



## BULLETIN

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## THE INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE PRESS ASSOCIATION

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## Faces of Bridge



Photos: Henrik Hansson

These are two of the stunning photos created by Henrik Hansson and nominated for the 2021 World Press Photo awards. See the story on page 2.

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Swedish photographer Henrik Hansson's series of eight photographs, called "Faces of Bridge", taken at the Borlänge Bridge Club in Sweden, has been nominated, and is a finalist, for the 2021 World Press Photo of the Year, in the Sports category. There are two other shortlisted candidates. All the nominees in every category can be seen at:

<https://www.worldpressphoto.org/collection/photocontest/2021>

The award winners will be announced online on April 15, 2021.

Borlänge is about 200 km northwest of Stockholm. Borlänge Bridge Club has about 100 members and

solved the members' need for face-to-face bridge during 2020 with the help of Plexiglas screens separating the players. Hansson brilliantly captured the character of the players and the intensity of the game with his photos.



Henrik Hansson

## Live Bridge in the Covid-19 Era

Elena Ström, Solna, Sweden



Another bridge club in Sweden dealt with the difficulties of the pandemic in a similar fashion. Here is its story.

A coronavirus-free club setting: how to be that lucky? The S:t Erik Bridge Club in Stockholm is said to be biggest in the world – the latest reported membership, as of March 5, 2021, is 2289 members. Many of them have been worried about live bridge and are wondering in what way they can safely play bridge during the pandemic. Most bridge clubs have suspended activity and online bridge has been the only viable option.

The overall regulations are crystal-clear – keep a safe distance and avoid crowded areas – but how could one follow these rules when the usual number of participants at S:t Erik is between 50 and 100 pairs? To many of those, socializing is as important as merely playing the game.

The club management, however, found a brilliant way to provide the players with the best and safest

possible conditions during the pandemic. The schedule includes only three pair events weekly and the number of pairs, as a further safety measure, is reduced to 24. The tables are spread out in the huge playing area and have a Plexiglas screen on each one, separating the four players. Only one of them handles the Bridgemate: none of the other three touches the device. One opponent checks the inserted result and confirms it with a nod.

There are a few things I found to be unique when I first took part in a pair event last year. The convention cards were pinned with laundry pegs to the Plexiglas' upper corner! Apart from these inexpensive and practical accessories, there were transparent storage boxes placed on a stool by every table. Each box contained a set of 24 boards which were for the use of only those sitting at that table. All of these sets of boards were put in quarantine after every session and were not used until the week after.

Another novelty was the 'travelling bidding box', given to each player, which had to be used for the entire session while going from one table to another. There were many disinfectants placed in different places around the club. My general impression was that people were playing with a laid-back attitude and yet with a will to win. The only issue which troubled the players was the difficulty in participating in any club event: just three events weekly and only 48 lucky participants each time! You must book online two months in advance and, even then, you may find yourself holding a place in the queue.

On one occasion at the club, I interviewed the young Swedish World Champion, Ola Rimstedt (one of the twin brothers who won the World Open Pairs in Orlando in 2018). We decided to meet at St Erik and I asked him what a professional bridge player misses most in the COVID-19 era. Here is what he replied:

"I made 240 trips abroad (mostly to the United States) during 2019. I've had none since March of last year. I really love travelling, meeting new people and playing bridge live."

I guess we are all longing for the same thing as Ola – to cross borders and meet with friends.



These deals are from recent online games. The first is from the Challengers Cup.

**Board 17. Dealer North. Neither Vul.**

<p>♠ A J 5 2 ♥ J 3 ♦ 6 5 2 ♣ K 9 8 6</p> <p>♠ 10 4 ♥ 10 6 5 2 ♦ J 10 8 3 ♣ J 7 5</p>	<p>♠ 8 7 6 3 ♥ Q 9 ♦ A K 7 ♣ A 10 4 2</p> <p>♠ K Q 9 ♥ A K 8 7 4 ♦ Q 9 4 ♣ Q 3</p>		
<p><b>West</b> <i>Fossum</i> — Pass</p>	<p><b>North</b> <i>Bilgen</i> Pass 1♠</p>	<p><b>East</b> <i>Bogo</i> 1♣ Pass</p>	<p><b>South</b> <i>Sen</i> 1♥ 4♠</p>

This nearly hopeless contract drifted two off on a high diamond lead and a trump shift. Declarer did not have the entries or the trumps to handle it; minus 100.

At the other table, it was a bit less difficult for declarer to find the game-going tricks.

West	North	East	South
<i>Peyret</i>	<i>Bakke</i>	<i>Erbil</i>	<i>Grude</i>
—	Pass	1♣	1♥
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♥	Pass	2♠
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

The defence started with three rounds of diamonds. Bakke took the third trick in dummy and played the queen of clubs to East's ace. East shifted to a spade and declarer played four rounds of the suit, discarding a heart from dummy. On these, West had an insoluble problem. A diamond discard would have allowed declarer to make an extra trick in West's other discarded suit; a heart and a club would have allowed declarer to make an extra trick in either of those suits; and finally, two club discards allowed declarer to make an extra trick in clubs after cashing the two high hearts. Eleven IMPs to ABISCO.

That board was crucial in ABISCO's win in the final by 52-42 IMPs against the Turkish team ARMA. ABISCO comprised Birgitte Fossum, Kare Bogo, Christian Bakke, Frederik Helness, Tor Grude, Fredrik Simonsen, Kristoffer Hegge and Stian Evenstad, while the Turks were Erdagan Kaya/Sedat Aluf, Tezcan Sen/Mert Bilgen, and Erdinc Erbil/Hakan Peyret.

The following deal arose in the NAOBC Premier Teams. How would you play five diamonds as West on the nine-of-clubs lead (low from odd, third-best from even, standard honour leads)?

**Dealer North. EW Vul.**

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Brogeland</i>	<i>Yilmaz</i>	<i>Lindqvist</i>	<i>Gur</i>
—	Pass	Pass	1♥
Double	3♥	Double	Pass
4♦	Pass	5♦	Pass
Pass	Pass		

You play the jack of clubs from dummy, South encourages with the five and you follow with the four (hoping to discourage). When you lead a diamond from dummy, South follows with the king and you win with the ace. What now?

It appears that North has led from a doubleton club and that South has guessed correctly by ducking his ace. If South has a doubleton king-queen of diamonds, all you have to do is play another trump. However, if South's king is singleton, North will have queen-third

of trumps and a club ruff is threatened. If that's the case, you must get rid of a club in your hand or two clubs in the dummy to avoid the ruff. (Note that the outstanding diamond spots are the four and two.)

Since there is no way to get rid of a club from your hand, you focus on discarding two clubs from the dummy. To do that, you'd need North to hold queen-ten-third of spades: a spade to the jack, ace of spades (dropping the queen), heart to the ace, king of spades (dropping the ten - sneaky North) and finally, the established nine of spades. It would not matter if North had ruffed or not. He could not make his low diamond.

Is that what happened? Certainly not!

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

The lead and play were less than optimal. North led a heart. Declarer won, led a club to the dummy, ducked by South, led a diamond to the king and ace, then led a second diamond. When North won with the queen and, with no other hope, led a second club, declarer was beaten on a club ruff. That was 6 IMPs to North/South with the three diamonds making five at the other table.

On the actual heart lead, there were four possible lines of play in five diamonds:

- (i.) Play the ace and another diamond, relying on the spade finesse if diamonds were three-one and the defence led a third one;
- (ii.) Lead a spade to the ace, a diamond to the king and ace, play the king of spades, ruff a spade, ruff a heart, ruff a spade and play a diamond. This line requires diamonds to be two-two as, with three-one diamonds, the defence will force you in hearts when they win their diamond trick, win the club ace and cash a heart.
- (iii.) Play as declarer did, relying on three-three clubs or the defence's inability to secure a club ruff if trumps were not two-two.
- (iv.) Play the ace-king of spades and ruff a spade before playing trumps. Then play a diamond to the king and ace, ruff your last spade and play a trump. This line requires spades four-three or not losing two trumps tricks.

I leave it to you to decide the best line. To some extent, it depends on your assessment of the likelihood of South's playing the king of diamonds from the king-queen; perhaps Restricted Choice applies.

The next deal is from the Mini Alt Swiss Teams which was held from the 15<sup>th</sup> to the 17<sup>th</sup> of March.

**Round 10. Board 5. Dealer North. NS Vul.**

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

West	North	East	South
Zia	Einarsson	N. Gupta	Jorgensen
—	1♦ <sup>1</sup>	Pass	1♥
Double	Redouble <sup>2</sup>	4♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. 4+ diamonds, unbalanced or semi-balanced
2. 3-card heart support

Jorgensen led his singleton diamond jack to the queen, king and ace. At trick two, Gupta gave up a heart to South and, when that defender shifted to the two of spades, declarer took the trick with dummy's king. Declarer cashed the ace of hearts and ruffed a club, ruffed a diamond in dummy (club discard from South) and another club in hand. South followed to the clubs with the six and eight. Gupta led the nine of diamonds and discarded the five of hearts from dummy. South discarded the queen of clubs, keeping the two. North returned the king of hearts ruffed by declarer with the jack of spades. With declarer having taken six tricks and the defence two, this was the position:

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

When declarer led the eight of diamonds, South could either let him win it, discarding a club, or ruff it and let declarer over-ruff and ruff a club with the nine of

spades. Either way, South could not stop East from making four more tricks.

In the other room, the same contract was down two and GUPTA won 11 IMPs against BALDURSSON. Nine other declarers made four spades and nine went down. On a diamond to the ace, a heart ducked and a spade shift, ten tricks are always available on a cross-ruff. Declarer ruffs whichever suit South keeps.

The tournament was won by QUARANTEM: Jacob Freeman, Finn Kolesnik, Christian Lahrmann, Katherine Todd, Marcel Verhaegen, Asaf Yekutieli, Ami Zamir and Gabriele Zanasi.



The prizes for the best played deals of 2020 have been presented by the Norwegian Bridge Press Association and, in the Open class, Tor Helness was awarded the prize for his defence against three notrump from an ACBL Nationals final:

**Dealer South. EW Vul.**

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

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
—	—	—	Pass
INT	2♣ <sup>1</sup>	3NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		
1. Majors			

Geir Helgemo started with queen of diamonds, which was allowed to hold. The continuation was a diamond to the ace and a third one went to the king. West played on clubs, but Helness ducked three times, leaving West with no chance to land the contract. If South had taken his ace earlier, North would have been squeezed in the majors.

In the junior class, one of our coming stars, Thea Indrebø earned the prize for this effort from a match

in the opening rounds of the Norwegian Teams Championships:

**Dealer South. Both Vul.**

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

The junior girls bid their way to slam in this way:

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
—	—	—	1♣ <sup>1</sup>
Pass	1♦ <sup>2</sup>	Pass	1♥ <sup>3</sup>
Pass	2♣ <sup>4</sup>	Pass	2♠
Pass	4♥	Pass	4NT <sup>5</sup>
Pass	5♥ <sup>6</sup>	Pass	6♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. 2+ cards
2. Hearts
3. 3 hearts
4. Checkback
5. RKCB
6. 2 key cards, no heart queen

The diamond lead was taken by the ace. Indrebø led a heart to the nine and knave. A diamond was played back to the ten, king and a ruff, and the ace of trumps revealed the unkind distribution. Three rounds of clubs (West declining to ruff), a club ruff and a spade to the ace left this ending:

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

The seven of clubs finished West. He discarded a diamond and Indrebø sluffed dummy's ten of spades. The king of spades completed Indrebø's fine declarer play, gaining 13 IMPs when the contract was four hearts making five at the other table.

With the coronavirus still heavily influencing our bridge life, Internet bridge activity is blooming. In the OCBL ,

Tom Johansen from Vestfold in southern Norway confirmed his reputation for creativity and his ability to place his opponents in difficult situations.

**Dealer South. EW Vul.**

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

Johansen was West and the bidding against a Hungarian team went:

West	North	East	South
—	—	—	1♣
1♠	Double	Pass	INT
2♠	2NT	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Johansen's six-of-spades lead was taken by dummy's ten. It is hard to see how things can go wrong for declarer from here.

At trick two, declarer played a club to the king, winning, and played a diamond to the knave and queen. He cashed the ace and jack of hearts and played the queen of clubs to West's ace. Johansen returned the king of diamonds to dummy's ace. Declarer cashed dummy's hearts and played a spade to his queen, confident that West was left with only black cards. To his absolute surprise, Johansen produced the six of diamonds with an innocent smile and East, with his near-Yarborough, put the contract one down. Team Skeidar was the only one among 33 teams to produce a plus score with the East/West cards.

The next one is also a defensive move, again sending his opponents astray:

**Dealer North. Neither Vul.**

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

The bidding with Tom in the East seat:

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

Lasse Aaseng led the eight of clubs and the nine was allowed to hold. Declarer played a low heart from dummy, and East's queen took the trick. Johansen led the ace and another club, West throwing a spade. South cashed his king of hearts and three diamonds tricks and, when he took his ace of spades, Johansen contributed the queen! Convinced that East had started with a 2=3=3=5 distribution, declarer played a heart to the ace and uttered a sigh of anguish when Johansen showed out. Nice defence, but declarer could have done better by cashing the king and ace of hearts and playing a low heart towards the nine, catering for both the actual layout and hearts three-three.

Finally we see Johansen perform as declarer:

**Dealer North. NS Vul.**

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

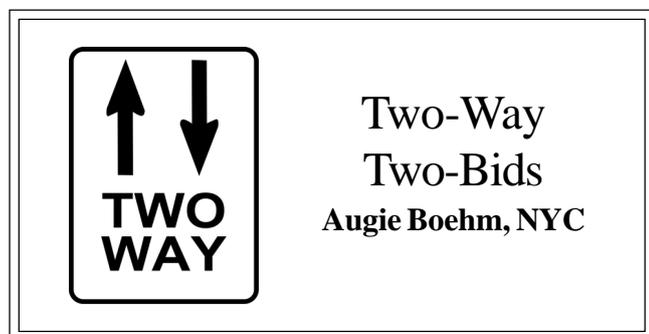
West	North	East	South
—	1♣	2♣ <sup>1</sup>	Double
3♠	Pass	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	4♠	Pass
pass	4 NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

1. Majors

Johansen ought to have doubled four spades and collected 800 or so but, instead, he got a chance to shine as declarer. The opening lead was the three of spades to the queen and ace. It was a disappointment to see East discard on a club to the knave. Johansen lead a low heart to East's queen; that was followed by a spade to West's nine, and West returned the ten of clubs to the king. Johansen ducked a spade to the king, and the nine of clubs went to dummy's queen. Declarer cashed the ace of hearts and the ace of clubs, then played a diamond to the king, leaving this position:

♠ —	♠ —
♥ —	♥ K
♦ K 10	♦ J 4
♣ 7	♣ —
♠ J	
♥ J	
♦ 9	
♣ —	

The scene was set for a double squeeze when Johansen cashed the knave of spades. West was forced to keep his club stopper, and East had to retain his king of hearts. The king and ten of diamonds produced the rest of the tricks for a gain of 13 IMPs, since South at the other table went down in three notrump.



In the early 1970's, I formed a partnership with Michael Engel. He had finished playing with Ira Rubin, a terrific player but, unfortunately, prone to tirades at the table – not for nothing was Ira nicknamed “The Beast.” Michael brought with him remnants of Ira’s distinctive methods, most notably Two-Way Two-Bids, which we modified to suit our own tastes.

Openings of two diamonds, two hearts, and two spades showed either an Acol hand in the bid suit, or a weak-two in the next higher. An Acol hand was defined as eight to eight-and-a-half playing tricks with five to seven two-one control points (ace=two, king=one), usually a one-suiter (six-plus in length) that was solid or could play independently for one loser. The Acol opener could also include a two-suiter, at least five-five, where both suits were extremely sturdy.

If you’re wondering how we were allowed to play such a method, we never played matchpoint events and only entered team games in New York, a permissive and experimental ACBL District which allowed the convention in knockout play but not at board-a-match. We had a lot of success and I later convinced other New York partners of the method’s merits.

(a) ♠xx ♥AK ♦AQJ10xxx ♣Kx opens two diamonds, strong in diamonds or weak in hearts.

(b) ♠x ♥KQJxx ♦A ♣AKJxx starts with two hearts and plans to rebid in clubs.

(c) ♠xxx ♥x ♦xxx ♣KQJxxx is free to open two spades, strong in spades or weak in clubs (the suit above), typically a good six-card suit. This gave us two ways to preempt in clubs to more than compensate for the lack of a weak-two in diamonds, the least useful weak-two.

How do auctions develop? Responder assumes the weak two, by far the more-likely possibility. If second-hand passes, responder has available a new suit or two notrump to force – our weak twos were quite traditional in that era. A correction, e.g., two diamonds–pass–two hearts is weakest, and a jump correction, two diamonds–pass–three hearts, simply furthers the preempt. If opener has the weak-two, he passes the non-forcing bids, and if responder forces with a new suit or two notrump, opener either raises with support or shows a feature. If second-hand overcalls, double is penalty.

Holding the Acol hand, opener continues over any signoff. With example (a), after two diamonds–two hearts, rebid three diamonds to confirm the Acol type. If responder jump-corrects to three hearts (preemptive), opener must bid four diamonds. Similarly, if responder forces with a new suit or two notrump, opener must jump (four diamonds) to differentiate the Acol hand from the weak two.

This may seem awkward, but compare it to opening hand (a) with one diamond and finding a descriptive rebid after a one-heart response. Acol one-suiters neatly fill the gap between a limited jump-rebid (here, three diamonds) and a two-club opening. In any event, if responder does jump, he should have the values to handle an Acol correction. Swap opener’s majors in (a) and a continuation of three notrump over three hearts makes sense, still showing long diamonds but offering to play, trusting responder to deliver a heart stopper. Sometimes the ‘sound’ of that auction will inhibit a damaging heart lead.

With example (b), after two hearts-pass-two spades, opener rebids three clubs to specify his Acol two-suiter. Here, there’s a useful corollary. Holding ♠KQxxx ♥x ♦AK ♣AQxxx, open one spade and rebid three clubs over a one notrump response. This is highly invitational but non-forcing since there is a clear inference that at least one of opener’s suits has holes. Responder could pass with ♠x ♥Kxxxx ♦QJxx ♣xxx, perhaps achieving the last available plus score.

The weak-twos showed to advantage in two ways. Firstly, when responder declared opener’s weak-two suit, the defence was more difficult, since the essentially known hand appeared in dummy while declarer’s hand was largely shrouded in mystery.

Secondly, the transfer angle could be useful when responder jumped to four hearts after two diamonds, holding (say): ♠AQxx ♥AQxx ♦xxx ♣Kx. You'd much rather have a spade or club lead come up to your tenaces than through them.

If you decide to adopt this convention, note a drawback: if you hold: ♠Kxxx ♥xx ♦KQxxx ♣xx opposite a two-heart opening, neither vulnerable, be wary of jumping to four spades. It's a bit of a gamble because an Acol opener must now commit to five hearts. Well, maybe you'll make it. Worse, though, opener may correct to five clubs with a heart-club two-suiter. Weaken your diamonds, with the same distribution, and four spades is riskier still because it lacks convertible high-card values. However, sometimes the second-hand-opponent intervenes, which increases the predictability of opener's weak-two, clarifying responder's plans.

To play the method, it is responsible to propose a suggested defense: a) a bid of the next higher suit is takeout of that suit, b) double equals a strong notrump, c) two notrump becomes available for some other usage, d) pass, then double is penalty since the trump stack is sitting over the weak-two, e) suit overcalls are natural.

This convention is old enough to seem new. It is not too complicated to handle, and it has passed the test in strong competition.



Each season sees a series of training weekends for each age group in the junior bridge world. I went to help at such a training weekend for the Under-26 group and prepared a series of deals on defence for them to play. This was one of them:

**Dealer North. Neither Vul.**

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

The suggested auction was:

West	North	East	South
—	1♦	Pass	1♠
Pass	4♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

West naturally leads a top club. What should East do to try to get West to give him a diamond ruff? This is an example of the 'wake up' signal. East should play the *queen* of clubs, a card that will make West wake up and wonder what is going on. After that, it shouldn't be too hard to find the diamond switch. Then a second club and a second diamond ruff will beat the game.

Two weeks later I was watching two of 'my girls' (I am in charge of the Under-26 women) playing in the Junior Camrose:

**Dealer South. EW Vul.**

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

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

North/South were soon in game after the Michaels two-suited overcall. West started with what she hoped would be a passive club. Declarer won in hand with the ace and played the jack of spades, covered by the queen and ace, followed by another spade, won by the king. Not sure how to proceed, West laid down the ace of hearts. And East, Laura Covill, was there with the *king*, to wake partner up. Her partner Siyu Ren duly woke up and delivered the club ruff to beat the game. I was glad to see some benefit of my coaching!

I captained the English U-26 women in the 2017 Junior European Championships, which were held in Samorin, Slovakia. There was a fantastic atmosphere, with all the English teams hanging out together and being supportive of each other. I was impressed by the cardplay of Alex Roberts, one of the U-26 players. (See *top of next page*.)

West led the two of diamonds and declarer won the first round, hoping to block the suit, as was in fact the case. It looks obvious to play a top heart now, but Roberts looked deeper into the deal.

**Dealer South. NS Vul.**

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

West	North	East	South
—	—	—	1♥
Pass	1♠	Pass	INT
Pass	3NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Robrts could see that if he played a heart, an opponent would win, East would unblock his diamond, and now a club would lock him in the dummy, and he would have no option but to play a low spade towards his hand. West would win his honour and cash a couple of diamonds, before sticking declarer back in dummy to lose another spade trick at the end.

Instead, declarer played off three rounds of clubs, discarding a heart, before playing a heart. West won and played a diamond to his partner's jack. East now cashed the jack of clubs, declarer discarding a diamond. East exited with a heart (as good as anything), and declarer won and cashed his remaining heart winners. In the ending, declarer had three spades in each hand and played the jack of spades. As it happened, the singleton king popped up and there were no more problems. However, had the jack of spades lost to East's honour, he would have had nothing but spades to return.

The English performance in the 2018 World Junior Championships was a little disappointing. I was captain of the U-26 girls and they certainly did not do as well as I had hoped – one of our problems was that the poor teams seemed to play very well and in luck when they were against us. Yvonne Wiseman, who unfortunately will be too old for future championships, handled this deal from the last match very well.

**Dealer South. NS Vul.**

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

The bidding was rather too aggressive (but it was the last match and we were out of contention for a qualifying spot):

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

Had West led her partner's suit there would have been no story, but she chose a spade instead. Wiseman felt that her right-hand opponent still looked happy, as if the contract would go down anyway, so she played her for the ace of clubs, winning the spade in dummy and leading the king of clubs. East won this trick and continued with the queen of hearts, ducked, followed by the ace and another heart. Yvonne won in hand and played a club. West did not disappoint her, going in with the queen and playing a second spade. There were nine tricks now and a game swing to England. Note that even if West had ducked her queen of clubs, declarer could have fallen back on the diamond finesse, though that would not have worked this time.

In December 2017, the English women's team travelled to Huai'an, China to play in the IMSA (International Mind Sports Association) tournament. The journey was a bit of a nightmare but, once there, everything ran smoothly.

This was the very first board:

**Dealer South. Neither Vul.**

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

The bidding was the same at both tables:

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

A diamond lead is fairly obvious, but what should East do when in with the first diamond? Nicola Smith switched to a spade. Declarer won in dummy and played a trump. Smith won with the ace and played another trump. West won the king and played a third round of the suit and declarer had to go down.

In the other room, East switched to the ace and jack of hearts. Again, West won with the king and continued the suit. Declarer, Fiona Brown, won the third heart and tried the ace of clubs. When East showed out, the distribution was more-or-less known, so she simply played off her club winners and her two remaining hearts. At the end, dummy held the spade suit it started with, and declarer held the queen of diamonds. East could not keep both suits guarded and declarer had made her game.

Smith's spade switch had broken up the squeeze position.

I would like to report that this was the first board of a decisive victory. Unfortunately it was all downhill from here and we lost the first match heavily.

For 32 boards, the final of last year's IMSA tournament against Sweden was very close. We were 1 IMP down after 16 boards and 1 IMP up after 32. Unfortunately the third set went against us and we ended up losing by 20. However, our best board in the final gained us 16 IMPs.

#### Dealer South. NS Vul.

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

♠ A 7 6 2
♥ 10 4
♦ J 10 9 6 3 2
♣ K

At my table the bidding was:

West	North	East	South
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	1♥	1♠	INT
Pass	3NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

West led the jack of spades, and that was that. Declarer ducked for a round but could not stop me getting in with the ace of diamonds to cash three more spade tricks. One down.

In the other room, our North-South pair did rather better:

West	North	East	South
—	—	—	2♦
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♦	Pass	4♠
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♣
Pass	6♦	Pass	Pass
Pass			

South's weak two-diamond opening may not be standard, but she was able to show the four-card spade suit in response to her partner's two-notrump enquiry. After a spade control-bid and a check on key cards, North bid the slam.

Now the spotlight turned to West, but why should she lead a spade, into declarer's second suit? She actually chose a club, and all declarer needed to do was knock out the ace of trumps. Nothing but a spade would have worked; 16 much-needed IMPs for our side.

Bridge is a high-focus activity in China, especially the women's game. The bridge players are celebrities and their games are frequently televised. Consequently, there is a great deal of sponsorship and we are the lucky recipients, having been invited to many Chinese bridge events. In October 2017, we went to the Hua Yuan Cup, the World Women's Elite Bridge Tournament. There were eight teams invited to play in a pairs event followed by a teams competition, with a total prize pool of over \$200,000. My partner Fiona Brown and I came second in the pairs event, but our team only came sixth out of eight in the teams.

The pairs was rather extraordinary in that we were lying second at the two-thirds stage and, despite scoring only 48% in the final stage, managed to hold on to our second spot.

We like to play aggressive opening two bids – it often pays dividends to put the opponents under pressure.

#### Dealer West. NS Vul.

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

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

First-in-hand at favourable vulnerability is my favourite position, and I like to get into the bidding if I possibly can. Therefore, I opened two spades, showing about 8-11 with a six-card suit. I reckoned that my second five-card suit gave me sufficient playing strength to make up for my lack of a sixth spade. Partner raised to four spades and South had to guess. Maybe we were completely stealing from her – how was she to know? In the event she chose to bid five diamonds which we doubled for an 800 penalty and one of our better boards.



# The Quest

Frank Stewart  
Fayette, Alabama

This article appears on The Bridge World's website at:  
<https://www.bridgeworld.com/pages/readingroom/esoterical/Quest222.html>

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This piece is in remembrance of Geza Ottlik's extraordinary and award-winning article of the same title. It appeared in *The Bridge World's* December 1967 issue, some 50-odd years ago.

Much of my work involves analyzing deals. I produce a 7/52 newspaper column—avoiding errors there is a treacherous business—commentary for ACBL-wide events and articles for various publications. As long as I can do *The New York Times* Sunday crossword, I figure I'm not on the brink of senility. Still, having passed my three score and ten, I must worry that my brain may be headed toward atrophy.

To keep my powers of analysis from corroding, I often look at the deals from a nearby club; they are posted online with a double-dummy analysis. It can be an amusing exercise. The results reflect the skill level in a typical club game. I see contracts so bizarre that how they happened defies my imagination. I have seen—more than once—three notrump played in both directions, and three notrump (making) when declarer had a low singleton club on his own hand and in dummy. I have seen a result of four hearts, making seven, when a defender had queen-jack-seven of trumps behind declarer's ace-king and three notrump, down three, when declarer had nine top tricks. I hope I never find out how such things happened.

I focus on the number of winnable tricks at the most common contract. If the analysis indicates that South can make three notrump and it looks utterly impossible, I try to figure out how it can be done. And so my quest.

Sometimes a solution is self-evident.

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

At three spades, South is off two trumps, three clubs and a diamond, but the analysis stated that he can take nine tricks. Clearly, only an endplay against East could produce that result. Suppose West leads a diamond, and East takes the ace, cashes the club ace and exits with a diamond.

Declarer wins and must not take the ace of trumps. He cashes three hearts for club discards and ruffs dummy's last heart. When he leads a trump next and West discards, dummy plays the ten (or the four). If East returns a red card, declarer pitches his last club as dummy ruffs, and East gets one more trump trick. If instead East leads a trump, his second trump trick vanishes.

That deal was easy enough, but on many occasions, a winning play is less obvious.

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

North-South—so says the analysis—can make seven clubs.

West leads a trump. I saw 12 tricks, and I noted that South could transfer the guard in spades to West by leading the queen and later the ten from dummy, forcing East to cover. But the thirteenth trick eluded me; garden-variety squeezes were unpromising. If declarer cashed some trumps, East would have to pitch a heart to guard spades and diamonds and prevent declarer from setting up a trick in one of those suits. Still, East would have an idle spade to discard, and since he was discarding behind dummy...

Eventually, I returned to West's significant spade spots. Let South win a heart opening lead, take the spade ace and lead the queen: king, ruff, six. He leads a diamond to dummy, returns the trump jack and runs the trumps to reach:

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

Cont. on page 14...



# IBPA Column Service

**Tim Bourke, Canberra**



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

### 1041. Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
—	—	—	1♠
Pass	1NT <sup>1</sup>	Pass	2♣
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. Forcing for one round

This deal was played in four spades after identical auctions in a team match. Both West players led the king of hearts, seeking to develop tricks in that suit, rather than leading the singleton in declarer's second suit.

The first declarer proceeded quickly and without evident thought. He took the king of hearts with the ace and drew trumps ending on the table. Next, he led the ten of clubs and ran it when East played low. He was pleased to see that he had won the trick but was less pleased when he led a club to his jack and West discarded a diamond. Now he had to lose two hearts, a diamond and a club for down one.

At the other table, declarer took a moment to form a better plan. Like his counterpart, he observed that his best chance to make the contract was for East to hold the king of clubs. So, after winning the first trick with dummy's ace of hearts he led the two of clubs and played the jack on East's low card. When that held, he cashed the king and queen of trumps. After a trump

to dummy's ace, he called for the ten of clubs and ran it when East followed with another low club. West's discard of a diamond on the second club was not a problem, for it allowed declarer to claim ten tricks on the marked club finesse.

### 1042. Dealer North. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
—	1♥	3♠	5♥
Pass	5♠	Pass	5NT
Pass	6♦	Pass	7NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

South's leap to five hearts asked for a spade control and North duly showed his ace of spades, which South knew could not be a void, for otherwise North would not have had an opening bid. Five notrump asked for more information and North bid his king of diamonds. The final leap to seven notrump was not a big gamble, on the grounds that North had an opening bid and East likely had both the king and queen of spades.

West led the ten of diamonds. Declarer played low from dummy and was surprised to see East discard a spade. After winning the first trick in hand with the jack of diamonds, declarer cashed three top clubs, discarding a spade from dummy. When East discarded a spade on the third club, declarer knew that East must have at least three hearts. So, declarer cashed his king of hearts, noting that both defenders followed

with low cards. Next, declarer led a spade to dummy's ace. When West followed with the two of spades, declarer counted East as have started with an original 7=4=0=2 distribution (and West with an initial 1=1=6=5 shape).

So, declarer led the ten of hearts next and ran it when East played low. As expected, West could not follow, so declarer cashed the queen of hearts and claimed 13 tricks – one spade, five hearts, four diamonds and three clubs.

Since East observed that a spade lead would surely have beaten seven notrump, knocking out a dummy entry prematurely, he unkindly inquired if West had seen the bidding.

### 1043. Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
—	—	—	2NT <sup>1</sup>
Pass	3NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			
1. 20-21			

West led a fourth-highest seven of hearts. Declarer needed to win at least six tricks in the minor suits to make his contract. After calling for a low heart from dummy, declarer took East's jack of hearts with the king because he did not want a spade shift at trick two (a wise move, since a diabolical – but perhaps double-dummy – shift to the queen of spades at trick two would have seen the contract fail).

Declarer took the view that West was likely to be the danger hand with long hearts. So he cashed the ace of clubs and continued with the queen. After winning the trick with the king, West continued with the queen of hearts. Declarer let this hold as East followed with the nine. Declarer won the heart continuation, throwing a low spade from dummy.

Declarer continued with the queen of diamonds and ran it once West followed with a low card. East took the trick with the king of diamonds and exited with a spade. Declarer rose with the ace and claimed nine tricks: one spade, two hearts and the required six tricks in the minors.

Note that declarer would still have made his contract if hearts had been four-four. All he would have lost

would have been two hearts and the two minor-suit kings.

### 1044. Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
—	—	—	1♠
2♠ <sup>1</sup>	Pass	2NT <sup>2</sup>	3♣
3♦	4♣	Pass	Pass
Pass			

1. Michaels Cue-Bid: five hearts and a five-plus-card minor
2. Asks for the minor

The auction was both interesting and revealing. East's two-notrump bid did not promise values as East/West had agreed that three of either minor on this auction would have been to play.

West led the king of diamonds and got a count signal from East showing an odd number of diamonds. At trick two, West shifted to his trump.

Declarer had eight tricks and saw that he could only make ten tricks by ruffing two cards in the dummy. Consequently, if the defenders were able to lead a second trump, the contract would fail. To prevent this from happening, declarer had to stop East from gaining the lead and West had to have begun with only one trump. This could only be done if East had held at most one of the jack and ten of diamonds, so declarer took the trump switch on the table with the ten and led a low diamond. When East followed with the eight of diamonds, declarer covered it with the nine. West won the trick with the jack.

Thanks to South's bidding and East's signal at trick one, West counted declarer as having at most one heart and so shifted to the king of hearts. Declarer took this with dummy's ace, then cashed the ace and king of clubs and led his queen of diamonds. When West covered with the ace, declarer made the clever move of discarding dummy's remaining club.

West continued with the jack of hearts, but to no avail. Declarer ruffed with the six of trumps and was able to crossruff clubs and hearts over the next four tricks. That brought his total to nine tricks and the ace of trumps made ten.

When declarer takes the diamond ace next, neither defender can spare a spade. If West pitches one, declarer leads the spade ten from dummy, pinning West's nine; the five is high. So both defenders can keep only one heart, and declarer takes the ace and wins the last two tricks with a trump and a heart.

Sometimes an analysis will have an embedded clue: a contract will be shown to be makable from only one side of the table.

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

In real life, the contract was usually three notrump by North after he opened two notrump. A few Souths passed two notrump—right in theory but not in practice. East led a spade, and West took the ace and returned a spade. Declarer unblocked his high hearts and led a diamond, and even if he misguessed and played the jack from dummy, he had a chance for a second diamond play later. He won two spades, four hearts, two clubs and a diamond, and plus 600 was a common result.

But the analysis indicated that three notrump by North is down. For a change, I saw the reason quickly. Let East lead the diamond three! If North puts up the king, his entry to the fourth heart is gone. He can take two spades, three hearts, a diamond and two clubs but no more. If instead declarer plays the jack on the first diamond, West wins. and a club shift lets the defense prevail.

Three notrump played by South is unbeatable, though if West leads a club, South must guess to lead a diamond to the king. If West leads a diamond, and East wins and returns a diamond, South can duck to West. West can't gain by returning a diamond. South can win a club shift, unblock in hearts, get to his hand with the diamond king to take the heart jack, and (luckily) win two spade tricks.

A hazard I face in discerning a winning play is to start down a false path and stay on it too long.

(See top of next column.) How North-South might get to five clubs is unclear, but the analysis says they can make it. When I saw that, I thought declarer might endplay West to concede a heart trick or maybe do something with South's diamond spots.

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

All that was illusory, of course, as eventually I found out. If West leads a trump, declarer draws trumps, takes the top spades, ruffs a spade, comes to the diamond ace and leads a heart, but West can win and lead a fourth spade; the ruff-sluff doesn't help declarer, who can score his remaining trumps separately anyway. He still has only the ten tricks with which he began.

The answer lay down another path. Declarer (South) wins a trump opening lead with dummy's king and leads a heart. The defense wins and leads a second trump. Declarer continues with a heart ruff, the diamond ace and a diamond conceded. If East leads another diamond, declarer ruffs in dummy, ruffs a heart, ruffs a diamond and leads dummy's last trump in this position:

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

A double squeeze brings home the contract. If the defenders lead spades early, they break up the squeeze, but then declarer wins 11 tricks with a crossruff.

As summer was fading away, I encountered a deal that put me in the unknown for days and sleepless nights.

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

North-South could make four spades (and four notrump) easily enough, but the analysis assured me that they could make five spades. That looked out of the question, but it had to be so.

Suppose West leads the diamond deuce. South has five trumps in his hand, a heart, two diamonds and two clubs. I tried various—and fruitless—lines. There had to be a squeeze, but the deal was complex; the mechanism eluded me.

One thing I have learned from my years of dissecting deals is that miraculous things can happen when declarer runs a long suit. While staring at the ceiling in bed one night, I imagined that South could win the first diamond in dummy, lead a trump to his nine and West's king, win the next diamond and lead the club queen: king, ace, three. He cashes the club jack and runs some trumps, reaching:

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

When South leads his last trump, East-West can turn in their swords. Suppose West discards a diamond; dummy does also. Then, if East throws a club, declarer exits with a diamond; on that trick, West is feloniously squeezed between hearts and clubs. If instead East throws a heart, South can lead the heart queen, pinning East's remaining honor to make the eight high.

If West discards the ten of clubs on the last trump, dummy discards a diamond again. East must keep his club nine to beat the four and discards the diamond queen. Then declarer exits with a diamond, forcing West to lead from the heart king.

And so I found that, born of a remarkable end-position, the 11 tricks that had been promised were duly there.

My quest had ended.



All bridge players have experienced a slam swing – maybe even in every second or third match, and the swing may easily have been instrumental in the result

of the match. Let's say a vulnerable slam turns out to be exactly 50%, and only one pair bids it, it's fifty-fifty whether they lose or gain 13 IMPs. Quite a difference!

If you and your partner bid an exceptionally good and makeable slam, and your opponents for some reason miss it, you gain a much-deserved slam swing of 13 IMPs, *but* unfortunately, we all have tried to go down by playing against the odds or being incautious after a long working day. In that case you have made what I'll call a *slam-swing-swing*. Those 26 IMPs are much harder to swallow!

In the following board from the Round of 64 of the Reynolds February Knockout, our teammates missed a laydown six-heart slam because East had forgotten that they played reverse responses after Exclusion Key-Card Blackwood compared to their normal Roman Key Card responses.

**Board 10. Dealer East. Both Vul.**

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

West	North	East	South
Yadny	Fampaaske	Borktalk	Sommer
—	—	Pass	Pass
1♥	2♣	3♣	3♦
6♥	Pass	Pass	7♣
Pass	Pass	7♥	Double
Pass	Pass	Pass	

At our table, West displayed great judgement by jumping to six hearts, where three clubs showed “very good heart support” and three diamonds was intended as lead-directing. West's firm and fast jump to six hearts made me think again. I had of course no idea that I was about to lose 13 IMPs, but I felt 99.9 % sure that six hearts was laydown. Therefore, I counted on my fingers that partner could afford to lose five tricks and still score 1 IMP. And maybe he might score 8 IMPs if he could hold it to four down! So I went for the sacrifice in seven clubs.

West's pass showed first-round club control and grand slam interest, and East went into the tank for a minute. He then turned up with seven hearts. I doubled and was even happier with my ‘great’ three-diamond bid. However, my partner had stronger feelings for the king of clubs, ruffed. Now I was incredibly happy that my

two of spades wasn't switched with East's two of diamonds.

The swing of minus 13 IMPs against us had turned into a swing of 13 IMPs for us, an extremely lucky way to 'earn' a *swing-swing* of plus 13 IMPs.

Back to seven clubs. If East had doubled instead of bidding seven hearts, the defence might have taken 1700 by leading the king of hearts and shifting to a low diamond or by taking one heart, three spades, then shifting to a diamond. If they miss the diamond shift, North will be able to endplay West in diamonds to lose 'only' 1400. On the other hand, minus 1700 for me would only have meant losing 14 IMPs instead of 13.



In a visit to the Alt IMP Swiss-Teams-Pairs, we were treated to some spectacular card play. Here is an example from Round 5.

So often, major swings are generated by what happens in the auction. On this deal, though, Swedish star Sandra Rimstedt missed an incredibly difficult defensive chance, allowing Poland's Marcin Lesniewski to display some wonderful skills as declarer.

**Dealer South. Both Vul.**

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

West	North	East	South
Lesniewski	Rimstedt	Seligman	Donner
—	—	—	Pass
1♠	Double	Redouble	2♥
Pass	Pass	3♥	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Rimstedt, North, started by cashing her two high clubs, and I doubt that many experts would even consider the only legitimate winning defence from here, which

is to continue clubs. (Declarer wins with the seven as South discards a diamond and, upon regaining the lead with the ace of diamonds, North then has to play a fourth club, on which South can pitch his last diamond.)

Understandably, Rimstedt cashed her ace of diamonds at trick three and continued with a second diamond. Lesniewski, who first became a World Champion with a victory in the Transnational Teams at the 1997 World Championships in Tunisia, demonstrated that none of his skills as a card player have diminished with age. Winning the diamond in dummy with the king (unblocking the ten from his hand), he cashed the king of spades and continued with a second trump to the jack. Then came the jack of diamonds, overtaken with the queen, and the jack of clubs.

South could not afford to ruff, so he pitched a heart and Lesniewski disposed of the last diamond from his hand. Again, South could not ruff when the nine of diamonds was led from dummy, so everyone threw a heart. Lesniewski now ruffed dummy's club and returned to dummy at trick 11 with the ace of hearts. South's remaining queen-nine of spades were thus gobbled up by declarer's ace-ten in a trump coup at the end for a magnificent plus 620 for East/West.

Two other declarers in the event also played in four spades (one of them doubled) and the first four tricks were the same. One went two down for minus 200, the other, three down for minus 800.



Every bridge-playing nation has a pool of former bridge players and administrators who have provided sterling service to the bridge populace. Australia has had many in this category, with one of the most notable being John Brockwell. John is well-known for his views on the game, helping bridge the dementia gap, and he has played an important role in popularising and promoting bridge for over 50 years. His story is a shining example of personal contribution. John is a Gold Grandmaster, a member of the ABF Committee of Honour since 1986 and a Life Member of the Canberra Bridge Club.

What would an article about a bridge star be without a favourite deal? John's was played in the final of the 1989 Far East Open Pairs Championship, Jakarta 1989, reported by John Wignall in the *FEBF Daily Bulletin* and George Havas in *The Australian*:

**Dealer North. Both Vul.**

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

West	North	East	South
<i>J. Borin</i>	<i>Wignall</i>	<i>N. Borin</i>	<i>Brockwell</i>
—	1♦	Pass	2NT <sup>1</sup>
Pass	3♦ <sup>2</sup>	Pass	4NT <sup>3</sup>
Pass	5♥ <sup>4</sup>	Pass	5NT <sup>5</sup>
Pass	7♦ <sup>6</sup>	Pass	7NT <sup>7</sup>
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. GF raise in diamonds, no major
2. Waiting, tell me more
3. Ordinary Blackwood
4. Two aces
5. King ask
6. I have heard enough
7. So have I

Seven diamonds is cold, but Brockwell (South, partnered by John Wignall, New Zealand, against Jim and Norma Borin) went on to seven notrump, believing that to be the safer contract.

On Jim Borin's lead of the queen of clubs, declarer won and ran the diamonds and cashed the ace and king of spades, discarding the ten and nine of hearts from dummy. This was the position before the last diamond was cashed:

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

George Havas wrote, "Look at the unbearable pressure this put on the defence. West must keep two clubs to avoid declarer making an extra club trick, but what other two cards should he keep? If West keeps two hearts, then, when declarer crosses to the ace of hearts and cashes the ace of clubs, East is squeezed in hearts and spades. To avoid this, Borin kept one heart and

one spade. But then, Brockwell crossed to the ace of hearts, dropping West's jack, cashed the ace of clubs, discarding his spade, before finessing the eight of hearts on the way back."

"Notice the importance of declarer's careful heart discards. Had he kept the nine or ten in dummy, the heart suit would have been blocked and declarer could not usefully have taken the heart finesse when East did not cover. It was a rare form of guard squeeze."



When I meet a new student who wants to take a class and says he plays well, I give him a declarer play exercise. Mondays are for beginners, Wednesdays are for intermediates and Fridays are for advanced players. This is the exercise.

**Board 10. Dealer East. Both Vul.**

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

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

South plays in four hearts and receives a low spade lead. Think about how you would play the deal. There is nothing special about it.

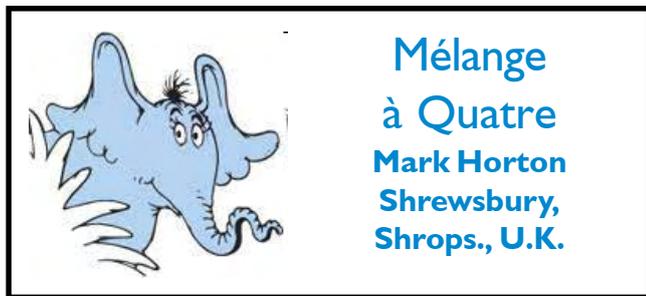
There are three losers: the trump ace and king and the ace of diamonds. You can discard the diamond loser on the third diamond.

Some players win the spade in either hand and play trumps – they take classes on Mondays. Others win with the king of spades and play on diamonds. That is not best, but if the defence wins with the ace of diamonds, declarer can succeed. (A defensive hold-up and spade continuation leads to declarer's defeat.)

Those players take classes on Wednesdays. A few players win the opening lead with the ace of spades in dummy and continue with the king of diamonds. That allows them to discard the spade loser on the third diamond whether the defence wins the first diamond or not. Those players take Friday classes.

Timing and transportation issues are important factors to take into account.

What day can I schedule you?



### A Loud Applaud

It is well-known that playing off a long suit can be the solution to your problem. Here is a superlative example from the February Mixed Pairs organised by the Monthly Mixed group: <https://mmt.bridgeresults.org/>

#### Board 9. Dealer North. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Robinson	Versace	Schwartz	Alpert
—	1♣	Pass	1♥
Pass	3NT	Pass	6NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Six notrump was reached four times. Two declarers received the lead of the ace of spades, which simplified matters. Here, declarer had to cope with the seven of diamonds. When dummy's nine held he was up to 11 tricks. With time in hand, he settled down to the clubs, cashing six tricks in the suit, followed by the ace of diamonds. These cards remained (See top of next column):

When declarer cashed the last club, discarding a heart, West parted with the ace of spades. Reading the situation accurately, declarer crossed to dummy with

a heart and exited with the queen of diamonds for plus 990 and what might have been described as a 'loud applaud'.

<p>♠ J 9 ♥ 10 2 ♦ — ♣ 8</p> <p>♠ A ♥ Q 7 6 ♦ K ♣ —</p> <p>♠ — ♥ A K J 8 ♦ Q ♣ —</p>	<p>♠ Q 8 6 5 ♥ 9 ♦ — ♣ —</p>
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### A Tale of Two Ducks

This deal from the Final Swiss of the OCBL February Open Teams was all about the play to trick one – as Reese and Trézel noted, it was a case of 'When to Duck and when to Win.'

Both sides had a chance to make a winning move – would it be declarer or a defender?

#### Board 13. Dealer North. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Engel	Winkler	Coenraets	Birman
—	1♥	Pass	1♠
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♠
Pass	Pass	2NT	Pass
3NT	Pass	Pass	Dble
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Before we look at the play ... (i.) How would you have treated a double of two spades by West? Given that you did not bid on the previous round, perhaps it should show this type of hand? and (ii.) Would you have reopened with double as East?

Anyway, South leads the ten of hearts against three notrump. How should you play?

The first thing to appreciate is that you have only one entry to dummy. You know North started with five hearts headed by the king-queen. If North does not have the queen of diamonds, you have little chance as

the defenders will surely score three hearts and two diamonds. If North has the king-queen of hearts and the ace-queen of diamonds, then he might have the king of clubs, but it is also possible that it will be with South. Have you made your decision?

The winning line is to take dummy's ace of hearts immediately and play the nine of diamonds, planning to run it if North plays low. If it holds, you can even afford to play a second diamond, leaving dummy's spades 'lonely on a rock' as Reese would have said. Let's say North takes the nine of diamonds with the ace and plays three rounds of hearts. You win with the jack, cash the ace of clubs and then play a club towards dummy's queen.

It may appear that you can achieve the same result by ducking the opening lead in dummy but, then, North can also duck, forcing you to win with the jack. Now, whatever you do, the defenders will take at least five tricks.

At the table, declarer played low from dummy at trick one and North followed with the four, sinking declarer's ship before it had left the harbour. Declarer won with the jack and played the ten of diamonds, North winning with the queen and exiting with a heart to dummy's ace. The best declarer can do now is cash the ace-king of spades and play a diamond but, when he played a diamond immediately, North went up with the ace, cashed his hearts and exited with a club for two down and minus 500.

## The Labours of Heracles – The Lernaean Hydra

Among the twelve labours of Heracles set by King Eurystheus was the second task: to kill the nine-headed Lernaean Hydra, not unlike the problem of securing nine tricks in a contract of three notrump.

### Board 7. Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
—	—	—	Pass
1♣	Dble	1♦	Pass
3NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

North led the three of hearts and, when declarer ducked, South played the ten. When South continued with the queen of hearts, declarer was tempted to win with dummy's ace, but with South marked with the queen-jack-ten, it was likely that North would hold most of the missing points, including the king of diamonds. It was also clear that North had led from a four-card suit, so he was unlikely to have five spades, which meant there was little chance of finding him

with a singleton diamond king. Although it was counter-intuitive, declarer ducked for a second time and South persisted with a third heart. Declarer took North's king with dummy's ace and settled down to his clubs suit, pleased to see North follow to the first two rounds. This was the five-card ending:

♠ K 6	♠ J 10 4
♥ —	♥ —
♦ A Q	♦ J 10
♣ 2	♣ —

When declarer cashed his last club, North, who had followed to three rounds of clubs and then pitched two spades, parted with the queen of spades. Declarer exited with the spade six and North won with the ace and exited with a heart to South's jack, but declarer could discard the queen of diamonds and secure the last two tricks with the king of spades and the ace of diamonds.

This was the full deal:

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

In the ending, North, down to the ace-queen of spades, the five of hearts and the king-seven of diamonds, was squeezed. If he had thrown a heart declarer would have had a choice of endplays, while parting with a diamond would have allowed declarer to cash the ace of diamonds, dropping the king.

If South had switched to a spade at trick three, declarer plays the king and North is stuck. If he now exits with a heart declarer wins in dummy and then runs the clubs to squeeze North in similar fashion.

The winning defence is for South to switch to a spade at trick two! North wins and must then go back to hearts. If declarer ducks, South wins and now has a choice of winning moves – the simplest being to exit with a diamond.

In Round 7 of the OCBL Cup the only defender to switch to a spade at trick two was Alain Lévy, his partner, Frédéric Volker winning with the queen and reverting to hearts, which saw declarer win and try the diamond finesse, resulting in two down to flatten the board when at the other table declarer missed the winning line of ducking the second heart.

## Garozzo's Advice

This deal is from the OCBL Open League. At one table, the defence had a useful bidding convention at their disposal, preventing the declaring side from bidding a slam they might otherwise have made, if the opening leader had ignored Benito Garozzo's advice, as did the South player at the other table.

### Board 10. Dealer East. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Bilde</i>	<i>Zorlu</i>	<i>Madala</i>	<i>Ucar</i>
—	—	1♠	Pass
4♣ <sup>1</sup>	Double <sup>2</sup>	Redouble <sup>3</sup>	Pass
4♦	Pass	4♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. Void
2. Lead the higher side suit
3. In light of the void-showing 4♣, was East on the same wavelength as West?

The idea of doubling a splinter to ask for a higher (or possibly, lower) suit has been around for some time. South led the three of hearts and the defenders took two tricks in the suit, plus 650. With four low cards in the red suits, perhaps East should have contented himself with four spades over the double.

West	North	East	South
<i>Aslam</i>	<i>Rosenberg</i>	<i>Kubac</i>	<i>Lebowitz</i>
—	—	1♠	Pass
2♦	Pass	2♠ <sup>1</sup>	Pass
4♣ <sup>2</sup>	Pass	4NT <sup>3</sup>	Pass
6♣ <sup>4</sup>	Pass	6♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. Does not guarantee six spades
2. Shortage
3. RKCB
4. Odd number of key cards and a club void

Some players do not like to underlead kings in any circumstances. Here, when South led the three of spades, ignoring Garozzo's advice to lead aggressively against slams, declarer soon had all the tricks for plus 1460 and 13 IMPs.



## Correspondence

The Editor reserves the right to abridge and/or edit correspondence.  
Email: [ibpaeditor@sympatico.ca](mailto:ibpaeditor@sympatico.ca)

Hi All,

Thanks for contributing to BAMSA work recently. I'm very happy to say that our new website is now up and running. The site is a key part of BAMSA's strategy to share research findings as widely as possible and the second phase will be to develop practical resources (from the research results) to promote the benefits of the mindsport bridge.

The website's url is:

[Bridge A MindSport for all – Connects People, Challenges Minds\(bridgemindsport.org\)](http://BridgeAMindSportforall-ConnectsPeople.ChallengesMinds(bridgemindsport.org)).

Although the site is live, we are not planning to launch it officially until we have tweaked it for improvements. The BAMSA project is designed to benefit the international bridge community and the website is intended to serve our partners as well as our staff. We are therefore looking for feedback before it is finalised.

As well as showcasing BAMSA's research projects, the site incorporates functions to streamline the administration of events and mailings. In the Events section, for example, there are online registration forms for our spring webinar and our online conference at the end of June.

At the bottom of the home page (and in other places on the site) there is a Subscribe button. In future, subscribing to the BAMSA Bulletin will be the best way to keep up to date with BAMSA news, events and publications (via quarterly updates). I shall no longer be sending BAMSA info out by individual emails, and I very much hope you will subscribe (we won't inundate you!).

It would be a great help if you could take a few minutes to explore the site before completing the [BAMSA Website Survey](#). We are interested in all comments, whether small or large, and if you have a suggestion for the next phase of the website's development or the research, please let us know.

Also if any of you have an old iPad I'd be keen to know if you can see the photo on the home page banner and if you can access the Resources page.

Thank you!

Samantha Punch, University of Stirling



## BAMSA Conference

*Bridge: A MindSport for All* (BAMSA) is hosting a free online international conference designed for academics, bridge players, teachers and organisers. The overall aim of the conference is to push the boundaries of current academic thinking and shape a future research agenda. Broadly speaking, the sessions on the first and third day are theoretical in focus, and those on the second and fourth day are more practical. In addition to the live sessions, recordings will be available on the BAMSA website from May 2021. The full programme and more information (including the registration form) are on the BAMSA website at: <https://bridgemindsport.org/conference-2021/>

### (1A) Mindsports in Academia & Society

**Mon 28 June 2021** 13:00-15:00 (BST UK) / 08:00-10:00 (EDT)

### (1B) Wellbeing & Bridge

**Mon 28 June 2021** 16:30-18:30 (BST UK) / 11:30-13:30 (EDT)

**Keynote Address** Prof Martin Seligman (University of Pennsylvania, USA)

### (2A) Impact of a Global Pandemic on Bridge

**Tues 29 June 2021** 11:30-13:30 (BST UK) / 06:30-08:30 (EDT)

### (2B) Digital Bridge & Cheating

**Tues 29 June 2021** 19:30-21:30 (BST UK) / 14:30-16:30 (EDT)

Panelists: Jan Kamras (EBL), Boye Brogeland and Steve Weinstein (World Champions)

### (3A) Ageing, Intergenerationality & Bridge

**Wed 30 June 2021** 10:00-12:00 (BST UK) / 05:00-07:00 (EDT)

*Social Identity, Ageing and Third-Places* Polly Fong (Queensland, Australia)

### (3B) Gender, Sexism & Bridge

**Wed 30 June 2021** 15:00-17:00 (BST UK) / 10:00-12:00 (EDT)

**Panel 1 Women's Bridge: Segregation Pros & Cons**

**Panel 2 Sexism within the Game: Solutions?**

### (4A) New Approaches to Teaching & Recruitment

**Thurs 1 July 2021** 13:00-15:00 (BST) / 08:00-10:00 (EDT)

**Panel 1** Learning & Teaching Bridge

**Panel 2** School & Youth Bridge: Retaining Learners

Case studies: Czech Republic, Denmark, UK, India, Japan, Norway and USA

### (4B) Marketing Bridge and Conference Close

**Thurs 1 July 2021** 16:30-18:30 (BST UK) / 11:30-13:30 (EDT)

*An Interdisciplinary Approach to Marketing Bridge* (Bridge 2 Bridge)

**Tuesday 29 June 2021 Conference Pairs, Prize-Giving and Q&A with RealBridge**

**15:00-17:30** (BST UK)      **10:00-12:30** (EDT)

**Wednesday 30 June 2021 Bridge Taster for First-timers**

**18:30-20:30** (BST UK)      **13:30-15:30** (EDT)

Queries to [bamsa@stir.ac.uk](mailto:bamsa@stir.ac.uk)

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**Bridge: A MindSport for All – Connects People, Challenges Minds** (<https://bridgemindsport.org>)

Access our recent BAMSA paper: (Per)forming identity in the mind-sport bridge:  
Self, partnership and community at <https://doi.org/10.1177/1012690220959648>

## Chuck Burger (1936-2021)



Charles Frederick Burger, 84, of West Bloomfield, MI passed away peacefully on Thursday, March 25, 2021.

Chuck was born on November 15, 1936. He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Michigan and a law degree from the University of Detroit. He lived his life with integrity, courage and joy. He loved his family, his garden, bridge and pistachios. His ability to find humour in any situation was a gift, and everyone who knew him loved his sparkling wit.

Chuck was an 11-time national champion and was elected to the ACBL Hall of Fame last year (as the Von Zedtwitz Award recipient).

How good a player was Chuck Burger? When Ira Corn engaged Bobby Wolff to help form the Aces in the late 1960s, Chuck was the first person Wolff called to solicit. With a burgeoning law practice in Detroit and a lucrative partnership with University of Michigan friend Jimmy Cayne (who went on to become CEO of Bear Stearns), Chuck had to decline the move to Dallas. In a friendship lasting four decades, I learned this not from Chuckie, who was as modest a person as he was adept as a player, but from Bobby Wolff himself. Chuckie was indeed among the best American players.

Chuck is survived by his lovely wife Suzy, their children Laura, Christopher and Michael and four grandchildren.

*The Detroit News & John Carruthers*

## NEWS & VIEWS



### 2021 Madeira European Championships Cancelled

On April 2, the European Bridge League announced that, due to the ongoing uncertainty surrounding the Covid-19 pandemic and the situation worsening in so many countries, the National Team Championships planned for June 2021 in Madeira, Portugal had been cancelled.

With the cooperation of the Portuguese Bridge Federation, the EBL hopes to go to Madeira in June 2022, for the twice-postponed National Team Championships.

Should the WBF decide to go ahead with the World Teams Championships later this year, the EBL will organise an alternative method to determine the Zone I qualifiers. If that qualification is held online, it is likely to be within the original Championship time period, i.e., June 12-22. The WBF has not yet made its final decision and may not do so before May.

In preparation for potential Online European Team Championships, the EBL is finalising a detailed protocol for an online event which would include, amongst many other security features, competitors playing in a designated domestic location, set up according to very specific criteria, supervised by independent international observers.

### VuGraph Video of WBF Team Finals

Björn Hjalmarsson of Sweden has made a VuGraph video of all WBF Team Finals that are available in digital format, 88 videos in all. These comprise the following championships: Bermuda Bowl, Venice Cup, d'Orsi Trophy, Wuhan Cup, Transnational Teams, World Bridge Series, World Bridge Games, World Youth Championships, World Youth Transnational Championships, IMSA World Master Championships, IMSA World Elite Mind Games, and SportAccord World Mind Games.

The videos can be seen at:

<https://www.thebridgechannel.se>

An overview of the project (in spreadsheet format) can be seen at:

[https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1PQ\\_PW\\_OW6Rd1Ifsac4aDpOvi6PfiDJVcl\\_BjdqUcATg/edit#gid=0](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1PQ_PW_OW6Rd1Ifsac4aDpOvi6PfiDJVcl_BjdqUcATg/edit#gid=0)

Hjalmarsson also plans to add some of the missing Bermuda Bowl and Venice Cup Finals by digitizing the World Championship Books he has. These are marked on the spreadsheet of the Overview. He would like to acquire the World Championship Books or Finals records he is missing; i.e., those for the years 1953, 1954, 1956, 1965, 1969, 1971, 1993.

Hjalmarsson is also looking for Playoffs where Sweden was involved: Bermuda Bowl: 1977 – Sweden vs Argentina, 1987 – Sweden vs Chinese Taipei, 1991 – Sweden vs Brazil, Venice Cup: 1993 – Sweden vs Argentina. If anyone has any information about these records, Hjalmarsson would like to hear from you at [bjorne.hj@hotmail.com](mailto:bjorne.hj@hotmail.com).

## **Curtis Cheek Suspended by the USBF**

The USBF made the following announcement on March 18, 2021:

### **USBF DISCIPLINE IMPOSED**

The USBF and Curtis Cheek have reached a Negotiated Resolution based upon Cheek's confession that he cheated during the USBF INV-I. Accordingly, the USBF has imposed the following discipline:

1. Curtis Cheek is not eligible to compete in any United States Bridge Championship or to represent the USBF in any World Bridge Championship until January 1, 2024.
2. Curtis Cheek is not eligible to compete in the Open United States Bridge Championship until January 1, 2025.
3. Curtis Cheek is suspended by the USBF from July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2022, and is not eligible to compete in any other online or in-person USBF events during this time (e.g., JLALL or Invitational events).
4. Curtis Cheek is on probation with the USBF from July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2025.
5. Curtis Cheek is not eligible to serve as a non-playing captain of any USBF bridge team until January 1, 2025.

Cheek's confession was about as mild and self-exculpatory as was Cédric Lorenzini's a few months earlier. However, Cheek stated, in part: "In June, 2020 I played in an online tournament hosted by the USBF, now called INV-I. I cheated and would like to apologize to my fellow competitors." ...and... "The bridge world has been my second family for over 40 years, and I deeply apologize for my actions, which do not represent who I am." One might well ask, "What does represent who you are, Curtis?"

## **Huub Bertens Files Appeal with CAS**

The appeal was filed with CAS (Court of Arbitration for Sport) in Switzerland on February 19, 2021. The USBF was notified of the filing and has taken quick and decisive action. On March 10, 2021, the USBF sued Bertens in the U. S. District Court in Chicago, IL to (1.) enforce the arbitration agreement bearing Bertens' signature and to compel arbitration of that "appeal" in Chicago, and (2.) to enjoin Bertens from prosecuting his appeal in Switzerland. The case number is 1:21-cv-1334 and is assigned to U. S. District Court Judge John Lee. Bertens is alleged to be a resident of Nevada and no proof of service of process of the Illinois lawsuit has yet been filed.

Chris Compton, attorney for Bertens stated on Bridge Winners: "Huub has had a spotless 45-year bridge career in the Netherlands and the United States. From day one Huub has maintained his innocence. As legal counsel, we (Chris and wife Donna) see insufficient evidence to support any finding of wrongdoing by Huub."

## **A New Verdict on Michael Elinescu/Entscho Wladow**

On March 5, 2021, the DBV posted the following statement:

"By judgment of November 2017, the German Bridge Federation (DBV) was obliged to pay damages to Dr. Wladow and Dr. Elinescu for the illegally imposed bans after the World Senior Championships in Bali in 2013.

In the subsequent trial, the Higher Regional Court of Düsseldorf has now at second instance dismissed all claims against the DBV quantified by the plaintiffs.

The judgment delivered on 17 February 2021 is 56 pages long and has yet to be assessed in detail. In its reasoning, the Court states, among other things, that the untruth of the claim that the doctors played irregularly at that time has not been established in court or otherwise clarified.

It remains to be seen whether the plaintiffs will appeal against the judgment."

## **Slawomir Latala Suspended by PBU**

The Polish Bridge Union has suspended top PBU, EBL and WBF Tournament Director Slawomir Latala from all directing activities for three years for using his "yellow" BBO login (as a referee) to anonymously self-kibitz matches at his teammates' table. The WBF will respect the PBU's decision based on their 'reciprocity' protocol.

# Guide to Online Events

Here is information about cancelled live tournaments, current and planned online events, and news about some of the hoped-for live tournaments in 2021 and beyond:

**WBF** – Details of the 2021 World Team Championships and the 2021 Youth World Team Championships are under consideration. See <http://www.worldbridge.org>

**ACBL** – Has both pair and team events online on BBO. See <https://www.acbl.org> and <https://www.bridgebase.com>. Hopes to begin live bridge again in 2021. The St. Louis Spring NABC has been cancelled; the Providence Summer NABC has been moved to 2022; the Austin Fall NABC is currently scheduled to be held face-to-face.

**EBL** – Has cancelled the live 2021 European Championships in June in Madeira. They may hold an online Championship to qualify for a putative World Championship – see [www.eurobridge.org](http://www.eurobridge.org).

**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, and are continuing to organise, online events for their own members. Check the NBO websites for specifics. Sweden plans to hold the Swedish Festival in Örebro live in July 2021. See <https://www.svenskbridge.se/eng/nyheter>. The USBF has postponed its 2021 Trials.

**Reynolds Knockouts** – TD Tom Reynolds has been organising monthly knockout tournaments and quarterly double elimination knockouts since April, 2020. Information can be found at <http://www.reynoldsteammatches.com>

**Alt Invitationals** – Invitational tournaments, usually lasting five to 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), Alt Majors (32 teams) and an Alt BAM. Information can be found at <https://bid72/events>. Each event has a daily bulletin. Email [info@netbridge.online](mailto: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>. OCBL also produces a daily journal. See also <https://www.worldbridgetour.org>

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

All of the online tournaments named above are on BBO (<https://www.bridgebase.com/>) or RealBridge (<https://realbridge.online>). Other useful sites: <https://bridgescanner.com> and <https://bridgewinners.com>

Anyone organising an online tournament can submit details to Marek Wójcicki at [marek.wojcicki@bridge.com.pl](mailto:marek.wojcicki@bridge.com.pl) for inclusion on the IBPA website ([www.ibpa.com](http://www.ibpa.com)).



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