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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. 671

December 10, 2020

... and the beat goes on.

The inaction of bridge organisations with respect to online cheating (whether real or perceived) has prompted the Nordic Bridge Union (Denmark, Faroe Islands, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden) to send the following open letter (edited here only slightly for some grammar, punctuation and spelling errors – I was concerned that more editing might alter the letter's tone and intent) to the WBF, EBL and NBOs. The letter lays out the steps that the NBU believes must be taken if we are to save bridge and, make no mistake, the game is under serious threat. If things do not improve, it is not too difficult to imagine the NBU inviting a few major players such as The Netherlands, the USA and China to compete with them in their own World Championships. As the letter points out, this has already happened in other sports.

To: World Bridge Federation
president Gianarrigo Rona
European Bridge League
president Jan Kamras
Other zonal organizations
NBOs



Nov. 24, 2020

Open letter about cheating in bridge

The pandemic has affected bridge. First and foremost, it has made travel to play championships and tournaments with our good friends from all over the world impossible. It has also affected the finances of the NBOs and zonal organizations but, hopefully, we will fight through all that. In bridge, we are lucky that it is possible to play online when meeting in person is no longer an alternative.

The pandemic is also threatening the game of bridge. Not because we cannot meet this year, and not by financially weakening our federations and zonal organizations. But because the cheating that now is taking place in online tournaments is so comprehensive, and so against the spirit of the game, that it threatens its existence.

WBF published a statement on July 20:

<http://www.worldbridge.org/2020/07/20/statement-from-the-wbf-management-committee/>

regarding the Michal Nowozadski case, saying that online bridge competitions organized by private groups do not have any relation to the WBF and its organization. Further, they say that this kind of behavior is aberrant and unacceptable and causes great harm to bridge and threatens its credibility.

Continued on page 15...

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The International Bridge Press Association

IBPA Annual General Meeting Agenda

Saturday, December 12, 2020 online
at 09:00 EST, 14:00 GMT

- 0. Attendance**
- 1. Recommend a Chairman of the AGM**
- 2. Remembrance**
- 3. Minutes of the AGM held on September 23 2019 Wuhan China**
- 4. Officers' Reports**
- 5. Appointees' Reports**
- 6. Treasurer**
- 7. Membership fees**
- 8. Elections**

The current officers are President: Barry Rigal (USA); Chairman: Per Jannersten (Sweden); Vice-President: David Stern (Australia)
Organisational Vice-President: Dilip Gidwani (India); Treasurer: Richard Solomon (New Zealand); Secretary: Elisabeth van Ettinger (Netherlands)
Proposed for annual elections are:
Hon. Auditor: Richard Fleet
Hon. General Counsel: David Harris
- 9. Election of Executive Members**
- 10. The IBPA Annual Awards**
- 11. Any other competent business**

Minutes of 2019 IBPA AGM

Monday morning, 23 September 2019, Wuhan China

- 0. Attendance:** 31 + 11 proxies (see list below)
- 1. Establishing if we have a quorum**

We have a quorum
- 2. Election of the Chairman of the AGM.**

Barry Rigal is elected as Chairman. Proposed by David Stern, seconded by Ton Kooijman
- 3. Approval of the agenda**

Everybody approves. Proposed by John Carruthers and seconded by Ton Kooijman

4. Remembrance of deceased members

Deceased are Anant Bhagwat and George Rosenkranz. We paid our respect with a minute of silence.

5. Approval of the minutes of the AGM held on October 1 2018 Orlando USA

Approved. Proposed by Ton Kooijman and seconded by Katie Thorpe.

6. Officers' Reports

The President Barry Rigal states that the success of the IBPA is dependent on three aspects: Number of members, Contributions to the bulletin and Financial status. Thanks to the sponsoring from the Hainan Festival we have financial stability and are able to provide more services to the members to make the Pressroom a good place to work. He hopes for more contributions to the bulletin and a greater visibility. There are 15 new members. The President thanks the Awards Committee and Jan Swaan, Monika Kummel, Francesca Canali and Elisabeth van Ettinger for their work in the pressroom and at the bulletin.

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

7. Appointees' Reports

John Carruthers has the same report as every year. The Bulletin has run smoothly thanks to the help of Philip Alder, P.O Sundelin and Katie Thorpe. He is thinking about retirement in maybe 4 or 5 years and would like to find a younger person to replace him. The membership report by Katie Thorpe is attached. Total membership for 2019 is 211 plus the new members and renewals in Wuhan (15), of which 10 honorary members and 30 sponsored members.

8. Treasurer's Report

In theory we have a small loss but this is solely due to the exchange rate between dollars and Euro's. The expenses have gone down and the sponsor money has gone up. Our economic situation is good. The report is attached. Moved by David Stern that the financial report be accepted as presented, seconded by Ton Kooijman.

9. Budget for 2019

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

10. Approval of membership fee for 2019 & sponsored membership

The proposal is to keep the membership fee at the same level as last year, \$43 and half price for junior members..The IBPA would like to sponsor more active

members. The definition of a active member is still: *Actively contributing members may have their dues sponsored fully or partly by the organisation, subject to annual approval by the AGM.* Approved nem con.

11. Elections

Proposed for annual re-election are:

Hon. Auditor: Richard Fleet (England): Approved

Hon. General Counsel: David Harris: Approved

Proposed for election to the Executive until 2022 are:

Jan van Cleeff (Netherlands): Approved

Brent Manley (USA): Approved

Francesca Canali (Italy): Approved

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

12. The IBPA Annual Awards

Three awards are presented at the AGM, all the others will be presented at the Hainan Festival

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

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

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

13. Any other competent business:

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

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

List of attendees to the AGM

Barry Rigal, Brent Manley, Brian Senior, Christian Vennerod, David Harris, David Stern, Elisabeth van Ettinger, Fernando Lema, Gianarrigo Rona, Herman de Wael, J.J. Wang, Jan Swaan, Jerry Li, John Carruthers, John Wignall, Jon Egil Furunes, Kahie Thorpe, Marc DePauw, Marc van Beijsterveldt, Marek Pietreszek, Marek Wojciki, Mark Horton, Mirek Ckitochi, Per Jannersten, Trine Furunes, Ton Kooijman, Fu Qiang, Monika Kummel, Francesca Canali, Bo Bilde, Jan Nielsen

Proxies: Patrice Foulon, Bob Pitts, Allan Falk, Dilip Gidwani, Nicolas Hammond, Jan van Cleeff, Pierre Schmidt, Andrew Robson, Tony Forrester, Malgorzata Maruszkin

Reports to the AGM

See attachment

(Editor's Note: The Financial Reports will be published in January 2021.)

Strike Two The 2020 Teltscher Trophy

David Bird, Eastleigh, Hants., U.K.



Lightning struck twice in the same place during the England-Scotland match in the Teltscher Trophy (the Senior Camrose). The event was brilliantly staged online by a new platform, RealBridge. This reproduces the effect of playing live at your club or in a top-class championship, providing webcam and microphone support for each player. Kibitzers were able to watch the play at 12 different tables, six in the Teltscher and six more in the Lady Milne Trophy.

On Board 11, England bid and made seven spades while their counterparts stopped in game.

Dealer South. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Ferrari</i>	<i>Hallberg</i>	<i>Ash</i>	<i>Mossop</i>
—	—	—	1♠
Pass	2NT ¹	Pass	4♣ ²
Pass	4♦	Pass	4♥
Pass	4NT ³	Pass	5NT ⁴
Pass	7♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

1. Game-forcing raise in spades
2. Good five-card suit
3. Roman Key-Card Blackwood
4. 2 key cards and a void

Gunnar Hallberg's Jacoby Two-Notrump was followed by David Mossop showing his club suit; two red-suit control-bids followed. After the void-showing response to RKCB, Hallberg hoped that the void would be in diamonds or, if it were in hearts, that a diamond would not be led. The grand slam was reached on a combined total of only 24 HCP.

Mossop won the heart lead with his king, drew trumps with the ace and king, and ruffed the nine of diamonds in his hand. Which club honour should he play first? Correctly, Mossop led a low club from his hand, keeping his ace-ten tenace intact. He was rewarded when the jack of clubs appeared from West. He won with dummy's king and followed Restricted Choice by finessing the ten next, making the grand slam.

Declarer's play in the club suit would have succeeded when West held a singleton queen or jack of clubs. It would have lost only to queen-jack doubleton. So, he had odds of 2-to-1 in his favour. Some players do not believe in Restricted Choice. Don't waste your time trying to explain it to them – they will never change their minds. Just be happy that, unlike you, they will have odds of 2-to-1 against them throughout their bridge careers.

West	North	East	South
<i>Mould</i>	<i>Short</i>	<i>Holland</i>	<i>Goodman</i>
—	—	—	1♠
3♦	4♦	Pass	4♣
Pass	Pass	Pass	

At the other table, Alan Mould's weak jump overcall made life more difficult for the Scotland North/South, and England gained 14 IMPs. Mossop and Hallberg were the only pair to reach seven spades in the Teltscher Trophy or the Lady Milne.

England were extremely lucky on board 27, a curious echo of the seven spades/four spades theme:

Dealer South. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Pedden</i>	<i>Hackett</i>	<i>Hay</i>	<i>Senior</i>
—	—	—	1♠ ¹
Pass	2♣ ²	Pass	2♦ ³
Pass	3♣ ⁴	Pass	4♣ ⁵
Pass	4♥	Pass	5♦
Pass	6♣	Pass	7♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. Four-card majors
2. (i) Natural (ii) Balanced game-force (iii) Limit raise of spades
3. Five-plus spades
4. Forcing, sets spades as trumps
5. Serious slam-try

Brian Senior explained the rest of the auction to me: 'We play non-serious three notrump, so my four clubs was a serious try. Paul had forgotten, thinking we played three notrump as the serious try. The system notes state that six of a non-trump suit asks for third-round control of that suit. I had it, so ... (Paul didn't fancy five notrump, asking about trump honours, over my five diamonds, as he could only count 12 tricks if I had five spades. This was barely possible after I had made a serious slam try.)'

If West's trumps had been king-eight-seven against South's queen-nine-to-six, declarer could have succeeded by leading the queen to pin East's jack. Such a play would not work here, because West would have covered with the king and made a trick subsequently with his nine-eight.

You may wonder, in that case, how the grand slam was made. The Scotland West, Derek Pedden, led the eight of spades! This ran to the jack and queen, allowing Senior to finesse the ten and land the contract. West must have thought that a trump lead might deter declarer from finessing if East were void. It was a poor lead, though, since it would also have given away the grand if North had held ace-jack-low and East a singleton ten.

West	North	East	South
<i>Mould</i>	<i>Short</i>	<i>Holland</i>	<i>Goodman</i>
—	—	—	1♠
Pass	2♣*	Pass	2♦*
Pass	3♣*	Pass	4♣

Brian Short's two clubs was multi-meaning and two diamonds was forced. Three spades was forcing and Alan Goodman declined to control-bid. England gained 17 IMPs on the board, where they would have lost 11 IMPs after any other lead against the grand slam. They eventually finished ahead of Scotland, winning the trophy by some 5 VPs.

The Swedes Shine

Mark Horton,
Shrewsbury,
Shrops., U.K.
Toine van Hoof,
Utrecht, Netherlands



The Bridge Mind – Van Hoof & Horton

Have you ever stopped to consider how a top-class player thinks? We are sometimes presented with a piece of play or defence where it seems that the individual concerned is playing a game with which we are not familiar. In Round 6 of a recent Alt Mixed, we witnessed a brilliant series of plays, so instructive that we took the opportunity to ask the player to describe her thoughts.

Board 2. Dealer East. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
E. Hessel	Donner	I. Hessel	C. Rimstedt
—	—	1NT	Pass
3♣ ¹	Pass	3♦ ²	Pass
3NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. Puppet Stayman
2. No five-card major

At every other table but one, the auction went one notrump-three notrump (one West going via an invitational three clubs) and South led a diamond, presenting declarer with a ninth trick.

At this table, Cecilia Rimstedt led the four of spades. C.R.: *Once West has not looked for a four-card major in partner's hand, this is like a one-notrump-three notrump auction and I tend to lead a major. Starting with a six-card minor when dummy is known to be without a four-card major catches partner with a singleton quite a lot.*

North played the king and declarer won with the ace. C. R.: *Partner's king and declarer's ace could be good or bad news. Partner could still have king-jack-fourth or -fifth, but declarer could have had ace-jack-ten-fourth, so it was unclear if the lead had been good or bad.*

Declarer continued with the ten of clubs for the three, queen, and six.

Partner's spot was the highest out there which, unless it was a stiff (or a possible duck from king-six), it was a negative signal for the opening lead (a version of Reverse Smith).

Next, the three of diamonds was covered by the eight, queen, and king.

We play UDCA, so partner should have either a stiff diamond or one higher card (it should be the jack). It seemed like declarer was looking for a ninth trick, having started with six club tricks and two aces. So the question was, if partner had the king-queen of hearts, so that we now had five tricks to cash, with declarer having the ace-queen-jack-fourth of diamonds or if partner indeed had a higher diamond, then I can safely play one back.

South returned the two of diamonds to the ten, jack, and six.

It seemed more likely to hope for partner to have the jack of diamonds than both the king and queen of hearts, and some declarers might by habit, play the ten rather than low from ten-low opposite ace-queen-third when taking that finesse.

When declarer ducked the jack of diamonds on the second round of the suit, North returned the ten of spades, covered by the jack and queen.

Now I knew declarer's ninth trick was set up with dummy's nine of spades, so I had to hope for partner to have the king of hearts.

South cashed the ace of hearts and North's king was the setting trick.

It was the right defence, but a bit lucky with the spots for our carding (partner's club spot was easily read as was his diamond spot). However, if declarer had played a low club to the queen instead of the ten, my partner's six could have been low from ten-six, and things might have been harder.

Our thanks to Cecilia Rimstedt for sharing her thoughts.

The Flight of the Phoenix – Horton

I first encountered the concept of the Phoenix that rises from the ashes while reading a story about an amazing athlete called 'Wilson' who, amongst other things, had discovered the secret of eternal life. In bridge terms, it is sometimes possible to resurrect a contract that appears to be hopeless, although you may sometimes need to enlist the help of your opponents.

Have a look at the following cards from one of the Alt Invitationals:

Board 27. Dealer South. Neither Vul.

♠ A Q 9
♥ J 10 8 5 4
♦ Q J 6
♣ A 6

♠ 6 2
♥ K Q 6 3 2
♦ 7 5
♣ K 10 8 7

It was the penultimate deal of one of the semifinals in an Alt event.

West	North	East	South
Arts	Fredin	de Roos	Apteker
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	1♥	1♠	2NT ¹
Pass	3♣ ²	Pass	3♥ ³
Pass	4♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			

1. Four+ hearts, invitational
2. Any minimum
3. Non-forcing

Taking the view that his side was behind in the match (he was right), Peter Fredin decided to go on to game – if East happened to lead a spade, declarer would be off to a good start. However, the opening lead was the queen of clubs. That offered declarer a glimmer of hope – perhaps East had started with the queen-jack-nine-third, in which case the suit would be good for four tricks.

Declarer won with the ace of clubs and played the ten of hearts. East's discard of the three of diamonds was a blow, and West won with the ace, then switched to the jack of spades. It was still possible to play East for the queen-jack-nine of clubs, but that now appeared to be well against the odds. The only thing in declarer's favour at this point was that he could be confident that the diamond honours would be split. He put in the queen of spades and, as expected, East produced the king and, after some thought, exited with the three of clubs. Having avoided immediate defeat, was there any hope for declarer?

Fredin could have secured an extra club trick by putting in dummy's ten and, if West had started with the jack-ten of spades, a spade finesse would have allowed declarer to dispose of one of dummy's diamonds. However, if West had the spade jack-ten, the ace of hearts and a diamond honour, might he not have bid three spades?

After considerable thought, declarer spotted an alternative line that, with a little help from East, might just work. Fredin went up with dummy's king of clubs, ruffed a club, played a heart to the king, ruffed a club high, played a heart to the queen and cashed two hearts, discarding the six and jack of diamonds. This was the position:

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

East still had to play and, imagining that declarer held the king of diamonds, he discarded the diamond ten. Now Fredin completed a stunning comeback by exiting with a diamond, forcing East to hand over the last two tricks to the ace and nine of spades.

This had been the full deal:

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

In the other room, South was the declarer in four hearts and West led the three of spades. East took dummy's queen with the king and switched to the five of clubs for the eight, nine and ace. West ducked the first round of hearts, won the second and shifted to the two of diamonds, East winning with the ace and returning the suit for plus 50 and 10 IMPs.



Here are a couple of deals from one of the Alt Mixed events.

Dealer West. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Larsson	Barr	Kiljan	Herbst
3♦	3♥	Pass	4♣
Pass	5♣	Pass	Pass
Pass			

In WILSON (USA, Sweden, Netherlands) v. ISRAEL, Ronnie Barr for ISRAEL settled for a simple overcall on her shapely 19-count. When Ilan Herbst advanced with four clubs, Barr simply raised to game and there matters rested. Although six clubs is an easy make, might North/South's plus 620 be a decent score on this difficult layout?

West	North	East	South
Zack	I. Grönkvist	Tal	M. Grönkvist
3♦	Double	Pass	4♦
Pass	5♦	Pass	6♣
Pass	6♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Mikael Grönkvist showed strength with four diamonds, and then retreated to his suit. Ida Grönkvist, thinking that Mikael had another place to play, removed to six hearts and South gave up, producing dummy. This was not a bad contract, but could declarer overcome the 5-1 trump break?

Dana Tal led the queen of diamonds. Declarer cleared the first hurdle, winning with the ace and playing a heart to the ten. A club to the king and a trump to dummy, revealing the bad break, was followed by a low club, declarer ruffing. Declarer now cashed the king-queen of hearts and played a spade to dummy's ten. She then played clubs from the top. East could ruff with her long trump whenever she wished but, with only spades left, she then had to concede the lead to the queen of spades in the established dummy. That was very-well played. North/South scored plus 1430 and 13 IMPs went to WILSON.

Indeed, it seems that twelve tricks can also be made in spades on a similar line of play, unless East leads a heart, removing a side-suit dummy entry prematurely.

In another match, EDMUNDS v. ZORLU ...

West	North	East	South
Edmonds	Aluf	Wooldridge	Sanus
2♦	Double	Pass	3♦
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♦	Double	Pass
Pass	Redouble	Pass	4♥
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♥
Pass	6♣	Pass	Pass
Pass			

The Turkish North/South pair, bronze medallists in the Open Pairs at the 2019 European Transnational Championships held in Istanbul, found their way to the top spot on this very tricky combination. The major problem on this type of deal is to agree a trump suit sufficiently early to allow sensible investigation of the correct level. Despite holding only a singleton king, Aluf seems to have accepted his partner's suggestion of clubs as trumps remarkably easily. He control-bid diamonds and then confirmed that his control was the ace with a redouble. Once his partner offered a return control-bid in hearts, Aluf rolled out Blackwood and then signed off

in the partnership's only eight-card fit at the six-level when he found that the queen of trumps was missing.

There was little to the play. Declarer won the diamond lead, unblocked the king of clubs, crossed to the queen of spades, cashed the ace of clubs, cashed dummy's high spades for a diamond pitch, and claimed. 12 tricks for plus 1370.

Events were rather more exciting at the other table:

West	North	East	South
Ucar	Botta	Akdas	Grossack
3♦	Double	Pass	4♦
Pass	5♦	Pass	7♣
Pass	7♦	Pass	7♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Less concerned by the vulnerability (or perhaps not having a weak two diamonds at his disposal), Ali Ucar began with a full-blooded three-diamond opening, severely cramping the American pair for space. Not prepared to limit his hand immediately, Zack Grossack responded to his partner's takeout double with a cue-bid. Giorgia Botta now advanced with a re-cue-bid, expecting her partner to choose a major. Hoping for more than a singleton king of clubs opposite after the takeout double, Grossack jumped to a grand slam in his long suit. When Botta didn't like this development, she forced Grossack to choose a major and, thus, they ended in a four-two fit, but they were already too high so it mattered little that they went an extra one down; North/South minus 200 and 17 IMPs to ZORLU.

Dealer North. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Larsson	Hoyos	Kiljan	Molson
—	1♦	Pass	1♠
Pass	1NT	Pass	3♥
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

This was a contest between top-class mixed pairs with Jessica Larsson, a member of Sweden's current Women's world champion team from Wuhan, doing battle against Janice Seamon-Molson, a five-time world champion who has won both the Venice Cup and the World Team Olympiad twice.

Larsson led the jack of clubs. Molson won in dummy, played the nine of hearts to her king, and advanced the nine of diamonds. Had West ducked her ace, declarer would have thrown the queen of diamonds on the king of clubs and would then have been able to afford to lose three trumps, but Larsson was up to this task, and rose with the ace of diamonds.

Molson won the club continuation in dummy, throwing a heart, and led a trump to the jack, queen and king. Declarer won the heart exit with dummy's now-lone ace, came to the queen of diamonds, ruffed the ten of hearts in dummy, pitched the queen of hearts on the king of diamonds, and ruffed a diamond. Molson then exited with her low trump, forcing Larsson to win and lead away from the guarded ten of spades at trick twelve: Chapeau!

That was plus 420 to North/South and 10 IMPs to the ALPERT team when declarer failed in the same contract at the other table.



When you play with someone as 'optimistic' in the bidding as I, you learn to be a good declarer in self-defence. Here, Jeff Aker would doubtless have been happy to go to the five level in spades, but bought the deal, to his surprise, at four spades. When dummy came down, the expected cakewalk was transmuted into a Herculean labour.

Dealer East. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
—	Simson	1♣	Pass
1♥	Double	4♥	4♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

West led the queen of clubs. You win the club queen lead in dummy; where do you go for honey?

Aker realized that for the auction to die as it had, his RHO had to be 4-6 without a powerhouse. He would

need the spade queen onside and the diamond king likewise to be in the slot. It looks natural to cross to hand via the diamond finesse for a spade play. However, Aker realized that if the diamond king were singleton, the defenders would engineer a ruff in the suit with East's doubleton trump. But if the diamond king were doubleton, then the spade ace had to be singleton.

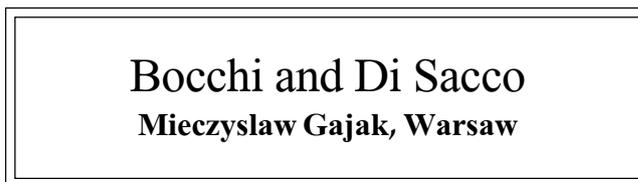
So, at trick two, Aker led a low spade from dummy!

This was the full layout of the cards

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

Anyone who knows Jeff will be aware that I'm only 50% responsible for the time trouble our partnership normally gets into. The fact that Jeff won the club lead to play a low spade from dummy in less than a minute meant that East (from the semifinals of the May Reynolds Knockout) would have had to be superhuman to duck his ace and, when he didn't, it was all over.

That helped the SIMSON team to an eventual win in the KO (Aker/Simson, Beatty/Stewart, Milgrim/Rigal).



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, as follows:

Board 22. Dealer East. NS Vul.

♠ 10 2	
♥ Q 8 7 6	
♦ A 6	
♣ Q J 10 5 3	
♠ K Q J 8 5 4	♠ A 9 3
♥ 5	♥ A K 2
♦ Q 9 7	♦ K 5 3 2
♣ K 8 6	♣ A 9 4
	♠ 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's commentary was as follows:

"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	
♠ 4		♠ —
♥ —		♥ —
♦ Q 9 7		♦ K 5 3
♣ K		♣ 9 4
	♠ —	
	♥ 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 needs further elucidation. Bocchi could have used the information available from the bidding (five clubs and the diamond ace in Multon's hand) and the opening lead (the club seven) in a better way, making the contract irrespective of the number of hearts and diamonds in the North hand.

Knowing that the squeeze would be possible only after cashing 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, declarer plays the ace, king of hearts (club discard from

dummy) and ruffs his low heart. 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 declarer plays the five of spades from the dummy, North, with:

Hand 1: cannot discard a club honour, therefore will discard a low diamond.

Hand 2: cannot discard a club honour, nor the diamond ace, so will discard a heart.

Hand 3: if North had six clubs at the beginning, he will discard a low club, so he must have, as his last three cards, the diamond ace and the two remaining clubs – the queen and jack.

Declarer plays accordingly.



Declarer Play from the Alts

Mark Horton, Shrewsbury, Shrops., U.K.
Christina Lund Madsen, Hellerup, Denmark

Horton

Board 17. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

Continued on page 13 ...



IBPA Column Service

Tim Bourke, Canberra



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

1025. Dealer North. EW Vul.

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

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

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

West led the five of diamonds to the nine and ace. Declarer could see four potential losers. He considered trying to maximise his chances for one loser in the trump suit by cashing dummy's ace and king of spades to discard his remaining diamond. (If he played a trump immediately and West had queen-third of trumps, the defence could ensure a second trump trick by winning the ace of trumps and tapping dummy with a diamond.) However, he rejected this approach because it could create entry problems if trumps were three-one and East had both the ace and queen: East could duck the first round of trumps and prevent declarer from developing clubs optimally.

So, declarer ran the jack of trumps at trick two. East won with the queen and continued with the ace and seven. Declarer cashed the ace and king of spades to shed his remaining diamond from hand. South could have cashed the ace of clubs, hoping for a doubleton king-queen in the suit (the entries were no longer there to cater for a singleton king or queen with West). Instead, he played for East to have a singleton or doubleton ten of clubs, or a doubleton honour-ten, since East was marked with at least two spades along

with three trumps and, based on the lead, a minimum of six diamonds.

So, declarer continued by leading a low club from dummy to the five, six and king. After ruffing the diamond return, declarer led the jack of clubs from hand. West played low, as did dummy. After East followed with the ten of clubs, declarer claimed ten tricks.

1026. Dealer South. NS Vul.

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

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

West	North	East	South
—	—	—	1♣
Pass	1♠	Double	Redouble
2♦	3♦	4♦	Double
Pass	5♣	Pass	Pass
Pass			

West found the best lead of the three of hearts. The contract was a poor one, with three potential major-suit losers. Declarer realized that the only real chance to make 11 tricks was to hope that East had begun with two honours doubleton in spades. So, after taking East's jack of hearts with the queen, declarer ruffed a diamond, then cashed the ace of spades, noting the fall of East's jack (the king might have been a better play).

After crossing back to hand with a trump to his king, declarer ruffed a second diamond in dummy. Next, declarer led a trump toward his hand, giving East a problem: if East discarded from a red suit, he would

likely be endplayed to concede a ruff and discard. Accordingly, East threw the king of spades in the hope that West had both the queen and ten of spades along with the distribution to cash them.

After winning the trump with the king, declarer led the ten of spades to West's queen, establishing the nine and eight of spades as winners. The heart return proved to be no trouble, for declarer was able to discard his heart loser on a spade.

Had East had not discarded a spade on the second round of trumps, he'd have been endplayed to concede a ruff-and-sluff.

1027. Dealer East. Both Vul.

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

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

This deal was used in an intermediate class on declarer play. West was directed to lead a third-highest seven of clubs. Some declarers played low from dummy but only a small subset of Easts used the Rule of 12 to play low from hand, as the lead had revealed South had no card higher than the seven. One West deduced that a club continuation would be useless and decided that, with his king of hearts, partner could have won the first trick and shifted to hearts himself if that was the key suit to play.

So, this West shifted to a diamond. East took dummy's ten of diamonds with the queen and shifted to the queen of hearts. Declarer eventually lost one heart, two diamonds and one clubs to go down one.

When the teacher came to review this deal, she outlined the correct play and the reasons for it on her whiteboard. The first point she made was that, after the club lead, declarer should recognise that he didn't want a diamond shift from West through dummy. So, declarer should cover the seven of clubs with dummy's nine to keep West (the danger hand) off lead. When East won this trick and shifted to the queen of hearts, she pointed out that declarer should keep up the good work and withhold dummy's ace – provided West played a low heart. After winning the

next heart, declarer should ruff a heart high then draw trumps with the ace and jack before cashing the ace of clubs and ruffing dummy's last club.

“Only now”, she said, “should you lead a diamond and play dummy's ten once West has followed with a low card. East would have had no safe exit. The lesson of this deal is that you should try to assess whether there is only one defender who can do something to threaten your contract. When that is the case, you should try do everything in your power to keep that player from gaining the lead.”

1028. Matchpoints. Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
—	—	—	1♣
Pass	1♦	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♦	Pass	3♥
Pass	4♠	Pass	6♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

North decided that he needed a good score to remain in contention and so leapt four spades, provoking South's leap to six. West led the ten of trumps. To have any hope of 12 tricks, declarer needed clubs to be three-two and trumps to be no worse than four-two.

Declarer saw the danger of trying to ruff a club in dummy. The play would have to go: heart ruff, the ace of diamonds to shed a heart from hand, the ace-king of clubs and a club ruff in dummy. This would fail when the trumps were four-two; the defender with the four trumps would keep his length intact. Then the only way back to hand would have been with a diamond ruff. This would cause declarer lose trump control and the contract

Instead, declarer found a better plan that was deceptively simple; he relied on the most likely division of the black suits, that neither defender had a singleton in either suit. So, at trick two, he played a low club from both hands. After winning East's trump return, declarer ruffed a heart in dummy, discarded his remaining heart on the ace of diamonds, returned to hand with a club to the ace and drew the outstanding trumps for his contract.



Cheating Investigations, Part 2: Detecting Cheating by Non-Experts Nicolas Hammond, Johns Creek, GA

Last issue, we looked at detecting cheating of top-level players. Since that article, the Federação Brasileira de Bridge announced the results of an investigation into Leda Pain. FBB used the process described last issue and had experts review anonymized data to come to their decision. In my opinion, using anonymized data, with additional control data of clean pairs, is the only way to conduct investigations into high-level players.

Because of the article last issue, I was asked to submit a report to WBF to investigate the alleged cheating activities in FISU before the recent WBF meetings. The proposal was to conduct investigations using anonymized data and the data was provided. What happens with this data remains to be seen.

Some smaller National Bridge Organizations (NBOs) that have jurisdiction over their members playing in privately organized tournaments are having difficulty in finding locally qualified experts to investigate their top players and there is hope that the new World Bridge Federation Investigation Committee chaired by Eric Laurant may help.

Top-level players cheating makes news, but the vast majority of the cheating is by lower-level players. Given the enormous volume of low-level cheating, how can this be tackled? ACBL estimates that each case takes them 100-400 hours of work. This process cannot scale. Through December 4, 2020, ACBL has 24 active investigations, 5 cases pending, 29 negotiated resolutions, and 12 cases heard and decided. This represents the effort of 11 months of 2020.

Last month, I posted anonymized data of 50 pairs on Bridge Winners. Thirty-four of these pairs were ACBL players who are suspected of cheating, and had not had any known hearings. The other 16 were either honest pairs or top-level pairs. Everyone was asked

to detect if players were cheating by looking at a subset of the pairs' opening leads. The two questions asked were, "Are these pairs cheating?" and "Do you think they would be convicted by ACBL?" The consensus was that three of the pairs did not have a sufficient number of boards to determine if they were guilty or not. This was an important result because it has established a baseline of a minimum number of boards before an average player will determine that a pair is cheating. Of the other 31 pairs, almost everyone determined that they were both guilty and would be convicted. For these cases, the crowd-sourced volunteers filed a report with ACBL.

The subset of opening leads examined included leads that were determined to be 'unusual'. For example, all leads of an unsupported ace in a suit contract, and all underleads of an ace in a suit contract are considered unusual. One lead by itself proves nothing; but if a player underleading an ace almost always finds partner with the king, this becomes very suspicious. When you start to see a number of leads where a player underleads an ace if partner has the king, but leads an unsupported ace with continuation when partner has a singleton, it quickly becomes clear that a pair is cheating.

For full disclosure, the 16 pairs included Fisher/Schwartz and Piekarek/Smirnov. Some volunteers found their leads suspicious, but not to the level that they would be willing to file a report. Top-level cheating players do not cheat the same way that lower-level players cheat.

The important results from this experiment are:

1. No-one found an honest pair suspicious.
2. Regular bridge players can spot cheating by regular bridge players.
3. Regular bridge players could not necessarily spot cheating by high-level players.
4. Regular bridge players have established a minimum number of boards that would need to be reviewed before determining if a pair were guilty.
5. Crowd-sourced volunteers can dramatically speed up initial investigation work.

Each volunteer reported an average of 1-3 minutes per lead that they reviewed. The 50 pairs had a total of approximately 5,000 leads that volunteers were asked to review.

The 31 pairs have played 129,815 boards in ACBL BBO tournaments. This represents over 1% of all boards played in my ACBL BBO database this year. Thus 1% is the minimum level of cheating in ACBL BBO events. The actual level will be much higher since this does not include those pairs already convicted, or the additional pairs that are strongly suspected. These 31 pairs had 3,674 leads that were examined. The work

was done by crowd-sourced volunteers. As all the data was anonymized, the volunteers initially had no idea who they were investigating.

ACBL then requested that the volunteers provide the real names when filing a report, so I provided them to the volunteers. These reports included links to all boards played by the pair, all leads made by the pair and all unusual leads found for the pair. Therefore, there can be no argument of cherry-picking, as all boards can be reviewed.

The approach of only looking at the totality of a subset of activity, in this case unusual opening leads, makes detection of cheating scalable. There is no need to review bidding, or play of the deals, just the opening leads. Using computers to detect unusual leads for human review drastically reduces the amount of effort required for a complete case.

The total amount of volunteer time for each case is estimated at under two hours. Obviously, there is now work for ACBL to investigate these pairs. If we assume ACBL asks two independent volunteers to review the data, I estimate this is a total of four hours of work. There is then a complete case to submit to the suspected players. These suspected players have access to all their data, all boards they played, all leads they made, and the data of the unusual leads. The players can attempt to find additional anti-cheating leads, but nearly all of these should have already been detected. If we include the time of the hearing, this reduces the amount of work to 10-20 hours per case. This is a ten-fold decrease over the previous ACBL estimate of 100-400 hours per case.

Given the volume of data for each case, I would expect a lot more negotiated resolutions as it would be obvious to the suspected pairs that they would be unlikely to win in a hearing. I do not know the discount that ACBL offers for a negotiated resolution, but it should be sufficiently large to encourage confession over a hearing.

Alts (Cont.)...

West	North	East	South
<i>Brogeland</i>	<i>De Michelis</i>	<i>Lindqvist</i>	<i>Failla</i>
—	Pass	1♣ ¹	Pass
1♦ ²	Pass	1NT ³	Pass
3NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. 2+ clubs if balanced
2. 4+ hearts
3. Not 3 hearts and usually not 4 spades

At this table, declarer had an easy time of it: South led the ten of hearts for the queen, king and eight. North switched to the two of spades. Declarer played low

and South won with the king and exited with a heart, but the fall of the diamond honours meant declarer was in no danger, plus 400.

At the other table, South intervened on his moth-eaten suit ...

West	North	East	South
<i>Klukowski</i>	<i>Gillis</i>	<i>Zatorski</i>	<i>Sælensminde</i>
—	Pass	1♣ ¹	1♥
1♠ ²	Pass	1NT	Pass
3NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. Polish Club
2. Transfer to notrumps or clubs

Here, declarer had to work a little harder, but had more information from the bidding. South led the five of hearts. Zatorski put up dummy's queen, won the king with the ace and led the nine of diamonds to the jack and king. When the ace of diamonds drew the queen, declarer played the five of diamonds to the ten (South discarding a heart), cashed the ace of clubs and played a club to the ten and jack. Declarer allowed his ten of hearts to hold, so South exited with the seven of hearts to dummy's jack. Declarer cashed dummy's three of diamonds (following with the two!) and South, squeezed in three suits, tried blanking his king of spades, but declarer unerringly played a spade to the ace and claimed nine tricks. Well done!

Madsen

Board 13. North. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Brogeland</i>	<i>Hurd</i>	<i>Lindqvist</i>	<i>Bathurst</i>
—	Pass	1♦	1♥
2♣	3♥ ¹	4♣	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♦	Pass
5♥ ²	Pass	5♠ ³	Pass
6♣	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. Pre-emptive
2. Asks for the queen of clubs; grand-slam interest
3. Queen of clubs and king of spades

Hurd led the four of hearts to dummy's king, South playing the queen. At trick two, Brogeland played the three of diamonds to the jack and his ace (a way to

make the contract with clubs splitting is to play for two-honours-doubleton, or for the doubleton-king in either hand with the defence not unblocking, and eliminate the other suits for a ruff and sluff.

Brogeland carefully ruffed a heart with the eight of clubs. He continued with the queen of clubs and saw the bad split. The nine of clubs followed, South playing the ten, won by West's king. Next was a spade to the ace, the four of clubs from dummy, finessing with the seven, the ace of clubs and then a diamond exit. Had North put up the king, there would have been no second diamond loser, so he ducked it to South's queen. South returned a heart to the ace, and Brogeland played his last club. North had to discard a spade to hold on to the king of diamonds, and now Brogeland played a spade to the king, knowing that the remaining spades were 1-1 and that North had been show-up squeezed. That was 12 well-played tricks and plus 1370 was rewarded by 17 IMPs when declarer went down in five clubs in the other room.

On the last board of the day, one declarer outplayed the rest of the field.

Board 24. Dealer West. Neither Vul.

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

Black led the three of hearts and Grossack refrained from ruffing, pitching a club from dummy instead. Gold won with the ace and played the queen of spades, ducked by Grossack. North switched to the two of clubs to partner's queen and dummy's ace. East played a diamond to the ace, a diamond to the king and ruffed a diamond. He played the jack of spades, covered by South with the king, and won with the ace. A spade to the ten followed, and Grossack played the jack of hearts, covered by South and ruffed with his last trump. Declarer cashed the king of clubs and played the jack of diamonds. South could do nothing but ruff and play a heart into East's remaining queen-nine. That excellent card reading was rewarded by plus 420, which limited the loss on the board to 2 IMPs when North/South in the other room were doubled in three hearts for minus 500.



The following deal was instrumental in the KOLESNIK (Bramley/Woolsey, Freeman/Kolesnik, Hamman/Weichsel) team's win over TULIN in a semifinal of the recent NAOBC KO Teams. Jacob Freeman and Finn Kolesnik are 20 and 17 years of age respectively.

Board 10. Dealer East. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Verhees</i>	<i>Kolesnik</i>	<i>van Prooijen</i>	<i>Freeman</i>
—	—	Pass	1♣
Pass	1♥	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♦ ¹	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♦	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♦ ²
Pass	4♥ ³	Pass	7♣
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. Artificial, FG
2. No sure agreement, taken as a key-card ask
3. 1 or 4 key cards

Verhees led the jack of diamonds. Freeman won with his ace as van Prooijen encouraged with the two. Declarer played the king of clubs to check that trumps were not four-zero, then ran the suit. East discarded all his diamonds. West followed with the two, the five and the four of clubs, then discarded one card in each side suit (in the order spade, diamond, heart).

Freeman concluded that East was guarding hearts, so discarded a heart from dummy after letting go of the ten and nine of diamonds. Declarer had now to guess the location of the queen of spades, knowing that East had three spades remaining and West, two. He eventually decided that West, for such a dangerous diamond lead, had not started life with three low spades, an easy lead, thus cashed the major-suit aces and led another spade; plus 2140, a swing of 29 IMPs (winning 13 as opposed to losing 16) against the plus 1370 at the other table. The KOLESNIK team's margin of victory was 19 IMPs.

... and the beat goes on. (Cont.)

They also say that they have the full support of the players...and the WBF Credentials Committee will consider these cases when applicable.

The EBL takes it one step further in their announcement, <http://www.eurobridge.org/2020/07/28/revelation-of-cheating-at-online-bridge-events/> saying that the EBL will consider action against cheats even if the offences occurred outside its immediate jurisdiction.

These statements were made during the summer. It is now November and what has happened? We are of the opinion that, if we do not take further action against the cheating now, we are on the way to losing legitimacy for the game. When the bodies of the organizations do not take a stand, we are seeing players trying to solve this on their own; private groups formed to combat cheating and reports filed on bridge forums. We are also afraid that what we have seen in other sports will happen to bridge; new organizations are initiated with the goal of taking over. For instance, we have seen this in chess, darts, and boxing.

It is also problematic that private bodies accuse and 'convict' players they think are cheating without the cases ever going to a formal organ. This both threatens security under the law and the credibility of bridge organizations. The recent development with the allegations against Giorgio Duboin underlines the need for the organization to address the issues.

We believe it is time for bridge organizations to step up and take further action. Leading the way should be the WBF, with the zonal organizations in close cooperation. We think it is time to organize an international seminar regarding cheating in bridge, where experts on statistics, top players, IT, legal experts, and other fields that could play a part, are invited. We need a clear and concise way of finding, examining and convicting cheats.

We would also ask the WBF, EBL and other zonal organizations to give all its member federations some answers and commitment both about the present (and past) cheating and about the future:

• Present (past) cases:

- o We urge the WBF and zonal organizations to give a clear statement on the jurisdictional problems they are facing.
- o Will WBF and zonal organizations initiate their own examination of the evidence that is said to exist in the 30-plus cases and say something about its credibility, even though no formal verdict can be delivered (possibly due to jurisdiction)?
- o If the examination of the evidence clearly suggests that illicit means have been used, should WBF and zonal organizations publish the names?

• The future:

- o We urge WBF and zonal organizations to make a binding time schedule for when the statutes and bylaws are to be changed. This applies to both online cheating and the use of statistics as evidence (partly the reason the last cheating case in CAS was lost).
- o Will the WBF and zonal organizations implement different methods of detecting cheating (manual analysis, statistical analysis and electronic evidence)?
- o Will inquiries be made to the online platforms offering bridge organizations to get jurisdiction? We think all tournament organizers online should have an option to make their tournament fall under the jurisdiction of the official bodies, and that participants must accept that jurisdiction.
- o Should there be its own online jurisdiction under the WBF, with reciprocity for all NBOs? If so, there are legal, practical and economical questions to be solved.
- o What mandate is given to the recently created WBF Investigating Committee? And when are they committed to handle cases?
- o To give a further announcement about the guideline for punishments for various cases of cheating.
- o Have full transparency and to publish all actions taken against cheating.

We urge all NBOs to give their support for this letter by publishing it on their own websites and by giving us a notice that they support it. We will make a list of all NBOs who support it. This letter will also be published on the website www.bridgewinners.com (if accepted) where many of the cheating allegations have been brought forward.

Kind regards,

Martin Löfgren, President, Swedish Bridge Federation
Nis Rasmussen, President, Danish Bridge Federation
Kari-Anne Opsal, President, Norwegian Bridge Federation
Pasi Kuokkanen, President, Bridge League of Finland
Jafet Ólafsson, President, Icelandic Bridge Federation
Arne Mikkelsen, President, Faroese Bridge Federation

The WBF reacted swiftly to the implicit threat in the NBU letter with its own response from Gianarrigo Rona, just four days later. The full text of Rona's letter can be found at:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1964mHqGRLz4utUHZ0xGVAEVL-QnKIUI0/view>

Subsequently, the WBF published its new Disciplinary Code, which can be found at:

<http://www.worldbridge.org/2020/12/02/wbf-publishes-new-disciplinary-code/>

The main points made in Rona's letter, which was addressed to the presidents of the WBF Zones and NBOs, were:

"I am very pleased to inform you that the WBF Management Committee has been working extremely hard on the wording of a new WBF Disciplinary Code. As a result of this, the WBF Executive Council, reaffirming its institutional position of Governing Body of Bridge and rejecting any external and private interference, at the Meeting of 27th November, unanimously approved the new Code, which is attached herewith.

Specific rules, including the appointment of a WBF Investigation Committee to allow the WBF to act and to apply sanctions in cases of improper behaviour, including events organised by third parties (whether in-person or online), whilst of course absolutely respecting the right of everyone to have a fair trial.

Mr. Eric Laurant, member of the WBF Executive Council, whose expertise in this specific field is recognised and appreciated worldwide, has been appointed Chairperson of this new Committee, with Ms. Georgia Heth, member of the WBF Advisory Committee and President of the ACBL, as Vice-Chairperson.

This Investigation Committee will include legal and technical experts with a panel of top players using their own judgement and the best technology and tools they can obtain."

The WBF Disciplinary Code, approved in 2015, has been amended a number of times, most recently on November 27, 2020. The basics are:

WBF Disciplinary Code



I. General principles

1.1. In accordance with the sporting ideals and precepts of the Olympic Charter and in furtherance of the purposes set out at article 5 of the Statutes of the World Bridge Federation ("WBF"), the WBF requires its affiliated National Bridge Organizations ("NBOs"), Zonal Conferences ("Zones") and their members and affiliates to respect the fundamental principles of Olympism and, in particular, the principles of friendship, solidarity and fair play. One of the aims of this Disciplinary Code is to reinforce and promote the above-mentioned principles. More particularly, this Disciplinary Code sets out various forms of behaviour which constitute "Reprehensible Conduct" (see article 4 below) and may be punished with one or more disciplinary sanctions (see article 5 below).

1.2. Reprehensible Conduct shall be investigated and prosecuted by the WBF Prosecutor and (unless liability and proposed consequences are accepted) decided, in the first instance, by a Disciplinary Tribunal of the Disciplinary Panel (see, in particular, articles 6 and 7 below). The decisions of the Disciplinary Tribunal may be appealed to the Court of Arbitration for Sport (see, in particular, article 8 below).

2. Scope of Application

2.1. Without limitation, this Disciplinary Code shall apply to (i) all affiliated Zones and NBOs, (ii) any persons (including players, non-playing captains, team representatives, coaches, technical officials, technicians, accredited persons, observers and spectators) who participate in or attend any event, tournament or competition organized, granted or sanctioned by the WBF ("WBF Events") or by any of its Zones or NBOs ("Affiliate Events"), (iii) any persons who hold any position or carry out any functions on behalf of either the WBF, a Zone or an NBO (including any organ or commission of the same) and (iv) any other persons who accept that this Code shall apply to them or are otherwise subject to it. For the avoidance of doubt, and provided always that the entity or person is subject to this Code, it may apply to conduct that occurs outside of the context of WBF Events (including, without limitation, at Affiliate Events or third party events) as well as to conduct that does not occur within an event-related context.

Last month, we reported that "...an expert panel consisting of Sjoert Brink, Michal Nowosadzki and Steve Weinstein..." concluded that Giorgio Duboin "...obtained and used unauthorized information (UI), very likely from self-kibitzing." The panel performed an exhaustive analysis of 708 deals played online by Duboin in May and June of 2020. The resulting 189-page report was peer-reviewed by Bob Hamman and Geir Helgemo.



Giorgio Duboin

Duboin responded by launching a lawsuit against his accusers and publishing the following 'denial' in the online Neapolitan Club:

<http://neapolitanclub.altervista.org/eng/giorgio-duboin-open-letter-to-bridge-community.html>

Open Letter to the Bridge Community

After an honourable 45-year career, without any ethical issues, I would have never thought to have to write this article. I would like to explain the facts as they stand.

I have never taken online bridge seriously, and this is why, prior to lockdown, I played online rarely, only to practice or play for fun with friends. Locked at home, due to the pandemic, I played online to do my friends a favour. Others decided to profit from this and it's their business. I attribute no value to winning or losing an online tournament. Why would I cheat? What would I gain?

An online tournament organiser told me I was excluded from their events while I was on holiday, so I could not have played anyway. However, I reached out to CAT to receive an explanation. CAT never sent me any evidence and gave me only vague answers for over a month. At that point, in order to protect my reputation, I started a legal action. Let's be clear: I did not claim any damages. Although I heard rumours that I was cheating, I did not ask for money, nor did I bring a libel action. I brought forward an injunction against CAT: 1) to simply have access to all materials they had; 2) to stop them from disseminating false information; and 3) to clarify that my ban from online tournaments had nothing to do with ethics. I did not even ask to be readmitted to the tournaments. I am not allowed to share further details at this stage.

On the 5th October I spoke to Steve Weinstein, but the conversation did not go as he claims. First, he asked me about a few hands, which I obviously did not remember. I did not even remember my partnership's agreements, since I always played my friends' systems looking at the notes. Second, he asked me to take part to a public debate on Bridge Winners, to defend myself from the accusations. I did not agree, because I do not think Bridge Winners is impartial or trustworthy. Moreover, I do not think Weinstein or his friends have any authority to judge me: if the institutions need an explanation, I will provide it in the appropriate setting. This is how the conversation ended.

It is thus apparent that what they did is closer to the Inquisition or the French revolutionary court than to a proper organisation: someone is guilty because 'they

say so, the accused cannot see the evidence, and has no right to a lawyer or a tribunal.

But why me? I have mulled on this over the last few months. Maybe it's because I am a WBF board member, I have won several titles and (not least) I am Italian (who are always first to be criticised). Targeting me is a way to attack the institutions, a show for the fans. Or maybe they just got it wrong. Why did they not show me the evidence? Did they want to raise a scandal?

They assumed I was guilty before starting the analysis. They were looking for something, they did not consider that the partnerships' agreements were different, they regarded many hands as suspicious because they did not understand the system; other hands were normal or good just because kibitzers were not watching, bad hands played without kibitzers were considered dodgy, but normal when kibitzers were present. I attach the report with my comments, other experts helped me, but I am not sharing their names for now, to prevent any retaliation against them. I asked a professor of statistics to help me understand Hammond's analysis: he told me that Hammond's stats looked reasonable, but there were mathematical errors which undermined their reliability.

As you can imagine, I did not remember any of the hands and even I can find a very small number of hands that are not normal, but going back to what I said earlier, I never played those matches seriously, I played as a pastime. During that strange period, I was often home with friends (you may know I am a good cook), we were following the matches and I played or bid in certain ways to entertain them. It was not a serious environment. I was playing while cooking, chatting, dining or drinking, even though I was not putting any efforts in, I was lucky: opponents kept giving me points and no matter what I did I always landed on my feet. I did not think I was damaging anyone, if someone felt damaged I can only apologise: I did not mean to.

This is a difficult time for me: I am a victim of false accusations that have no base in reality, I am worried that what is happening to me could happen to others too.

I believe our community is a victim of people's incivility because of how we engage remotely. Real bridge and its institutions must find a way to relaunch the values of our game. We need to seriously reflect on this.

I thank all those people from all over the world who expressed solidarity.

I leave you with a thought from Richelieu: "If you give me six lines written by the hand of the most honest of men, I will find something in them which will hang him."

Giorgino Duboin

The Duboin Report can be found at:

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/e/2PACX-1vSkJbo6xbza954h00_Llu-gp9YMpbyMmvpPfg2urEKD8Q51ZOo2ePfvSrybKM84CO9SQfjdVo6GqYXS/pubhtml

Independently of the Duboin report, Thomas Bessis posted a blistering condemnation of the Credentials Advisory Team and their methods on Bridge Winners, November 25. Bessis' post, entitled "Let's All Calm Down", can be found at:

<http://bridgewinners.com/article/view/lets-all-calm-down/>

Bessis was at one time a member of CAT but, like several others, resigned as he became more uncomfortable with their attitude. In particular, Bessis singles out Boye Brogeland for his ire.



Ron Tacchi has once again written to us with his take on the situation:

Here are three scenarios:

Scenario 1: You leave your open topped Ferrari, the hood down (may need to explain that to Americans), with the keys in the ignition in one of the less salubrious parts of town. Surprise, surprise, it is not there when you return.

Scenario 2: You leave your young children unsupervised in the sweet shop with instructions not to eat any sweets. Surprise, surprise, when you come back their faces are smeared with chocolate and other bonbons.

Scenario 3: You live in a caravan on the borders of the desert, it is arranged with openings in the roof to allow the breeze to efficiently cool your home. As a result of a worldwide situation you move to the rain forest. You now spend a large part of your day arranging buckets to catch the water that constantly falls from the heavens.

Let us examine these three scenarios, who is at fault?

Scenario 1: Obviously the heinous villain who made off with your car is a criminal, but is he more to blame than you for leaving the car in such a state and such a location? Interesting question. But self-evidently the fault is not Ferrari's.

Scenario 2: The children are in need of reprimand but no one but a fool would expect any other outcome. Again the fault is not the sweetshop.

Scenario 3: This is not a case of assigning guilt but of wondering if the right actions are being taken. Might not a better solution be to tackle the roof rather than deal with the problem the current roof is causing.

As this is appearing in a publication about bridge, some of the more astute of you may suspect I am going to

make analogies between these scenarios and some of the recent brouhaha, and you would be right. In each case you can make an analogy of the object with BBO.

The first two are self-evident.

I rarely play bridge online – why? Because everyone cheats, they have done so from day one. If you go back to the likes of OKBridge and TopBridge, if you joined a game the odds were that you were playing against someone who, at the very least, was bending the rules. BBO is wonderful for broadcasting bridge matches, great fun to play social bridge with your friends, a great tool for practising your bidding with a partner, great fun to play against robots, but currently it is not the place to play 'serious' bridge, whatever that may mean. And that is not BBO's fault.

Let us look at scenario 3. People are rushing around like headless chickens setting up committees and systems and reporting mechanisms to try and catch people self-kibitzing on BBO.

Undoubtedly, they will find some and, also undoubtedly, they will accuse someone incorrectly. As I understand it, a probability approach that is taken, which at the end of the procedure they can say Person A has a 95% chance of being a cheat, that also means he/she has a 5% chance of not being a cheat and those 5% will take umbrage and may well resort to the courts. I also have the fear that the occasional accuser or statistician will have a private axe to grind – bridge players are not renowned for their social skills and personal opinions and jealousies may well impede someone's ability to look clearly and dispassionately at all the facts. It seems to me that the statistical approach takes into account the cards and the actions, but may well not take into account the situation in which the actions took place.

My plea is 'fix the caravan,' don't invent new and better ways of moving the buckets around. Let us just forget what has happened in the online world, think of them as the children in the sweet shop, don't forget you invited them in. If we continue down the road we are currently plodding, everyone will be suspecting everyone and no one will be prepared to risk an adventurous play in case it works. Fix the caravan or live peacefully with the buckets and don't complain if you get wet feet.

Now by whom and how the caravan will be fixed is another question and I will leave that to those minds greater than mine.

As an aside, I heard this morning that the ACBL is saying there will be no face-to-face bridge until after March next year. As a temporary respite, I propose Covid congresses – you may come and play 'live' bridge if you had a positive test during the previous week. Maybe they could be held in Trump Tower.

NEWS & VIEWS



BAMSA

From Prof. Samantha Punch of the University of Stirling, Faculty of Social Sciences:

“We are delighted to share with you the accepted version of the online publication of our first BAMSA paper on bridge identities in the academic journal: *International Review for the Sociology of Sport*.”

“It is great news for bridge that this research is appearing in a sport journal, which we hope will help to raise the profile of bridge as a mind-sport. We are also pleased to say that, because of an agreement of the University of Stirling and this publisher, the paper has been made open access so anyone can freely access it or put on their website.”

You can download the three documents here:

- [Identities and Bridge BAMSA Full Paper](#)
- [Identities Practical Summary BAMSA](#)
- [Identities Theoretical Summary BAMSA](#)

email: bamsa@stir.ac.uk

Zia

At the WBF Executive Council Meeting held on November 25 via Zoom, Zia Mahmood was elected as a member of the WBF Committee of Honour.

The Committee of Honour was established in 1972 for the purpose of recognizing the unselfish efforts of individuals in making a significant contribution to the enhancement and growth of bridge throughout the world. It may not exceed 13 living members and, with his election, the Committee now has the maximum permitted. The current members are José Damiani (Chairman), Chen Zelan, Patrick Choy, Marc De Pauw, Panos Gerontopoulos, Georgia Heth, Mazhar Jafri, Alvin Levy, Zia Mahmood, George Retek, Gianarrigo Rona, John Wignall and Robert S. Wolff.

Georgia Heth

Georgia Heth has been elected for a second term as president of the ACBL. Heth was a member of the WBF Executive Council from 2009-2018 and served as Hon. Secretary of the WBF for several years.

FISU

The first-ever FISU World University Championship Mind Sports concluded successfully on October 30, 2020. It was the first time that chess and bridge were brought together in one FISU event and the first time a FISU event was conducted entirely online. In bridge, the medal winners were China (gold), Italy (silver) and France (bronze).

DAVID BIRMAN 1948 - 2020



David Birman was Israel's best-known bridge personality, having excelled for over 50 years as a player, editor, coach, administrator and tournament organizer. He was born in Wroclaw, Poland in 1948 and emigrated to Israel with his family when he was nine years old. He was a qualified Industrial Engineer and University lecturer but found a University career boring and changed to a research position at the Institute for Transportation Management and Research, and was a consultant in logistics.

Birman won almost two dozen Israeli national championships. Internationally, he represented Israel in Junior, Open, Senior and Mixed events. He won a silver medal in the 1985 European Teams Championship and a bronze medal in the 1992 Bermuda Bowl. David was a regular member of the EBL Appeals Committee from 2000 to 2011 and was editor of the *Israel Bridge Magazine* from 1980-2002. He was a long-time member of the Board of Directors of the Israel Bridge Federation and of its Youth Committee and was the coach of the Israeli Junior team from 1975 to 2017. For many years, Birman was the organizer of the Israel Bridge Festival in Tel Aviv and, in 1995, he instituted the now-annual Red Sea International Festival in Eilat.

Birman will be sorely missed by his many friends and Israel's bridge community. He is survived by his wife Daniella, daughters Avivit and Moran, and son Alon.

Source: EBL

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. Has started NAOBCs. 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. Email info@netbridge.online for an invitation (Jan van den Hoek).

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

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

PBU & CBF – The Polish Bridge Union (pzbs.pl) and the Canadian Bridge Federation (cbf.ca) are co-sponsoring the Transatlantic Online Seniors Championship for national teams Jan. 18-Feb. 7, 2021 on BBO.

All of the online tournaments named above are on BBO or RealBridge. 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

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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