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Editorial

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

Having cancelled the 2021 World Championships, the World Bridge Federation has announced that it is planning to hold the World Team Championships (Bermuda Bowl, Venice Cup, d'Orsi Trophy, Wuhan Cup) in Salsomaggiore in February/March of 2022. Accordingly, the European Bridge League has announced that it plans to hold online qualifiers for those World Team Championships, the salient points being:

- The event will be on RealBridge from August 23 to 28, 2021.
- The length of each of the four series will be determined by the number of entries and all series will conclude on August 28.
- Participating NBOs will be required to gather their players in a venue set up according to EBL specifications. Neutral observers will monitor proceedings.
- Each series will play its own boards.
- Kibitzing will be allowed on a 30-to-45-minute delay.
- Entry fees will be €100 per team, per day.
- Each of the four series will play a complete Round Robin of 12-16 board matches.

The EBL has 46 members; 34 of these took part in the last face-to-face Open Team Championship in 2018. It is possible (likely?), with a shorter time frame and radically lower costs, that more than 34 NBOs will take part in the Open Teams this time. Let's say 40 NBOs take part; it would be nigh-impossible to complete a 40-team, 12-boards-per-match Round Robin in six days. You'd need to have a schedule that allowed for seven matches per day.

One hopes that the EBL has a contingency plan to accommodate more than 30 teams in the Open Qualifying series. Thirty teams would require five 12-board matches per day over six days). There are just three possibilities:

1. Extend the length of the event beyond the currently scheduled six days.
2. Shorten the length of the matches.
3. Modify the format: for example, divide the field into two equal-strength sections.

It will be interesting to see the EBL's decision if more than 30 NBOs enter the Open Teams Qualifying series. It will come under scrutiny, no matter what it is.

The WBF has announced that the 2022 World Bridge Series – Rosenblum Cup (Open Teams), McConnell Cup, (Women's Teams) Rand Cup (Senior Teams), Mixed Teams, and the Open/Women's/Senior/Mixed Pairs) – will be held in Wroclaw, Poland, from September 2 to 17.

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2021 Chinese Premier League First Leg Jerry Li, Beijing



The elegant and spacious playing area in the Jingang Hotel, Ningbo City, Zhejiang Province

The first leg of the 2021 Chinese Premier League was held live from the 12th to the 15th of April. Sixteen clubs participated, with no foreign players this year. The tournament consisted of a four-day Round Robin of 15 matches. One match was broadcast live every day. The top three were Shenzhen Nangang Power, Geely Auto, and PD Times. The second leg, also face-to-face, will be held from the 21st to the 27th of June. After the double Round Robin, the top four teams will go to the Final.

Big Swing

RR4. Board 5. Dealer North. NS Vul.

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

This was one of the excellent deals from the League. It was a big swing board. North/South can make five hearts, but East/West can make five spades, so par was for North/South to declare in six hearts doubled down one. However, almost all tables played in five hearts or five spades, doubled or not, making 11 or 12 tricks.

There were two tables at which a pair reached slam, six spades and six hearts respectively, and those two tables were in the same match.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Zhu	Liang	Shen	Wang
Minrong	Yixiong	Yuxiong	Jihua
—	Pass	Pass	4♥
4♠!	5♥	5♠	6♥
Pass	Pass	6♠	Pass
Pass	Double	Pass	Pass
Pass			

When North led a heart against six spades, the defence was finished; plus 1210 to East/West.



Live broadcasting, with commentary by Wang Weimin (left) and Wang Nan, was provided throughout the tournament.

Closed Room:

West	North	East	South
Li	Tian	Zhang	Dai
Zhigang	Zuqiang	Xiangping	Jianwei
—	Pass	1♠	4♥
4♠	5♥	Pass	Pass
5♠	Pass	Pass	6♥
Double	Pass	Pass	Pass

This table reached the par contract, but wait, this contract was also making! West led the ace of spades, East following with the six. West shifted to a diamond at trick two. Declarer won with the ace and ruffed a diamond, eventually setting up a diamond trick for a club discard, making that crazy contract: 1210 + 1660 = 2870, costing 21 IMPs. That was the biggest swing of the tournament.

Grand Slam Better than Small Slam?

Another fun deal from the tournament was this one:

RR7. Board 2. Dealer East. NS Vul.

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

Given just the North/South hands, what do you think is the best contract?

I think six spades is a reasonable contract, even on a heart lead: you could draw two rounds trumps and play top clubs to pitch heart losers.

However, if you play in seven spades, what is the best line?

I think seven spades is only makeable if trumps are three-two with the queen onside, with clubs needed for five tricks. This was the full deal:

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

Six spades was never made at any table. The king of hearts was led. Declarer won with the ace, drew two rounds of trumps and played top clubs for heart pitches, but East trumped the second club and cashed a heart trick for one off.

At one table, North/South had a bidding mishap and reached seven spades. Declarer took his only play, winning the heart lead, playing three rounds of trumps with the finesse and setting up clubs for five tricks, making the grand slam.

The grand slam is better than the small slam, isn't it?



Tasmanian Gold Swiss Pairs

Rakesh Kumar, Mittagong, NSW

The Tasmanian Gold Swiss Pairs, played in Hobart on 10-11 April, was the first Australian face-to-face national tournament since Covid struck. With so many of us absolutely desperate for a 'proper' bridge event – the last time having been the Gold Coast Congress in February 2020 – there was a strong turnout of both local players and pairs from all over south-eastern Australia. It was an unseasonably cold weekend, complete with snow on Mt. Wellington and intermittent showers at sea level, but that made it perfect weather for bridge!

Many readers will be familiar with Ron Klinger's stories and bridge problems featuring the Old Master. At the Tasmanian Gold Swiss Pairs, Ron was the Old Master personified. He was playing with Avi Kanetkar who, in the context of this partnership, described himself as the Young Prodigy(!), at a mere 75 years of age. Ron and Avi were the eventual winners of the event, but they didn't get off to a flying start – in fact, after Round 1 of 11, they had the dubious privilege of being equal-dead-last among 62 pairs in the Open field, following a maximum loss. Before I tell you more about what then happened, here are a couple of problems ...

Firstly, with neither side vulnerable, you hold: ♠AJ108 ♥— ♦AQJ108643 ♣7. Your RHO, as dealer, opens with a Multi Two Diamonds or, if you think it makes a difference to what you might do, let's say a weak two hearts. What do you bid?

Secondly, with both vulnerable, you hold: ♠92 ♥AQJ10842 ♦A2 ♣A2. RHO opens one diamond. What action do you take? Answers shortly.

This deal from Round 4 was an interesting play problem:

Board 7. Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

A common auction might have gone ...

West	North	East	South
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	Pass	2NT(?)	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

Across the field, 26 pairs were in game, 20 in four spades and six in three notrump. In each case, half made it and half went down. At our table, four spades was played from the East seat in exemplary fashion. On the lead of the jack of hearts, declarer won with the ace and took the club finesse. This lost to the king and the queen of hearts came back, the king being ruffed by South, who exited with a low club to the ace. Declarer cashed the top two trumps, discovering the break, then played off his remaining clubs, discarding a heart from dummy. This made it possible to score tricks with dummy's low trumps by ruffing hearts *en passant*, returning to hand with the ace of diamonds. If South had ruffed high, that would have been the last trick for the defence. Thus, five trump tricks, one heart, one diamond and three clubs returned 10 IMPs against the datum.

By Saturday evening, after 6 of 11 rounds, Klinger-Kanetkar had clawed their way into the top ten. They were helped in part by their approach to the bidding on this deal in Round 6, my first problem:

Board 27. Dealer South. Neither Vul.

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

What are your agreements about jump overcalls after a weak two-bid on your right? In this setting, it's sensible for a jump overcall to be strong, suggesting a high expectation of making the contract. With that understanding, when Klinger bid five diamonds, Kanetkar promptly raised him to six, which was cold. They were one of only four pairs who played the slam (another two bid to it, but North/South saved in hearts) and that was worth 9 IMPs. At other tables, a dozen pairs played in five diamonds and eight played game in spades.



The Old Master (aka Ron Klinger) and the Young Prodigy (aka Avi Kanetkar) are congratulated on their win by Julie Rhodes, President of the Tasmanian Bridge Association.

Sunday morning yielded another exciting slam deal ...

Board 12. Dealer West. NS Vul.

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

After one diamond by West as dealer, a one-spade response and a one notrump rebid, what will you do as East? Key card inquiries won't get you anywhere, because West has neither a key card nor the trump queen. None of that concerned Terry Brown, who, after partner's rebid, was never going to take the glass-half-empty approach and worry about a possible 3-0 break with an off-side queen of spades. He simply rebid seven spades, thus becoming one of only four Easts to get to the cold grand slam. Two of the other declarers were doubled. The third, George Kozakos, was also doubled, but he promptly redoubled! That was worth a very useful 15 IMPs.

Ron Klinger pointed out that after one diamond-one spade-two diamonds, which was the bidding at his table, seven diamonds is actually a better grand slam, because declarer can even handle 4-1 trumps and 3-0 spades offside, except on the ace-of-clubs lead. However, no one bid that and neither grand slam was bid at his table.

In the afternoon, with one round to go, these were the standings:

1. Peter Hollands/James Coutts 137.96 VP
2. Ron Klinger/Avinash Kanetkar 131.81 VP
3. Jeanette Reitzer/Terry Brown 129.28 VP

And the swing deals kept coming. Only six pairs reached a small slam on this board, my second problem hand:

Board 20. Dealer West. Both Vul.

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

This deal is in some respects a counterpoint to the six-diamond deal from Round 6. After a thin one-diamond opening by West as dealer, would you jump in hearts? If so, why? A jump overcall over a weak two-level opening should be strong, but the converse applies over a one-level opening. If North doubles and then bids hearts, promising a strong hand with a good six-plus-card suit, bidding the slam should not be too difficult. For those in contention, failing to bid six hearts (if sitting North/South) or not having it bid by the opponents (if sitting East/West) was a significant contributor to the final rankings.

When the dust settled, these were the final results:

1. Ron Klinger/Avinash Kanetkar 145.66 VP
2. George Kozakos/Simon Hinge 145.40 VP
3. Peter Hollands/James Coutts 144.11 VP

The Gold Swiss Pairs tournament was an abbreviated version of the Australian Swiss Pairs event that is held each year in Tasmania. That tournament will return in its full form in late March of next year.



Okay, so I am paraphrasing (or murdering), the original.

Over the course of a long, but not particularly illustrious, bridge career, I have noticed that people seldom say what they mean. At least, they seldom mean what their interlocutor thinks they meant. To take the most common example, “Why did you ...?” it is clear that this does not actually mean, “Why did you ...?” (More on this later).

This problem of miscommunication is compounded by humans’ propensity to leap to their own defence when criticised in public. Any disagreement is likely to become acrimonious if one of the two parties feels humiliated by having their shortcomings exposed before their friends and peers; and even more so if the other party is grandstanding. Try as one might not to eavesdrop, it’s really more or less impossible to avoid overhearing when one is sitting at an 85-cm square card table; so any argument at the table is an argument conducted in public; and, worse, in front of a public whose opinion probably matters.

Clearly, it is possible for two evenly-matched, mutually respectful players in partnership to discuss system misunderstandings and signalling problems without stabbing each other to death. That is not, however, the situation most players find themselves in. Most partnerships contain at least one player who thinks he is better than the other (occasionally he actually is), and often two. Comments about partner’s discard of the four of diamonds rather than the two of diamonds or the decision to open two spades other than one spade therefore become an exercise in asserting superiority, a spur to defensive rebuttal, a contest for the approval of the onlooking opponents: in short, a battle of wills. (Alternatively, the underdog starts to feel ... well, underdoggy, which is never a recipe for success in bridge.)

Even discussions in the bar or over dinner are, though, less likely to be productive if the parties don’t say what they actually mean. To return to our example: “Why did you ...?”, let us admit, freely and honestly, that we do not want to hear why our partner did what he/she did:

A: Why did you take the heart finesse?

B: Because I didn’t think C would have opened the bidding without the king of hearts.

A: But you don’t know where the queen of clubs is.

B: No, I know, but I couldn’t see any way to find out, and if ...

A: It was obvious that, if D had had the queen of clubs, he would have played it at trick four.

B: But why? Why can’t he have the queen of clubs and still return his partner’s suit? Isn’t it possible that ...?

A: Why are you arguing with me? Don’t you want to get better? I don’t know why I bother playing with you!

What did A actually mean here? Does he really want to understand why his partner took the doomed heart finesse? Of course not: about 99% of the time, he means, “You should not have taken the heart finesse,” with the corollary, “And I want to hear you admit it.” Better for him to say so, plainly, rather than lure his partner into the trap of trying to answer a question which hasn’t, in reality, been asked.

Is B arguing? No, he’s trying to answer what appears to be a genuine question. The poor chump doesn’t understand that the answer his partner is seeking is, “You are right. I was wrong.” Since, however, not only did A not really mean, “Why did you take the heart finesse?” but has, in his own mind, *heard himself say*, “Please admit that you shouldn’t have taken the heart finesse,” he perceives B’s increasingly desperate answers as argument.

Here’s a more weaselly example: “What did you think two notrump meant?” On the face of it, this is a genuine enquiry as to what partner believed he was saying when he bid two notrump. Gentle reader, do not be fooled: it is neither genuine nor an enquiry. The questioner is simply waiting for the opportunity to pounce:

A: What did you think two notrump meant?

B: I was trying to show that I had invitational points and a stopper in their suit.

A: That’s ridiculous. Two notrump can’t possibly be natural in this sequence.

Now if B is incautious enough to ask why, the conversation will continue:

B: Why?

A: Nobody – literally nobody – plays that as natural these days.

B: Well, some people do. Joe Bloggs does. Mrs. Featherstonehaugh does. I didn’t think we’d discussed playing it as anything else.

A: Fine. If you want to argue with me, go ahead. But you’re never going to improve if you won’t listen to what I’m telling you.

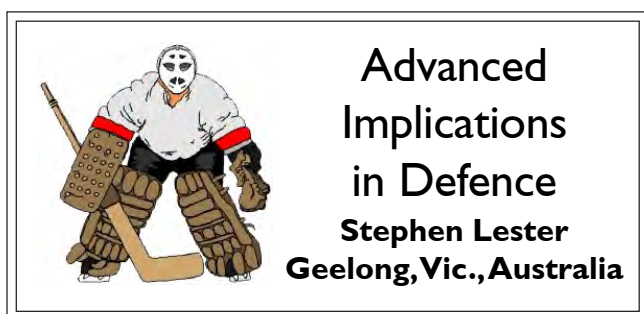
If you recognise yourself or your partner in these exchanges, or any version of them, please stop. If you are A (I don’t actually expect anyone to admit, even to themselves, to being A), stop asking questions the answer to which you do not wish to hear. Retrain yourself to

say what you actually mean; or else to listen to the answer to the question you mistakenly asked aloud, and accept that your partner is doing as you requested: explaining why he did whatever he did. Recognise that explanation is not argument. If you are B, understand that no question has been asked, and that you are instead expected meekly to bow your head and intone, "Mea culpa." Ask A to reframe the question, or better still, to say what he really means.

Please also accept that if you play with someone who is not as good as you (or, more likely, not as good as you think you are), he will make more mistakes than you do. If you can't bear to witness his mistakes, stop playing with him. If, on the other hand, your partner is your wife and you like going to congresses in France with her, for the company, the sun, the food, and above all the wine, stop berating her for not being the player you want her to be.

And if you must discuss the deals – for without discussion there can surely be no improvement – do it out of earshot of everyone else, so that you are not tempted to show off and your partner is not forced onto the defensive. Once you are in that charming little bistro or sunning yourselves over breakfast on the balcony, at least try to pretend that you respect your partner's judgment: that you are discussing these deals as equals.

If partner doesn't understand, accept that this is not wilful obtuseness, it's lack of (the right kind of) intelligence – about which he can do nothing – or want of experience – which you can continue to provide if you choose. Explain kindly, rather than browbeating him for his ignorance. Don't ask questions when you don't want to hear the answer. If all you want is compliance, get a dog.



The following deal, from an online match organised by the Victorian Bridge Association, the state body in Victoria, provided some instructive defensive points.

Dealer North. Neither Vul.

West	North	East	South
—	1♣	Pass	2♠ ¹
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	
1. 6 spades, 4-7 HCP			

On lead, you hold ♠K9 ♥J852 ♦AQ94 ♣975. You opt for the two-of-hearts lead. Your methods are fourth-highest, with partner giving reverse attitude on a spot-card lead. This is what you see:

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

Declarer wins in dummy, partner playing the three (encouraging). Declarer advances the ten of spades from dummy to partner's five, declarer's two, and your king. How do you continue?

With no other understandings, you have the option of continuing passively, exiting with a heart, as partner has encouraged. There is a danger, however, that, if partner has the king of diamonds, you could be letting the contract home on a passive return, if declarer has something like ♠AJ8632 and little else.

The answer is that partner has taken your dilemma into account by encouraging hearts when there is an obvious weakness in diamonds. If partner had the king of diamonds, he would have made it easy for you by discouraging in hearts, and you would have had no alternative but to make a diamond switch.

You therefore exit with a second heart. Declarer rises with the king, discarding a diamond, and plays a second trump, but East rises with the ace and the diamond switch sees the contract one down. The full deal:

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

There was a further point, less obvious perhaps, but equally instructive: on the first trump lead from dummy, if you play suit preference in the trump suit, the five of spades, as your highest spot card, also indicates hearts. A lower spot card, combined with a discouraging heart at trick one, would indicate diamonds.

On this deal, it was obvious that the three of hearts was encouraging, but suppose that declarer had the three and that the seven was East's lowest. Then it would not have been so clear and East's trump spot may have clarified the situation.



The Sound of Silence

George Retek
Montréal

At a recent Club Charity team event, our team was among the leaders when we sat down for the final round against an expert team. This was the deciding deal.

A. With both vulnerable, your hand, as West, the dealer, is:

♠ K J 10 5 2
♥ A 7 4 2
♦ Q J 9
♣ 5

You decided to open one spade, lefty passed, and partner raised you to four spades (wide range). After a substantial pause, South, on your right, bid five clubs.

- Question 1 - What is your bid?
- Question 2 - If you pass, your partner doubles and it is back to you. Your bid?
- Question 3 - If you had consistently passed, it is your lead. What is it?
- Question 4 - If you led the jack of spades, Partner overtook with the ace and shifted to the jack of hearts. Dummy is revealed as:

♠ Q 6
♥ K 9 3
♦ A 8 6 5
♣ 7 4 3 2

Declarer followed with the six of hearts. What is your plan?

B. Your hand as South on the same deal is:

♠ 8
♥ Q 10 8 6 5
♦ 10
♣ A K 10 9 8 6

- Question 1 - Do you bid or pass after the four-spade bid by East?
- Question 2 - If you bid five clubs, it is followed by two passes, then a double by East. Why did you bid five clubs?

The entire deal (with Don Fescow North and George Retek South) proved to be (see top of next column):

At my table, West won with the ace of hearts at trick two, and continued with the king of spades. Curtains, and we scored plus 750.

At the other table, my teammates Ron Weissberger and Abe Jacob played in four spades; plus 620.

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

The combined scores were sufficient for us to win the event. I was partnered by the Dean of our club, Don Fescow, who remarked that the five-club bid placed East/West in an untenable position. They could not make five spades, and even if they defeated five clubs with a heart ruff, they were losing the board.

Why did I bid five clubs instead of four no trump to indicate a two-suited hand? First of all, my clubs were longer and headed by the ace-king. The second benefit became obvious when West did not expect me to hold a five-card side suit, and missed providing the heart ruff necessary to defeat the contract.

Sometimes it is better not to provide full information at the table, as the opponents may be listening as well. This is why Paul Simon's "The Sound of Silence" is one of my favourite songs, especially when performed by Carmen McRae, who finishes her interpretation with the words "...sound of...", never thereafter pronouncing "silence". There is no need for it.

Trolling for Bass on BBO

Erdal Sidar,
Istanbul



Board 16. Dealer West. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Breihan	Sandin	Berktaş	Karlsson
2♥	Pass	Pass	3♦
Pass	3♥ ¹	Double	4♣
Pass	4♥	Pass	5♣
Pass	6♦	Pass	Pass
Pass			

1. One big heart card

This is a deal from Round 6 of the OCBL Open Teams, March 29-April 25, 2021.

West, Jim Breihan, led the queen of hearts. Declarer, Thomas Karlsson, took the trick with dummy's ace, East, Can Berktaş, following with the nine. Declarer came to hand with the ace of clubs, ruffed the club five in dummy and trumped the heart two in hand. The ace of diamonds dropped the king from West, the ten of clubs was ruffed in dummy and the three of hearts was ruffed in the closed hand. After the last club and the last heart had been ruffed, Karlsson led a diamond. East took the trick but all of his remaining cards were in spades.

With East holding four clubs and the queen of diamonds, the location of the king of spades was not relevant.

At the other table, declarer made the six-diamond contract by taking the spade finesse twice for a push.

There was only one other declarer who bid six diamonds and made it by the elimination and endplay, H.C. Graversen of Denmark.

Later, I came upon the following deals, which were played in the April Invitational Teams, Round 1, Segment 1, between SETTON and LEVINE.

Board 6. Dealer East. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Versace	Meckstroth	Lauria	Rodwell
—	—	Pass	1♥
Double	Redouble	Pass	Pass
1♠	Double	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Versace was in a pickle. Meckstroth led the three of diamonds. Declarer won the queen with his ace and returned the jack for South's king. Rodwell played his singleton spade; North took the trick with his ten and shifted to the eight of clubs: three, king, five. This return was critical for the defence. Rodwell made the non-optimal shift to the seven of diamonds, making his

partner ruff. This time, Meckstroth led the four of hearts, Rodwell taking the trick with his ace and continuing with the jack.

Locked in hand, Versace hopefully played the king of spades. North took that with his ace and cashed the queen of spades. Rodwell discarded first a heart, then the ten of clubs to let Meckstroth know he did not hold the jack. Meckstroth played the queen of hearts, forcing declarer to ruff with the jack of spades. Declarer led the eight of diamonds. Meckstroth could ruff but was then end-played in clubs. Only two down and minus 500 for Versace. Rodwell apologised for not returning a club to take Meckstroth off the endplay.

At the other table, Helness also doubled the heart opening and Pierre Franceschetti bid two hearts, a good raise. The bidding ended there for plus 170, but 8 IMPs to LEVINE.

Board 9. Dealer North. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Versace	Meckstroth	Lauria	Rodwell
—	Pass	Pass	1♦ ¹
1NT	Pass	2♥ ²	Pass
2♠	Pass	3NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. 2+ diamonds, 10-15
2. Transfer

Meckstroth led the Rusinow nine of diamonds: low from dummy, three from Rodwell, and Versace took it with his king. Declarer cashed the two high spades and carried on with the king of clubs. Rodwell took that with his ace and continued with the ten of clubs. At this point, Versace's 15 HCP were known. Declarer took the trick with his queen and played a diamond, but Rodwell won it and cashed his other diamond, then played a spade. Now the clubs were dead and declarer had to lose two heart tricks.

West	North	East	South
Helness	Franceschetti	Helgemo	Setton
—	Pass	Pass	1♣
1NT	Pass	2♥ ¹	Double
Pass	Pass	3NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. Transfer

Continued on page 12...



IBPA Column Service

Tim Bourke, Canberra



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

1049. Dealer West. NS Vul.

♠ Q J 8 2
♥ A 4
♦ A J 10 8
♣ 9 7 6

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

♠ A K 10 9 7 6
♥ 5
♦ Q 9
♣ K 5 4 3

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

This deal was played in a team match with identical auctions and leads, the king of hearts.

At the first table, declarer won with the ace of hearts and ruffed a heart. Then, after drawing trumps with the queen and king, he led the queen of diamonds and ran it when West played low. This proved to be a disaster as East won the trick with the king of diamonds and shifted to the jack of clubs. The defenders took three club tricks to defeat the contract.

You could argue that this was bad luck but, at the second table, declarer did not believe in being unlucky when it could be avoided. His opening move was to allow the king of hearts to win the first trick. West, noting his partner's nine of hearts, shifted to a diamond at trick two. Alas, it was a trick too late, for declarer rose with the ace of diamonds, drew trumps with the king and queen. Next, he threw his queen of diamonds on the ace of hearts and led the jack of diamonds. East covered this with the king and declarer ruffed. After crossing back to dummy with a trump to the jack, declarer threw two low clubs on the good jack and eight of diamonds. Then declarer led a club to his king and West's ace before claiming ten tricks: six spades, three diamonds and a heart.

Note that if West had held the king of diamonds and had won the sixth trick, while declarer threw a club on the jack of diamonds, the defenders would still have made only three tricks no matter how the play proceeded: one trick in each of hearts, diamonds and clubs.

1050. Dealer East. Both Vul.

♠ K 9 6
♥ Q 8 6 3
♦ K 6
♣ A 10 3 2

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

♠ A 7 5 4 2
♥ 5
♦ Q 8 4
♣ K Q J 4

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

West led the nine of hearts, which held the trick. West continued with a heart and declarer ruffed. Declarer counted six top tricks in addition to the one he had just scored. Declarer made a plan on the assumption that spades were 3-2 and that one of his club winners might be ruffed. Declarer's plan was to cash his top trumps and try to score four clubs and two more heart ruffs in hand.

The flaw in that plan was that if a defender ruffed while going about this endeavour, declarer would need a diamond trick. As East was almost sure to hold the ace of diamonds, the order of play would not matter to declarer if West held the third trump: declarer would make a diamond trick eventually. So, declarer turned his mind to the event of East holding a third trump.

Declarer's solution was neat: he cashed the ace and king of spades and then led a low diamond from dummy!

What could East do? If he rose with the ace of diamonds and cashed a trump declarer would make four trumps, four clubs and two diamonds for his contract.

When East played low on the six of diamonds, declarer's queen won and he was almost home. After a low club to dummy's ten, declarer ruffed a heart then played the king of clubs to the ace. The only tricks East could take were his trump winner and the ace of diamonds since declarer would make either four club tricks or three clubs and a diamond ruff in dummy.

1051. Dealer East. EW Vul.

	♠ Q 2		
	♥ 8 6		
	♦ A K J 7 2		
	♣ A K Q 4		
♠ 10 8 6 4		♠ A	
♥ 10 4 2		♥ A K J 7 5	
♦ 5 3		♦ 10 9 8	
♣ 9 7 6 2		♣ J 10 5 3	
	♠ K J 9 7 5 3		
	♥ Q 9 3		
	♦ Q 6 4		
	♣ 8		
West	North	East	South
—	—	1♥	2♠
Pass	3♥	Double	Pass
Pass	4♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

West led a third-highest two of hearts. Dummy's strength persuaded East that the only chance to make the setting trick might be a trump promotion on the fourth round of hearts. So, East took the first trick with the king of hearts then he played the ace and another heart to declarer's queen.

Declarer also saw that this defence opened the possibility of East gaining the lead with his presumed ace of trumps and playing a fourth round of hearts. Declarer realised that his two main chances of thwarting this defence were for East to hold either the ten of spades or a singleton ace. So, after winning the third trick with the queen of hearts, declarer crossed to dummy with a club to lead dummy's two of trumps towards his hand.

East took the ace of trumps perforce and did indeed play a fourth heart. Declarer countered this by ruffing the heart low in hand. West saw that discarding would be hopeless, so he overruffed and watched dummy win the trick with the queen of trumps. Declarer crossed back to hand with a club ruff to draw West's remaining trumps with the king and jack. Declarer then claimed ten tricks: five trumps, a heart and four winners in the minors.

It was remarkable that declarer was better placed with four-one trumps against him than with three-two trumps: if West had held ten-third of trumps the contact would have been unmakeable!

1052. Dealer East. Both Vul.

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

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

West led the king of clubs. East played the ten to encourage or show an even number of clubs headed by the ten-nine. Declarer decided to cater for trumps being four-one. If that were the case, he would have to play to retain trump control and to keep East off lead to avoid a heart switch through his ace-queen. So declarer ducked the king of clubs and won the club continuation with the ace.

If declarer played on diamonds immediately, with the view to leading a trump from dummy, he would have to run the jack of diamonds on the first round of the suit. If he instead played a diamond to the queen, West could block the suit by playing his king on the second round of diamonds. Further, playing two rounds of diamonds before playing a trump ran the risk of West playing a third diamond when gaining the lead.

Declarer's counter to this problem was highly imaginative: he led the ten of trumps from hand. Declarer knew that, missing just 16 points, the odds were in his favour that, when West had four trumps, this play would prevent East from gaining the lead (Also, he knew that, if trumps were three-two, then almost any sequence of plays would do.)

West took the ten of spades with the jack and continued with the jack of clubs. Declarer ruffed this and matched his inspired play of the ten on the first round of trumps by exiting with the four of trumps next. West took this with the seven and now had no winning defence: a fourth club would be ruffed in dummy and a red suit would be just as futile. No matter what West did, declarer would eventually be in hand to draw West's remaining trumps before playing the diamonds for five tricks.

If declarer had played in routine fashion, winning the second club, cashing the ace-king of trumps, then playing on diamonds, West would have ruffed the fourth round, leaving declarer a trick short of his contract.

Franceschetti led the seven of hearts. Setton won with her queen, isolating the suit for both declarer and the defence. Setton shifted to a spade. Helness won and cashed his other high spade, then led the king of clubs. South took that with her ace and continued with the jack of clubs. Declarer won with the queen and led yet another club, establishing the suit and nine tricks. When the defence did not lead hearts, Helness was able to score a tenth trick (five spades, one heart, one diamond and three clubs). That was 12 IMPs to LEVINE.



**Round 8. Segment 1. Table A1.
Board 10. Dealer East. Both Vul.**

<p>♠ 4 3 ♥ K 10 3 2 ♦ 9 8 6 ♣ A Q 9 5</p> <p>♠ A 9 6 2 ♥ Q 9 7 5 ♦ A K 5 ♣ 7 4</p>	<p>♠ Q J 8 7 ♥ A 8 4 ♦ 10 7 ♣ K J 6 3</p> <p>♠ K 10 5 ♥ J 6 ♦ Q J 4 3 2 ♣ 10 8 2</p>
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In the second-to-last qualifying session of the OCBL April Cup, most declarers ended up in four spades after an uncontested auction. GIB assures us that game can be made in notrumps, spades and hearts. This might have been a typical, present-day, scientific, auction...

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

1. 2+ clubs, 11+ HCP
2. 4+ hearts
3. 2/3 hearts, minimum balanced hand
4. 4 spades, FIR
5. 4-card support

It was an interesting deal at the table I was watching (WILSON vs. FOLLOW SUIT) and, after looking through all the matches, I noticed big differences in the declarer play and defence. Still, at most tables, a diamond was led to the ace, usually the queen from South but, in some cases, a low one or the nine from North if West was declaring.

However, at three tables, the jack of hearts was led, covered by the queen, king and ace, followed by the jack of spades by declarer. One defender failed to cover

this and scored minus 620, but the two who covered were rewarded with a second spade finesse to the ten and a heart ruff with the five for a quick one off.

Only a third of the declarers made the contract and two of them got help in the diamond suit where an extra trick magically appeared.

Let's go back to look at the contract with the more common diamond lead to the ace. In isolation, you could have as many as six losers, so there is work to be done.

- Ruff a diamond, take the spade finesse, gain more info for the clubs?
- Play a club directly, since you might get a count on the hand?
- Engineer an endplay on North if you want to play him for the king of hearts?
- Go for the intra-finesse in hearts?

The declarer play varied a lot across the matches, some going for any of the above plays. The declarers who started with a club up received either a low one or the ace from North, (almost all these declarers took the club finesse if the defence jumped up with the ace the first time), and that's what happened at the table I was watching, with Veri Kiljan declaring.

With East the declarer, the queen of diamonds was led. That was won on the table and declarer played a club at trick two. Michael Barel rose with the ace and played the nine of diamonds to the ten, jack and king. Another club was led to the jack, winning the trick. The queen of spades was next, covered by the king and won by the ace in dummy, followed by a spade finesse to the ten. A low diamond was played to the five and eight, ruffed by declarer, who now cashed the jack of spades, drawing the last trump, receiving a heart discard from North.

This was the position:

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

Declarer cashed the king of clubs and no queen showed up. If the heart discard is taken at face value as being from a four-card suit, with no diamonds left to discard, there are two routes to success:

- (i) the intra-finesse, hoping South had started with honour-low in hearts, or
- (ii) the six of clubs, hoping to endplay North.

After a long pause for thought, however, declarer opted for the ace of hearts and a heart to the king and went one off for a push.



RealBridge

Denying the Glory Shireen Mohandes, London

This deal took place on RealBridge recently, in the Garden Cities Regional Final North, an English Bridge Union event. I think it is a nice column deal for a newspaper or magazine. If any of our members would like to use it, or variations of it, they are welcome to do so. It need not be attributed to me personally; I just ask that you mention that it was played on RealBridge.

Board 11. Dealer South. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Paul	Arthur	Jon	Dave
Barden	Hughes	Cooke	Banks
—	—	—	3♥
Pass	4♥	4♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Four spades was a bold move by East, Jon Cooke, from Cambridge. Others in the event saw a similar auction; some Wests doubled at their first turn.

South led the ace of hearts and continued with hearts. Declarer ruffed and played two rounds of trumps, ending in dummy (and leaving North with the outstanding trump). Aiming to get a full count, Cooke then led the queen of clubs, taken by North's ace. Hughes returned his last trump. Declarer won in hand and played three more rounds of clubs, ruffing the last in dummy, achieving a full count: when South showed out on the third club, he was known to be 1=7=3=2.

Surely South would not have held the ace of diamonds, as that would have meant a three-heart opening bid with two aces, inconsistent with a first-in-hand pre-empt. There was thus a roadmap to making the contract: play North for precisely the ace-doubleton of diamonds. With the lead now in dummy, Cooke led a low diamond,

intending to win with the king, then finesse against South's jack on the next round.

At the table, Hughes played his ace of diamonds on the first round of the suit. He also had a complete count and could tell that, unless Banks had the king of diamonds, Cooke was going to make the contract. Perhaps he just wanted to deny Cooke the opportunity of getting into a newspaper column.

Joe Amsbury, a well-known British player of the 1970s advised up-and-coming players thusly: "If you are certain that you will be endplayed or squeezed, misdefend, to deny the declarer the glory."



Midi Alt May Final Highlights Toine van Hoof, Utrecht Erdal Sidar, Istanbul

To win their fourth Alt event this year, team MOSS needed to overcome a 10-VP deficit in the last two rounds. It was Danish Swiss, so they could catch up with the leading AMATEURS team in two stages. Not much happened in the penultimate round, except for the following deal.

I watched this board live and loved the defence, so intended to write it up for the IBPA Bulletin. Hard upon the heels of that, Toine van Hoof and Erdal Sidar also sent me the deal. Since I suspect it will be a candidate for the Gidwani Family Trust IBPA bDefence of the Year, both Toine and Erdal will be credited with its authorship. – Ed.

Match 11. Board 8. Dealer West. Neither Vul.

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

When your opponents can make 11 tricks in all five denominations, it's not a good idea to enter the bidding, especially not at equal vulnerability. Jiang Gu put his head on the chopping block and got what he deserved, with a lot of help from his partner Ai-Tai Lo, whose idea to run was questionable at best.

West	North	East	South
Klukowski	Gu	Zatorski	Lo
1♣ ¹	1♦	Pass	Pass
Double	Pass	Pass	Redouble ²
Pass	1♥	Double ³	Redouble ²
Pass	1♠	Pass	Pass
Double ⁴	Pass	Pass	Pass

- Polish Club: (i) 12-14 balanced (ii) 15+, natural (iii) Any 18+
- SOS
- Takeout
- Penalty

It's not often you see 20 calls to arrive at a final one-level contract. The defence by Michal Klukowski and Piotr Zatorski was merciless. East led the five of spades to the king, North following with the seven, which might have cost him a trick later. East won the heart return with the ace and played another spade to his partner's ace, and then West played a third round of trumps to the queen. (Had declarer unblocked the queen and jack under the ace and king, he'd have been able to draw West's fourth trump, but only if West had not taken an immediate diamond ruff.)

When declarer continued with the king of diamonds, Zatorski took the ace. A heart to the queen was followed by a club. East won with the jack, cashed the ace and queen and gave his partner a diamond ruff (the putative extra trick – maybe). Klukowski still had two kings to cash and the contract was down five, minus 1100.

At the other table, East/West for AMATEURS made the designated two overtricks in three notrump for a loss of 12 IMPs. This was exactly the margin at the end of the match (18-6; 13.71-6.29). Now Moss was trailing by fewer than 3 VP.

This was the most exciting hand of the final round:

Match 12. Board 3. Dealer South. EW Vul.

		♠ 7 5	
		♥ K Q J 10 6 5	
		♦ 8 4	
		♣ A 9 3	
♠ K Q J 10 8		♠ 4 3 2	
♥ —		♥ A 7 4 3	
♦ K Q J 9 3 2		♦ A 10 6 5	
♣ J 8		♣ 6 2	
	♠ A 9 6		
	♥ 9 8 2		
	♦ 7		
	♣ K Q 10 7 5 4		
West	North	East	South
Nowosadzki	Pettis	Kalita	Lo
—	—	—	3♣
4♦ ¹	5♣	5♦	Pass
Pass	Pass		

- Diamonds plus a major

As at all other tables where five diamonds became the final contract, North led the king of hearts and Michal Nowosadzki immediately claimed eleven tricks: 600 to MOSS.

West	North	East	South
Gu	Zatorski	Chechelashvili	Klukowski
—	—	—	Pass
1♦	3♥	Pass	4♣
4♠	5♥	5♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		

No such luck for Gu in five spades. Zatorski unerringly led the ace of clubs, fetching the king from Klukowski. A club to the queen meant one down and a 12-IMP gain for MOSS.

In a desperate attempt to turn around the match a couple of boards later, Ai-Tai Lo opened three spades at favourable vulnerability, in third position, with: ♠Q98763 ♥942 ♦— ♣A763. He was allowed to play there and went three off. In the replay, East/West for AMATEURS went two off in three notrump for a loss of 8 IMPs.

In the remaining deals, only a few IMPs changed hands. Moss won by 27-7 (15.58-4.42) and that was more than enough to triumph.



You may argue that bridge is not the hardest game to master, but I have yet to be convinced otherwise. (And Horton was a competent chess player. – Ed.) Despite the inherent difficulty, the attraction is obvious. Every few minutes, the four players have a new problem to solve. Sometimes the solution is easy, but occasionally one or more of the players is called upon to do something special. Here are a deal that was designed to be testing.

Board 1. Dealer North. Neither Vul.

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

This deal offers North/South a play for six diamonds (and six notrump) but is best played by North, to protect the king of hearts. Even then, declarer would have to play well unless there is a favourable lead.

In the OCBL League 3, the teams SKEIDAR and FREDIN faced off.

West	North	East	South
<i>Fredin</i>	<i>Farstad</i>	<i>Clementsson</i>	<i>Andresen</i>
—	1♣ ¹	Pass	1♦
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♥ ²
Pass	3NT	Pass	4♦
Pass	4♥	Pass	4NT ³
Pass	5♥ ⁴	Double	Pass
Pass	5NT	Pass	6NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. 3+ clubs
2. 4 spades
3. RKCB
4. 2 key cards, no diamond queen

East led the two of clubs for the jack, queen and king. Declarer took three rounds of diamonds, ending in hand, cashed the king of clubs and then tried the spades, claiming one down when the suit failed to divide favourably, minus 50.

West	North	East	South
<i>Aaseng</i>	<i>Sylvan</i>	<i>Johansen</i>	<i>Lagerman</i>
—	2♦ ¹	Pass	2♠ ²
Pass	2NT ³	Pass	3♣ ⁴
Pass	3♦ ⁵	Pass	3♠ ⁶
Pass	3NT ⁷	Pass	4♦ ⁸
Pass	4♥ ⁹	Pass	4♠ ¹⁰
Pass	4NT ¹¹	Pass	5♠ ¹²
Pass	6♦	Pass	Pass

1. 18-19 balanced
2. Puppet to 2NT
3. Forced
4. Stayman
5. No major
6. 4+ diamonds
7. Okay, tell me more
8. 'More diamonds' – sets diamonds as trumps
9. Heart control
10. Spade control
11. RKCB
12. 2 key cards and the queen of diamonds

East led the four of diamonds. Declarer won with the king and continued with a diamond to the queen, West pitching the two of hearts. I wondered if declarer would play on spades now, ensuring the contract if the suit was three-three, or four-two with the player having the shortage being out of trumps. That seems a reasonable line.

However, declarer found something much more spectacular. He drew the outstanding trump, played a

club to the ace, cashed the king of clubs, ruffed a club, came to hand with a spade and ruffed a club. This was the five-card ending:

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

Declarer cashed the nine of diamonds and East, down to three spades and the ace-queen of hearts, discarded the heart queen. Now declarer could play the jack of hearts to East's ace and claim; a spectacular plus 920.

In the OCBL April Invitational, the 'Generation Gap', as it occasionally does, allowed for a rather large difference in evaluation on this deal from Round 5. It also presented quite a challenge in the play, for the younger generation.

Board 14. Dealer East. Neither Vul.

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

Where would you like to play with the North/South cards? A slam in spades or diamonds looks reasonable (even six notrump is plausible), but a club lead would remove an entry to dummy and if the spades and the diamonds break poorly, any slam would be in jeopardy. In LEVINE v. EDMONDS:

West	North	East	South
<i>Klukowski</i>	<i>Meckstroth</i>	<i>Gawrys</i>	<i>Rodwell</i>
—	—	Pass	1♣ ¹
Pass	2♣ ²	Pass	2♥ ³
Pass	2♠ ⁴	Pass	2NT ⁵
Pass	3♣ ⁶	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. Artificial, 16+
2. 5+ diamonds, game forcing
3. 5+ spades
4. 4+ clubs
5. Waiting – tell me more
6. 5+ clubs

Declarer ducked the club lead, won the second round and cashed two top diamonds, finishing with ten tricks for plus 430.

West	North	East	South
Helness	Edmonds	Helgemo	Z. Grossack
—	—	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♥
Pass	3♣ ¹	Pass	3♦
Pass	3♠	Pass	4NT ²
Pass	5♥ ³	Pass	5NT ⁴
Pass	6♦ ⁵	Pass	7♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. Fourth-suit-forcing to game
2. RKCB for spades
3. 2 key cards, no queen of spades
4. Specific kings?
5. King of diamonds

Once North showed some late support for spades, South took control. I suggested that six spades might be awkward on the obvious king-of-clubs lead, with the poor breaks but here, South, Zach Grossack, the youngest player in the field, propelled himself to the grand slam.

West did indeed lead the king of clubs. Declarer won with dummy's ace, played a heart to the ace, ruffed a heart, cashed the jack, came to hand with a diamond and drew trumps, West parting with three clubs and the ten of hearts. Although it was still possible that the diamonds were three-three or that the jack was dropping, declarer decided that West's discards suggested that he was in trouble, so Grossack's next move was a diamond to the ten, landing his contract in spectacular style and collecting 14 IMPs.



Eric Rodwell, as declarer, and Geir Helgemo, as a defender, combined brilliantly on this deal to earn their team an 11-IMP swing.

Board 6. Dealer East. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Dobrescu	Meckstroth	Greenberg	Rodwell
Helness	Koeppel	Helgemo	Tokay
—	—	1♠	Double
Pass	2♦	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Dobrescu led the six of spades, Greenberg winning with the ace and switching to the queen of clubs. Rodwell won that and, looking for alternatives to relying on diamonds coming in to provide nine tricks, tried a heart to the nine, losing to the ten. Greenberg continued the club attack, leading the jack. Rodwell ducked, but won the next club, perforce. Then he cashed the ace of diamonds and the queen appeared on his right.

To succeed from here, he needed the ace of hearts to be in the hand with the short clubs, as the diamonds were blocked and, otherwise, the defence would have too many winners to cash. So Rodwell cashed the king and queen of spades, West discarding a heart, followed by a diamond. Rodwell discarded a diamond from dummy as Dobrescu had kept a stopper in the suit. Then declarer played the ten of diamonds and allowed it to hold the trick. Finally came the coup de grâce: Rodwell played the king of hearts and there was nothing Dobrescu, could do. If she had won with the ace, she would have had to return a red suit to dummy's winners while, if she ducked, she would only delay her fate by one trick, being thrown in with the next heart play. Rodwell had two spades, two clubs, one heart and four diamonds for plus 400.

Meanwhile, Helness/Helgemo were defending the same contract at the other table, and again they started with a spade to the ace and a switch to the queen of clubs. Tokay ducked the first club so Helgemo continued with the four of clubs. Declarer won with the ace and made the same good play of a heart to the nine and ten. Helgemo, however, didn't set up his clubs, instead returning the seven of spades as though that suit offered the defence's only hope. Tokay put in the nine and, when that held, cashed the king of clubs, on which Helgemo dropped the jack. Next he cashed the ace of diamonds and saw Helgemo's queen. What now?

It appeared that Helness had the club length and Helgemo the ace of hearts, else why had the clubs not been established? So Tokay overtook the ten of diamonds with the jack and cashed the king, discarding a heart, while Helgemo discarded a spade. Finally, he led the three of hearts to the queen, king and ace, and found Helness cashing two diamonds to defeat the contract by two tricks; minus 100 and 11 IMPs.

It was a fine team effort by the two LEVINE pairs.



The Bridge Club

Frank Stewart,
Fayette, AL

Trumps in Moderation

My friend the English professor made one of his infrequent appearances at the club a couple of days ago. The prof has a low tolerance level for both bad play and improper use of the English language. He chastised me once for writing that a contract “foundered and sank.”

“It’s a redundancy,” the prof advised me. “‘Founder’ has a built-in sink. That’s what the word means.”

I was sitting in the club lounge with the professor when a member came over and asked him if “abstemiously” is the only English word that has all six vowels in order.

“Abstemiously,” mused the prof. “It means ‘not in excess.’”

“The word usually refers to eating and drinking in moderation, doesn’t it?” I asked.

“True,” the prof replied, “but some of my partners would do better to be abstemious about drawing trumps.”

Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

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

That afternoon, the prof sat in for a few deals of rubber bridge and I watched a deal in which he had to suffer as dummy. South, playing at four hearts, took the king-of-diamonds lead with his ace and promptly began to draw trumps. When he cashed the ace-king of hearts, however, East discarded a spade, and South found himself in hot water. He took the queen-jack of trumps and led the

jack of clubs, which East won to lead another diamond. South ruffed, took his ace and king of spades, and led another club. However, West produced the ace and cashed the ten of hearts, drawing South’s last trump. West then took two diamonds for down two.

“What luck,” South sighed.

The prof groaned. “If you weren’t such a glutton for drawing trumps, you’d have made the contract. You had only two top losers, so you could have afforded to lose a club ruff. So, lead the jack of clubs at the second trick. If the defence takes the ace and king, ruffs the next club, and forces you to ruff a diamond, you can draw trumps – even if they broke 5-1 – and take the rest.

“If instead they win the first club and force you to ruff a diamond,” the prof went on, “you lead another club. If they lead a third diamond, you can ruff in dummy, keeping control, and you’re safe.”

“Is ‘abstemiously’ really the only word with a, e, i, o, u and y in order?” I asked the prof.

“Maybe,” he responded facetiously.



A Delicate Petal

John Carruthers
Kingsville, ON

In the April Invitational Teams, the LEVINE team (Geir Helgemo/Tor Helness, Mike Levine/Eddie Wold, Jeff Meckstroth/Eric Rodwell) faced NICKELL (Ifti Baqai/Mitch Dunitz, Eric Greco/Geoff Hampson, Ralph Katz/Nick Nickell, Bobby Levin/Stevie Weinstein) in one semifinal.

Minimalising errors, improvisation and imagination are the hallmarks of top defenders. On Board 22, Geoff Hampson faced a delicate decision on defence. He needed to help partner Eric Greco.

Dealer East. NS Vul.

<p>♠ 10 8 6 4 ♥ A 10 8 3 ♦ J 8 5 ♣ 10 5</p> <p>♠ A Q 5 3 ♥ Q 6 4 2 ♦ A Q ♣ 8 7 3</p>	<p>♠ K 7 2 ♥ — ♦ 9 7 6 3 2 ♣ A K J 4 2</p> <p>♠ J 9 ♥ K J 9 7 5 ♦ K 10 4 ♣ Q 9 6</p>
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West	North	East	South
Helness	Greco	Helgemo	Hampson
—	—	1♦	1♥
Double	2♦ ¹	Double ²	2♥ ³
3NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. Good heart raise, less than a cue-bid
2. 3 spades
3. Weakest

Greco led the eight of hearts, third from an even number. Helness discarded a diamond from the dummy, Hampson played the five, encouraging, and declarer won with his queen. With excellent chances for nine tricks, Helness tried a club to the king, a spade to the queen, then the king and ace of spades. With spades not splitting favourably, declarer needed the club finesse and took it next. Hampson won with his queen and led the seven of hearts: two, three, diamond three. Hampson now had a problem: It was evident that Greco had started with ace-ten-eight-three of hearts and had a spade winner. How could he, Hampson, with the king-jack-nine of hearts remaining, get Greco to unblock the hearts from his remaining ace-ten?

Hampson thought that the nine of hearts might convince Greco that declarer had the jack. He solved that problem adroitly by returning the king of hearts. It was then obvious to Greco to overtake with the ace, cash his spade and return the ten of hearts for two off, plus 200 and a push.

LEVINE won the match, but lost the final to BERTHEAU (Peter Bertheau/Daniel Zagorin, Gunnar Hallberg/Simon Hult, Oren Roredano/Ami Zamir).

NEWS & VIEWS



OKAY GÜR (1968-2021)

Okay Gür, Turkish National Team member, died suddenly on the 14th of May, 2021. Gür won the Transnational IMP Pairs at the World Championships in Verona in 2006 and a bronze medal in the European Winter Games in Monaco in 2016, as well as titles in NABCs, Turkish National Championships and Turkish Team Trials.

CBF UPDATE

Last month, we reported on the strange goings-on in the Canadian Bridge Federation's main Championship, the Canadian National Teams. The CBF had announced a pause in the event while they took steps "to ensure the integrity of the event". Now the CBF has reported the continuation of the event and announced the appointment of a National Recorder, Tony Reus.



Correspondence

The Editor reserves the right to abridge and/or edit correspondence.
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Dear IBPA Bulletin Editor,

I only found out earlier this week that Grattan Endicott died in April. The WBF website contains an excellent obituary written by Anna Gudge. He was 97 years and four months (funny how the very old, like the very young, count the months ...).

I first met Grattan fifty-plus years ago and in a makeshift partnership won my first event – the Prestatyn Congress Teams, no less. He was a modest and very private man and for those reasons his services to bridge were behind the scenes. There is no doubt that he was for many years the driving force behind the WBF Laws Commission, without ever taking the credit.

So let me write about two of the 'credits' of which he must have been proud. During the glory days of Liverpool Football Club, managed by Bill Shankly, the team played many European Cup games against Italian teams. Shankly spoke no Italian, Grattan did, and was recruited as Shankly's 'bag carrier' in Italy.

Grattan was a member of the EBL Tournament Appeals Committee which dealt with the accusation made against the Italian 'Race Cars' pair at the European Open Championships in Tenerife. Grattan guided his co-committee members (Jean-Paul Meyer, Jens Auken and me) through the pitfalls of evidence, law and jurisdiction to reach a decision that has stood the test of time.

Bridge has lost an unsung hero of the game.

Bill Pencharz, London

Europe has lost two of its giants, Grattan Endicott and Patrick Grenthe, recently. – Ed.

Dear John,

The European qualifiers for the World Championships will last from "three to six days" (according to the EBL) to qualify seven or eight team for Salsomaggiore. That is hardly enough time, even with as few as 20 participants, and it will probably be closer to 40. A Round Robin? Hardly. More than three matches a day won't happen. A Knockout?

I wonder what they have in mind.

PO Sundelin, Stockholm

With the cancellation of the World Championships this fall and the proposed scheduling of them for February/March of next year, the EBL has time to formulate a viable plan by August 23. Let's hope they do so. See the Editorial for some thoughts on this matter. – Ed.

Grattan Endicott 1924-2021



Grattan Endicott died peacefully on April 25th, aged 97 years. He was a loving father, grandfather, great-grandfather and great-great-grandfather.

Grattan achieved a great deal in his long and varied life, serving both his country and bridge over many years. He served as an interpreter in the Royal Navy during the war years, 1941-1946. He subsequently made a career as a top manager in the gambling industry with Littlewoods Football Pools, organizing, from its initiation, the Pools Panel, which judged the results of postponed matches for football pool purposes.

Following retirement, Grattan was appointed Secretary and CEO of the Foundation for Sports and the Arts which, in his time there, distributed some £785 million to these activities. He was invested in 1998 by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II as an Officer of the Order of the British Empire in recognition of his work with the Foundation for Sports and the Arts.

Grattan played rubber bridge at school and, on his return to civilian life, moved to Liverpool and took up duplicate bridge in 1947, becoming an English Grandmaster. He won the Tollemache Cup in 1975. Grattan first appeared internationally as Captain of the British Ladies team in 1985 in São Paulo. He won medals as NPC of the GB Women's Team in the European Championship, Venice Cup and Olympiad.

As an administrator, Grattan served variously as Secretary and Vice-Chairman of the WBF Laws Commission, Treasurer of the EBU, Chairman of the EBL Laws Committee, Co-ordinator of Appeals for WBF World Championships, and as a member of the EBL Executive. In recognition of his enormous contribution, Grattan was elected Honorary Secretary to the WBF Laws Commission and, in 2006, Grattan was awarded the WBF Gold Medal.

(From the WBF and EBU websites.)

Patrick Grenthe 1949-2021



I was very sad to hear of the death of Patrick Grenthe, one of those few people who seem able to manage various careers at the same time. He was CEO of a well-known company, Choky Tropico, President of the bridge club of Lille and a first-class player, becoming a World Champion in the d'Orsi Seniors Bowl 10 years ago in Veldhoven and thus a World Senior Grand Master. Together we organised the biggest World Bridge Series ever in Lille 1998 and he was also a significant member of the organising committee for the World Bridge Games in Lille in 2012.

That was during his first term of President of the French Bridge Federation, during which time he succeeded in having bridge included as a subject within the French school curriculum with the official agreement from the Ministry of Education. During his second term (for which he achieved 98% of the vote), he arranged for the World Bridge Teams in Lyon 2017 which was also very successful.

Patrick was more than a good friend of mine, he was more like an adopted brother for something like 40 years. We had many opportunities to share what he loved more than anything else, bridge games, lunches and dinners. He was extremely fortunate that his family are bridge lovers too, his wife Dominique, and his two sons Guillaume and Jérôme, who were World Junior Pairs silver medallists in Tata, Hungary in 2003, marrowly missing out on gold.

I am sure that the whole bridge community will join me in conveying to Dominique, Guillaume and Jérôme, as well as to their daughter and sister Aurélie, our deepest condolences and sympathy. Through them and all his achievements, Patrick will remain forever in our memory.

**José Damiani, Paris
President Emeritus, WBF**

Guide to Online Events

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

WBF – The 2021 World Team Championships and the 2021 World Youth Team Championships have been cancelled. The next World Team Championships will be held in Salsomaggiore in February/March 2022; the World Bridge Series will be held in Wroclaw September 2-17, 2022. See <http://www.worldbridge.org> for details.

ACBL – Some pair and team events are on BBO. See <https://www.acbl.org> and <https://www.bridgebase.com>. Plans to begin live bridge again in 2021. The 2021 Providence Summer NABC has been moved to 2022; the Austin Fall NABC is currently scheduled to be held face-to-face.

EBL – Has scheduled the European Championships for August 23-28 online. The 19th Champions Cup is scheduled to be held in Slovakia Nov. 11-13, 2020 – see www.eurobridge.org for details.

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 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 Alt BAMs. 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>. 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 for inclusion on the IBPA website (www.ibpa.com).



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