



BULLETIN

www.ibpa.com

Honorary Chairman

ZHU Qingfeng (China)
1546340545@qq.com

Chairman

Per JANNERSTEN (Sweden)
ibpa@jannersten.com

President Emeritus

Tommy SANDSMARK (Norway)
tommy@sandsmark.org

President

Barry RIGAL (USA)
+1 212 366 4799

barryrigal@mindspring.com

Executive Vice-President

David STERN (Australia)
david.stern.bridge@gmail.com

Organizational Vice-President & Bulletin Production Manager

Dilip GIDWANI (India)
+91 98214 53817

dilipgidwani@hotmail.com

Secretary

Elisabeth van ETTINGER
(Netherlands)
+31 655 680 120

e.ettinger@chello.nl

Treasurer

Richard SOLOMON (NZ)
+64 9 232 8494

rsolomon@xtra.co.nz

Awards Secretary

Brent MANLEY (USA)

brentmanley@yahoo.com

Membership Secretary

Katie THORPE (Canada)
+1 519 981 9248

thorpe.katie@gmail.com

Honorary Auditor

Richard FLEET (England)
richardjfleet@gmail.com

Honorary General Counsel

David HARRIS (England)
davidrharris@ntlworld.com

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. 668

September 10, 2020



The 2020 Master Point Press IBPA Book of the Year Shortlist

Here are this year's candidates, an excellent and varied selection, with writeups from the publishers' blurbs...

David Bird and **Larry Cohen**, *Defense on the Other Hand*; Master Point Press, Toronto; Paper, 213 pp; \$19.95

This follow-up volume to *On the Other Hand* uses the same approach to defense as the first book used for declarer play: pairs of deals are shown – one described by Bird and the other by Cohen. The deals look similar (in some cases very similar) but an entirely different defense is necessary to defeat each of the contracts. By clearly understanding the defensive techniques involved, you will be able to defeat such contracts when you encounter them at the table.

Kim Frazer, *Gaining the Mental Edge at Bridge*; Master Point Press, Toronto; Paper, 182 pp; \$18.95

Bridge players spend countless hours working on bidding conventions and card play techniques, yet give little attention to the mental side of the game. Maintaining focus and concentration, dealing with nerves, and other issues are largely ignored. In this book, Kim Frazer – an Olympian, winner of gold medals at three consecutive Commonwealth Games and an Australian international bridge player – has adapted the mental techniques that brought her success in shooting and explains in easily-understood terms how to use these at the bridge table.

Nicolas Hammond, *Detecting Cheating in Bridge*; Available from the author at www.cheatinginbridge.com; Paper, 220 pp; \$39.95

This book describes how it is possible to detect cheating in bridge using statistical methods and mathematical models. The book has comparisons of data of cheating pairs and non-cheating pairs. It analyzes data from ACBL, EBL and WBF events and shows that there are still active cheating pairs at the top level. Charts depict the level of cheating in tournaments through 2015 and the sudden change in the amount of cheating after the summer of 2015 when some top-level pairs were caught. The data also shows that there were cheating pairs before 2015 that were not caught.

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

Mike Lawrence, *Insights on Bridge, Part 2 (Bid, Play and Defend)*; Available from the author at www.michaelslawrence.com; Paper, 202 pp; \$19.95

The latest installment of the “Insights on Bridge” series contains more carefully crafted mini-lessons designed to turn aspiring players into good players. The material in this book is devoted to situations and problems you will see at the table but not in other books. Mike Lawrence is one of bridge’s greats, a multi-talented master of the game. Lawrence has won three Bermuda Bowls and 16 North American Championships. This book is a follow-up to the winner of the 2019 ABTA Book of the Year Award.

Krzysztof Martens and **Marek Wojcicki**, *Professional Competitive Bidding, Part 1 (Tactical Decisions)* and *Part 2 (Battle of the Titans)*; Available from the author at www.martensuniversity.com; Paper, 173 pp (Part 1) & 177 pp (Part 2); €25.00 each

Part 1 presents bidding problems in contested auctions chosen from important championship events. The authors show how being active impacts both pairs. Using examples, they show what to do, how to do it, what not to do and why. Agreements that some of the top pairs in the world have for certain bidding decisions are described. Part 2 presents agreements that world-class pairs use in particular bidding sequences and gives an overview of how to treat most of these situations. Trying to create a complete set of agreements to handle every situation is practically impossible – rather, it is important to build an understanding within the partnership that is harmonious and that makes it possible for both partners to analyze situations and come up with bids that are along the same lines.

Mats Nilslund, *5-Card Majors the Scanian Way*; Available from www.bridgeforlaget.se; Paper, 152 pp; €16.00

Mats Nilslund has devised bridge systems and conventions for fifty years. Here, he takes a look at everybody’s ‘standard system’ – five-card majors and strong notrump – and shows you how you can transform this natural base into an effective, modern bridge system. All ideas have been successfully tested in real life. *5-Card Majors the Scanian Way* is the fifth volume in a series of books about new ideas in the bidding – Swedish Expert Methods – presented by some Swedish bridge experts living in the province of Scania.

NEWS & VIEWS I



Last month, I castigated the European Bridge League, among others, for playing what I called the ‘Jurisdiction Card’ in its lack of immediate action against the self-admitted online cheats. The following statement, of which I was not aware at the time of publication of last month’s Bulletin, was actually made prior to August’s Bulletin publication, but was forwarded to me after my remarks were published.

The European Bridge League Statement Regarding the Revelation of Cheating in Online Bridge Events

The EBL has taken note of confessions made on social media by several players of having cheated repeatedly during privately organised online bridge events. Even though the events involved were not held under the auspices of the EBL, we want to make it absolutely clear that:

- the EBL strongly condemns cheating in all forms of bridge, irrespective of where it occurs
- the EBL expects impeccable ethics, especially by world-class players, who are the most-visible ambassadors for our beloved sport
- the EBL will support, and cooperate with, all serious efforts to combat cheating; to this end we need information to be shared among the event organisers
- the EBL will consider action against cheats even if the offences occurred outside its immediate jurisdiction
- the EBL strongly encourages cheats to confess – lacking a confession, any sanctions will be much more severe
- all EBL events are invitational and participation is subject to individual review by the EBL Credentials Committee, which can reject requests for invitation.

Justin Lall 1986-2020



Justin Lall, winner of two World Junior Team Championships and a Bermuda Bowl silver-medallist, died on August 19 of complications from liver disease. Samantha Punch interviewed him for her Keep Bridge Alive project.

Interview with Justin Lall

By Samantha Punch

I was very fortunate to interview Justin Lall at a Vegas Regional in 2013 for the sociological research project *Bridging Minds*, as part of *Bridge: A MindSport for All* (BAMSA). I purposely picked him as my first interviewee because I knew from his blogs that he would be fascinating and candid. I was not disappointed; the two-hour interview was full of thought-provoking insights into the professional world of bridge.

Later, his post on 'Sexism in Bridge' on Bridge Winners spurred me to pursue a specific study on this contentious topic. Like so many others across the global bridge community, even without knowing him personally, my encounter with Justin left me inspired, energised and motivated. In this extract, Justin talks, in his own words, about some of the pros and cons of being a professional bridge player.

What is your view about professional bridge in general? In life, or how good it is for bridge? (Okay, both.) Its effect on bridge. We have done really well with sponsors. We have so many very good players and the reason is they were able to dedicate themselves to bridge and they can play all the time. Without professionals the best players would not be as good as they are and so it is very good for bridge. It makes the quality of bridge better. But then these great players, they want it to be no sponsor on the international team. They want their cake and eat it. They want these pros to be that great, and they also want no sponsor for the world championship, which is not really fair. I would say overall it has done a lot for bridge – the quality of bridge becomes better.

I love the life of a bridge pro; just like everyone I complain about my job but I love it. I get to do what I love. There

are some downsides, the schmoozing, the political aspects, but it is less than any other job. And I hate 9 to 5 type stuff. I hate waking up in the morning so it is kind of perfect for me.

In terms of being a bridge pro, how important is reputation? Once I moved to New York, especially once I knew I was going to be a professional bridge player, I knew that image matters. If you're rude to someone, perhaps that is the best friend of a client, you just don't know, so it all matters.

What about if you make a mistake when being paid? At this point, I just own up. I got to the point where I felt like, this is going to sound bad, I felt like I was so good that I didn't make that many mistakes and, if I make one, I will just say sorry. I will always own up to it because I don't make enough where I worry that I am going to lose my job.

You say 'at this point', has this been different previously? There are people that are very good at getting clients but they are not that good a player. And there are people like me – I don't know how to find a client. I only know that I play well and I am nice, I never say anything bad about the guy who controls the clients, never go after his job, never try and steal his clients. I'll always admit my mistakes and I'm fun to be around. So that's pretty much my business model. Part of that is saying sorry when you make a mistake rather than lying about it. I am just upfront, I don't seem sneaky, I play. I don't try and steal your client and I have always been like that, but pretty much every client I have gotten has been through someone else, because I'm just not good at approaching people and asking them for money to play. I don't know how to do that.

Is it just a job if you are playing with a client? It's a job I like but you have to always remember it is a job. I would say Nationals are the major events I care more about. But when I lose a regional event, it is not that hard on me because it is more fun. I mean, it is your job, but it is a fun job.

On your blog, you refer to winning the Bermuda Bowl as a stupid dream. Why a stupid dream? It's not like curing cancer, not like we were productive to society. My sister works for the city of LA and wants to be Mayor. She is like, don't you want to do something that helps society? I'm like, I make a lot of money and spend it well, that helps the economy. I gave an economics point of view. She was not impressed.

That links into something you said on your blog about people might think being a bridge pro is a waste of intelligence for smart people.

I don't have any desire for the greater good. If I am a good friend and a good boyfriend and a good person, I am helping society and that is good enough for me. I am doing what I love and it makes me happy and that helps me to be not a shitty person.

The longer interview with Justin will feature in the book *Bridge at the Top: Behind the Screens* soon to be published by Master Point Press.



USBF Pandemic Competition #2

August 8 - 10 &
August 14 - 16, 2020
Suzi Subeck, Chicago

Sixteen teams entered the USBF Online Invitational II. The first weekend consisted of a Round Robin of 11-board matches. The second weekend featured Quarterfinal, Semifinal and Final matches, with seeding based on Round-Robin performance. The Quarterfinal and Semifinal matches were 56 boards; the Final, 60 boards, all KO matches were played in four segments.

There were some special rules. The matches were played on BBO and broadcast on VuGraph with a 30-minute delay. There was no real-time kibitzing allowed for any match. The event was played with 'open notes' – players could consult their bidding notes during the auction. However, other memory aids (for example, lists of percentages, calculators, notes about carding) were not allowed. If a table was over the time allowed and one player had spent time consulting notes, that player's team was deemed at fault for the tardiness.

Undos for misclicks were allowed. Any player who accidentally clicked on the wrong bid or card could ask for an undo and the opponents had to allow it. The request for an undo had to have been made before the partner of the person requesting the undo had acted.

The favourites were the usual suspects, NICKELL, but with a new Eric and Geoff: Eric Greco/Geoff Hampson, Ralph Katz/Nick Nickell, Bobby Levin/Steve Weinstein, but, since the matches were shorter than those in a USBF Trial, most teams had a shot, provided they could get into the top eight.

Round Robin Match 1

Board 4. Dealer West. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Spector	Robinson	Wolpert	Boyd
2♦	Pass	4♣ ¹	Pass
4♠ ²	Pass	6♦	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. Key-card ask in diamonds
2. One key card plus the queen of diamonds

West	North	East	South
Woolsey	Hurd	Bramley	Bathurst
Pass	Pass	1♣ ¹	Pass
2♣ ²	Pass	2♦ ³	Pass
2NT ⁴	Pass	3♣ ⁵	Pass
3♥ ⁶	Pass	3♠ ⁷	Pass
3NT ⁸	Pass	4♣ ⁹	Pass
4NT ¹⁰	Pass	6♦	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. 16+ HCP
2. Game-forcing (8+ HCP) with 5+ diamonds
3. Relay: asks for other suits
4. One-suiter with short hearts
5. Relay: asks shape
6. 3=1=6=3
7. Relay: asks controls
8. Two controls
9. Asks more information about controls
10. One ace

Board 4 provided some mixed results. Of the eight matches, only in the SPECTOR/ROBINSON match did both tables reach the optimum spot, bidding and making six diamonds (and what a contrast in the auctions!). In every other match, one table bid the diamond slam and the other played in either six spades or four spades.

Against Warren Spector, the opening lead was a heart. Spector won with the ace and led a diamond to the ace. He crossed to dummy in clubs and led a second diamond toward his hand: seven, ten, queen, king. Declarer claimed.

In the other room, Woolsey/Bramley bid to six diamonds using a six-round strong-club auction with relays. Declared from the strong hand, a spade was led. Bart Bramley won and played to the diamond ace. He crossed to his hand in hearts and played a second diamond toward dummy's queen for a pushed board.

Round Robin Match 5

(See top of next page.) Mark Lair's (for the LEVINE team) disciplined pass in first seat resulted in his side's reaching the best game contract.

David Berkowitz (for the ROSENTHAL team) led the king of diamonds, Lair winning in hand and discarding a club from dummy. Lair played a heart to the ace, followed by the queen of hearts. Migry Zur-Campanile ducked and Lair pitched a low diamond.

Board 10. Dealer East. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Passell</i>	<i>Campanile</i>	<i>Lair</i>	<i>Berkowitz</i>
—	—	Pass	Pass
1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♦	Double
3♠	Pass	4♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Declarer (Lair) played a low heart and ruffed with the four of spades, overruffed by Berkowitz's five. Berkowitz shifted to the seven of clubs to the five and queen, ruffed with Lair's two of spades. The ten of diamonds was covered by the jack and ruffed in dummy with the jack of spades. Lair cashed the ace of clubs, discarding a low diamond. Declarer ruffed a club and ruffed another diamond. When he next played the ten of clubs off dummy, Zur-Campanile ruffed in with the ten of spades; Lair tossed a low diamond.

North exited with the six of spades to the seven, queen and ace. East ruffed a heart with the nine of spades for his tenth trick. North was forced to trump her partner's good diamond with the eight of spades at trick 13. Contract making!

West	North	East	South
<i>Willenken</i>	<i>Meckstroth</i>	<i>Cohler</i>	<i>Rodwell</i>
—	—	4♦	Pass
5♦	Pass	Pass	Double
Pass	Pass	Pass	

At the other table, Gary Cohler made a rather bold and undisciplined bid of four diamonds. Chris Willenken bid game in his void, counting on a suit better than ace-empty-seventh in Cohler's hand. Eric Rodwell informed Willenken that he had been mistaken. Cohler took a heart finesse and so lost four tricks for minus 500 and 15 IMPs away.

Round Robin Match 10

Board 11, the last board of the day on Sunday, produced several double-digit swings. North/South can make four diamonds and East/West can make four spades. At six tables, East/West played in four spades doubled. Four of the six declarers found a

way to make ten tricks and collected plus 590 for their efforts. Two tables played in four spades undoubled and both declarers made nine tricks. Three North/South pairs found the sacrifice and played in five diamonds doubled, taking nine or ten tricks.

Board 11. Dealer South. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Passell</i>	<i>McAllister</i>	<i>Lair</i>	<i>K. Rosenberg</i>
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	1♣	3♣	Double
Pass	Pass	Pass	

In the LEVINE/MCALLISTER match, Mark Lair found himself in three clubs doubled. The opening lead was the nine of diamonds to North's ace. North returned a heart and Lair won in dummy with the ace. The club five was led and, when North followed low, Lair took the deep finesse, inserting the seven! Lair drove out the trumps and lost only one spade, one diamond and two clubs for plus 470. At the other table, East/West reached four spades, which failed by one trick; 11 IMPs to LEVINE.

The most unusual result on this board occurred in the SCHIRESON/DONNER match.

West	North	East	South
<i>Botta</i>	<i>M. Rosenberg</i>	<i>A. Grossack</i>	<i>Joel</i>
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	1♣	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♣	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Adam Grossack led the six of diamonds. Michael Rosenberg won with the ace and led the nine of clubs. Grossack won the club jack and underled his ace of spades. Rosenberg tried the jack and Botta covered with the queen, Rosenberg ruffing. Rosenberg played his king of clubs, and the hand imploded! Rosenberg could make only one diamond trick and two club tricks, so the contract failed by five tricks, scoring minus 250. At the other table, East/West played in four spades doubled and took only eight tricks for minus 300 and 11 IMPs to DONNER.

Round Robin Match 12

David Berkowitz reported the following amusing story, illustrating that it's better to be lucky than good.

Board 3. Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Shireson	Campanile	D. Rosenberg	Berkowitz
—	—	—	1♥
Double	Redouble	1♠	Pass
Pass	4♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Four hearts was a frequent contract on Board 3 of the twelfth match of the Round Robin. The defence started with three rounds of spades. Declarer Berkowitz ruffed the third spade, led a club to dummy and took the losing heart finesse. Some West players exited with a diamond in this position, making declarer's life easy. This play doesn't look harmful, since the queen of diamonds was always onside. But look what happens if West returns a club... the expert declarer has two choices: one is the diamond finesse; the other is a squeeze. If either defender holds four clubs and the queen of diamonds, the squeeze will succeed.

To execute the squeeze, declarer must win the club return and trump a club high. Everybody follows. Declarer draws trumps to produce this four-card end position:

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

When declarer leads his last trump, West and dummy will discard diamonds while East discards a spade. Whichever defender started with four clubs will be squeezed down to one club and two diamonds. If that defender's diamond holding included the queen, the king and ace of diamonds will bring home the suit.

Four declarers chose this line of play: Berkowitz, Boyd, Demuy, and Joel (Berkowitz's counterpart in the ROSENTHAL/SCHIRESON match). West had shown up with a singleton heart, four spades, and three clubs, therefore, he either had four diamonds and the remaining club or five diamonds. The queen of diamonds would have shown up if East had started with queen-low.

Thus, the only relevant case was West being 4=1=4=4 (as in the actual layout). The odds slightly favor (4 to 3) West holding the diamond queen as part of the four-card holding. Accordingly, declarer should probably play for the squeeze to have worked by cashing the king of diamonds, followed by the ace.

Indeed, that is exactly how Boyd, Demuy and Joel played the hand. An elegant play for down one. Proving that "accidents do happen", Berkowitz, who apparently has "fat fingers", mis-clicked and played the jack of diamonds to make four hearts. David writes, "I must confess I was planning to drop the queen of diamonds, but clicked on the wrong card. Confession is good for the soul."

Note that while playing for the drop appears to be odds-on, one should consider that, if holding the queen, West might have raised to two spades, rather than passing East's one-spade bid (although, at the vulnerability, caution would be a priority). That was 10 IMPs to ROSENTHAL.

Round Robin Match 14

From ROBINSON versus SELIGMAN:

Board 6. Dealer East. EW Vul.

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

Despite all the science, Bramley/Woolsey reached the inferior small slam, which needed (assuming no heart loser) the queen of clubs to fall doubleton or, failing that, the diamond queen to be onside, with residual squeeze chances. Bramley made 12 tricks; plus 1440.

West	North	East	South
Woolsey	Seligman	Bramley	Morgan
—	—	1♣ ¹	Pass
2♦ ²	Pass	2♥ ³	Pass
2♠ ⁴	Pass	2NT ⁵	Pass
3♣ ⁶	Pass	3♦ ⁷	Pass
3♥ ⁸	Pass	4♦ ⁹	Pass
4♠ ¹⁰	Pass	6♣ ¹¹	Pass
6♦ ¹²	Pass	6NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		

- 16+ HCP
- Balanced 8-10 or 14+ HCP
- Shape-ask
- 2 suits of the same colour or 4-3-3-3 with 4 of a major
- Asks which
- 4-3-3-3 with 4 spades or 4 hearts
- Asks which major
- 3=4=3=3
- A signoff signal opposite 8-10
- 4 controls and 14+
- Queen-ask
- No diamond queen

Six hearts is a much-better contract, needing (after eliminating the majors) either the queen of clubs with North or the queen of diamonds with South (when the club queen does not fall in two rounds).

West	North	East	South
B. Hamman	Martel	H. Lall	Fleisher
—	—	1♥	Pass
2NT ¹	Pass	3NT ²	Pass
4♦ ³	Pass	4NT ⁴	Pass
5♠ ⁵	Pass	5NT ⁶	Pass
7♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

- 4+card heart support, GF
- Balanced, strong notrump+
- Diamond control, no club control
- Roman Key Card Blackwood
- 2 key cards plus the queen of hearts
- Grand slam try; guarantees all key cards and the trump queen

With less science at his command, Hamman overreached to seven hearts and Lall failed when the queen of clubs did not fall and there was no squeeze; minus 100 and 17 IMPs to ROBINSON.

The final standings of the Round Robin were:

NICKELL	227
McALLISTER	197
ROSENTHAL	167
LUSKY	158
DONNER	155
MEYERS	154
SELIGMAN	151
ROBINSON	150

Those eight teams made it to the Quarterfinals. For the quarterfinal matches, NICKELL chose DONNER, McALLISTER chose MEYERS and ROSENTHAL chose SELIGMAN, leaving LUSKY with ROBINSON.

Failing to make the cut were:

MOSS	146
SPECTOR	142
LEVINE	141
BRENNER	138
REYNOLDS	132
SCHIRESON	127
HARRIS	127
BISHEL	85

Quarterfinals

McALLISTER v. MEYERS

Board 1. Dealer North. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Smith	Molson	Kriegel	Sokolow
—	Pass	Pass	1NT
Pass	3♣ ¹	Pass	3♦ ²
Pass	3NT	Pass	Pass

- Puppet Stayman
- No major

West	North	East	South
Dunitz	McAllister	Grabel	K. Rosenberg
—	Pass	Pass	1NT
Pass	3NT	Double	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Board 1 of set one established the tone for the day. Both tables in MEYERS/McALLISTER bid to three notrump by South. In one room, Ron Smith led the ten of hearts (Rusinow). When the hearts and clubs behaved, Sokolow made 10 tricks for plus 430.

At the other table, Ross Grabel, believing that he needed a spade lead to defeat the contract (and he was correct) doubled, asking partner to lead his weaker major. Mitch Dunitz did as he was told! He led the six of spades. Grabel won with the king and cashed the ace, dropping the queen-ten and setting the contract one trick for plus 100 and 11 IMPs to MEYERS.

ROSENTHAL v. SELIGMAN

Board 4. Dealer West. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Berkowitz</i>	<i>Hamman</i>	<i>Campanile</i>	<i>H. Lall</i>
Pass	1♣	Pass	1♥
Pass	2♥	Pass	2NT ¹
Pass	4♥ ²	Pass	Pass
Pass			
1. Relay			
2. 4 hearts; accepts game try			

West	North	East	South
<i>Seligman</i>	<i>Silverstein</i>	<i>Morgan</i>	<i>Rosenthal</i>
Pass	1♣	Pass	1♥
Pass	2♥	Pass	2♠ ¹
Pass	4♦ ²	Pass	4♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	
1. Relay			
2. Short diamonds with 4 hearts; accepts game try			

On Board 4 of the first set of the Quarterfinal, David Berkowitz made a play worthy of David Copperfield.

Berkowitz created an illusion and his poor opponent did not get it right. Hamman/Lall arrived in four hearts from South. No lead can legitimately defeat the contract.

However, Berkowitz led the nine of spades, giving declarer four spade tricks. If trumps were 3-2, declarer would hope to take five heart tricks, four spade tricks and one minor-suit king. Lall won the spade in hand with the king. He played the king of hearts and Berkowitz dropped his queen!

Without this action, declarer would have played a second heart to the queen and ace, crossed to the eight of spades and returned to dummy with the jack of hearts. He could then have cashed the ace-queen of spades, discarding diamonds, and exited from dummy with a club.

At that point, when declarer leads a club from dummy, he would have had his tenth trick on the actual deal. Also, on a different layout, declarer could just have

covered East's club. Then, whenever East had a singleton honour, any honour-doubleton or quack-third, upon winning their club trick, the defence would have been able to cash the ace of diamonds, but would then have had to either play a club or give declarer access to the dummy so that he could play clubs himself. This play would only fail if West had had a doubleton-queen-jack of clubs, very unlikely.

Put yourself in Lall's position: Berkowitz had created the illusion that hearts were 4-1. Instead of continuing hearts, Lall cashed a spade and exited with the king of diamonds. Berkowitz won with his ace and played a club to Campanile, who returned a spade. Berkowitz ruffed the spade with his 'non-existent' trump nine and returned a club for Campanile to ruff. The contract thus failed by one trick.

At the other table, Seligman also led the nine of spades. Declarer Andrew Rosenthal cashed the king of hearts and led a heart to the ace. At this point, he slipped! He cashed a third heart and played a diamond off dummy, inserting the nine and losing to West's queen. If West had returned a low club, the contract would have been defeated. East can win the club and return the diamond jack to drive out dummy's entry before the spades had been unblocked.

That play was not clear, however, and, in fact, West returned a spade to the eight. Declarer ruffed a diamond to dummy, cashed the ace-queen of spades and exited with a club to get his tenth trick. 12 IMPs to ROSENTHAL.

The quarterfinal results were:

DONNER 119 – NICKELL 90
MEYERS 87 – McALLISTER 77
ROSENTHAL 112 – SELIGMAN 98
LUSKY 98 – ROBINSON 67

Semifinals

LUSKY v DONNER

Board 41. Dealer South. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Donner	W. Lee	S. Rimstedt	Merblum
—	—	—	1♦
Pass	1♠	Pass	INT
Pass	3NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

West	North	East	South
Baseggio	Botta	Lo	Z. Grossack
—	—	—	INT
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦
Pass	3NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Three of the four semifinal tables played in three notrump; only one was successful.

Gary Donner made an unusual lead that shouldn't have mattered, and it wouldn't have, had he been able to read his partner's play at trick one. Donner led the ace of clubs. His partner, Sandra Rimstedt, playing upside down, count and attitude, played her five.

Donner couldn't see any of the relevant spots, so it was unclear if this was intended as high or low. Had he shifted to a heart, he would have immediately defeated the contract by two tricks, collecting five hearts and one club. Instead, he continued clubs. With the jack of spades falling, declarer scored four spades, three diamonds, and three clubs for plus 430. The early club lead looked brilliant, but turned out to be devastating.

On any other lead, Donner would have known to switch to a heart when his club ace was knocked out. On the early play of the club, he'd removed his entry before he knew what switch was right. 10 IMPs to Lusky.

In the MEYERS/ROSENTHAL match, Rosenthal/Silverstein, like Botta/Z. Grossack, went off two in three notrump on the lead of a fourth-best diamond.

Jill Meyers' teammates, Ross Grabel and Mitch Dunitz, holding the North/South cards, found five clubs doubled from South. Chris Willenken led a heart through the king to the ace. Gary Cohler cashed his jack of hearts and shifted to his singleton diamond. When Willenken won his ace of clubs, he gave Cohler a diamond ruff and defeated five clubs doubled two tricks; 5 IMPs to ROSENTHAL.

The semifinal scores:

DONNER 127 – LUSKY 67

ROSENTHAL 108 – MEYERS 88

ROSENTHAL BEAT DONNER in the final, 183–128.



Covid-19 still plays a dominant part in our lives here but, despite that, quite a few bridge clubs are beginning to resume relatively normal activity, though under pandemic restrictions.

The Norwegian Bridgefestival has moved back to Lillehammer this summer, offering a limited range of activities. Two hundred players were allowed in each event: Patton Teams, Mixed Teams, Mixed Pairs and Open Teams. The Skeidar Prize, awarded to the best-played deal of the tournament, was won by Jim Høyland for this effort:

Dealer North. Both Vul.

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

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

1. 5 hearts and 4+ in either minor, weak
2. Asks
3. Diamonds

West opened with the queen of clubs. Høyland started by letting it hold the trick. West shifted to a heart, won by the queen, and Høyland, in tempo, played an innocent-looking diamond eight. West played low, and the eight won. The queen of diamonds was covered by the king and ace, and a heart back to the ace was followed by the rest of the diamond tricks. Høyland completed his performance by playing a spade to the ten and queen, and West had to present declarer with his ninth trick in one of the black suits.

This deal was runner-up (*continued on page 12*):



IBPA Column Service

Tim Bourke, Canberra



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

1013. Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

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

1. Forcing for one round

The auction was the same at both tables in a team game, as was the lead – the jack of clubs.

At the first table, declarer won with the ace of clubs and played a low trump from the table. East saw that he did not want to be on lead on the second round of trumps, so he played the ace and another trump. Declarer took this in hand and ran the queen of hearts to East's king. After trumping the club return, declarer played a heart to the ten. East won with the jack of hearts for the third defensive trick. As declarer still had to lose a diamond, he was down one.

At the second table, declarer also took the ace of clubs at trick one and, looking past the double finesse in hearts, ruffed a club at trick two. Next he played the three of trumps to dummy's seven. East won with the ace and exited with the four of spades. Declarer won with the jack, then ruffed a second club before playing the king of diamonds from hand.

West won with his ace of diamonds and returned the jack of diamonds. Declarer won with the queen of

diamonds, then ruffed dummy's remaining diamond, eliminating that suit. Finally, declarer ran the queen of hearts to East's king. East was endplayed and was forced to concede the contract.

1014. Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

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

West began with the ace of spades, then shifted to a trump. Declarer counted nine tricks in the red suits and, as the ace of clubs was likely to be on his left, he was sure that playing on clubs would be hopeless. Instead, he decided to try and generate an extra trump trick with a dummy reversal for his contract.

After winning the trump shift with dummy's ten, declarer ruffed a spade, led a low diamond to dummy's jack to ruff a second spade, then crossed to dummy's king of diamonds. After ruffing dummy's last spade, declarer had made six tricks. Somewhat nervously, declarer led the king of trumps from hand and overtook it with dummy's ace. When trumps proved to be 3-2 declarer was home: he drew the outstanding trump with dummy's queen and claimed two diamond tricks for his contract.

Of interest is that an opening lead of a trump, diamond or low spade lead would have defeated the contract, because East could have won any spade played by declarer or dummy and shifted to a club.

1015. Dealer West. EW Vul.

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

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

West led the king of hearts. Declarer very quickly, won the heart lead with dummy's ace, and played a trump to the king and ace.

West knew that there was no heart trick to cash and he noted East's nine of hearts at trick one. Taking that as suit preference, he shifted to the king and eight of diamonds. Declarer tried the queen of diamonds but East won with the ace of diamonds and persisted with a third round diamonds, promoting West's jack of spades into the setting trick.

Dummy was not impressed when declarer complained of bad luck. "On the bidding you should have placed East with at most one of the ace of spades and the ace-king of diamonds. If East had begun with the ace of trumps, West would likely have led a diamond from the ace-king rather than a heart."

Dummy continued, "Also, no matter how you played, you had to lose two diamond tricks. If West had the ace-jack and another trump, nothing could be done. So you should have turned your thoughts to protecting against a trump promotion: you should have led the three of hearts at trick two and thrown a diamond from hand. On most layouts, this play would have restricted the defenders to the ace of trumps, one heart and one diamond."

1016. (See top on next column.)

This deal is from a knock-out event. The auction and lead were identical at both tables: West began with the ace and king of clubs. Both declarers ruffed, then drew trumps with the king and ace. At that point, play diverged.

Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

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

At the first table, declarer continued with the ace and another diamond. When West discarded a heart there was no way for declarer to avoid three losers in the red suits; down one.

At the other table, declarer decided that there was no rush to play on diamonds. Instead, he continued with the ace and another heart. Once declarer played a second heart, West knew that his partner's double of three hearts was surely based on a doubleton queen in the suit. So he rose with the king of hearts and continued with the jack of hearts, not wanting to open up the diamond suit.

Declarer ruffed and considered what he knew about the unseen hands. West had begun with six hearts, two trumps and at least two clubs. Consequently, he had at most three diamonds. If diamonds were 3-2, any play would work. Declarer then asked himself, "What can be done if West began with only one diamond?"

Declarer found a clever answer to this question. He led a low diamond and, when West followed with the four, he played dummy's nine of diamonds. East took this with the ten and, counting declarer's original shape as 6=2=4=1, tried the effect of returning the seven of diamonds. Declarer countered by inserting his eight of diamonds and, when that held, he had the balance of the tricks to make his contract.

If East had exited with a diamond honour instead of the seven, declarer would have taken it in dummy and would have had the diamond king-eight over East's remaining honour-seven.

Note that if West had produced an honour on the first round of diamonds, declarer would have won in dummy and returned a diamond toward his hand, with the intention of covering East's card as cheaply as possible.

Dealer South Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
—	—	—	1♦
1♠	Double	Pass	INT
Pass	3NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Ole Berset was West and led a club, taken by dummy's ace. The ten of diamonds held the next trick, and a club was taken by the queen. East led the three of spades to the two, nine and six, and Berset continued with the king of spades to dummy's ace. South could have succeeded with an endplay against West but, when he tried to drop the queen of diamonds, the result was one down.

The next board is from the teams tournament Major Alt Invitational. Simon Gillis has four Norwegian players in his team, and this board shows Espen Lindqvist and Boye Brogeland in action against three notrump:

Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

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

1. 5/5 invitational

Lindqvist started with the three of hearts to the nine, knave and ace. Declarer played a second heart to dummy's ten, a club to the king, then the queen of clubs, won by Brogeland's ace. The spade shift was taken by the queen, and South could have dropped West's ten of clubs to land the contract, but he elected to

play a diamond to the queen. Two top spade tricks revealed the bad news there. A low heart followed to West's eight, to reach this end-position:

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

Lindqvist cashed his king of hearts, and Brogeland got rid of his knave of diamonds, paving the way for a defensive squeeze. South discarded his nine of clubs but was endplayed with a club to the knave and had to surrender the last two tricks to Lindqvist's ace and ten of diamonds.

Our last deal is from a local tournament. The player who performed the following defensive feat was Oslo guy Kjell Jonsen:

Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

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

1. Multi: either major or big balanced
2. Pass or correct
3. 20-21 balanced
4. Transfer
5. Choice of games

West started with the queen of hearts. South won with his king and played the king and queen of spades. On the queen, West followed in tempo with the knave! South then saw that he had two entries to dummy to play diamonds toward his hand and overtook the queen with the ace, but soon realized that he had accepted a losing option.



Slamming in the ALT

Mark Horton
Shrewsbury, Shrops., England

In the cutely named MontreALQ, 24 teams attempted to secure one of the eight qualification spots on offer for the next Major Alt event at the beginning of August. To honour the name of the late, lamented Roland Wald, a motley team of commentators entered the lists. They were desperate enough to invite your reporter to take part, which resulted in an ad hoc partnership with Marc Smith. Our system was based around that propounded by *A New Bridge Magazine*. Work commitments meant we could only play five of the first six of the 12 rounds and, as is often the case with new partnerships, the slam deals were easily the most interesting, not least because we had established no basic principles in our miniscule exchange of emails prior to the event.

Board 13. Dealer North. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Jain	Horton	Rasmussen	Smith
Pass	2♥	Pass	4♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

There was a time when I would have rejected any idea of opening the North hand because of the two first-round controls outside hearts, but the modern approach appears to be 'my turn, my bid'. East led the two of diamonds. I won in dummy and cashed the ace of hearts, finessing on the next round; plus 650.

West	North	East	South
Schweitzer	Aquino	Schmidt	Hotamisligil
—	2♥	Pass	2NT ¹
Pass	3♦ ²	Pass	4NT ³
Pass	5NT ⁴	Pass	6♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. Relay, at least invitational
2. Feature
3. RKCB
4. Even number of key cards and a void

East led the five of spades: queen, king, ruff. Declarer played a club to the queen, ruffed a spade, cashed the king of hearts, crossed to the heart ace, pitched a club on the ace of spades, ruffed a spade and played a second club for plus 1430 and enough IMPs to secure 13.72 VP.

Only three of the 24 pairs bid to six hearts (*Just as well – slam is pretty mediocre. It's really game with a couple of potential overtricks. – Ed.*), one of them going down by taking the wrong view in trumps.

Board 10. Dealer East. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Wijman	Horton	de Meer	Smith
—	—	Pass	4♠
Pass	4NT ¹	Pass	5♣ ²
Pass	6♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

1. RKCB
2. 1 or 4 key cards

West	North	East	South
Jeliazkov	Horton	Valkanov	Smith
—	—	—	2♣
Pass	2♥	Pass	3♥
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♦
Pass	4♥	Pass	4NT ¹
Pass	5♦ ²	Pass	6♦ ³
Pass	7♥	Pass	Pass

1. RKCB
2. 0 or 3 key cards
3. Seeking third-round diamond control

Two diamonds was a more popular response to two clubs. Marc thought I must have more than five cards in the suit (but perhaps overlooked that I had not opened two hearts) and so made a grand-slam try looking for third-round diamond control. I hoped that my jack-doubleton would be enough (give partner a 2=4=5=2 with good breaks). We got lucky with the small slam going down.

West	North	East	South
Cantor	Berger	Lund	Guttman
—	Pass	Pass	1♣ ¹
Pass	1♥ ²	Pass	INT
Pass	3NT	Pass	6NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. 17+ HCP
2. Any game-force with fewer than 3 controls

West led the five of clubs and, in due course, declarer was an unlucky one down.

Only four pairs stopped short of a slam.

Board 8. Dealer North. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Jeliazkov	Horton	Valkanov	Smith
Pass	1♣	Pass	2♣ ¹
Pass	2♠ ²	Pass	3♥
Pass	3NT	Pass	5♣
Pass	6♣	Pass	Pass

1. Inverted raise
2. Game-forcing

The combination of three hearts and five clubs persuaded me that Marc would have a heart control. East led the four of clubs, so 12 tricks were easy.

If East decides that the bidding suggests that North will have a diamond control and that the king of diamonds may be a trick, that might suggest leading a heart, following the Garozzo principle of leading aggressively against slams, hoping to find partner with the queen.

West	North	East	South
Cantor	Berger	Lund	Guttman
—	1♣ ¹	Pass	INT ²
Pass	2♣ ³	Pass	2NT ⁴
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♥
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♣
Pass	6♣	Pass	Pass

1. 17+ HCP
2. 4 controls
3. Balanced
4. 5+ clubs

That might be an excellent auction although, again, you might make a case for a heart lead. However, East started with the four of spades so there was nothing to the play.

Seven pairs reached six clubs – ours was the only match in which it was reached at both tables. No defender found a heart lead, which would almost certainly have resulted in declarer's downfall.

THE ALT INVITATIONAL

online bridge events organized by
bid72, bridge24 & netbridge.online



Alts in the Future

21–25 September – Minor Alt Invitational II
 5–9 October – Alt Mixed V
 12–16 October – Minor Alt Invitational III
 19–23 October – Alt Mixed V
 16–20 November – Minor Alt Invitational IV
 16–19 November – TampAlt (Qualification)
 30 November – 4 December – Alt Mixed VI
 14–18 December – TampAlt (Main Event)

Eight top teams will compete in the Minor ALTs and up to 16 teams in the Alt Mixed.

All participation is by invitation.

For more info and to apply for an invitation, see alt.bridgeresults.org or write to info@netbridge.online.

The Alt team reserves the right to make changes to the schedule.



A Well-Earned Swing (BS)

Playing in the Alt Mixed III, my team was beaten in Round 9 of the Swiss qualifying stage by a team featuring the strong Israeli pairing of Noga Tal and Yaniv Zack. On the following deal, seven pairs played in four hearts by East; three were successful, four were not. Zack, alas for our cause, was one of the successful ones.

Board 6. Dealer East. EW Vul.

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

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

West	North	East	South
Tal	Senior	Zack	Penfold
—	—	1NT ¹	Pass
2♦ ²	Double ³	2♥ ⁴	3♦
Double ⁵	Pass	4♥	Pass
Pass	Pass		
1. 15-17			
2. Transfer			
3. Diamonds			
4. Heart support			
5. Game try			

At most tables, North overcalled two notrump to show the minors; I chose to only show diamonds – for the lead against a likely heart contract.

Sandra Penfold led the six of diamonds, MUD, to the three, nine and king. Zack played back his remaining diamond, so I won and played the queen of clubs, which he ducked, followed by the ten of clubs. Zack won with the ace and proceeded to draw trumps ending in hand, ruffed the third club, then led a low spade to the four, nine and queen. He ruffed the diamond return and led the jack of spades to the king and ace, pinning the ten; ten tricks and plus 620.

Whether North shows both minors or only diamonds, declarer has a pretty good idea regarding the

distribution by the time he reaches the crucial play. It is therefore surprising that, of the seven declarers in game, two played the ace and another spade, and a third made the bizarre play of low from dummy to the four and jack (perhaps that was a mis-click?).

As well as Zack, Geir Helgemo and Namik Kokten found the play of low to the nine followed by pinning the ten – well played by all three.

But this hand bothered me and I realised that I could have done better on defence. When declarer leads the first spade from dummy, he is hoping to find North with either the doubleton-ten or honour-ten-doubleton. What if I had played the ten? Might Zack not now have played me for the latter holding and gone down?

So, I went through the play records and found that only one of the four Norths put to the test had indeed put in the ten and declarer had indeed misguessed the position when his jack lost to the queen and a low spade came back, declarer going up with the ace. The successful defender was Sweden's Cecilia Rimstedt and, as her teammate, Geir Helgemo, was one of those to make the contract, I think we can say that this was a well-earned 12 IMPs to their side.

Hommage à Reese (MH)

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

For a number of years, I have been producing articles in the style of the man considered by many to be the greatest bridge writer of them all. In *Play These Hands With Me*, he penned a story entitled, *One that got away*, in which he describes a skilful move that might be new to most readers. This deal from the final of the recent Mixed ALT struck me as instructive:

Dealer West. Both Vul.

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

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

West	North	East	South
Sanus	Michielsen	Aluf	Cullin
1NT	Pass	2NT ¹	Pass
3♣ ²	Pass	3♦ ³	Pass
3NT	Pass	Pass	Pass
1. Puppet			
2. No 5-card major			
3. 4+ hearts			

Rightly or wrongly, North led the three of clubs. Declarer won with dummy's ace and cashed the king of clubs, partner following with the ten and then discarding the seven of diamonds. Declarer's next move was a diamond for the six, jack and your queen. You play high-low in a suit to show an even number. Your move.

Declarer could win, unblock the diamonds, cash two clubs and cross to dummy with a spade to secure a ninth trick with the nine of diamonds.

Post mortem

North suspected that South held three diamonds (he would not have discarded the seven from seven-six), either ace-seven-six or seven-six-three. It was unlikely that South would have discarded from the first of these, given that he was known to hold at least five cards in one of the majors. If West had the diamond ace-king, North knew that the suit was breaking and that the nine of diamonds was a potential trick. If declarer was to be prevented from scoring it, dummy's ace of spades had to be removed, so North's only hope was to switch to a spade.

I suspect that South's play in diamonds was designed to suggest that he wanted a spade switch.

Note that if declarer had played a diamond to the jack at trick two (or even the ace, king then jack of diamonds before or after the second high club), the defenders would have been helpless.

This is what happened in the other room:

West	North	East	South
<i>Donner</i>	<i>Ayaz</i>	<i>Rimstedt</i>	<i>Acar</i>
1NT ¹	Pass	2NT ²	Pass
3♣ ³	Pass	3NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. 14-16
2. Puppet Stayman
3. No four-card major, some five-card minor

North led the eight of spades; South won with the ten. Now, continuing spades would have removed a potentially vital entry to dummy, but South switched to the queen of hearts and, when it held, he continued with the jack. (If South goes back to spades, an inspired declarer can duck, win the third spade, cash the top diamonds, unblock dummy's clubs, return to hand with a heart and exit with a diamond to force North to lead a club into the queen-jack-eight.) Declarer won with the ace, unblocked dummy's clubs, getting the bad news when South pitched the jack of spades, and played a diamond to the ace. He continued with two winning clubs, pitching a diamond and a heart from dummy, crossed to the ace of spades and took a diamond finesse. North won, cashed the nine of clubs, and exited with a spade to give South the last two tricks.

Declarer can get home by retaining all dummy's remaining diamonds. After cashing two clubs, he cashes the king of

diamonds and exits with the jack of diamonds, when North will have to give dummy the last two tricks.

Most players keep a careful eye on the honour cards as they appear. Only the greatest experts pay equal attention to the spot cards that are played.

NEWS & VIEWS II



Yalcin Atabey (1970-2020)



Yalcin Atabey died at 50 last month. Atabey was a frequent member of Turkey's international teams since the mid-1990s and had been an NPC of several Turkish teams in international competition.

Gianni Bertotto (1945-2020)

Gianni Bertotto, 75 years old, died suddenly and unexpectedly on August 28. Bertotti was a pillar of the Italian Bridge Federation. For many years he was Secretary to the EBL and then of the WBF Championships Committee. At the time of his death he was Secretary to the WBF Kids Committee and the Manager of the Main Office in all WBF events – he had not missed an International Tournament since 1999.



Arno Hobart (1944-2020)

Arno Hobart died of leukemia last month at 76 years of age. Hobart was a member of the ill-fated Canadian team that lost to Germany in the semifinals of the 1990 Rosenblum in Geneva. It was Hobart who awoke with a start in the middle of the night, having dreamt that his side had actually taken a trick more than was reported in the official score.



They had indeed, and the score, if rectified, would have propelled their team into the final. However, the team's appeal was denied and they had to settle for bronze. Hobart also won a silver medal in the World Senior Pairs in Montréal in 2002.

Larry Kozlove (1945-2020)



Larry Kozlove passed away on September 2nd at the age of 75 in Louisville, Kentucky. Kozlove won three North American Championships and was a silver medallist in the 2011 d'Orsi Trophy in Veldhoven.

Cathérine d'Ovidio (1959-2020)



Cathérine d'Ovidio died on August 27. D'Ovidio was

one of the most-talented and most-decorated players of her generation, winning three World Championships, 11 European Championships and three IOC Grands Prix. D'Ovidio was enshrined in the EBL Hall of Fame.

2020 FISU WUC Mind Sports Online



The 2020 FISU World University Championship Mind Sports Online will take place on 26-30 October, 2020 and will replace the onsite FISU event of 2020 which was to have taken place in September 2020 in Bydgoszcz (Poland). Details can be found at: <https://www.fisu.net/news/fisu-world-university-championships/>.

WBF Executive Council Election



Gonzalo Herrera, from Mexico, has been unanimously elected by the North American Bridge Federation as a member of the WBF Executive Council, replacing the late Alberto Cohen, who died earlier this year.

EBL Cancellations

The European Bridge League has announced the cancellation of the following events:

- **The 2020 EBL Small Federations Games**, which was to be held in Vilnius, Lithuania. The EBL also announced that the 2021 Small Federation Games will be held in Vilnius if circumstances allow it.
- **The 2020 EBL Champions Cup**, which was to be held in Pezinok, Slovakia on November 12-14. Circumstances permitting, the 2021 Champions' Cup will be held in Pezinok.



Correspondence

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

Dear JC,

In an issue dedicated to denouncing and exposing cheating as a scourge on our game (bravo!), you let the guest obit writer slip one past you when he lauded the late Ms. Lavazza for her skillful captaincy of the Italian team by putting in Fantoni-Nunes—two infamous cheaters, according to the IBF, EBL, and ACBL (but too clever for the Court of Arbitration for Sport)—in the 4th quarter of a World Championship final. It was a travesty then, and an even more egregious one now. I won't speak ill of the dead, but neither will I applaud them for, presumably (hopefully) unknowingly, recognizing that a pair of cheats was outplaying its teammates and opponents. Ms. Lavazza seemed to attract ethically challenged players—Lanzarotti-Buratti were other members of Team Lavazza who gained ascendancy by cheating. I'm glad I don't drink coffee.

Allan Falk, Okemos, MI

Hi J.C.,

I hope you and Katie are well and as unaffected as possible by the current Covid situation.

Was I a cheat?

When I first started playing, and in a very tough school (the Acol Club), I got results very quickly.

After just six weeks of bridge – from scratch – I was introduced to a guy, Dave Maeer, who had recently come down from university and was a fair player. We started playing together, and he sort of brainwashed me into playing a slightly weird (but legal) system, sort of Acolised Baron, which I thought was 'standard'. We started getting results well above our – at the time – combined abilities, and I started hearing mutterings against me.

I was doing nothing unethical. It was just that I 'knew' what to do in the bidding – like I could see into Dave's hand. And he did nothing to tip me off.

So – was I cheating?

As I became a better player – even making it into the British Ladies National Team – where I could hardly play with Dave (his face fungus and height would have given the game away), I could get good results with other players, but not with the ease that I did with Dave.

All best wishes,
Maureen Hiron, Málaga, Spain

Hallo JC,

My sincere congratulations to you on producing a detailed report on “self-confessions on self-kibitzing”. I concur with you that these confessions have come out of pressure of some sort (*apparently, Michal Nowosadzki's was voluntary - Ed.*). I am certain, BBO has its software tools to detect unusual activity on multiple accounts operated by the same player at the same time. I congratulate BBO and the personnel behind the creation and running of BBO, for rendering yeoman service to the bridge community, during these trying times of COVID-19. As for the retribution for such acts, I commend your suggestions as most constructive. There will certainly be differing views. It is imperative that concrete and deterrent action be taken and imposed.

Best regards,

Dilip Gidwani, Pune, India

In a separate email. Dilip presented this view from Fali Tamboly of Mumbai:

A thought strikes me that could go at least part way to resolving this issue. If BBO were to make the email address of a player a mandatory field, it would help. Even if a warped player were to create two BBO IDs with two different email addresses, the IP address would be the same wherever he played from. This would, of course, entail a tweak in the programming to capture the IP address every time a player logged in, but then it would be very easy for the program to find if more than one BBO ID were logged in concurrently from the identical IP address. This could lead to raising an immediate red flag.

Dear John,

Here's a little Alt history ...

For Alt information, check www.bridgeresults.org.

The Alt concept was invented by Paul Street early in March 2020 as an alternative for the cancelled Columbus Nationals. As far as I know, it was the first serious, world-class, online bridge event. Jan van den Hoek, a bridge aficionado (and lawyer) who had already built a solid name for himself in The Netherlands and Europe, took up organizing the matches.

Van den Hoek, with the help of Sjoert Brink, did, and has done, a brilliant job, attracting world stars to the Alts. Alts are now played about every other week (e.g., Minor, Major, Mixed, Montreal). The events last for five days in a row, starting with a round robin, then quarterfinals, semifinals and final. Most Alts come with a lively Daily Bulletin, with Christina Lund Madsen as the editor and with contributions by well-known journalists such as Mark Horton and Toine van Hoof.

Regards, Jan van Cleeff, The Hague

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 – Some Zones of the World Bridge Federation have run and will continue to run online championships until the pandemic ends. Check the Zonal websites for information.

NBOs – Many National Bridge Organisations 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.



www.ibpa.com

This Bulletin: You can access an electronic copy of this Bulletin at www.ibpa.com/668ks.pdf

Subscriptions: You can apply to join the IBPA or renew your subscription on the website by clicking on the appropriate button on the top of the homepage.

Members' Addresses: You can find fellow members' contact details at: www.jannersten.org. If you have forgotten your access code: thorpe.katie@gmail.com

The 2018 Handbook: To access the electronic version of the Handbook, go to the IBPA website: www.ibpa.com

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