic Committee

Gianarrigo Rona
President

WBF MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE STATEMENT

The Management Committee of the WBF took note of the confession made by Michal Nowosadzski, admitting his cheating during the online tournaments of the last three months and, whilst underlining the fact that online bridge competitions organised by private groups do not have any relation with the WBF and its organisation, unanimously on behalf of the WBF:

1. reaffirms its strong revulsion, unwavering rejection and firm condemnation of this kind of aberrant and unacceptable behaviour which, wherever and whenever it occurs, causes great harm to bridge and threatens its credibility;
2. reiterates its full support of the players in the fight against cheating and improper behaviour, adopting all measures needed to prevent and to repress these actions;
3. remarks that participation in WBF events is subject to the approval of the Credentials Committee, which carefully considers all submitted requests regarding players involved in suspicious cases, wherever and whenever they occurred.

Lausanne, 20 July 2020
 Gianarrigo Rona
 WBF President



The only personal response I (J.C.) received was from Jan Kamras, who played what I call the “Jurisdiction Card”, i.e., the EBL has no jurisdiction over a private online event. That, of course, can be true of all those bridge organisations, including the PBU. Nevertheless, the PBU did take immediate action, kicking Nowosadzki off their national team. One hopes that the various Credentials Committees make a note in their files also.

One also hopes that the WBF will take point 3 to heart and very carefully consider whether they should ever allow Nowosadzki to play in one of their events again. Similarly, the EBL, the ACBL and the CCBA.

The ink had barely dried (figuratively) on Nowosadzki’s admission of guilt when another ‘confession’ appeared on Bridge Winners, this time involving another former World Champion, Sylvia Shi of the American Women’s Team Torlontano Trophy champions in 2016:

Confession of a Self Kibitzer Pt 2 by Sylvia Shi | July 23, 2020

What did I do?

I self-kibitized during most events I played online starting in late April through the end of June that allowed kibitzers. No one else knew I was doing this.

I have never cheated or been tempted to cheat in person or in any collusive way online. I have never cheated in any of the ACBL online SYC games, regional games, or club games, or any other games, that I have played in.

Why did I do it?



What I did was wrong. I make no excuses for it. What I did was a travesty against bridge and I am ashamed and deeply regret my actions.

I’m not looking for sympathy. I’m not looking to justify my actions. However, it is important to me to give people some insight into the mind of someone who might do this kind of thing. I realize not everyone has the same motivations. Some of you may not believe what I have to say. However, I am going to tell the truth about my situation. You can take from this what you will.

I didn’t do it for money, glory, results, victories, some sort of fulfillment, or masterpoints.

I wasn’t under pressure to win or do well in any way.

I did it because it was so, so easy, and so tempting. I knew I should not look, but I made the choice to do it anyway. I am the kind of person who loves to read a spoiler for a movie before watching it. It was very tempting for me with the hand records easily available to look when I could. I found it addictive. So maybe this makes it even worse, as I don’t even have a good excuse.

At the time I started, this type of cheating wasn’t such a hot topic issue. I rationalized, “I’m not a cheater, this isn’t something I would do in ‘real’ bridge. I’ll just see the cards sometimes, it will all be over when we get back to face to face bridge in a few months.” It sounds so stupid when I say it now.

I became addicted to looking. I told myself that I wasn’t actually going to take specific advantage from it. I told myself I would just play normal. But of course it was almost impossible for me to purposefully make myself take a losing action when I knew it was losing, and it was very difficult for me to figure out what I would have done “normally” had I not seen the hands.

Why am I confessing?

When BBO contacted me yesterday, I could tell by looking at the evidence how obvious it was that I was self-kibitzing. I was so ashamed as I really did not think of myself as a cheater, but looking at the boards it is clear that cheating was exactly what I had been doing. I'm not going to pretend I suddenly became holy – I guess had been hoping that I had slipped under the radar, as every event from now on is no kibitzers and therefore I was secretly hoping my problem had solved itself and I would never be tempted again.

I was already ashamed of my actions, so when I was confronted, it was crystal clear to me that I needed to take responsibility immediately.

I would like to sincerely apologize to my partners, teammates and opponents who were involved in this. I'm sorry that I ruined the integrity of the events. I'm sorry for cheating you. I'm sorry that I caused you all to be involved in this. I also apologize to all my friends and partners that I've had over the years, I know this must be a huge disappointment to you all to find out about this. I apologize to Bridgebase for having to put in the time and effort to look through my hands and figure this out. And I especially apologize to general bridge lovers and enthusiasts, for being another person who knows better tarnishing the game.

I hope that people can forgive me in time, but if not, I understand that too.

(J.C.) While the perpetrators have been commended by some for coming forward, their 'confessions' ring a bit hollow for me. Would they have done so if not under threat from outside sources? Very doubtful.

Meanwhile, some bridge organisations and players are taking action. Robb Gordon, the ACBL National Recorder, has advocated that the ACBL make all its NABC events invitational, allowing them to 'disinvite' unwanted players or pairs. The EBL and the WBF already have this mechanism in place, although it is rarely used. It will apparently now need to become more common.

On another front, the organisers of the Alt and OCBL events have created an informal committee of prominent, impeccably ethical, honest players to recommend to them whether or not a player should be admitted to their events. The formation of this committee was also announced on Bridge Winners...

Credentials Advisory Team

by Boye Brogeland, July 14, 2020

A recent article (*on Bridge Winners – Ed.*) highlights the need for a level of informal regulation with respect to invitational online events.

On June 19th, Sjoert Brink published an article titled 'Anti-cheating committee' regarding fairness in major online bridge events. This article appears to have led to some misunderstandings regarding the status and activities of the now renamed 'Credentials Advisory Team' (originally, the Online Anti-Cheating Committee).

This article is to clarify the status and objectives of CAT.

Who are we?

The specific membership of the team may vary over time but currently comprises: Thomas Bessis (France), Boye Brogeland (Norway), Eldad Ginossar (USA), David Gold (England), Joe Grue (USA), Roger Lee (USA), Marion Michielsen (Sweden), and Simon de Wijs (Netherlands).

What is the purpose of CAT?

First and foremost, CAT deals with ALT and OCBL invitational tournaments. The organisers of those events have agreed to follow our advice in its entirety. We have no agreement or direct influence with respect to any other tournaments or bridge organisations.

High-level events are now taking place online regularly and for the foreseeable future. These events are very vulnerable to cheating in ways which are not available in live bridge, obvious examples being self-kibitzing and illegal communication between players. This poses a serious threat to the credibility and meaningfulness of online tournaments.

We seek to support a level of integrity in the interests of all participants and followers of these tournaments. Our team works hard to analyse suspicious play and results. If we believe the evidence across many hands reaches a level that justifies the relevant player not receiving an invitation, we inform the organisers.

What is our goal?

Our goal is that participants in ALT and OCBL events have a reasonable level of assurance that steps are taken by the organisers, in so far as possible, to ensure a level playing field for all participants and that the result of their events can be regarded as meaningful.

How to Contact Us

If you want to report suspicious hands or get in touch with us, please email us at:

credentialsadvisoryteam@gmail.com

We review every report we receive and will treat them confidentially. Looking into community reports of suspicious hands are an integral part of what we do.

We are working on a method of anonymous reporting. For now, we recommend using a web service that specialises in sending anonymous emails if you would not like to contact us from your personal email.

(J.C.) Larry Robbins was one of a group of young Chicago bridge players making a name for themselves in the early 1980s. The group included Howie Weinstein, Ralph Katz, Bart Bramley, Steve Garner, Jerry Goldfein, Hal Mouser, Jack Oest, Greg DeFotis and Claude Vogel. Over a period of 13 years, that group, supplemented by veterans Milt Rosenberg and Gerald Caravelli, won three Grand National Team titles and were runnersup in three more. Each event began at the grassroots level with hundreds of entries.

In addition to being a pretty good bridge player, Dr. Larry Robbins is a renowned physician in Chicago, a neurologist who specializes in headache and psychopharmacology. He has been named one of "America's Top Doctors" every year since 2002.

Here is Larry's take on the current online self-kibitzing pandemic, published by Bridge Winners...

Cheating and Personality Disorders

by Dr. Larry Robbins, MD, FAHS, FAAIM
July 18, 2020

I divide cheating into two buckets: individual and collusive. The individual is much more prevalent (self-kibitzing, looking in an opponent's hand, etc.). For individual cheating, a wide range of personality types



Larry Robbins

may be involved: players who are very competitive, ethically challenged a bit, but many do not have a personality disorder. Of course, the more severe personality disorders also engage in individual cheating. Online, self-kibitzing probably involves more players than is acknowledged. Once a person discovers that he/she can do this, it probably becomes difficult to stop. As several posts have alluded to, the reasons are varied: in the end, bridge is a tough game, and takes a lot of brain power; looking at all four hands renders it easy, and probably there is a thrill to it. Like Ponzi schemers, once into it, it is probably quite difficult to just stop.

Collusive cheating is a different situation. I believe that the percentage of collusive cheats who have a personality disorder is significantly higher than in the individual cheats. One or both of the cheats may have a personality disorder (but not always). Personality disorders are common; I have published studies on this; about 5% of persons in the world have a

personality disorder of one of the more serious types: borderline, antisocial (sociopathic), narcissistic, paranoid. These 5% create 97% of all of our problems in the world. Evolution has not been able to weed out the personality disorders (for solid reasons: I am very interested in evolution, and there are reasons why these personalities still exist). Personality disorders create havoc in relationships, companies, and countries; they tend to rise to management levels, or CEOs, or heads of government (they often are great salespeople, very extroverted, can be charming, great liars).

Most people with a personality disorder have a mixture of types and symptoms. Common symptoms include: exploitative, mood disorders, grandiosity, splitting, "malignant inner loneliness", lack of empathy, cruel, little conscience, anger/irritability, etc. Many personality disorders flip between the triad of: victim, persecutor, and savior. When they turn persecutor, with that "borderline/sociopathic anger", look out. Almost all the spree killers are paranoid/borderline/sociopathic people. Their brains are much different: the prefrontal cortex, which modulates impulsivity, and is the 'governor' to the brain, is not functioning well. There are other anatomical differences found in those with certain types of personality disorders.

Back to bridge: with collusive cheating, sometimes one player with a personality disorder (sometimes much better than the partner) drives the collusion. There undoubtedly are pairs where both had personality disorders, and others where neither partner had one. Once they start, it is very difficult to stop, and they may become overconfident and lazy about the cheating. Boye Brogeland, with the help of others (and BW) has diminished the footprint of these collusive cheats. However, they will always be with us. Chess (looking at his phone in the bathroom) and poker (various means) have had their own cheating scandals in the past two years. Individual cheating can be mitigated more easily, with simple steps such as creating an online delay. Stopping collusive cheating is more difficult, because the player with a personality disorder is less likely to stop trying to devise ways to cheat. Those with personality disorders ruin quality of life for much of the world, and they present the major challenge in keeping bridge clean.

RESOURCES:

Personality disorders: <https://www.nimh.nih.gov/health/topics/borderline-personality-disorder/index.shtml>

<https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/basics/cluster-b>
Plus: you can search for MRI and personality disorders (Youtube has interesting videos).

There is a section (in a recent headache book that I wrote) on "Personality disorders and the bipolar

spectrum”, which I can send to you if you email me: lrobb98@icloud.com

Evolutionary medicine and psychiatry: fascinating and relevant subject; Randolph Nesse, M.D. has wonderful books out on this (Why We Get Sick, and Good Reasons for Bad Feelings); and a lot on the internet on this; great Youtube videos on this. I recently authored a blurb on it as well: <http://chicagoheadacheclinic.com/evolution-and-migraine/>

What Now? by John Carruthers

Whether we consider cheating at bridge to be a disease or a crime, there are two aspects that need to be considered: prevention and cure (if it's a disease) or; prevention and penalties (if it's a crime). Effectively, it does not matter whether it's a disease or a crime or both, we need to have penalties sufficient both to punish the perpetrators and to serve as a deterrent.

I. Develop a Criminal Code

Collusive Cheating

As Larry Robbins has suggested, cheating can be subdivided into two main categories, collusive and individual. The proliferation of online events has seen the emergence of a sub-category of collusive cheating which we can call “partner kibitzing”. This occurs when two players in the same household look at each other's hands or, if in different households, transmit the data of each other's hands electronically to each other, most often via telephone. It could be argued that this is no different from developing a set of signals to tell your partner across the table from you what you have in your hand. Partner kibitzing is just more precise, not to mention easier to execute.

- (i.) At-the-table signals
- (ii.) Partner-kibitzing
- (iii.) There is another category which has come to light with the advent of Swiss Teams and mostly with professional players. That is score cheating. For example, if three teams are close to the lead and two are playing each other in the last match of an event, the winner of the match gets a blitz, regardless of the actual match score, ensuring a win in the event. Another type might occur in an earlier match near but not at the end of the event, with both teams in contention: the teams agree on a draw, keeping both in contention. Professional players cynically referred to this practice as “professional courtesy”. This had become so prevalent in Regional Swiss Teams that the ACBL decreed that if two teams played each other in the wrong direction (which used to be declared a draw), both would receive 0 VP.

Thus, if they misreported a score as a tie, severe penalties would ensue.

Individual Cheating

There has apparently been a proliferation of individual cheating concurrent with the explosion of online bridge events. Individual cheating can consist of, but is not limited to, the following subcategories:

- (i.) Table kibitzing/self kibitzing. The perpetrator logs on twice, once to play and once to kibitz, sometimes anonymously.
- (ii.) Scoping unplayed boards. This most often occurs in pairs games when a player wanders around, looking at boards he has not yet played. One world-famous lightning-quick player was so well-known for this practice that the tournament directors tracked the results of his odd-numbered boards (typically, the first board played in a two-board round) against the results of his even-numbered boards. They discovered that his even-numbered board scores were 10% higher than his odd-numbered board scores. As he finished his two boards a few minutes ahead of most players, he'd get up from the table and wander, looking at other tables playing their even-numbered boards. Some players are so stupid that they've been caught doing this by writing the scores for unplayed boards in their private scorecard.
- (iii.) Transmitting data to teammates with the relayed boards in Swiss matches. One ingenious method might be to expose one of your cards, telling your teammate(s) that they have a difficult-to-bid slam. All that's required is for teammates to notice that their opponent has one card turned the wrong way. Or the information might indicate the location of a key queen.
- (iv.) Intentionally fouling a poor-result board to ensure that it is thrown out of competition. This has definitely happened in ACBL events (perhaps even by a former World Champion) and was alleged to have occurred in the 1996 Olympiad Teams in Rhodes (see Bobby Wolff's book *The Lone Wolff* for the details).

There are undoubtedly other methods of cheating that have escaped my attention. We can add them to the list.

Currently, there is a tendency for bridge organisations to ignore reality with an ostrich-like approach to cheating, or worse, to try to sweep it under the rug. For example, the WBF has repeatedly stated that it is up to the players to catch the cheats. Imagine if the IOC and WADA said the same. Wouldn't it be better for the Laws Commission, for example, or the WBF in

consultation with its constituents, to prescribe penalties for each of the seven items (and any others they can think of) listed above? We need a Criminal Code to do this.

2. Prevention

Before 2015, it's fair to say that bridge organisations did little to halt cheating or punish perpetrators. The ACBL had a few high-profile cases over the years (Katz-Cohen, Sion-Cokin and a handful of others). But many more players were quietly told to end their partnerships with no other repercussions. Europe had its own cases (Reese-Schapiro), as did Asia (Manoppo-Manoppo). Players and pairs had been told not to come to World Championships by, initially, Jaime Ortiz-Patiño (all four of those above-named pairs) and, latterly, by the WBF Credentials Committee (notably Balicki-Zmudzinski). The EBL also has a similar body.

Subsequently to Boye Brogeland's revelations in 2015, the ACBL formed its Anti-Cheating Commission, the EBL formed a similar group and the WBF formed its High-Level Players Commission. Although these groups work diligently to investigate cases of suspected malfeasance, according to those authorities, it's up to their sponsoring organisations to take action. The Commissions themselves have no authority to prosecute or convict, merely to recommend action to their sponsors.

There has also been formed a special Credentials Advisory Team to assist and advise the organisers of online championships such as the Alt and OCBL events. See Boye Brogeland's explanation of this group's mandate on page six.

Another step in the right direction was taken by ACBL National Recorder Robb Gordon when he suggested that the ACBL make all NABC events invitational. Thus, like World and European Championships, a player or pair can remain uninvited or, indeed, be disinvented.

BBO can (and has done) help catch self-kibitzers by paying attention to login i.d.'s, computer locations, telephone numbers and Internet Service Providers. Statistics can help determine if a pair under suspicion is good, 'lucky' or cheating. BBO was critical in catching Michal Nowosadzki and Sylvia Shi, and statistics and the evidence of the deals themselves reinforced their guilt and elicited their admissions of guilt. There are more players and pairs to be outed soon.

However, more needs to be done. If bridge organisations are truly interested in saving our game from these predators, as they all proclaim, hiring Nicolas Hammond (*Detecting Cheating in Bridge*) and forging a closer relationship with BBO would be good steps in that direction.

Additionally, when bridge organisations are trying to

determine what they ought to do with these offenders and the penalties they ought to assess them, the authorities would do well to take heed of what the FBI's Behavioral Science Unit has been telling us for more than four decades, *to wit*, "The best indicator of future behavior is past behavior."

3. Help the CAT

Do you want to help? The members of the Credentials Advisory Team are working tirelessly in compiling data and investigating charges and complaints. With other players in their sights, there are not enough members of the team to investigate all those players thoroughly.

So, if you are interested in being an examiner/spotter for the committee, you can contact the CAT directly at: credentialsadvisoryteam@gmail.com.



PRESS RELEASE

31st July 2020

Funbridge and BBO wish to emphasise their policy regarding zero tolerance of bad behaviour and cheating by participants playing bridge online at their sites.

Both organisations strive daily to prevent and detect cheating. Considerable human and IT resources have been deployed to this end.

Both organisations are also working with the World Bridge Federation and all National Bridge Organisations to stamp out any form of cheating, any behaviour contrary to normal, accepted standards or anything that may affect the running of the game.

Conditions and Regulations are published on both sites and all participants are encouraged to read them and commit to abiding by them.

Breaches of acceptable behaviour or cheating will be dealt with by the online provider initially and, particularly in the case of cheating, referred for further action as deemed appropriate.

"We like this game too much to let a few alter its nature by cheating. We are intransigent on the issue." Olivier Comte - 52 Entertainment President.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'O. Comte', is written over a light grey background.

Olivier Comte
President & CEO of BBO / FunBridge



IBPA Column Service

Tim Bourke, Canberra



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

This month's deals have a common theme: avoidance.

1009. Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
—	—	—	2NT
Pass	3NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

West led the seven of hearts: nine, jack, king. Declarer won with the king rather than the queen to leave West in doubt about the location of the missing honour. Declarer saw that he had to develop diamonds for an extra trick without letting East on lead for the fatal heart continuation. Thus, South cashed the ace of clubs and played the jack of clubs to the king to lead the nine of diamonds from the board. He planned to let it run if East had played low, but East covered and declarer won with his ace, West following with the seven, preparing the way for a future unblock. Again, declarer crossed to dummy in clubs, leading the ten to the queen. Declarer led the eight of diamonds, hoping to be able to run that to West, but East covered this time as well. West unblocked the queen as his only hope. He only needed East to have the six of diamonds.

Unfortunately for West, declarer had the six of diamonds and East the five, so declarer made an overtrick!

Assuming that diamonds were three-three, a necessary condition, (or that East had two honours-doubleton, in which case a low one from dummy the first or second time would have been better), to make his contract, declarer needed East to hold only (i.) one of the queen-jack-ten of diamonds or (ii.) two of the queen-jack-ten-seven of diamonds.

1010. Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

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

1. Mild slam-try

Facing a 15-17 notrump, North had a Texas Transfer available, but decided he had just enough for a mild slam-try. South gave the matter some thought but decided not to advance based on his sterile shape, after which his result at the table was more than usually embarrassing.

A trump was led against the game. South drew trumps ending in the dummy and took the heart finesse. West won and found the inspired shift to the club jack and, whatever declarer did, he was doomed to go one down.

When South started to whine about his bad luck, North cut him short by telling him he had missed a safe line for his contract. Can you see it?

Declarer wins the opening lead with the spade king on the table and draws the last trump with the nine. A diamond to the jack comes next. If the finesse holds, declarer has a safe line for 11 tricks by following the same approach as that outlined below. But, when East wins the jack of diamonds with the queen and shifts to a heart declarer wins with the ace, cashes the king of diamonds, comes back to hand with jack of spades and throws dummy's heart loser on the ace of diamonds.

Next, declarer advances the queen of hearts, planning to let it run, since East cannot hurt him in clubs. When West covers with king, declarer ruffs it in dummy and leads a spade to the ace, after which a club is thrown on the jack of hearts. That lets declarer lead to the king of clubs for a potential overtrick.

1011. Dealer North. NS Vul.

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

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

South invited and North accepted. West led the four of spades, won by dummy's queen. Declarer then had to plan the best approach, given that there was a real danger that if East gained the lead too soon he could set up the spades for West.

The normal approach, in abstract, would have been to lead a club to the jack or nine, but that would have enhanced the risk of an unfavourable scenario developing. Declarer was not overly concerned about losing an extra club trick if West had both the ace and queen, so long as he could keep East off lead. The best approach was to win the spade lead in dummy and play a low heart to the queen, followed by a club to the king. When it held, declarer could lead a low club from dummy. West was forced to win with the ace and could not lead spades to advantage from his side of the table. He

shifted to a heart, but South won in dummy and set up clubs, coming to three clubs, three hearts, two spades and one diamond.

1012. Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

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

West leads the king of clubs against your heart game. How would you play this contract?

In other circumstances, you might decide to duck the club lead, with the intention of reducing the defenders' transportation and to facilitate taking the club ruff in dummy, since it frees up the entries in that suit. However, that would not be a good idea here, because a diamond switch from West would allow the defenders to score a diamond ruff, or set up an extra diamond trick, however you played. Instead, you should win the club lead and play trumps immediately, relying, in the first instance, on nothing more than 3-2 hearts.

Let's say that East takes the ace of trumps on the first or second round of the suit, and returns to the West hand with a club for a switch to the ten of diamonds. You can try the queen, losing to the king without cost. You can win the diamond return with the ace. After drawing trumps, you unblock the three spade honours in your hand. You then cross to dummy with a club ruff and discard your last diamond on the jack of spades. The game is yours.

If you discover trumps are 4-1, East ducking twice, you can probably do no better than play on trumps and rely on the diamond finesse working. It will not do you any good to duck a club after two rounds of trumps since a diamond switch by West will make you reliant on the diamond finesse anyway.



Major Alt Final Highlights

Toine van Hoof, Utrecht, The Netherlands

A team is considered to have played well if they hold their opponents to fewer than 2 IMPs per board. The IMP turnover in the Major Alt final was 72 IMPs, i.e., only 2.25 per board. To compare: in the round-robin the average turnover was 4.0 IMPs, in the quarterfinals 4.8 IMPs and in the semifinals 3.9 IMPs. Both finalists played very well indeed.

In the first half, Gupta fielded Huub Bertens/Naren Gupta in the open room and Bauke Muller/Simon de Wijs in the closed. For Lavazza, Norberto Bocchi and Antonio Sementa played in the open room and Andrea Manno and Massimiliano Di Franco in the closed room. Gupta started the match with a 0.1 IMP carry-over from the round-robin.

First blood flowed on the second deal, but whose blood was it to be?

Board 2. Dealer East. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Bertens</i>	<i>Sementa</i>	<i>Gupta</i>
—	—	Pass	1♦
2♣	Double	2♠	Pass
Pass	3♣	Pass	3NT
Pass	4♦	Pass	4♥ ¹
Pass	5♣ ²	Double	5♦
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. RKCB
2. 2 key cards

To beat three notrump, West needs to lead the ace, queen or ten of hearts. On any other lead declarer simply ducks the king of diamonds. Bertens/Gupta drifted up to five diamonds and the over-optimistic RKCB by South gave East the opportunity to direct the lead. Bocchi led the two of clubs, ruffed by Sementa,

who returned a heart and got a ruff with the diamond queen for down one. The spectators expected a 10-IMP loss for Gupta. To their surprise, Gupta won that amount:

West	North	East	South
<i>De Wijs</i>	<i>Manno</i>	<i>Muller</i>	<i>Di Franco</i>
—	—	Pass	1♣
1♥	Double	4♥	Pass
Pass	Double	Pass	Pass
Pass			

With his seven-card suit stolen by South, De Wijs overcalled one heart. With the clubs three-three and the king of trumps onside, four hearts could not be defeated. North led a trump to declarer's ten. De Wijs ruffed a club in dummy and played a diamond to the king and ace. Manno shifted to a low spade to Di Franco's ace. South returned the nine of hearts. De Wijs finessed, ruffed a club, cashed the queen of diamonds, came to hand with a heart and played a club: plus 590.

The next deal saw both East/West pairs bid and make a good six-club contract:

Board 3. Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Bertens</i>	<i>Sementa</i>	<i>Gupta</i>
—	—	—	Pass
1♦ ¹	Pass	1♠	Pass
1NT	Pass	2♦ ²	Pass
2♥	Pass	3♣	Pass
4♣	Pass	4♦	Pass
4♥	Pass	4♠ ³	Pass
5♦ ⁴	Pass	6♣	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. Unbalanced, natural
2. Game-forcing
3. RKCB
4. 2 key cards no club queen

Sementa won the trump lead with the jack, cashed the ace of spades and ruffed a spade with the eight of clubs. The bad news was that North had no more spades, but the good news that he could not overruff the eight. Declarer cashed the ace of hearts, ruffed a

heart, ruffed a spade, ruffed a heart, ruffed a spade and then ruffed a heart with his penultimate trump. When both opponents followed suit on the king of clubs, Sementa claimed 12 tricks.

West	North	East	South
De Wijs	Manno	Muller	Di Franco
—	—	—	Pass
1♦ ¹	Pass	1♠	Pass
1NT ²	Pass	2NT ³	Pass
3♣ ⁴	Pass	3♠ ⁵	Pass
4♣ ⁶	Pass	4NT ⁷	Pass
5♥ ⁸	Pass	6♣	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. 2+ diamonds, 11-15
2. 11-13
3. To play in 3♣ or a game-forcing spades-plus-another two-suiter
4. Forced
5. Spades and clubs
6. Sets trump
7. Optional RKCB
8. 2/4 key cards, no club queen

North led the diamond ace. He shifted to the ten of spades. De Wijs won with the ace in dummy and ruffed a spade carefully with the ten of clubs. He crossed to dummy's jack of clubs and ruffed a second spade with the eight of clubs. When that survived it was plain sailing: heart ace, heart ruff, spade ruff with the club ace, diamond ruff, pull trumps and claim.

Lavazza equalized the score on the following board...

Board 6. Dealer East. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Bocchi	Bertens	Sementa	Gupta
—	—	Pass	2♦ ¹
2♥	2♠ ²	3♦	Pass
4♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. Weak
2. Non-forcing

Against Bocchi's four hearts, Bertens led the king of spades. Declarer won with the ace and played a heart to North's bare ace. Bertens now switched to the seven of diamonds, low from dummy, king by South

and ace from declarer. Bocchi drove out the king of hearts and, after that, he only lost a spade trick. The jack of diamonds provided a parking place for his fourth club.

It looks like South gave away the contract by wasting his king of diamonds. However, declarer can always prevail by squeezing North in the black suits. However, North could have defeated the contract by switching to a club when in with the ace of hearts.

West	North	East	South
De Wijs	Manno	Muller	Di Franco
—	—	Pass	Pass
1♥	2♥ ¹	3♥	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. Spades and clubs

At the other table, De Wijs made the same ten tricks: 170 to Gupta, 10 IMPs to Lavazza.

After four uneventful game contracts that were all pushes, Lavazza took the lead by 11 IMPs when Bocchi/Sementa bid and made a pretty good six-club contract on the following deal:

Board 11. Dealer South. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Bocchi	Bertens	Sementa	Gupta
—	—	—	Pass
1♥	Pass	2♣ ¹	Pass
2♥ ²	Pass	2♠ ³	Pass
3♣ ⁴	Pass	3♦ ³	Pass
3♥ ⁵	Pass	4♣	Pass
4♦	Double	Redouble	Pass
4♥	Pass	4♠ ⁶	Pass
4NT ⁷	Pass	6♣	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. GF relay
2. 10 cards in 2 suits
3. Relay
4. 6-4 or 5-5, minimum
5. 5-5
6. RKCB
7. 1 key card

Gupta dutifully led the eight of diamonds, which was ruffed in dummy. Sementa ran the jack of clubs to the

stiff king and South continued with diamonds. Declarer pitched a spade in dummy, won with the ace, and pulled North's trumps. Then he advanced the ten of hearts. When it held, the contract seemed safe. However, on the second heart to the jack, North showed out, which meant the heart suit could not be set up. Undismayed, Sementa cashed the king and ace of spades and ruffed a spade. When this suit broke evenly, he was home. The seven of diamonds went away on the ace of hearts; plus 920 to East/West.

At the other table, Muller/De Wijs rested in five clubs after heavy interference by Manno/Di Franco:

West	North	East	South
De Wijs	Manno	Muller	Di Franco
—	—	—	Pass
1♥	3♦	Double	4♦
Pass	Pass	Double	Pass
5♣	Pass	Pass	Pass

Manno led his singleton heart and got a ruff when De Wijs, not being in six, took the losing club finesse; East/West plus 400.

Huib Bertens ended up the wrong game contract on this deal:

Board 13. Dealer North. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Bocchi	Bertens	Sementa	Gupta
—	Pass	1♣	Double
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Against Bertens' three notrump contract, Antonio Sementa led the two of clubs. Double-dummy, the contract can be made if declarer goes after the spades immediately and finds the jack. Bertens played a low diamond from the board at trick two. For Norberto Bocchi it was impossible to know what was going on, so he played low. The ten of diamonds drove out the ace and East returned the ten of clubs to the jack. Declarer then misguessed the spades by playing a low spade to the queen and a spade back to the nine. East won with the jack of spades and had to find a continuation in this position:

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

He exited with the nine of diamonds and Bertens knew what to do: he hopped up with the king, cashed three high hearts and endplayed East with the ace of spades; plus 600 to North/South.

If East, in the given position, had cashed the king of clubs and had exited with a club, West would have had to discard a heart. Declarer then would have eliminated the hearts and played a diamond to the nine and jack. West would have won with the queen of diamonds, but would have had to play into the king-seven of diamonds tenace.

There was one way for East to beat the contract and Bocchi was quick to spot it: "Take the spade ace and play a diamond diamond and he goes down."

At the other table, Manno/Di Franco arrived in four spades:

West	North	East	South
De Wijs	Manno	Muller	Di Franco
—	Pass	1♦ ¹	Pass
Pass ²	1NT	Pass	2♣ ³
Pass	2♠	Pass	4♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. 2+ diamonds, 11-15
2. 0-7 (if 5-7 no major)
3. Stayman

It took the players in the closed room two hours and fifteen minutes to finish their set of 16 boards. The play of this board alone lasted more than a quarter of an hour. Muller led the four of hearts, run around to the queen. Manno led the diamond ten towards dummy, upon which Muller rose with the ace. He returned a club to dummy's ace. Declarer now cashed the the king of diamonds and ruffed a diamond with the nine of spades. Muller declined to overruff, shedding the jack of hearts instead. Manno played a spade to the ten and ruffed a diamond with the king of spades. Again, Muller did not overruff. He won the next spade with the ace and exited with a low club, ruffed in dummy with the six of spades. Manno drew the last trump with the queen of spades and claimed the balance. Plus 650 gave Lavazza 2 IMPs.

On the next board, Gupta won those 2 IMPs back:

Board 14. Dealer East. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Bocchi	Bertens	Sementa	Gupta
—	—	1♦	Pass
2♣ ¹	Pass	3NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. Non-forcing

Against three notrump, Naren Gupta led his fourth-best spade. Antonio Sementa took no chances. He cashed the first nine tricks and conceded the remainder.

West	North	East	South
De Wijs	Manno	Muller	Di Franco
—	—	1♣ ¹	Pass
2♣ ²	Pass	2♦ ³	Pass
3♣ ⁴	Pass	3♦ ³	Pass
3♥ ⁵	Double	Pass ³	Pass
Redouble ⁶	Pass	3NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. 15+ HCP
2. 5+ club, game-forcing
3. Relay
4. 3=2=2=6 or 2=2=2=7
5. 3=2=2=6
6. 0-2 controls

The East/West relay sequence enabled Andrea Manno to double three hearts, so Max Di Franco led the jack of hearts. Manno overtook with the queen, which was allowed to hold. Di Franco cashed the ace of hearts and switched to a spade. Muller took the ace and tabled the king of clubs. When that held he claimed the balance on a double squeeze.

The score at halftime was Lavazza 24 – Gupta 14.1.

The second half started with five new faces. Curtis Cheek took over from Naren Gupta, Philippe Cronier and Giorgio Duboin came in for Bocchi/Sementa and Cédric Lorenzini and Thomas Bessis for Muller/De Wijs. The pace of play increased but the pace of scoring stayed extremely low. Gupta took over the lead here:

Board 22. Dealer East. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Cronier	Bertens	Duboin	Cheek
—	—	Pass	1♦
1♠	2♠	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Cronier led a top heart against three notrump, collecting the two from his partner. He played two more rounds of hearts. Declarer took the diamond finesse. West won with the king and cashed the thirteenth heart, but Cheek then claimed the balance. West could have defeated the contract by switching to the king of clubs and, if declarer ducks, switching back to hearts.

West	North	East	South
Lorenzini	Manno	Bessis	Di Franco
—	—	Pass	1♣
1♠	1NT	Pass	Pass
2♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

No double, no trouble. Lorenzini went two off, minus 200 but a gain of 5 IMPs to Gupta.

The following deal was an impressive push:

Board 26. East Dealer. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Cronier	Bertens	Duboin	Cheek
—	—	1♥	1NT
2♥	Double	Pass	2NT ¹
Pass	3NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

1. Pick a minor

Cronier led the ten of hearts, won performe in dummy. The queen of clubs went to Duboin's king and he shifted to the queen of diamonds, won by South's ace. A club to the ace was followed by the jack of diamonds, ducked, and another diamond to the king. Cheek now first cashed the heart king before running the clubs and claiming an overtrick.

Manno/Di Franco did extremely well to copy this result:

West	North	East	South
Lorenzini	Manno	Bessis	Di Franco
—	—	1NT	Pass
2♣	Double	2♠ ¹	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	
1. 5 hearts			

Not bothered by the strong notrump opening bid (15-17) by East, North/South bid to three notrump. The play was similar to the other room and Di Franco also made ten tricks.

On the following board, Cheek earned 5 IMPs for his team by drawing the right inference from his partner's signals:

Board 27. Dealer South. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Cronier	Bertens	Duboin	Cheek
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	1♦	1♠	Double
2♠	3♥	3♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Cheek led the queen of spades against Duboin's three-spade contract, followed by the ace. Bertens' first discard was the five of hearts (odd encouraging). Now Cheek cashed the king of spades and saw his partner throw the two of clubs (upside-down count).

Cheek (as quoted on Bridge Winners): "I knew he was 1=4=4=4, and I was going to play a heart back, but when his second discard was a club, I knew his clubs weren't the headed by the queen, or he would have thrown it. Also, if he had four low clubs, he would have thrown two clubs..." So Cheek concluded Bertens had the king of clubs and shifted to the nine of clubs, leaving

declarer no chance. As Bertens admitted afterwards, he should have made it easier by discarding the seven of clubs at his first opportunity.

West	North	East	South
Lorenzini	Manno	Bessis	Di Franco
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	1♣ ¹	1♠	Double ²
2♠	3♥	3♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		
1. 2+ clubs			
2. 4/5 hearts			

Di Franco started with the ace and king of spades. Upon seeing Manno's five of hearts, he switched to a heart. North won with the ace and continued with a heart to East's king. Thomas Bessis now drove out the queen of spades and made his contract on a diamond-club squeeze against North.

A very lucky three notrump by Bertens/Cheek brought in 6 IMPs here:

Board 30. Dealer East. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Cronier	Bertens	Duboin	Cheek
—	—	Pass	1NT ¹
Pass	3NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			
1. 14-16			

Opposite a 14-16 one notrump, Bertens had a normal raise to game, but this was a poor contract. However, with the spades four-four, the clubs three-two and both red kings well placed it was cold.

West	North	East	South
Lorenzini	Manno	Bessis	Di Franco
—	—	Pass	1♣ ¹
Pass	1♠ ²	Pass	1NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	
1. 2+ clubs			
2. Transfer			

Di Franco/Manno's notrump opening range was 15-17, so they ended up in one notrump, losing 6 IMPs.

In order to win the match, Lavazza needed a 10-IMP swing on the last deal...

Board 32. Dealer West. EW Vul.

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

In the closed room, Bessis/Lorenzini went dangerously high:

West	North	East	South
<i>Lorenzini</i>	<i>Manno</i>	<i>Bessis</i>	<i>Di Franco</i>
1NT	Pass	2♠ ¹	Pass
3♣	Pass	4NT ²	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. Range ask or clubs
2. Invitational with 6 clubs and any 3-2-2

Against four notrump, North led the six of diamonds. Lorenzini took the queen with the king, played a club to the ace and then ran the jack of spades. Manno won with the king and cleared the diamonds. Declarer cashed four spade tricks (North discarding two diamonds) and advanced a club, ducked to South when North did not follow suit. Di Franco returned the two of diamonds and Manno cashed out for one down.

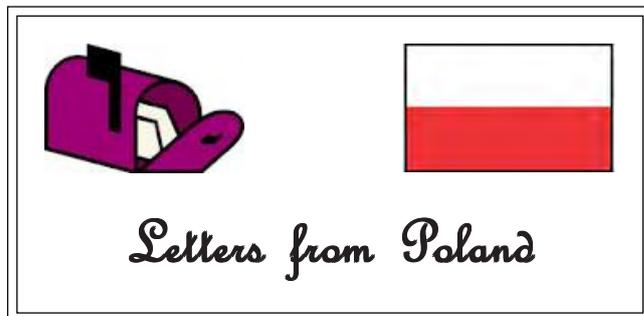
The double dummy line to make the contract is to begin by playing three rounds of clubs. South returns a diamond and declarer crosses to the ace of hearts. On the run of the clubs North will be subject to an squeeze-endplay.

Cronier/Duboin also bypassed three notrump.

West	North	East	South
<i>Cronier</i>	<i>Bertens</i>	<i>Duboin</i>	<i>Cheek</i>
1NT	Pass	2♠ ¹	Pass
2NT	Pass	3NT ²	Pass
4♦	Pass	4♥	Pass
4♠	Pass	5♣ ³	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. Range ask or clubs
2. Mild slam try in clubs, no shortage
3. 3 key cards

There was not much wrong with the final contract of five clubs, but it turned out to be wrong-sided. The spotlight was on Curtis Cheek. The only guidance he had was that his partner doubled neither four diamonds nor four spades, so Cheek decided to lead the eight of hearts and that killed the contract. Duboin put up the queen and as a result went two light. Instead of losing 12 IMPs, Gupta scored another 3 IMPs and won the match 42.1-30.



THE POLISH LEAGUE FINAL FOUR

Marek Wójcicki, Nienadowa, Poland

During the last weekend of June, in Warsaw, live bridge restarted in Poland after the Coronavirus lockdown. The four top teams of the Polish First Division, determined by the Robin Round and Quarterfinals, played in October, January and February, arrived at the Hotel Mercure.

All safety measures recommended by the World Bridge Federation and the Polish State Sanitary Inspectorate were used. Players played in masks or helmets; additional transparent walls separated those sitting on the same side of the screen; bidding boxes and Bridgemates were personalized and used by the same player for all three days. Cards were predealt for all matches, for each table, a few days before the tournament. The playing area was sterilized after each 12-board session.

The pretournament favorites were – BRIDGE24.PL (Buras, Kalita, Narkiewicz, Nowosadzki, Pszczola) and the defending champions – SZLEM BARLINEK (Dufurat, Klukowski, Kwiecien, Starkowski, Zatorski, Zmuda). BRIDGE24.PL, the winners of the Round Robin, had the privilege of choosing their the semifinal oponent from SZLEM BARLINEK and SPS CONSTRUCTION KIELCE. The 72-board semifinal results were:

BRIDGE24.PL WARSZAWA 219.8 – SPS CONSTRUCTION KIELCE 104
SILESIA GLIWICE 209.3 – SZLEM BARLINEK 155

In the 96-board final, BRIDGE24.PL started with a 10.5 IMP carryover, which was decisive in determining the champion. Playing most of the final with four members of the 2019 Bermuda Bowl winning team – Buras/Narkiewicz, Kalita/Nowosadzki, they were behind by 4 IMPs over 96 boards, but the carryover secured the title.

BRIDGE24.PL WARSZAWA 165.5 – TB SILESIA GLIWICE 159

In the playoff for bronze, SZLEM BARLINEK defeated SPS CONSTRUCTION KIELCE 142.1-72.

The medallists:

GOLD – BRIDGE24.PL WARSZAWA:

Krzysztof Buras, Wojciech Gawel, Rafal Jagniewski, Jacek Kalita, Grzegorz Narkiewicz, Piotr Nawrocki, Michal Nowosadzki, Jacek Pszczola, Wojciech Strzemecki, Piotr Tuczynski, Piotr Wiankowski, Przemyslaw Zawada

SILVER – TB SILESIA I GLIWICE:

Artur Gula, Krzysztof Kujawa, Lech Ohrysko, Boguslaw Pazur, Marek Pieczka, Tomasz Pilch, Mikolaj Taczewski, Marek Wójcicki, Slawomir Zawislak

BRONZE – SZLEM BARLINEK – SZKOLA BRYDZA GDANSK:

Katarzyna Dufurat, Michal Klukowski, Michal Kwiecien, Piotr Lutostanski, Wlodzimierz Starkowski, Piotr Zatorski, Justyna Zmuda.

The most interesting deal comes from the bronze-medal playoff in which Michal Kwiecien and Wlodek Starkowski showed their defensive abilities.

Stanza I. Board 7. Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Kotorowicz	Starkowski	Araszkiewicz	Kwecien
—	—	—	1♦
Double	3♦	3♠	Pass
4♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

Kwecien led the ace of diamonds. Starkowski followed with the ten (upside-down), showing five cards, and suggesting a heart switch. South now played a heart and, at the third trick, when the spade nine was played from dummy, Starkowski jumped up with the king! And when it held, continued with his last heart. One more trump from dummy allowed Kwecien to win with his ace and give partner a heart ruff, setting the contract. Brilliant defence.

Di Sacco on Bocchi Mieczyslaw Gajak, Warsaw

In the May issue of the IBPA Bulletin (pp. 6-7) Maurizio Di Sacco showed how Norberto Bocchi made a spade slam in a semifinal of the Zimmerman Cup during the 3rd European Winter Games.

This was the deal:

Board 22. Dealer East. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Sementa	Multon	Bocchi	Zimmermann
—	—	2♣ ¹	Pass
2♥ ²	Pass	2♠	pass
3♣	Double	3♥	pass
4♦	Pass	4♥	pass
4NT ³	Pass	5♦ ⁴	pass
6♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. 18-19 balanced
2. Transfer to spades
3. RKCB
4. 0 or 3 key cards

Di Sacco: Bocchi knew Multon held at least five clubs, because of the double of three clubs and the lead of the club seven... He played for the following layout: North to hold a 2=3=3=5, with the ace of diamonds... hoping to come to the following ending:

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

On the last trump, North would have been fatally squeezed without the count: had he pitched a diamond, declarer would have played on diamonds, leading to the king and ducking on the second round; had North thrown a club instead, Bocchi would have cashed the king of clubs before playing a diamond. However, North originally held four hearts, and when declarer played a diamond North was able to win it and cash the queen of hearts. Bocchi's line was brilliant, and came from dynamics at the table that a spectator online cannot appreciate.

All that is true, but Bocchi could have used the clues available from the bidding and the seven-of-clubs opening lead (five clubs and the diamond ace in

Multon's hand) in a better way, making the contract independently of the number of hearts and diamonds in the North hand.

Knowing that the squeeze would only be possible after cashing the trumps, declarer should win the first trick in dummy with the king, draw the trumps and play a low diamond towards the king. When the king holds, the ace and king of hearts should be played (club from hand) and a low heart ruffed. Then, two more spades should be cashed and in the ending there are three possible combinations of cards in the North hand:

	1.	2.	3.
♠	—	—	—
♥	—	Q	—
♦	A x	A	A
♣	Q J	Q J	Q J x

♠ 5	♠ —
♥ —	♥ —
♦ Q 9	♦ 5 3
♣ 8	♣ A 9

When the five of spades is played, North:

1. Cannot discard a club honour, so will discard a low diamond if he has one.
2. Cannot discard either a club honour or the diamond ace, so will discard a heart if he has one.
3. If North had six clubs at the beginning, he will discard a low club, so his last three cards must be the diamond ace and the two remaining clubs – the queen and the jack.



In an event run by the ACBL called the NAOBC Premier Knockout and intended to replace the Spingold, not played this year due to the pandemic, there was an incredibly unlikely ending. The final, a 56-board match between KOLESNIK (Bart Bramley/Kit Woolsey, Jacob Freeman/Finn Kolesnik, Bob Hamman/Peter Weichsel) and LEVINE (Geir Helgemo/Tor Helness, Mike Levine/Eddie Wold, Jeff Meckstroth/Eric Rodwell) ended in a 113-113 tie. There was no carry-forward (since it was a knockout) and no one wanted to have a playoff, so the match was declared a draw and both teams were declared co-winners. It was about

the one-hundredth NABC win for Hamman and the first for Freeman and Kolesnik.

Here was another unusual fact, this one about the KOLESNIK team: there were four Hall of Fame members, all senior citizens, and two Juniors on the team – Finn Kolesnik is 17 years old and Bob Hamman is 82, perhaps the largest age span ever on a winning team in an NABC event.

Bart Bramley (who works for Bob Hamman's company, SCA Promotions, in Dallas) is much too modest to call himself the The Great Bart Bramley, as we do, (Hamman's BBO moniker is TGBH3: The Great Bob Hamman III) but he is well-known as a fabulous technician in the play of the cards. Here he is in action against Meckwell in the final:

Board 13. Dealer North. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Woolsey	Meckstroth	Bramley	Rodwell
—	Pass	1NT ¹	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♠ ²	Double	2NT ³	Pass
3NT	Pass	Pass	Pass
1. 14-16			
2. Hearts, at least invitational			
3. Rejects invitation			

Rodwell led the five of spades and Meckstroth played the eight, attempting to maintain fluid transportation with the South hand. Bramley tried a sneaky three of diamonds: two, queen, ten. On the ace of clubs, Meck followed with the six, upside-down count, two, four. The jack of clubs was covered by the queen and king and the heart two (encouraging) discard. When Bramley crossed to the ace of spades and back to the ace of diamonds, he was pretty certain that North's original distribution had been 5=1=2=5. This was the end-position: (See top of next page.)

Bramley cashed the ace of hearts, removing North's exit card in that suit and got out with the queen of spades. Meckstroth showed a lot of class, claiming four tricks and conceding the contract. That was plus 600 for KOLESNIK.

♠ K 10 9
 ♥ —
 ♦ —
 ♣ 9 8 3

♠ —
 ♥ 10 8 5
 ♦ 8 7 6
 ♣ —

♠ Q
 ♥ 6 4
 ♦ —
 ♣ 10 7 5

♠ 7
 ♥ K Q 9
 ♦ K 9
 ♣ —

and decided to open with two hearts. North passed, my partner raised to three hearts, followed by three spades (South) and four spades (North).

I led the nine of hearts and North's dummy appeared:

♠ K 8 7
 ♥ 10 8 7
 ♦ A Q 7
 ♣ K 10 6 2

Partner won with the ace of hearts as South followed with the six. Partner shifted to the ten of diamonds for me to ruff. What next?

I played a low heart to partner's presumed queen, hoping for another diamond ruff. Time to show the full deal:

♠ K 8 7
 ♥ 10 8 7
 ♦ A Q 7
 ♣ K 10 6 2

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

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

♠ A J 6 5 4 2
 ♥ Q 6
 ♦ 8 5 2
 ♣ A 4

Sadly, the complicated play of cashing my king of hearts and waiting for the setting trick with the king of diamonds from Partner had eluded me. Not lucky.

Another adventure: at both tables West opened one spade (promising at least five). With the opponents remaining silent, East replied with one notrump (forcing), West followed with two hearts and East bid four hearts. North, holding:

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

led a trump, and witnessed the following dummy:

♠ J 8
 ♥ Q J 7 6
 ♦ A 10 7 6
 ♣ K 4 2

Both declarers won with the queen of hearts in the dummy and ran the jack of spades to the king. Both Norths, 'knowing' that their partners had no more spades, immediately switched to another suit. This 'defence' allowed four hearts to make for plus 420. (Four hearts is indeed makeable, but not cold, on any non-spade play by North – Ed.) Just an ordinary push, as we escaped from the jaws of victory once again. Here are the gory details:

Confidential Confessions of a Self-Kibitzing Denier

George Retek,
 Montréal



Recently, it has become fashionable for sometimes well-known self-kibitzers to confess. Our team (which will remain nameless to protect the guilty – in the spirit of full disclosure) had decided to enter the 2020 Canadian Senior Team Championship (CSTC), conducted on the internet. To make certain that we'll not be suspected of illegal activities, we have firmly anchored our team, after eight rounds of play, in first position – should we view the results upside down.

Since we could not muster a single win, the searchlight for cheats somehow eluded us. But we could not escape the attention of the event organizer, who promptly threatened to penalize us for not reporting a match score in time. (Just as an aside: the reporting of the score is the responsibility of the winning captain). When we politely inquired which one of our eight losses we were supposed to report, the penalty was not enforced.

For those who are still interested in the murky details, here are some examples of our outstanding adventures:

In one of our early matches I, as West, the dealer, held:

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

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

In the last example, all vulnerable, our player, holding 14 HCP, opened the bidding with one diamond. His partner, holding:

♠ 9 7 5
 ♥ K 5 3
 ♦ A 3
 ♣ K J 7 3 2

bravely stretched to one notrump, which was followed by a double (presumably for the majors) by his left-hand opponent. The next two players passed! Since redouble would have been for takeout, our hero proudly stood his ground and passed. Here was the full deal:

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

Declarer's self-kibitzer abandoned him at this point. South led a heart. Declarer put in the jack and played the ace and nine of clubs, ducking it to the ten! When South continued with hearts, there were only nine tricks available. Putting in the jack of clubs would have resulted in at least ten tricks (eleven if he led spades twice toward the queen).

Achieving only two overtricks resulted in plus 580. At the other table, following a simple one notrump-three notrump auction, declarer scored a painless 630, and we deservedly lost 2 IMPs. The things we do to try to avoid the limelight.

I hope that bridge players will forgive us in time. Should they not, at least they can benefit from our crimes.



Une Friandise Viennoise

As a Tournament Director, you are more or less obliged to check strange results. Some years ago, in the 2016 Austrian Pairs Championship, I found the score of 2600 on a result sheet: ten doubled undertricks. So, I tried to find out what had happened...

Dealer East. Neither Vul.

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

On this deal, East/West can make four hearts; a sacrifice of five diamonds is too expensive (minus 500). How did a good pair land in six clubs doubled?

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

1. Solid minor
2. Which minor?
3. I want to sacrifice

South thought that six clubs showed North's own suit. A bid of five diamonds might have succeeded as East and West both have the precious singleton diamond.

Eight pairs bid to five hearts and six pairs to seven hearts, certainly a very bad decision on this layout.

Slam for Both Sides

This deal is from one of the last big Austrian tournaments that was played before Corona stopped all activities.

Dealer East. Both Vul.

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

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

♠ J 8 5
 ♥ A Q 6 3
 ♦ 10 6 5 4
 ♣ 9 4

♠ A 7 6 2
 ♥ J 7 5 4
 ♦ K 7 2
 ♣ K 8

The deal was played at 53 tables and the bidding started quietly with pass; one diamond (or perhaps one club). I have no idea how the various Wests and Norths handled their hands after this start but, at most tables, the bidding reached the level of six, if not of seven!

North/South can make six diamonds or six spades, but East/West can make seven hearts by careful play. There were really lots of interesting numbers on the scoresheets.

North/South had plus 1660 (three times), plus 1460 (three times) and plus 1430 (twice), but East/West were a lot better: plus 2470 (three times), plus 2210 (once), plus 1860 (4 times), plus 1540 (twice) and plus 1370 (twice).

By the way, clubs in Vienna will start with face-to-face tournaments very soon, but my son Andreas and I believe that it will be not the same as it was before the pandemic. In our opinion, it will be a big problem to handle the disinfection of the playing cards.



Dealer South. NS Vul.

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

♠ 8 2
 ♥ A Q 10 9 5 3
 ♦ 7
 ♣ K 9 7 6

♠ J 9 4
 ♥ 8 6 4 2
 ♦ K J 3
 ♣ J 10 2

♠ A K Q 7 6 3
 ♥ K J
 ♦ A 9 5
 ♣ A Q

West	North	East	South
Tsonchev	Yankov	Marachev	Indzeva
—	—	—	1♣ ¹
3♥	Pass	4♥	4♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. Strong, artificial, forcing

This deal arose in the final of the Albena Teams in Bulgaria.

A trump lead works well, giving nothing away and preventing a heart ruff, but Tsonchev, not unreasonably, chose to lead his singleton diamond, and the jack drew the ace. Indzeva drew trumps in three rounds. When the nine of diamonds was overtaken with the ten, East ducking, the contract could not longer be made. Declarer had to lose a diamond, two hearts and a club.

You may wonder why you're currently looking at such a deal. Deep Finesse spotted an unusual double-dummy winning play after the diamond lead. Declarer wins and draws trumps, but must let the nine of diamonds win, and then play two more rounds of trumps. West is in danger of being endplayed in hearts to concede a second club trick, or in clubs to concede a heart trick. To prevent this, he must unblock the ten and nine of hearts. East then needs to keep a third-round entry in both hearts and clubs.

We can imagine, in some parallel world peopled by double-dummy aliens, that this end position would arise:

♠ —
 ♥ 7
 ♦ Q 10 8 6
 ♣ 8 5

♠ —
 ♥ A Q 10 5
 ♦ —
 ♣ K 9 7

♠ —
 ♥ 8 6 4
 ♦ K
 ♣ J 10 2

♠ 6 3
 ♥ K J
 ♦ 5
 ♣ A Q

On the penultimate trump, West unblocks the heart ten and dummy plays any low card. East must keep the king of diamonds. Suppose he throws a heart, surrendering his potential third-round entry in that suit. Declarer can give West three heart tricks, discarding the diamond five, and wait for a club into his tenace. Nor can East throw a club, giving up his other third-round entry. Declarer would then play the ace and queen of clubs, waiting to receive a trick with his king of hearts.

Of course, back on earth, had declarer won the first diamond and led a heart, none of that would have been necessary.

NEWS & VIEWS II



Correspondence

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

Tim Bourke

Our longtime Column Service author has entered hospital in Melbourne with kidney problems. We wish Tim a speedy and complete recovery.

Stuart Tredinnick

Stuart Tredinnick died on July 20th. Tredinnick won the World Junior Team Championship in 1989 with brother Gerald, John Hobson/Derek Patterson and John Pottage/Andy Robson. Tredinnick also won the Tollemache four times, the Gold Cup twice, the Spring Fours twice, and the Crockfords Cup, as well appearing for Great Britain in four European Championships.

Dementia Prevention

A specialist report on the subject of Bridge in the context of Dementia Prevention and Alzheimer Therapy has been released by the WBF Bridge & Science Committee, chaired by Dr Marek Malysa. This is ongoing work to study the benefits of bridge as an aid to the elderly in maintaining brain health and the prevention or delaying of the onset of dementia. You can find it, together with links to earlier papers and articles on the topic at:

<http://www.worldbridge.org/resources/official-documents/research-documents-relating-to-bridge/?fbclid=IwAR0IG-erxxaVNCyW-VSeR-VPVO4WISFa-IVx4hu3R-QTmmqPR-8WYZAffA>

Bill Gates and Warren Buffett

By Kathleen Elkins, CNBC Make IT, Wed., May 20, 2020

Billionaires Bill Gates, 64, and Warren Buffett, 89, keep their minds sharp with bridge. Buffett guesses that he plays the game close to eight hours a week on BBO, enough to hone his skill to the point where he can typically beat Gates. "I probably play 100 times as often as Bill, so bridge probably is the only game in the world where I would have a slight edge with him," Buffett told CNBC's Becky Quick in a 2019 interview on "Squawk Box." "A very slight edge," he added.

It's not surprising that the billionaires make time for a game that gets them thinking. Successful individuals would generally rather be educated than entertained, according to author Steve Siebold in his book, *How Rich People Think*.

Those who engage in mentally stimulating activities experience slower memory decline than those who do not, research published in the *Journal of American Academy of Neurology* finds.



Dear John,

The recent confessions of online self-kibitzing – well, let's call it what it is, CHEATING – were confessions in the wider sense of the word, they probably pre-empted the outing of the those players by a dedicated group of bridge players who have formed the Credential Advisory Team ("CAT"), the details of which can be found... (on page 6 – Ed.)

The Committee have up to around twenty more players in their sights, but are struggling with the workload. In this regard, they have asked me to suggest some players who may be suited to looking through played hands and to examine them for indications of, shall we call it 'suspicious activity'. Typically, this will take the form of anti-percentage plays, a very low error rate in things like two-way finesses and finally, 'unusual' plays that would be outside the norms of a top player especially where such plays are successful.

So what are they looking for?

They are in need of assistance because some members of the Committee are spending six to eight hours a day working on cleaning up the game and they need help. The Committee is looking for players who can spend anywhere between thirty minutes and two hours a day looking at and examining hands, and making any suspicious hands available to the Committee for further investigation and/or the aggregation of suspicious activities to build their case.

If you are interested in being an examiner/spotter for the committee, then please either respond to this email (David.Stern.Software@gmail.com) or directly to CAT at credentialsadvisoryteam@gmail.com.

If you do decide to volunteer, then my deepest thanks and appreciation.

Kind regards, David Stern, Sydney

Dear John,

Concerning the points you remarked on (*in my letter to Witold Stachnik on page 4 – Ed.*), the Management Committee has already raised the question, being the main purpose of the WBF to take care of the development, enhancement and welfare of its affiliated NBOs, including the organisation of the international competitions.

Thanking you again and renovating my best wishes,

Un abbraccio, Gianarrigo Rona, Milan



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Guide to Online Events

With the Covid-19 pandemic forcing the cancellation of bridge tournaments worldwide, there has been a proliferation of online bridge events. Here is the information we have been able to gather to date:

WBF – Cancelled the 2020 Online World Championship until such time as a live final can be played. See <http://www.worldbridge.org>

ACBL – Has been organising pair events on BBO for some years now. See <https://www.acbl.org> and <https://www.bridgebase.com>

Zonal Organisations – The South American Bridge Federation ran an open online teams championship last month (see <http://www.csbnews.org>); others will undoubtedly follow suit. Check the Zonal websites for information.

NBOs – Many National Bridge Organisations, including the USBF (<https://www.usbf.org>), Canadian Bridge Federation (<https://www.cbf.org>) and Israeli Bridge Federation (<https://www.bridge.co.il>) have organised, or are in the process of organising, online events for their own members. Check the NBO websites for specifics.

Reynolds Knockouts – TD Tom Reynolds has been organising monthly knockout tournaments and quarterly double elimination knockouts since April. Information can be found at <http://www.reynoldsteammatches.com>

Alt Invitationals – Invitational tournaments, usually lasting five-seven days, have been organised since April by bid72 and netbridge.online. To date, there have been Alt Invitationals (open team tournaments), Alt Mixed events (all comprising eight teams), and Alt Majors (32 teams). Information can be found at <https://bid72/events>. Each event has a daily bulletin.

OCBL – The Online Contract Bridge League organises Open and Mixed events. Details can be found at <https://ocbl.org>

Bridgehouse – This new organisation is now arranging online team events with daily bulletins and pretty hefty registration fees. Information can be found at <https://bridgehouse.club>

All of the online tournaments named above are on BBO. Other useful sites for information are <https://bridgescanner.com> and <https://bridgewinners.com>

Anyone organising an online tournament can submit details to Marek Wójcicki at marek.wojcicki@bridge.com.pl for inclusion on the IBPA website.