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February 10, 2021

Editorial

The opinions expressed here are solely those of the Editor, and do not necessarily represent those of the IBPA Executive or its members.

In a decision announced on February 3, the USBF Board of Directors voted unanimously to vacate the USBF Invitational I title won by Team GUPTA because of the finding that Huub Bertens, a player on the winning team, had illegally possessed and used information about other players' hands (See page 18 for the details). This seems to me to be a bit wrong-headed. In a head-to-head match, if one player/team is found to be cheating, the other team should be declared the winner.

There is ample precedent for this protocol. In 2013, in Bali, when Michael Elinescu and Entschow Wladow of the German Senior Team were found to have been cheating, that team was disqualified and the other participants moved up a spot. Thus, USA was declared the winner and Poland and France were moved up to second and third respectively. Also, in the IOC, when an Olympic medallist has been found to have been cheating, the other competitors are moved up a spot in the standings.

Suppose that, because of the pandemic, the winner of the USBF Invitational I title was to have been the USA1 team in the Bermuda Bowl. Would the the USBF have declined to send a team because the title had been vacated and no one had won? No, either the team finishing second would have been declared to be USA1 and the competition for USA2 would have proceeded as usual. Or, at the very least, the second-place team would have been entered in a subsequent competition where it had a decent chance at representing the USBF in the Bermuda Bowl as USA1 or USA2.

In this situation, the team beaten by GUPTA in the final, ROSENTHAL, should have been moved up to first place, the team beaten by GUPTA in the semifinal (MOSS) should have been moved up to second place and the team beaten by ROSENTHAL (ROBINSON) should have been declared solo third instead of joint third with MOSS. It is a great disservice to these teams to be declared second and tied for third/fourth in the face of Bertens' cheating.

The situation is a bit different in a multi-team Swiss Teams event or a Pairs event, where the winning (cheating) team affected many more teams or pairs en route to the revoked/vacated championship. The simplest solution is to move everyone up a place, as does the IOC. However, it might be argued, in this day of computer brilliance, it should not be impossible to negate all the boards played by the cheats and determine a winner based on the 'honest' boards. The difficulty with that approach is that, especially in a Swiss Teams event, the matchups would have been different without the expelled team. So, simplest is best: move everybody else up a spot.

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The 2020 Premier League Tournament Final took place in Taicang, Jiangsu Province, from the 18th to the 24th of November.

During the Covid-2019 pandemic, all live bridge tournaments in China have been cancelled, including the Chinese Premier League. However, the CCBA did hold the Premier League online; the first leg was 22nd - 26th September; the second leg was 10th - 14th October). Four teams qualified for the face-to-face final: Wuhan Dongfang, ORG, PD Times and Zhejiang Qiantang.

The final format was an Upper and Lower Bracket Knockout. Wuhan Dongfang (Lian Ruoyang, You Jianyong, Wang Xiangyang, Liu Jun, Liu Chuan, and Cai Yang) lost its first match, but they won two lower-bracket KO matches and thus went through to the final. Zhejiang Qiantang (Zhang Yu, Dai Jianming, Chen Jien, Chen Gang, Qian Jinsong, and Poon Hua from Singapore) won its first and second Upper Bracket matches, so they also made it to the final, but a day earlier than Wuhan.

The final comprised 96 boards, played over six sessions of 16. The result was crazy: both teams played so slowly that they only played 95 boards. When the final finished, the score was 171:170 IMPs, Wuhan Dongfang winning by 1 IMP!



The finalists: Wuhan Dongfang (black team uniform) vs. Zhejiang Qiantang (red team uniform)

The players, left to right: Liu Chuan (black), Qian Jinsong (red), Cai Yang (black), Chen Gang (red).

These are the last four boards; before board 92 was played, the score was Wuhan 155 : Zhejiang 155.

Board 92. Dealer West. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Chen	You	Qian	Liu
Gang	Jianyong	Jinsong	Jun
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♦ ¹
Pass	2♥	Pass	2♣
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♦	Pass	4♥
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♠
Pass	6♠	Pass	Pass

1. Game-forcing Stayman

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Lian	Dai	Wang	Chen
Ruoyang	Jianming	Xiangyang	Jien
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♥ ¹
Pass	2♠	Pass	2NT ²
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. Transfer

2. Relay

3. 3-card spade support, minimum

Both declarers made 12 tricks, so Wuhan won 13 IMPs. Now, Wuhan led 168:155.

Board 93. Dealer North. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Chen	You	Qian	Liu
Gang	Jianyong	Jinsong	Jun
—	Pass	Pass	3NT ¹
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. Gambling

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Lian	Dai	Wang	Chen
Ruoyang	Jianming	Xiangyang	Jien
—	Pass	Pass	1♦
1♠	2♣	4♠	5♦
Pass	Pass	Pass	

In the Open Room, West led the ace of hearts and shifted accurately to the five of spades. Declarer took his seven diamonds and one spade; one down.

In the Closed Room, West led the two of spades, won by dummy's ace, East following with the jack (Standard carding). Declarer led three rounds of trump, then the king of clubs. West won with the ace and cashed the ace of hearts: six, four, five. West shifted back to spades, so declarer made his contract. Perhaps East should have played the four of spades at trick one.

Zhejiang won 12 IMPs, so the score was now Wuhan 168:167 Zhejiang.

Board 94. Dealer East. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Chen	You	Qian	Liu
Gang	Jianyong	Jinsong	Jun
—	—	2♥ ¹	Pass
3♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. Weak, both majors

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Lian	Dai	Wang	Chen
Ruoyang	Jianming	Xiangyang	Jien
—	—	Pass	Pass
Pass	1NT	2♣ ¹	Double
2♥	Double ²	Pass	3♣
3♥	3NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

1. Majors
2. Takeout

In the Open Room, South led the five of clubs. The defenders cashed their four minor-suit tricks and declarer found the jack of spades for one down.

In the Closed Room, West led the jack of hearts and the defence took their five heart tricks. Declarer found the queen of clubs; one down. That meant that Wuhan won 3 IMPs. Now the score was Wuhan 171:167 Zhejiang.

Board 95. Dealer South. NS Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Chen	You	Qian	Liu
Gang	Jianyong	Jinsong	Jun
—	—	—	1♦ ¹
Pass	2♦ ²	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

1. 2+ diamonds, 11-15 HCP
2. Inverted

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Lian	Dai	Wang	Chen
Ruoyang	Jianming	Xiangyang	Jien
—	—	—	1♦
Pass	2♣	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

In the Open Room, the opening lead was the six of hearts. Declarer won with dummy's ace and led a spade to the jack and West's king. West shifted to the diamond five, low from dummy, jack from East. East reverted to hearts and declarer's king won. When South next cashed the king of clubs and led another club, intending to finesse for the queen, West showed out, so declarer won with the ace and led a spade, taking two tricks in that suit. He finished three down, minus 300.

In the Closed Room, the opening lead was also the six of hearts, also won by dummy's ace. Declarer ran the jack of clubs and, when it took the trick, declarer led the nine of spades to the queen and ace, then led the jack of spades to West's king. Unsure of the heart layout, West led the eight of spades to South's ten. When declarer tried the king of clubs and West showed out, he was held to two spade tricks, two heart tricks and three club tricks, down two, but good enough for a 3-IMP gain for Zhejiang.

The final session was 15 minutes late so, according to the Conditions of Contest, the Tournament Director curtailed play after the fifteenth board, announcing that the final was finished.

The final score was 171:170 IMPs, so Wuhan Dongfang Club won by 1 IMP! Congratulations to Lian Ruoyang, You Jianyong, Wang Xiangyang, Liu Jun, Liu Chuan, and Cai Yang.

THE REFORCING 2NT TO A FORCING 1NT

(With Thanks to Jeff Meckstroth)
Bruce Altshuler, Los Angeles

IBPA member Bruce Altshuler is a lawyer in movie-star central (Beverly Hills) and describes himself as “an avid but nothing special bridge player”. He is, nevertheless, one of the main book reviewers for The Bridge World. In 2015, he wrote an article for TBW in which he expanded upon Jeff Meckstroth’s idea of the ‘Reforcing 2NT’. Due to space limitations, Bruce’s article was necessarily abbreviated by TBW. Here it is presented in full. Thanks to Jeff Rubens and The Bridge World for permission to publish. After some agonising, I decided to leave Bruce’s bidding notations intact. – Ed.

In Max Hardy’s ‘Advanced Bridge for the 21st Century’, Jeff Meckstroth contributed a concept that he called ‘The Meckstroth Adjunct to the Forcing Notrump’, a treatment which is a useful improvement to a forcing INT after one of a major. Under Meckstroth’s Adjunct, a raise of a forcing INT to 2NT is itself ‘re-forcing’ and forces to game. I call this bid a “Reforcing 2NT”.

Under the Meckstroth Adjunct, after a “Reforcing 2NT” bid by Opener over Responder’s forcing NT, Responder must bid 3♣, unless he has a fit for Responder’s major. If he has a three-card limit raise, Responder bids 3♥ (or 3♠) which may still lead to a slam in the major, and with a weak three-card raise by the INT bidder, Responder jumps to 4♥ (or 4♠) over the Reforcing 2NT.

Over Responder’s 3♣ response to Opener’s “Reforcing 2NT”, Opener rebids a four-card suit at the three level (or 3NT with clubs), in each case showing jump-shift strength with five of Opener’s major and exactly four cards in the indicated second suit. For example, an auction of 1♠-INT-2NT-3♣-3♥, would show a game-going hand with exactly five spades and four hearts such as ♠AKQ43 ♥KQ94 ♦A ♣42.

The main benefit to Meckstroth’s Adjunct is that Opener’s strong jump-shift in a new suit to the three level always promises five cards or more in the second suit. How many times have we faced this dilemma with this hand over 1♠-INT-3♥ holding ♠5 ♥Q75 ♦KI0732 ♣K963? We want to be in 3NT if partner is five-four but play in 4♥ if partner is five-five in the majors. If the auction had been 1♠-INT-3♥ showing five-five in the majors, Responder now

has an easy 4♥ bid. If the auction had been: 1♠-INT-2NT-3♣-3♥, responder now knows that opener has only four hearts with game-forcing values, and can now bid 3NT.

According to Meckstroth’s scheme, opener’s rebid of his major (1♥-INT-2NT-3♣-3♥) shows a six-card suit and is forcing to game. The direct jump to three of a major over INT remains invitational. Meckstroth indicates that a rebid of 3♠ after 1♥-INT-2NT-3♣-3♠ shows a strong hand with four spades and five hearts, and recommends that a bid of 2NT followed by a four-level bid in a new suit should show a strong six-card major and a four-card second suit.

Meckstroth’s Adjunct takes away a direct natural invitation to 2NT by Opener over a forcing INT, but that loss is illusory. Many invitational hands with a five-card major and a five-three-three-two are now opened INT and over Opener’s two-level response to INT, responder will usually take another call with eight or more HCP, or bid 2NT with 10-12 HCP, and game will seldom be missed. If Responder passes Opener’s bid of 2♣, 2♦, or 2♥ with 5-6 HCP, responder would not have accepted an invitational 2NT anyway. If Responder bids his own suit over opener’s 2♣ or 2♦ bid or corrects to two of a major, Opener can now invite with 2NT and nothing is lost. Adopting XYZ and/or Gazzilli or a variant of either can more-easily allow for a 2NT invitation by making 2♣ over a forcing INT forcing for one round.

Can we improve upon Meckstroth’s Adjunct?

There are a few modifications or options I have devised which may be worthy of consideration by those considering Meckstroth’s Adjunct first introduced in my *Bridge World* article of August, 2015 (‘*Adjunct to Meckstroth’s Adjunct*’). In my variation of Meckstroth’s Adjunct, a rebid of 2NT is forcing to game except when Opener rebids his six-card major at the three level over 3♣ which shows an invitational strength hand with a six-card major where the suit is not self-sufficient, warning partner that your major may not play well opposite a stiff, or even two low.

An invitational bid of 3♠ over 1♠-INT-3♠ promises a good 15 up to 17 and a six-card suit and is not forcing on Responder. It is suggested that if Opener bids 3♠ over a forcing INT with: ♠AKJ1085 ♥A ♦KJ65 ♣87. His spade suit is good enough to play in 3♠ or 4♠ opposite two low or even a stiff spade. Therefore, a direct jump to three of Opener’s major over a forcing INT remains invitational, but guarantees a suit playable opposite two low or even a stiff, no worse than KQJ873 or AKI0963, but usually better.

It is suggested that the use of a Reforcing 2NT after 1♥-INT-2NT-3♣-3♥ therefore shows an invitational

hand but with a six-card major that is not self-sufficient and that won't necessarily play well opposite a stiff or even two low of Opener's major.

To illustrate how this would work, consider panel problem D, of the January, 2012 *ACBL Bulletin*. You are vulnerable at IMPs with: ♠K98753 ♥4 ♦AK4 ♣AK6, and you open 1♠ after three passes. Partner responds with a forcing INT. Most of the expert panel bid 2♣ hoping the auction will not die in 2♣, and a few bid 3♣ with this flawed suit. No one was pleased with his or her bid. Using a Reinforcing 2NT with this hand, opener can invite to game, and show a flawed six-card suit at the same time, using this suggested auction: 1♠-INT-2NT-3♣-3♠, where:

INT=FIR

2NT=Requests a bid of 3♣ from Responder

3♣=Relay, as requested

3♠=Invitational, with a porous six-card spade suit.

In this sequence, responder is warned not to bid 4♣ in the above example without holding at least ace-low, queen-low or jack-ten in Opener's suit and may instead opt to pass 3♣, or bid 3NT, having been warned that Opener's invitational spade suit is flawed.

By extension, a direct jump to four of your major over a forcing INT shows a self-sufficient suit at least six or seven cards in length and is very strong. Using a Reinforcing 2NT, and then jumping to 4♣ over 3♣, shows a strong hand with a flawed seven-card suit, perhaps ♠AJ97652 ♥AQ6 ♦KQJ ♣void. This slow sequence warns Responder to stay out of slam without fillers in the spade suit such as the king-queen. If partner should happen to bid 3♦ or 3♥ over your Reinforcing 2NT, slam in partner's six-card red suit could carry the auction to a red-suit small or even a grand slam.

With a game-forcing hand (19-21) and a six-card major, and no four- or five- card side suit, Opener must choose between a rebid of 3NT or 4♣ over a forcing INT. Yet, the ability to invite with an excellent six-card major vs. one of poorer suit quality over a forcing INT arises more often than a game-forcing hand with precisely six spades and no other four card suit and fills in a gap with invitational hands with either a very strong or weaker six-card major suit. No other method permits a pair to distinguish suit quality with an invitational hand over a forcing INT.

Other Innovations

There are other corollaries that can easily be adapted to Meckstroth's Adjunct that are worth considering:

- Meckstroth indicates that unless Responder has three-card support for Opener's major, he must bid 3♣ over 2NT. It would be better to allow Responder the option of bidding his own long suit at the three level over a Reinforcing 2NT, as this is the last chance for Responder to do so before going past 3NT,

especially if that suit is hearts. A raise to 3NT over Opener's Reinforcing 2NT by Responder shows a long club suit with a weak hand. If Responder bids 3♣ and then follows with his own new suit over Opener's rebid, Responder's bid is a slam try in his own suit opposite Opener's enormous strength.

Consider this hand by responder holding: ♠5 ♥9543 ♦KQ10875 ♣A10. After 1♠-INT-2NT, instead of the 3♣ requested by opener, responder should instead bid 3♦, showing a good six-card suit. If opener holds: ♠AJ984 ♥A ♦AJ3 ♣KQ103, the auction proceeds 4NT- 5♠ (showing two key-cards with the diamond queen), 7♦. Had responder bid 3♣, opener would bid 3NT showing five spades and four clubs. With this small change, the diamond fit can be found at the three level if responder bypasses the requested 3♣ rebid.

- Although Meckstroth suggests 1♥-INT-2NT-3♣-4♦ shows six hearts and four diamonds, he does not define 1♥-INT-4♦, which can be used to show six-five or six-six distribution in the two indicated suits. Thus, 1♠-INT-2NT-3♣-4♥ and 1♠-INT-4♥ can show six-four in the first sequence and six-five or six-six in the second, as 1♠-INT-3♥ shows five-five in the majors with jump shift strength.
- The Reinforcing 2NT also works well over an auction that begins with 1♥-1♠-2NT, which asks Responder to bid 3♣ unless Responder has his own second suit to show over 2NT, or allowing Responder to rebid 3♣ directly over 2NT with six spades. Over 1♥-1♠, opener's three-level jump shifts guarantee five cards in opener's second suit. A bid of 1♥-1♠-3♥ is invitational, but guarantees a very good six-card heart suit. A delayed rebid of 3♥, after 1♥-1♠-2NT-3♣-3♥, shows an invitational hand with six hearts and a weaker heart suit. Unlike responder's limited forcing INT, be aware that Responder's unpassed 1♠ bid could be much stronger than a typical forcing INT. If the auction proceeds 1♥-1♠-2NT-3♣-3♠, opener shows a game-going hand with three-card spade support and is strong and forcing, presumably 3=5=2=3. The pair only loses a natural jump raise of 1♠ to 2NT after 1♥-1♠, and must be prepared to jump to 3NT with 18-19 HCP over 1♠. Using a Reinforcing 2NT over 1♥-1♠ will arise very rarely, so either do not include it or remind your partner of this variation from time to time.
- Over 1♥-INT, Opener's direct 3♠ bid should show a very strong hand with five spades and six hearts, whereas 1♥-INT-2NT-3♣-3♠ shows four spades and six hearts. A rebid of 2♠ over 1♥-INT is a classic reverse showing four spades and five hearts, about 17 or more points, allowing opener to show every strong hand variation of hearts and spades with longer hearts over a forcing INT, whether four-five, four-six or five-six.

Obligation to Alert

If employing a Reinforcing 2NT, the 2NT reforce must be alerted by explaining something like this: “2NT is forcing over 1NT, invitational or game-forcing, and asks partner to bid 3♣ for a further description.” The 3♣ relay should be alerted as one would do after a Lebensohl sequence. If partner does not bid 3♣, and bids his own suit, an alert of, “Partner has his own suit to show,” may not be alertable as it is bridge logic, but an alert here is advised since your earlier alert has been modified. If partner bids three or four of your major, it is alerted as a three-card limit raise or weak three-card support, although I recommend that you not use a forcing 1NT with a weak three-card major-suit raise hands and just raise partner’s major to the two level, limiting a forcing 1NT with support to a three-card limit raise. Thus, 1♥-1NT-3♣, etc., should also be alerted as guaranteeing at least five-five in the two suits.

Conclusion

A Reinforcing 2NT after 1♥-1NT and 1♠-1NT can also easily be adopted when 1NT by Responder is not forcing in standard methods and it is just as effective in that case. The Reinforcing 2NT is being adopted by a growing number of pairs in the USA and the feedback to date has been positive. My experience is that the Reinforcing 2NT is easily incorporated into your system without undue memory strain.



The 1st Alt BAM January 11-15, 2021

Mark Horton, Shrewsbury, Shrops., U.K.
Martin Cantor, Hamm, NRW, Germany
John Carruthers, Kingsville, ON
Toine van Hoof, Utrecht, Netherlands

The Alt’s year kicked off with an innovation, an Invitational Board-a-Match Teams. Fourteen teams played an eight-boards-per-match Round Robin (four matches per day) to qualify eight teams for knockout play. The event was scored entirely at board-a-match.

The Operation Was a Success, but the Patient Died - Mark Horton

There can be little doubt that point-a-board (or if you prefer, board-a-match) is the most exciting and demanding form of the game. The scoring method, win, lose or draw on every deal, is simplicity itself, and is

certainly the one that best suits televised bridge. In order to be successful you have to be at your best, sharp in the bidding, accurate in defence (especially with your opening leads) and, as declarer, take every opportunity to secure an extra trick. A star-studded field contested the Alt Invitational Board-a-Match – let’s see if they were ‘at the races’.

Board 2. Dealer East. NS Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Nygård	Platnick	Petersen	Hampson
—	—	Pass	1♦ ¹
1NT	Pass	3NT	Double
Pass	Pass	Pass	
1. 10-15 HCP, 2+ diamonds			

One thing about playing Precision is that it can create potential swing situations on innocuous looking deals. On this one, South suspects that his counterpart in the other room will have opened one club, which probably precludes a contract of three notrump by East/West. Assuming the opponents have most of the missing points, they may have enough to collect plus 420 in a major-suit game and, absent a club lead, perhaps 430 in notrumps. Conventional wisdom has it that South’s double asks for a diamond lead, but playing Precision you could argue that it is asking for a club. It might be that partner has say a five-card diamond suit headed by the king-queen-jack and an ace or two, but I suspect a simulation would lean towards a club.

In any event, it was an imaginative effort. North led ... (drum roll, please) the two of diamonds and, when South put in the eight declarer won with the nine and finished with 11 tricks and plus 750.

The operation was a success, but the patient died. In the aftermath, North, Brian Platnick, took all the blame: “I should have figured it out, since I had both minor-suit jacks. It looked like Geoff had the ace-king-queen fifth somewhere. That was likely to be in clubs as declarer rated to have a diamond stopper.” (It is true that a Precision one-diamond opener often has clubs and not diamonds, so it could be argued that if the one-diamond opener’s LHO bids notrump, a club might be considered normal. So, the double of three notrump might be a double-

bluff, saying lead a diamond anyway. It's for the Precision partnerships to agree a protocol. – Ed.)

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Nickell	Lund	Katz	Cantor
—	—	Pass	Pass
1NT	Pass	3♣ ¹	Double
Redouble ²	Pass	3♥ ³	Pass
4♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. Asking for a five-card major
2. No stopper, no five-card suit
3. 4 hearts

South led the king of clubs, then cashed the queen and switched to the six of spades. Declarer won with dummy's queen, played a heart to the king, a heart to dummy's ace and ran the nine of diamonds, soon claiming ten tricks; plus 420.

You may have noticed that four hearts can be defeated. It only happened twice – in the same match:

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Dobrescu	Grue	Greenberg	Moss
—	—	Pass	1♣
Double	Pass	2♣	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

South led the king of clubs, continued with the queen, and then switched to the six of spades for the ten, jack and king. After a heart to the ace and a heart to the king, declarer played a spade and South ruffed and exited with his remaining heart, the ten. That left declarer with only nine tricks; minus 50.

If declarer cashes the queen of hearts before playing a spade, it will not help South to ruff; he will then have to open up the diamonds (the queen is perhaps the best shot) or give a ruff and discard. If South does not ruff, declarer wins in dummy and can duck a diamond to South.

Derek Rimmington's *Bols Bridge Tip* suggested that if you lead a king, and then switch, it could be to a singleton – that is potentially the winning defence here. If declarer does not draw trumps the defenders can arrange a spade ruff but, if he does, there are only nine tricks.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Donner	Yilmaz	Rimstedt	Gur
—	—	1♦ ¹	Pass
1♥	Pass	2♥	Pass
4♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. 2+ diamonds

North led the eight of spades. Declarer won with the ten, cashed dummy's top hearts, and then led the three

of diamonds, ducking South's eight. When North let the eight hold, South led the queen of clubs for the two, four and five. My guess is that the four was encouraging (showing the jack) and, when South continued with the eight of clubs and the jack won, North lost no time in leading the nine of spades for one down and a flat board. Yes, after the spade lead declarer had ten tricks on top. And, also, had North won the first diamond and given his partner a ruff, then two down would have been possible.

Decisions, Decisions – Martin Cantor

The prolific bridge author David Bird is famously scornful of reporting on low-level contracts. In IMP contests there is generally less at stake, and so less excitement, in a part score than in a game or slam. This is much less true of matchpointed events where, on every deal, every overtrick and undertrick counts. That is even truer in BAM, where even the difference between 100 and 110 is zero to one.

The second match brought a board that certainly would have excited David Bird; it also excited me when I picked it up. It would have had bidding interest at IMPs – small slam or grand slam – but bidding, and even more so play, engenders lots of interest at BAM.

With only the opponents vulnerable, your RHO deals and opens one heart while you are feasting your eyes on this:

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

Your options seem to include: (a.) two clubs (this will never be passed out), planning to bid something like four notrump later to show five-seven in the minors (otherwise two notrump immediately); (b.) two notrump anyway, praying that this will not be passed out (it's been known to happen), planning to show extra strength and shape later somehow, or: (c.) four notrump for the minors, hopefully shutting out the opponents' major suit fit(s), but leaving you unsure what to do over partner's five-level preference. My partner Peter Lund and I had never discussed an immediate four notrump, but I am confident he would have read it for the minors, but I thought the hand was simply too good for that.

I think it's close between two clubs and two notrump but, because we play it as at least constructive, I eventually – and happily – chose two notrump, as did most of my counterparts at the other tables, just three opting for two clubs and two for four notrump. My LHO passed and Lund jumped to five diamonds. With the club finesse likely to be right after RHO's opening, I raised him to slam. We missed the grand, as you can see from the full deal:

Board 6. Dealer East.. EW Vul.

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

Perhaps I should have bid five spades en route to six diamonds, and Lund might then have bid the grand. Alternatively, as he said, he might have bid three spades, which, although undiscussed, he thought ought to show a good hand with a diamond fit – although, with my spade void, I would have agonised a long time about whether it was natural.

Peter quickly wrapped up 13 tricks. At the other table in our match, the opponents were in six clubs and made just 12 tricks after a heart lead, finessing the queen of clubs on the first round of trumps.

However, on a spade lead, playing BAM, you should at least consider taking the deep finesse. Why? Because you can see that if the other table is in diamonds they will make 13 tricks if the club king is onside, barring terrible breaks in both minors. Of course, the other table might be in seven diamonds and go down with an unlikely offside king of clubs, or be in seven clubs and go down, in which case you want to play as safely as possible for 12 tricks. But, otherwise, you need to aim for 13 yourself. So you have to decide whether to play for East to hold the king of clubs with or without the jack.

If you think there is a danger of West holding a stiff king, you can try the safety play of cashing the ace first, which also gives you 12 tricks if East has king-jack-third. Or, if you think there is a danger of East holding all four missing clubs, finessing the ten first gives you 12 tricks – the same 12 this play gives you against West's stiff king.

Two pairs did manage to bid the grand slam in diamonds.

Decisions, decisions, this is what makes BAM so difficult and is why I prefer IMPs. (*It is precisely for this reason that I prefer BAM. – Ed.*)

Qualifiers from the Round Robin were:

1. **AMATEURS** 61.0
Franco Baseggio, David Chechelashvilli, Alex Kolesnik, Ai-tai Lo, Bill Pettis, Ahmed Solimen, Andrew Stark
2. **DONNER** 58.6
Per-Ola Cullin, Gary Donner, Joe Grue, Marion Michielsen, Brad Moss, Cecilia Rimstedt

3. **GUPTA** 57.5
David Gold, Naren Gupta, Zia Mahmood, Bauke Muller, Simon de Wijs
4. **ALTSHULER** 54.5
Gilad Altshuler, Alon Birman, Dani Cohen, Amir Levin, Dror Padon, Yossi Roll
5. **SALVO** 54.4
Sedat Aluf, Bülent Aslan, Enver Köksoy, Nezih Kubaç, Ali Uçar, Ömer Umur, Nafiz Zorlu
6. **RIPPEY** 54.0
Leonardo Cima, Massimiliano di Franco, Andrea Manno, Piotr Nawrocki, Kamil Nowak, Mike Rippey, Piotr Wiankoski, Piotr Zatorski
7. **CALIFORNICATION** 53.5
John Carruthers, Mitch Dunitz, Ross Grabel, Allan Graves, Martin Kirr, Jill Meyers, George Mittelman, Kerri Sanborn
8. **NICKELL** 53.5
Richie Coren, John Diamond, Eric Greco, Geoff Hampson, Ralph Katz, Dan Korbel, Bobby Levin, Nick Nickell, Brian Platnick, Steve Weinstein

The knockout bracket was arranged on the traditional 1 vs. 8, 2 vs. 7, etc. schema, and comprised 2x12-board matches.

A Deal Only a BAM Could Love - John Carruthers

Here's a perfect illustration of why Martin might love a deal at IMPs and why I love the same deal at BAM:

Board 9. Dealer North. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Donner	Meyers	C. Rimstedt	Sanborn
—	Pass	1♦	Pass
1♥	Double	Redouble ¹	2♣
4♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. 3-card heart support

Jill Meyers led the jack of clubs. Gary Donner won with his queen and started on hearts, leading low from hand – Meyers went up with the queen, but Kerri Sanborn overtook that with her king to switch to a spade. Declarer won the second spade, led the ace of hearts and claimed ten tricks when the suit proved to be three-two.

No lead can hurt declarer as long as he gets in two rounds of trumps before the third diamond. Not very exciting.

The excitement came at the other table...

West	North	East	South
Graves	Michielsen	Mittelman	Cullin
—	Pass	1♦	Pass
1♥	Double	Pass	2♣
3NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

Graves/Mittelman do not play Support Redoubles, and George Mittelman might well have raised to two hearts. Allan Graves leapt to what he thought was the most-likely game. Marion Michielsen led the ten of clubs to the seven, five and Graves' queen. Declarer led spades, North winning the third of these after a Smith seven (likes clubs) on the first round. What was South to discard? A pitch from either red suit seemed suicidal, so Per-Ola Cullin let go the six of clubs, confirming an even number. North continued with clubs, leading the king. Again, Cullin had a problem – with the nine and eight of clubs remaining, should he signal for hearts (effective when Partner has an honour, but not so great if declarer has ace-queen-ten) or for diamonds (trying to cut declarer off from the dummy)? South decided on a safe eight, so Michielsen, with no hope of establishing and running the clubs, shifted to the six of diamonds. Over to Graves.

Graves could see that his counterpart at the other table would likely make nine or ten tricks in hearts, depending on whether the suit broke three-two or four-one. He was in a no-lose situation on the diamond shift: to duck ensured four diamond tricks and ten in all, even if South won with the jack, which is exactly what happened in actual play: plus 630 vs. plus 620 won the board for Graves' team.

Should Cullin have followed to the king of clubs with the nine, suggesting a heart shift to Michielsen, who, when Graves followed suit, would have known the location of every spot card? It depends on how much weight Cullin should put on declarer's inclination not to play hearts himself.

In two of the other three quarterfinal matches, one table played in four hearts and the other in three notrump. In NICKELL vs. AMATEURS, Geoff Hampson as South discarded the jack and nine of hearts on the third and fourth spades, thus holding Ai Tai Lo to nine tricks and winning the board for NICKELL. In GUPTA vs. RIPPEY, Mike Rippey discarded one club and one heart, also holding declarer to nine tricks. In both cases, North continued with clubs twice upon winning with the ace of spades. In the fourth quarterfinal match, SALVO allowed ISRAEL to declare in three spades on the North/South cards, losing the board to four hearts at the other table.

To me, this was a perfect illustration of why board-a-match is the best, most-interesting form of the game.

The winners of the quarterfinals were NICKELL, DONNER, GUPTA and SALVO, with GUPTA and SALVO advancing to the final.

Kibitzers Rule – Mark Horton

The kibitzers (remember them?) were out in force for the final of the BAM, most of them making a beeline for the table occupied by Zia, who had just published an impassioned plea for the return of kibitzers.

Board 3 Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Umur	de Wijs	Koksoy	Muller
—	—	—	1♥
Pass	1NT ¹	Double	Redouble ²
2♣	Pass	Pass	Double ³
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. 4/5 spades, NF, up to limit
2. 3-card spade support
3. Takeout

North led the seven of hearts. South won with the jack and continued with the queen, declarer ruffing in dummy. Declarer played a spade to the king, then ruffed another heart, with North discarding the nine of diamonds. West then cashed the ace of spades and ruffed a spade, ruffed another heart (North throwing the queen of spades) and led a spade. South ruffed with the queen of clubs as North threw a diamond and moments later North was claiming the rest, two down, minus 500.

There were several routes to success, one of them comprising spade, spade, spade ruff in hand, a successful club guess, another spade ruff and a diamond lead to the king. Declarer takes three trumps in the dummy, two spade ruffs in hand and ace, king, king in the pointed suits. What about a trump lead? Yes, that always beats it with competent defence thereafter. The actual heart lead and continuation helped declarer.

Continued on page 12...



IBPA Column Service

Tim Bourke, Canberra



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1033. Dealer East. EW Vul.

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

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

West led a third-highest six of clubs and dummy's nine was taken by East with the jack. Declarer ruffed the ace of clubs continuation and led the five of hearts from hand. West won with the ace and played a third club to remove dummy's queen as a card that might threaten East.

Declarer ruffed the club and ruffed a heart in dummy. He returned to hand with a low trump to the ace and was pleased to see that both opponents followed suit. After ruffing the queen of hearts in dummy, declarer drew the last trump with dummy's queen.

The issue declarer now faced was how to play diamonds for one loser. If the suit broke three-two, there was no problem. So, declarer turned his mind to dealing with a four-one diamond break and found the best solution of a low diamond from dummy with the intention of playing low from hand. When East produced the jack of diamonds, declarer stuck to his plan and contributed the four of diamonds from hand.

What could the defenders do? If the jack of diamonds held, East would have to lead a club or a heart; in either case, declarer would throw a low diamond from hand and ruff in dummy for his game-going trick. In practice, West overtook the diamond jack with the queen and

led the ten of diamonds. Declarer played low from dummy and won the trick in hand with the king of diamonds. Declarer now claimed on the marked diamond finesse against West's diamond nine.

1034. Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

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

1. Promises values

The question of what to do after North's three-spade call depends largely on the player occupying the South seat. The conservative player would raise to game, being content to take a sure-fire plus score. On this occasion, South was a dasher and bid the slam in the hope that partner would have a useful card or two.

West led the queen of diamonds and North tabled what was a moderately favourable dummy. After winning the first trick with his bare ace of diamonds, declarer realised that a twelfth trick would be there on a simple finesse in clubs if East had started with the queen.

Declarer cashed the ace of trumps at trick two and, noting the 2-1 break, saw that there was an additional chance – trying to develop a second heart trick before touching clubs. So, declarer played his jack of trumps to dummy's queen, saving the four of trumps to cross to dummy's six of spades later in the play. Declarer then led a heart from dummy, planning to insert the ten if

East followed low. As it happened, East held both missing heart honours, a 24% chance, and he played the queen of hearts. Declarer won with the ace and returned the ten of hearts. After winning with the king of hearts, East led the king of diamonds.

Declarer ruffed high, crossed to dummy with the four of trumps to dummy's six then threw his low club on the established jack of hearts and claimed the rest of the tricks.

If West had taken the ten of hearts with the king or queen and the hearts had not provided an extra trick, nothing would have been lost. Declarer would have cashed the heart ace – just in case East had begun with a doubleton high honour. Then, after taking the ace of clubs, declarer would have crossed to dummy with the six of trumps to take the club finesse for the contract.

1035. Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

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

West made the obvious lead on this auction, the jack of hearts. Declarer counted eight sure winners in the red suits. A ninth would have to come from one of the black suits. If it were to come from clubs, then, barring a defensive error or a miracle layout in the suit, an extra trick would only come when the ace and king of clubs were in the same defensive hand. The probability of such an eventuality is a little worse than an even-money shot.

A second possibility was to lead a spade from hand, intending to play the king if West followed with a low card. On the above layout, either plan would have allowed the defenders to cash six tricks in the black suits.

Declarer appreciated the risks of a two-trick defeat if he played either black suit directly. Instead, he adopted an almost counter-intuitive approach. After winning the first trick in hand and cashing the ace, king and queen of diamonds, declarer led a low spade toward his jack. East rose with the queen of spades and led a second heart, which declarer took in hand with the ace to play the jack of spades. East won this with the ace and tried a third heart to declarer's king. Declarer then had nine tricks – a spade, three hearts and five diamonds.

Declarer's plays in spades would have yielded a trick a little less than three times in four: whenever East started with the queen of spades and also when West held both the ace and queen of spades.

Declarer might have cashed a fourth diamond (dummy's jack) in the hope that East, who had thrown a low spade and a low club, might discard another club. However, declarer knew East well and did not expect such a gift.

1036. Dealer West. Both Vul.

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

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

West led a fourth-highest four of hearts. Declarer played quickly, without any real thought. He called for a low heart from dummy and took East's jack with the ace, noting that he still had a stopper in hearts as long as the hearts were five-two. Alas, that proved not to be good enough for, when he played a spade, as he had to, it was East who won the first trick in the suit. The heart return was not a welcome sight. West was able to play king, queen and another heart to set up his long card in the suit. Since declarer had to concede a trick to West's ace of spades at some point, that player was able to cash a heart winner to defeat the contract.

A simple plan would have saved the contract on this layout. Declarer allows the jack of hearts to hold at trick one. When East continues with the eight of hearts at trick two, declarer plays the nine as a matter of routine in an attempt to mislead West about the layout of the suit. If West wins and plays a third heart, declarer wins and plays the jack of spades. Now, when East wins his king of spades, he has no heart to play. Declarer can win the club shift in hand and play a second spade. West wins the ace of spades but declarer is in control; he loses only two spades and two hearts. West cannot have all four high major-suit honours and have passed initially.

The only danger to the contract would have been if West had shifted to a club from the queen and/or jack-third or -fourth at trick three. Then East, upon gaining the lead with a high spade, could have led a second club through declarer. That layout and defence would have garnered two spades, two hearts and one club for the defence.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Zia	Zorlu	Gupta	Uçar
—	—	—	1♥
Pass	1♠	Double	Redouble ¹
2♣	Pass	Pass	Double ²
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. 3-card support
2. Takeout

North led the seven of hearts. South won with the jack and switched to the queen of clubs. That ran to dummy's king and declarer played three rounds of spades, ruffing, ruffed a heart, ruffed a spade and played a diamond to the king, claiming when it held; plus 180 and an emphatic win.

It was the old story: when you know you have the opponents outgunned, a trump lead is frequently a good idea. If North starts with a club, declarer needs to put up dummy's king to escape for one down. If not, South switches to a diamond and North wins and plays two more rounds of clubs.

Drama in the Final – Toine van Hoof

With four boards remaining in the final, GUPTA (David Gold, Naren Gupta, Zia Mahmood, Bauke Muller, Simon de Wijs) headed SALVO (Sedat Aluf, Bülent Aslan, Enver Köksoy, Nezh Kubaç, Ali Ucar, Nafiz Zorlu, Ömer Umur) by 3.1 points (the 0.1 point was as a result of carryover by dint of GUPTA finishing ahead of SALVO in the Round Robin). SALVO needed to win all of the last four boards to win the match.

Board 21. Dealer North. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Aslan	de Wijs	Kubaç	Muller
—	4♣	Pass	Pass
Pass			

East led the ace of clubs. He shifted to a diamond, won by West with the king, and that player returned the jack of clubs. Declarer then set up the spades for a diamond discard: North/South plus 150.

Mahmood and Gold overbid a tad:

West	North	East	South
Mahmood	Zorlu	Gold	Uçar
—	1♣	Pass	1♠
2♦	3♣	5♦	Double
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Zorlu led his singleton heart. The contract could have gone for 800 at that point with two heart ruffs, but Uçar cashed the ace of hearts and the ace of spades and then led another spade to partner's king. Plus 200 sufficed to win the board.

GUPTA was up 2.1 boards with three to go.

Board 22. Dealer East. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Aslan	de Wijs	Kubaç	Muller
—	—	1♠	Pass
2♣ ¹	2♦	3♠	Pass
3NT	Pass	Pass	Pass
	1. 2+ clubs		

To protect his king of diamonds, Bulent Aslan opted for three notrump. That was the right view because there were ten tricks available in both three notrump and four spades. North led a heart, ducked to the king, South shifted to a diamond to North's queen, North cashed the ace of diamonds and declarer claimed: East/West plus 630.

West	North	East	South
Mahmood	Zorlu	Gold	Uçar
—	—	1♠	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♠	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♦ ¹ (!)	Pass
4♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. Serious slam try cue-bid

With his Zia cue-bid, Gold managed to avoid the diamond lead. He received the six-of-hearts lead from South and could have made an overtrick by putting up the queen. However, he inserted the eight and ended with ten tricks: East/West plus 620.

GUPTA was 1.1 ahead.

Board 23. Dealer South. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Aslan	de Wijs	Kubaç	Muller
—	—	—	Pass
1♦	2♥	Double	Pass
4♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

After the two-heart intervention by North, Nezih Kubaç had a nasty bidding problem. He decided to double, promising four spades and, of course, his partner jumped to four spades. This was not a hopeless contract. On the contrary, when de Wijs hit upon the unlucky lead of the five of diamonds and Bauke Muller switched to the jack of hearts, declarer even went for the overtrick: ace of hearts, ace-king of clubs, king of spades and a spade to the jack. When that lost and North played a heart, West ruffed and, when both opponents followed suit in trumps, he claimed the balance: East/West plus 450.

Declarer could have played more-or-less safely for ten tricks after the round-suit tops by taking the two high spades and playing on diamonds, surrendering two trump tricks to the defence. That would have been the indicated play at IMPs but, at board-a-match, it looked to declarer that East/West would make at least ten tricks in notrump, so making ten tricks in spades would lose him the board. Thus he went for 11.

At the other table, with over a thousand kibitzers watching, Zia made a real show out of the penultimate deal of the tournament.

West	North	East	South
Mahmood	Zorlu	Gold	Uçar
—	—	—	Pass
1♣ ¹	1♥	2♥	Double
Pass	Pass	3♣	Pass
4♥ ²	Pass	4♠	Pass
Pass ³	Pass		

1. A mislick (admitted to by the perpetrator), but not noticed until too late for an Undo
2. Hoping for a spade cue-bid
3. Thank you Partner; I'm also hoping for some length opposite

Zia could have bid three notrump, which would have made nine, ten or eleven tricks, depending on the play

and defence. Eleven tricks can be made by ducking one heart, knocking out the ace of diamonds and squeezing North in the majors (even if South ducks diamonds twice). Instead, he launched a four heart leap (hoping for...?). Gold gave it a long look. What did he want? How can he pass in his second turn and now try for slam? What about our diamond control? In the end, Gold shrugged his shoulders (metaphorically) and bid four spades, swiftly passed by Zia.

South led the queen of hearts. Gold, after a considerable pause, made the excellent play of ducking. Though this was the only way to make the contract, he could no longer win the board. North/South made the ace of diamonds and the queen of spades: East/West plus 420.

GUPTA was 0.1 points ahead of SALVO. A push on the last board would result in GUPTA winning by the carryover margin of 0.1 boards – here is that last board:

Board 24. Dealer West. NS Vul.

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

This last board seemed to have been designed for Muller/de Wijs' system. Left to their own devices, they would undoubtedly have relayed to the club slam. However, protected somewhat by the vulnerability, Kubaç and Aslan started bullying them around, interfering with the relays:

West	North	East	South
Aslan	de Wijs	Kubaç	Muller
Pass	1♣ ¹	1♠	2♣ ²
2♥	Pass	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	Pass	6NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. 15+ HCP
2. Artificial game-force

Doubling two hearts for penalties would have netted 1400, but East/West could have 'escaped' to two spades for minus 1100. With most of his hand in the opponents' suits, de Wijs felt constrained to raise to three notrump. Over three notrump, Muller, with his semi-balanced 15-count, decided to raise simply to six notrump. Had West led a diamond, declarer could have made 12 tricks by finessing in spades. However,

Aslan led the nine of spades, doing that job for declarer anyway. Now declarer's only hope was that West had four or more hearts plus the ace of diamonds. He cashed his black suit winners and then played a diamond from hand hoping to see the ace coming. Alas, West produced the queen and East took no chances. He overtook with the ace and cashed the jack of spades for one off; minus 100.

North/South were less ambitious at the other table. This West also messed with them:

West	North	East	South
Mahmood	Zorlu	Gold	Uçar
2♦ ¹	Double	Pass ²	Pass
2♥	Double	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. A bad weak-two in major
2. Neutral, says nothing

On the lead of the nine of spades, Uçar made 11 tricks to win the board and the match by 12.5 to 11.6. SALVO had pulled off an almost-impossible feat, winning the last four boards against Bauke Muller/Simon de Wijs and David Gold/Zia Mahmood.

The winners were Sedat Aluf, Bülent Aslan, Enver Köksoy, Nezh Kubaç, Ali Uçar, Ömer Umur, and Nafiz Zorlu.



Cheating Investigations, Part 3: Alphabet Soup Nicolas Hammond, Johns Creek, GA

Bridge has various acronyms that require no further explanation: WBF, EBL, ACBL, BBO, IBPA, IMP, MP.

The addition of statistical analysis to bridge brings new terms. Some are long and complicated to explain and are being shorted with abbreviations. Here are some of the new acronyms:

DDOLAR: Double Dummy Opening Lead Accuracy Rate

For each lead, look at the double dummy analysis. The lead is either 'good' (does not give up a trick against double-dummy) or 'bad' (gives up a trick). Add up the number of good leads and divide by the total number

of leads. Top experts in IMP play average just under 81%. ACBL club players in MP play average just under 80%. ACBL virtual club players in MP play average just under 79%. It may seem strange that club players are almost as good on opening lead as the top players.

DECWER: Declarer Weighted Error Rate

For every card played by declarer, including cards called from dummy, compare the card played against double-dummy analysis. The card is either 'good' or 'bad' (gives up one or more tricks). To avoid differences with speed of claim, only the number of bad cards is totaled. It is assumed that declarer plays 24 cards for every board (the last trick is forced). The overall DECWER is the number of bad cards divided by the maximum possible cards played (number of boards * 24).

World-class experts have a DECWER around 1.75%.

DEFWER: Defensive Weighted Error Rate

Identical to DECWER except it refers to defence. For the person on opening lead there are an assumed 11 cards played, for her partner, there are an assumed 12 cards played.

World-class experts average around 1.30% with the top honest experts getting close to 1.00%.

It goes without saying that a cheating player will, by definition, have fewer errors, therefore, we would expect to see higher DDOLAR, lower DECWER and lower DEFWER.

A collusive cheating pair will have normal DECWER, but a higher DDOLAR and lower DEFWER.

Victim of the Day Nicolas Hammond

Christina Lund Madsen, Copenhagen

The Alt Daily Bulletins carry a series of slightly off-the-wall interviews by Christina Lund Madsen, the editor. We thought our members might like to get to know Nicolas Hammond, the Cheating Detection guru, a little better, so we are reprinting Christina's interview with Nicolas here. – Ed.

Where do you come from, where do you live, are you willing to reveal your age and family status?

- Nottingham, England. Atlanta, Georgia, USA. 29. Divorced. Three kids: 18, 19, 21. One of those statements may not be true.

When and why did you move to the US?

- Two days after graduation. Thatcher mini-recession; could not get a job in UK.

What do you miss the most about your home country?

- Sausage rolls. Yorkshire pudding. Intellectual humour. Oh... and my family, yeah.

What is the main difference between Brits and Americans?

- Go to an American supermarket, buy an English cucumber and an American cucumber. Hold one in each hand.

What is your professional background and what do you do for a living?

- BA/MA from Cambridge. Computer security is my specialty, I set up the security of the first online bank, did the first-ever Internet banking transaction, started a company doing security audits of online banks/stock markets etc. A professional bank robber, but always white-gloved. Self-employed for the last 25+ years, I now do boutique consulting.

How did you begin to play bridge?

- In high school. My grandmother was a huge whist player and we played at the local village hall on Friday nights, a kind couple took me to play bridge at the Nottingham Bridge Club when I was about 17. The wife is still alive and I am still in touch with her son. I restarted in the early 2000s and went to the local bridge club in Atlanta and started to play there. Lot to re-learn.

What has been the highlight of your bridge life thus far?

- This.

(And winning the B Final of the World Mixed Pairs with Lindsey Weigner in 2016. Qualifying for the finals of the World Mixed Pairs with Kristen Onsgard in 2018.)

How has your life been during corona?

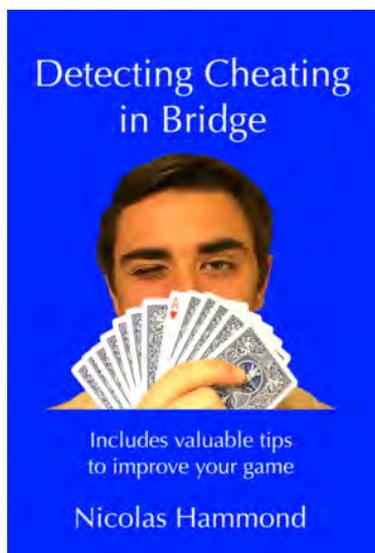
- Much less travel. Ridiculously busy with the cheating. Otherwise little changed.

Marie Eggeling's question for you: Can you tell us something about your methods to detect cheating in bridge, especially regarding online bridge right now?

- Various methods. Start with calculating data. For top players, comparing their ability face-to-face (FTF) with their new-found ability with online play. For collusive cheaters, comparing their ability to lead and defend compared to those who do not cheat, comparing their defensive ability with their declaring ability. A number of top players from early online play would have been the #1 player in various categories in the FTF world. For the lower-level players, the number of successful unusual leads is the easiest way to detect cheating.

What is your motivation for doing all this work detecting cheats?

- Someone cheated against me in Chicago in 2015. No cameras, nothing I could do. On the train back to the airport I came up with a method of detecting cheating from the data, implemented it and saw the results. Later that month the Fisher/Schwartz scandal started. I had an amazing piece of Bridge software (ACBLScore+), a method, some time, and now some usefulness for the methodology. I will continue until



the player that cheated against me back then gets caught, which, ironically, may be very close to happening..

Have you ever felt caught in a moral dilemma upon discovering that someone close to you or you felt sorry for was suspected of cheating and how did you cope with it?

- The hardest is the kids. There are some juniors reading this, both U-25 and U-21, that quite clearly have been cheating, and have not been outed and are continuing to play. So far, I've done nothing because there are so many other cases. When they read this, they will know who they are. If they go honest from now, should I report them later?

I dislike the posts about a single hand which 'proves' someone is cheating. Without looking at a large set of boards, how can you tell if someone made a brilliant lead/play or got lucky or were cheating?

There are the adult players who are suspected, or have whispers, in many cases I have provided data to the suspected players so they can properly defend themselves. Although I might have an opinion on if they cheated or not, the difficulty in defending yourself is very hard without data. Anything that can help provide data – to both sides – is useful and speeds up the process.

How often are you wrong?

- 52% of the time when I declare. 48% of the time when I defend. With the cheating, unfortunately I have rarely been proven to be wrong, much to the chagrin of a few players who cannot yet be named, but currently are not playing. The stories obviously cannot be told, but some are now privately confessing to their friends, which is a start.

What has surprised you the most about the online cheating scandals?

- The number of players, about 10-20% of top players when the first online events started. With ACBL BBO, it is about 3-5% of all boards involve a cheating player.

Who they are. There are some players widely respected in their own country, and have represented their country, that have been cheating.

The hypocrisy. Some of those defending some of the cheating players are, in fact, cheating players themselves, just not outed yet. Their time will come.

I anonymize boards, submit them to top expert players for verification; this is not stating someone is cheating from the statistics. The collusive cheating players – those in the same room when they play – are unaware of the methods to catch them. Yet.

What were you like as a child?

- Perfect. Annoyingly good. My parents' words, not mine.

I once heard a rumour you can solve the Rubik's cube in record time. Would you mind sharing your story with us?
In high school, my math teacher showed us a Rubik's Cube back in 1979 from a Mathematics conference. They were not on sale yet. I bought one from Professor David Singmaster in London; when it broke, I wrote to him and bought another and described my progress. I was the fastest in the world at the time and he wrote it up in "Cubic Circular" (Googleable).

This led to a book, several TV appearances, newspaper and some magazine articles (Scientific American, Readers Digest). On my first TV appearance, my time was 37 seconds, which was a record at the time.

How would your mother describe you in three words if she is still with us?

- A model child. She isn't with us any more, but I called my Dad to check.

What is your greatest weakness?

- Responding to polite requests from cute journalists.

What has been the greatest sorrow of your life?

Not telling the cute journalist how I feel about her and watching her blush while she types it in.

What is your main life goal right now?

- I am very lucky. I have fulfilled all my main goals in life.

Who would you like to partner, kiss, or kill among your three attractive teammates Arti Bhargava, Amy Casanova and Ishmael Delmonte?

- Two of them are fabulous kissers, highly recommended. I have yet to meet the other one. Perhaps you could post photographs.

I am not a violent person so no desire to kill anyone. I have yet to partner any of them, so perhaps I should ask the editor if she recommends the best kisser or the worse kisser if you have to pick a partner? Is there a correlation between kissing ability and bridge ability? I am afraid I have not kissed enough to know. (The editor recommends partnering someone you have no desire to kiss...)

Who do you think should be a future victim in the bulletin? Tell us something you would like to know about this person.

Meike Wortel thrashed me yesterday morning. So, Meike... Name something you can beat me at (besides bridge) and something I can beat you at.

Bridge in The Times

Andrew Robson, London

andrew.robson@thetimes.co.uk

Mike Perkins of Berks and Bucks sent in this very interesting deal from the Tollemache Cup qualifier. Can you make four hearts on the queen of diamonds lead?

Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

1. 12-14
2. Transfer to hearts, duly completed
3. Worth two-and-a-half notrumps, but the ten of hearts was talking to Ian Reissman. Plus they give you a big bonus for a vulnerable game.

The correct first few moves are fairly clear. You win with the ace (as East encourages with the nine), cross to the ace of hearts, unblock the king-queen of clubs, and return to the king of hearts (observing the three-two split). You hope to be able to discard dummy's two diamond losers on the two winning clubs. You lead the ace and discard a diamond.

The big question is: should East ruff? East is desperate to draw two trumps with his master queen, not zero. As against that, if East doesn't ruff, declarer will next play the jack of clubs (West helpfully dropped the ten on the second round to indicate that he didn't hold the jack) and shed dummy's last diamond.

At the table, East ruffed. He returned a low diamond (best) to West but what could West now lead? If West leads a club (a diamond is worse), declarer wins, discarding a spade from dummy, ruffs a third diamond then crosses to his third heart to cash the thirteenth

diamond, discarding a second spade. He loses only one spade.

West did the best he could, returning a low spade and putting declarer to the guess. However, declarer guessed correctly, playing low from dummy. East won with the ace but that was the end of the road for the defence – game made.

Say East refrains from ruffing either club, declarer throwing dummy's diamonds. Declarer ruffs a diamond and leads a spade from dummy, East playing low.

If declarer wastes the jack of spades, West can win and lead a second spade to the (say) the nine and ten, whereupon the patient East can cash the queen of hearts (drawing declarer's third trump) and enjoy the ace of spades – one down. However, declarer plays the seven of spades.

West wins the eight of spades and must continue spades – but which of the queen or the four does he lead? If he continues with the queen, declarer ducks in dummy. Although declarer's jack is pinned, West is powerless, declarer can ruff a third spade (to the king and ace) with his precious remaining heart.

Meanwhile, if West continues with the four of spades, declarer guesses to duck in dummy. All East can do is win with the ace (promoting dummy's king), cash the queen of hearts and concede.

Fascinating – four hearts can always be made.



Negative Inferences

Good declarers are constantly drawing inferences from the cards played by the defenders. Honour leads usually reveal a touching honour; a high spot indicates that the opening leader is short or lacks high honours in the suit; declarer play is always based on deductions of this sort.

There are situations which are not as blatant. For example, if you eliminate the side suits in a trump contract and give up the lead so as to force the opponents to break a suit in which you have ace-low in your hand and queen-ten in the dummy, if the opponents could choose which hand would win the throw-in trick and LHO won the trick (i.e., he will start the trick and dummy, with queen-ten, will be the next to play), you may be sure that LHO does not have the king. If he had the king, he would have let his partner

win the trick so as to play the problem suit correctly for the defence.

There are many discussions, in articles and books, about this theme. But it is not so common to find discussions about what may be called *negative inferences*, that is, inferences based on what the opponents did not do.

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

You are playing in three notrump after a strong two-club opening, a two-diamond response and a three-diamond bid by the strong hand. Three notrump by the weak hand finished the auction.

North led the five of clubs. South won with the king, and played back the jack, then the ten, and finally the four... and you are still alive since clubs were four-four originally. You discarded one spade and two diamonds from dummy.

North, upon winning the last club trick, led a spade to dummy's now-singleton ace. You must guess diamonds to make your contract. You cash the ace of diamonds (no luck there, all you see are low cards), and play three rounds of hearts, ending in hand with your jack. Everybody follows suit. Now you play a diamond from your hand, and North plays the nine. What should you do?

If you play the king ("Eight ever, nine never"), you are in effect playing the opening leader to have started with the three hearts he has shown, two diamonds (only), exactly four clubs, and therefore four spades, i.e., a 4=3=2=4 hand. And if you finesse in diamonds, you are playing for him to have one extra diamond, that can come only at the expense of the spade suit (since the count in the other suits is known by now). That is, you will be playing him for a 3=3=3=4 hand. In the first case, LHO would have had four spades and four clubs, and he led clubs from a suit such as ace-eight-six-five. Is that likely? Is it not more probable that he would have led spades (from whichever holding he has in the suit)?

Reasoning like that, I finessed in diamonds, and was rewarded when East showed out.

If you are a math genius, willing to do these kinds of calculations in your head while playing the deal (which is not my case, truth be told), you will see that the 4=3=2=4 hand is almost twice as likely as the 3=3=3=4 hand, which is an argument against the diamond finesse. You have to weigh this kind of consideration along with the psychological aspects of the choice of opening lead. As you know by now, in my opinion, the psychological clue is dominant in our example hand, but there are situations in which the math is compelling; each player must make his own decisions at the table.



Brazilian Federation Issues Cheating Suspension

by Bridge Winners Jan. 28

Leda Pain, a top female player from Brazil and the wife of multiple-time world champion Gabriel Chagas, was suspected to be using unauthorized information when playing online on BBO in early 2020. A thorough investigation was conducted by the Federação Brasileira de Bridge (FBB), which ultimately resulted in a three-year suspension. Part of the allegation against Ms. Pain was collusive cheating while playing with her husband. An investigation of Mr. Chagas is ongoing

The disciplinary process taken by the FBB is laudable in terms of its thoroughness, transparency, and fairness to the accused. The investigation consisted of three phases, during which outside experts in both statistics and bridge were consulted. Ms. Pain was given the opportunity to dispute the evidence presented against her during each phase. Details from every step of the investigation are available on the FBB's website. http://www.bridge.esp.br/processo_leda.php

Players can report suspicious boards on the FBB webpage. When a substantial number of credible allegations are reported about one player, the Ethical Committee (EC) begins the first phase of the investigation process. The EC evaluated 13 suspicious deals submitted to it, asking the accused players for explanations of the actions that were considered suspect. When these explanations were not deemed satisfactory the EC recommended and the board approved that the investigation be escalated to phase two. (The EC is an advisory panel, and all decisions are made by the board.)

The second phase was an analysis conducted by a non-bridge-playing statistician. A group of 24 players, including the accused, was chosen and 344 boards played by each member of this group was given to the statistician for analysis. The players chosen as the sample group were at or above Ms. Pain's ranking in the FBB and had played at least 344 boards in recent official tournaments. Players who had partnered Ms. Pain for a significant number of boards were not included. The analysis was done with no names, simply looking at IMP gains/losses. The statistician identified one outlier whom he believed warranted further investigation. This was Ms. Pain. She was again given the opportunity to contest the findings and offer explanations

Huib Bertens Suspended 7 Years by USBF for Cheating

by [Bridge Winners](#) Jan. 31

The USBF made the following announcement on January 31, 2021:

VERDICT AND NOTICE OF DISCIPLINE

The [United States Bridge Federation](#) (the "USBF") held an Invitational Online Bridge Tournament from May 30, 2020 to June 3, 2020 (the "USBF Invitational"). During the USBF Invitational, players reported that Mr. Huib Bertens appeared to have illicit knowledge of deals he was playing.

In light of the allegations, the USBF requested its outside counsel to assemble an expert committee of USBF members (the "Investigating Committee") to investigate the allegations. After a thorough examination of the facts, the Investigating Committee produced a report totaling more than 700 pages including Appendices (the "Final Report"). In the Final Report, the Investigating Committee unanimously concluded that Mr. Bertens "illegally possessed and used information about other players' hands."

Pursuant to the USBF Guidelines for Conducting Adjudicatory Proceedings (the "USBF Guidelines"), the Investigating Committee submitted its Final Report to the COO of the USBF to determine whether charges should be brought against Mr. Bertens.

After reviewing the Final Report, the COO determined that a prima facie case had been made that Mr. Bertens had obtained information about other players' hands in violation of the USBF Competitor's Agreement, the USBF General Conditions of Contest, the Laws of Duplicate Contract Bridge, and an email regarding ethics that was sent to all participants shortly before the USBF Invitational.

On September 7, 2020, pursuant to the USBF Guidelines, the COO forwarded to the USBF Board of Directors the Charge against Mr. Huib Bertens and requested that the Board convene as an Adjudicatory Committee to hold a hearing.

Over the next 4-1/2 months, the USBF Adjudicatory Committee: (a) examined all 253 USBF Invitational hands in which Mr. Bertens was involved; (b) reviewed hundreds of pages of documents, including expert reports, submitted by the Attorney-Advocate for the Charging Party; (c) reviewed hundreds of pages of documents, including expert reports, submitted by the three (3) Attorney-Advocates for Mr. Bertens; and (d) listened to fourteen (14) days of live testimony.

The USBF Adjudicatory Committee, after full and careful consideration of all the subject USBF Invitational hands and all of the other evidence, arguments, and testimony presented by the Parties and their Attorney-Advocates,

unanimously finds, to its comfortable satisfaction, that Mr. Bertens is guilty as charged.

DISCIPLINE

The Adjudicatory Committee of the USBF imposes the following sanctions. Effective immediately, Mr. Huub Bertens is:

1. Barred from membership in the USBF until January 1, 2028, at which time he may reapply for membership in the USBF;
2. On probation for a three-year period commencing on the date, if any, that he is re-admitted as a member of the USBF; and
3. Barred for life from serving on the Board of Directors of the USBF.

CONFIDENTIALITY

Pursuant to the USBF Guidelines, no member of the Adjudicatory Committee may discuss any aspect of these confidential proceedings.

Dated: January 31, 2021

€\$ £ ¥ An Appeal for
Research Funding €\$ £ ¥

Last month, Dr. Marek Malysa's preliminary work teaching bridge to Alzheimer's patients in Poland was featured on page one of the IBPA Bulletin. The initial report has now been published and is available on the IBPA website; here is the link:

[http://www.ibpa.com/
How_learning_to_play_bridge_affects_well-being_and_cognitive_skills.pdf](http://www.ibpa.com/How_learning_to_play_bridge_affects_well-being_and_cognitive_skills.pdf)

You'll need to paste it into your browser (remove the blanks) as the links do not work after the conversions from email to my publishing software, then to pdf.

The research, conducted by Nicolas Copernicus University in Torun, is in need of funding. Every little bit helps. Should you be able to help, please contact Marek on marekmalysa4@gmail.com and he will give you details on how to contribute to this worthy effort.



Correspondence

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

Dear John,

I have just finished the final version of the report from research in Welfare Houses. It's a pilot to the main research we are going to start just after Covid-19

vaccination of the elderly in Poland, so within two months. The Foundation has some money to start, but not enough to finish the research project. We will start with initial checks and tests of some 80-100 people and, later, begin teaching them bridge.

As you can see I, the retired one, am rather busy with work for bridge promotion. I would appreciate your comments and opinion and to ask people you know (as we agreed you know everybody and everybody knows you) to help with funding for our research project.

With very best regards, Marek Malysa

The World Bridge Tour

Hi there.

The World Bridge Tour is an arena for tournament players at all levels, with focus on fair play and developing bridge.

Thomas Charlsen and Boye Brogeland started the concept through the company World Bridge Holding, where Martin Andresen is also a board member. More information about us and the WBT you can find here: <https://www.worldbridgetour.org/about>.

The WBT tournaments are in two categories; Champions Cup (for top players) and Challengers Cup (for aspiring players). The first Champions Cup tournament was arranged in the beginning of January, and the results and ranking are here:

<https://www.worldbridgetour.org/results-and-ranking>.

Information about the Challengers Cup can be found here:

<https://www.worldbridgetour.org/wbt-challengers-cup>

In order to play WBT tournaments you need a WBT membership. This is free of charge and you can sign up here: <https://www.worldbridgetour.org/sign-up>

As of today we have more than 800 approved WBT-members.

In cooperation with the Online Contract Bridge League (OCBL) we feature a daily journal where deals and results from our tournaments are published. The journal can be found here: <https://ocbl.org/journal/>

Some of the WBT tournaments have been streamed on our Twitch Channel with skilled commentary. Future and past streams (the WBT OCBL League has live streaming on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays from 21.40 CET / 15.40 EST) you can watch here: <https://www.twitch.tv/worldbridgetour>

I hope this sounds interesting and that you would like to play in and/or follow the World Bridge Tour.

Best regards, Boye Brogeland tel. +47 958 25 025
email: boye@bin.no or info@worldbridgetour.org

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> Hopes to begin live bridge again in 2021

EBL: Plans to hold the European Championships live in June.

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. Sweden plans to hold the Swedish Festival live in July.

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>

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

This Bulletin: You can access an electronic copy of this Bulletin at www.ibpa.com/673tb.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