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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.

“Everything is political.” – Paul Krugman, 2008 Nobel Prize-winning economist in *Arguing with Zombies*.

Krugman was referring to twenty-first-century America, but that sentiment could equally well be applied to any large international sports organisation such as the IOC, IAAF, FIFA, UEFA, NCAA or indeed, our own WBF. FIA does not escape that distinction either since their ‘political entities’ are the automobile constructors, some of whose net worth is greater than the GDP of small nations. Nevertheless, FIA does play the winning driver’s national anthem at the closing ceremonies of every Formula One race.

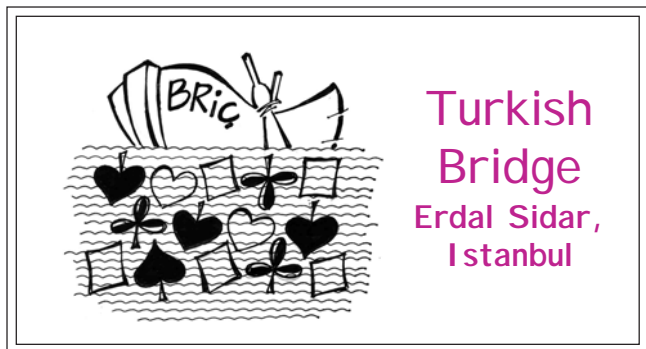
We often hear (or see) these organisations bleating about ‘keeping politics out of sports’. The most recent of these incidents occurred in UEFA’s Euro 2020 when the governing body of football in Europe refused to allow the locals in Munich to display the rainbow colours at Munich’s Allianz Stadium prior to the Germany-Hungary match because of its “political context”. Munich’s mayor had requested the display to protest Hungary’s passing of legislation biased against gays. In accordance with UEFA’s avowed stand against racism, here was an opportunity to take a stand against bias of another kind. They declined. Even more dreadful incidents occurred in Wembley Stadium when the English faithful booed the national anthems of Croatia, Scotland, Germany and Denmark as well as the players who were kneeling against racism before the start of each game.

All international sports organisations are political by definition. If you go to the Olympics or the World Bridge Championships, you represent a nation – what could be more political than that? Pull out your 1971 World Bridge Championship book and look at the Bermuda Bowl contestants – among them is the Republic of China. What happened to the ROC, as it was then known? The answer is that the People’s Republic of China (PRC), a much-more powerful entity, put pressure on all organisations, from the UN to the WBF, to henceforth refer to the ROC as “Chinese Taipei”, obviously attempting (successfully) to diminish its importance and political clout and denote its standing within the PRC as a “rogue province”. The PRC even persuaded the powers-that-be to display an innocuous ‘national’ flag for Chinese Taipei at their gatherings rather than the real Taiwanese flag. If we also look at how international sports organisations, including the IOC and the WBF, treated Israel and South Africa over the years, we can see the hypocrisy of their “no politics in sports” stance.

Another blatant, and closer to home, example of this hypocrisy was the major bridge organisations’ reaction to the American women’s display of a hand-made sign proclaiming, “We did not vote for Bush” during the closing ceremonies for the

Continued on page 16 ...

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**Turkish
Bridge**
Erdal Sidar,
Istanbul

Turkish Winter Teams

Here are two deals from the Turkish Winter Open Teams. Perhaps you'd like to try them as a quiz. If not, just go to the answers.

1. You are East, with West the dealer and neither side vulnerable.

East

♠ 8 6
♥ K Q J 6
♦ K 8 7 5 4
♣ A 3

South

♠ 9 5 4 3
♥ —
♦ A Q
♣ K Q 10 9 8 7 4

You see the following bidding:

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

You led the king of hearts and continued with the jack and queen. Declarer discarded three spades from the dummy, West followed with the eight (reverse count), two and seven and declarer with the three, four and nine.

What card do you play at trick four? Where is the ace of hearts?

2. This time, you are West and, after an uncontested auction, you are playing in four spades ...

Dealer East. EW Vul.

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

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

- Game-forcing relay
- 3-card spade support, could have 4 hearts

How do you play after the lead of the spade jack?

ANSWERS

Both these deals were played in the final match of the Turkish Winter Open Teams with 60 Teams participating.

1. Final 1. Board 8. Dealer West. Neither Vul.

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

If you are confident about the meaning of your partner's carding, you should shift to a spade. Firstly, North could not have bid three notrump without the ace of hearts; secondly, declarer is clearly planning to shut you out of hearts, since, on the bidding, you are likely to have the ace of clubs. That strategy, as you can see, will be successful.

At the table, Dogan Uzun played a spade at trick four; 10 IMPs to his side.

2. Final 2. Board 6. Dealer East. EW Vul.

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

When the jack of spades is led, (as it was at both tables in the final), winning in hand and taking an immediate diamond finesse seems best. Even if the diamond finesse loses, the ace of clubs might be onside to prevent two losers in clubs. If the diamond finesse wins, as it did in practice, you ought to run the nine of spades to guard against losing two trump tricks, where possible.

Repeating the diamond finesse allows a club to be discarded, after which you can lead up to the king of clubs if the defence has not done so, and, if you lose two clubs and a spade, eventually taking a heart finesse will secure the contract.

Declarer Omer Kizilok played this way and, when the nine of spades was led from dummy, South didn't give

declarer a chance to make a mistake and covered with his ten. At the other table, the same contract was down one for 12 IMPs.

The Final was won by SAYILKAN (107-30 IMPs) against ELDEBEYATI. Team SAYILKAN comprised Tevfik Sayilkan, Suleyman Kolata, Levent Ozgul, Omer Kizilok, Dogan Uzun and Merter Boybek.

WBT Masters

The following deal is from the World Bridge Tour Masters II match between LESLIE and SCOTWAY. It featured difficult (and imperfect) declarer play and defence.

Round 6. Board 7. Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Shenkin	Leslie	Levinson	Burgess
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	1♦	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

When West, Barnet Shenkin, led the eight of diamonds, declarer, Ollie Burgess, was aware that the lead was likely a singleton. The situation did not look very hopeful for declarer; he took the lead with dummy's ace of diamonds and led a low spade to the jack and ace. Shenkin made the most effective return, leading the seven of clubs to the eight, nine and ace. Declarer led the six of diamonds. West discarded the seven of hearts (discouraging) instead of ruffing, helping declarer more than his partner. South won the diamond with dummy's king and continued with the jack, won by East's, Steve Levinson's, queen. East led the five of hearts, declarer winning with the king, leading a spade to the dummy's king and discarding a heart on the ten of diamonds. Shenkin ruffed with his spade ten and led another club, but dummy had a good diamond for one of declarer's losers.

At the other table, Nils Kvangraven declared in one notrump from the North hand and went down one trick, 5 IMPs to LESLIE against SCOTWAY.

It is not always right to decline to ruff a loser. Here, had West ruffed declarer's lead of a second diamond and

continued with another club, declarer would have gone down. By ruffing, West would have been protecting his partner's diamond queen, an unusual play. Conversely, had declarer led two more rounds of trumps when in with the ace of clubs, he'd have made his contract.

MMT Summer Trophy

This time we are at the Monthly Mixed Teams Summer Trophy, from the MARLENKA/SWUSA match.

Round 8. Board 8. Dealer West. Both Vul.

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

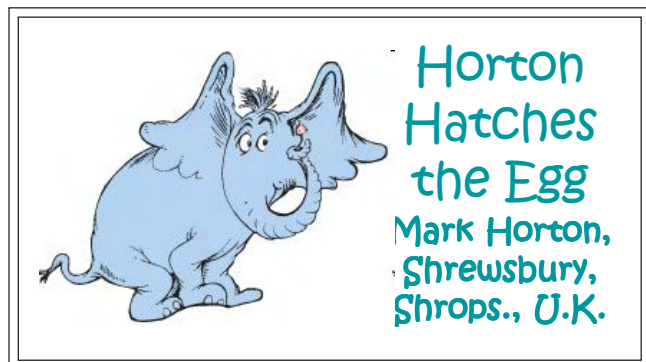
West	North	East	South
Michielsen	Gold	Cullin	Seale
INT ¹	Pass	2♦ ²	Pass
2♥	Pass	3NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		
1. 15-16 HCP			
2. Transfer to hearts			

David Gold led the five of clubs to the jack and ace, then, to disguise the club length, let dummy's queen win the second club, playing the ten on Michielsen's nine. Declarer led a spade to the ace, then the ten of hearts to the king, ace and four. She then led a club to North, South, Catherine Seale, discarding the ten of diamonds. North cashed one more club, extracting hearts from dummy and South, and a diamond from declarer, but then shifted to a diamond to avoid squeezing his partner. When declarer won the diamond and led her second heart to dummy, receiving the news in that suit, this was the situation:

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

Declarer led dummy's spade to the king, dropping the queen from North, and cashed the king of diamonds.

South was in the unfortunate position of having to discard a spade, giving the last two tricks to dummy's hearts, or of keeping a spade and allowing declarer to make both spades in her hand. Well done — 10 IMPs to SWUSA.



Robotics

Although there are limitless ways to play competitive bridge online, it is not for everyone. Many prefer to keep their hand in by testing themselves against the BBO Robots. Simon Stocken is one such, and he sent me a couple of interesting deals from eight-board sessions of match points.

I wonder if the BBO Robots had been made aware of the Laws of Robotics, created by Isaac Asimov. They are:

First Law

A robot may not injure a human being or, through inaction, allow a human being to come to harm.

Second Law

A robot must obey the orders given it by human beings except where such orders would conflict with the First Law.

Third Law

A robot must protect its own existence as long as such protection does not conflict with the First or Second Law.

How these laws might affect them when playing bridge is unclear, but Simon tells me that they have a penchant for leading singletons and doubletons, even against notrump contracts and, in situations where they are being squeezed, they always release the vital card at the earliest opportunity. Try your hand at this deal:

Board 1. Dealer North. Neither Vul.

♠ J 6 2
♥ K 6 5 4
♦ A Q 8 3
♣ Q 5

♠ A K Q 5 4
♥ A Q 8 2
♦ K 6
♣ A 4

West	North	East	South
—	1♦	Pass	1♠
Pass	INT ¹	Pass	2♣ ²
Pass	2♠	Pass	4NT ³
Pass	5♣ ⁴	Pass	5NT ⁵
Pass	6♥ ⁶	Pass	7♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

- 12-14
- New-Minor Forcing
- RKCB
- 1 key card
- Kings?
- Heart king

Having found your way to seven spades, the Robotic West leads the spade three. You draw trumps, which takes four rounds, West discarding the five of diamonds, followed by the three and two of clubs, while you pitch a heart from dummy. When you continue with a heart to the king and a heart to the ace, East discards the six of clubs. You win and cash your last trump, upon which West discards the jack of diamonds. Here is your endgame before the last trump:

♠ —
♥ 6
♦ A Q 8 3
♣ Q 5

♠ 5
♥ Q 8
♦ K 6
♣ A 4

Now you have to make a decision: has West been squeezed in the red suits, or does the robot have the king of clubs and four hearts in a 1=4=3=5 pattern, in which case you must pitch a diamond, cash the ace of clubs and then take three rounds of diamonds.

This was the full deal:

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

On this layout, you have to play for the red suit squeeze, noting that the robot unguarded diamonds at its earliest opportunity. However, in reality, it is not the correct answer to the question, which should be: "I wouldn't have started from here."

Declarer has a much better line that eliminates the need for any kind of guess. Having drawn trumps, you cash a fifth spade discarding a second heart from dummy. Then you take the ace of clubs and three rounds of diamonds, which covers all the bases.

Here's another tester:

Board 5. Dealer North. NS Vul.

♠ 7 3
 ♥ A Q 10 9 6 4
 ♦ K 4
 ♣ 9 7 2

♠ A J 10 5
 ♥ 5
 ♦ A J 9 5 2
 ♣ A Q 5

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

West leads the seven of hearts – over to you.

Your first thought might be that if the diamonds are good for five tricks you may be able to engineer some sort of endplay. However, you are short of entries to dummy and, if the diamonds are coming in, there is no rush to play them.

Here's the full deal:

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

You need to win the heart lead and take a spade finesse. West wins and plays a second heart, East winning with the jack as you discard a black five. With the king of diamonds still in dummy, East can't afford to cash the king of hearts. A club switch looks natural (nothing else is better) but, when the queen wins, declarer crosses to the diamond king, takes a second spade finesse and then plays two rounds of diamonds, hoping for a doubleton queen or ten or a three-three break.

Meet My Maker the Mad Mouse

During the Covid years, the increase of game play on the Internet has been exponential, especially in the case of chess and bridge. If you play these games 'face to face', once in a blue moon the result may be affected by what is sometimes referred to as a 'fingerfehler', English

star David Kendrick describing these mechanical mistakes as 'clerical errors'. They are comparatively rare (in the space of fifty-odd years, I have twice gone down in a slam by ruffing with a non-trump).

However, when it comes to Internet play, things are different. Online chess and bridge involve the use of a mouse and it is all too easy to make a mistake (World Chess Champion Magnus Carlsen recently lost a game when his queen 'alighted' one square short of the intended destination, turning an easy win into a loss). There have been numerous examples at the bridge table, but this deal from a recent ALT event might be the granddaddy of them all:

Board 6. Dealer East. EW Vul.

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

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

West	North	East	South
V. Gupta	D. Gold	M. Bilde	Black
—	—	Pass	1♥
Pass	4♣ ¹	Pass	4♦ ²
Pass	4♠ ³	Pass	5♣ ⁴
Pass	7♥	Pass	Pass

1. Void splinter
2. Last Train
3. Asking for key cards outside clubs
4. 0/3 key cards

West led the queen of diamonds. Declarer won with the ace, cashed the ace of hearts and played the two of spades, claiming when the queen appeared, plus 1510.

West	North	East	South
Hult	H. Lall	Hallberg	Hamman
—	—	Pass	1♥
Pass	2♠ ¹	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♥ ²	Pass	4♦
Pass	5NT ³	Pass	6♣ ⁴
Pass	6♦ ⁵	Pass	7NT
Double	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. 'Strong jump shift, many hands with spades'
2. '5+ spades, 3+ hearts, game forcing'
3. Intended as Josephine, the Grand Slam Force: 'bid seven with two of the top three honours'
4. Apparently responding to "Pick a slam"
5. Uncharted territory

East led the three of diamonds. Declarer won with dummy's ace and played a heart to the queen, East discarding the five of diamonds. Then, a heart to the ace and the heart king before leading a spade, claiming when her highness put in an appearance, plus 1760.

However, that is not the end of the story. I am indebted to Martin Cantor, who was commentating at the time, for this description of what happened next:

OK, let's start with the auction.

I said in the commentary that it felt like I'd gone back 30-plus years: strong jump shift and five-notrump Josephine. It looks like Bob Hamman took five notrump as the 'modern' pick a slam but, with the lack of alerts (e.g., of four diamonds), it's hard to be sure. Simon Hult did well not to double six clubs, but with a wheel apparently off, why would you? Six diamonds was anyone's guess and seven notrump, reluctant as I am to criticise TGBH, seems unwarranted. So much for Part 1.

After the double, Gunnar Hallberg knew he was looking for Simon Hult's ace, but which one was it? He took a long, long time, presumably debating between the minors. Maybe Hult not doubling six clubs influenced him, or perhaps it was the six-level minor-suit bids, whatever he thought they meant. In the end, he chose a diamond. End of Part 2.

I must admit that at that point my attention wandered, with 14 cold tricks. I sat up again when my co-commentator Paul Barden typed in "What?". When Hemant Lall had started playing on hearts, he had dropped the jack under one of dummy's top honours. So, when he played the nine of hearts from dummy, Hult's ten appeared, along with Barden's exclamation. Then Lall asked for an undo, which was refused. There was some table discussion and TD Denis Dobrin was called. He listened, and I think had a private discussion with Hemant Lall, who seemed to be claiming he had played the nine of hearts earlier, or meant to (he was attesting a misclick from the previous trick to the one now played). Dobrin said allow the undo for now and I'll look at it and get back to you. Dobrin seems to have had some further private chat with Hallberg. Dobrin asked privately, but Hallberg answered to the table, repeating simply that Lall had played the jack under an honour and one trick later, when saw the ten take the nine, asked for an undo.

Shortly before the end of the match, Dobrin came back and said words to the effect that, while he didn't doubt what was said, the evidence of a mechanical misclick was not sufficiently strong, so he was ruling down six (the ten of hearts, four diamond tricks and the ace of clubs) for minus-1400, a 21-IMP swing.

This catastrophe could equally have happened at a 'live' table, but many players have told me that they feel uncomfortable playing online, finding it harder to keep track of what has been played. Perhaps it is more difficult to maintain concentration when playing from the comfort of one's home surroundings.

I wonder if declarer had missed that the red five East played was not a heart (West had played the four of hearts on the first round of the suit). Not one to intrude on personal grief, I'll leave someone else to ask Hemant.

(The timing of the request for an 'Undo' certainly makes it appear that this was a careless error rather than a mechanical misclick or 'mouse error'. Although, speaking from experience, I know how easily misclicks can occur. I once had a misclick occur when I won a trick with an ace and immediately led my lowest card of the same suit to the next trick, not having intended to do so. I was informed that I probably held the mouse clicker down too long on the ace, provoking BBO to lead another of the same suit.

In any case, BBO has a facility that helps to prevent misclicks. In your Personal Account section (accessed from the "Personal" icon on the far right of the screen), click on "Settings" and look at the "Playing" section. There are options for "Confirm Bids" and "Confirm Cards". Toggle each of those and, when you play, you'll need to click on a card twice to play it and click "OK" to confirm your bids. It's a bit tedious, but well worth the slight annoyance. Make sure you check those settings each time before you begin to play. – Ed.)



The Alt BAM Invitational II

The first deal of Round 9 was something of a curiosity in that North/South were cold for nine tricks in notrumps, and yet East/West could make game in hearts despite only a four-four fit.

Board 1. Dealer North. Neither Vul.

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

However, only one North/South pair managed to play the deal in notrumps, and that was at the one level. Half the field bought the contract in a spade partial. One of those was:

West	North	East	South
Mahmood	v. d. Hoek	Gold	Bremer
—	Pass	2♠ ¹	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. Stronger(!) weak 2

David Gold opened his stronger version of a weak two and the Dutch were quite content to allow him to play there. The early play was straightforward, the defenders starting with two rounds of clubs, declarer ruffing. Gold played two top diamonds and ruffed dummy's third club, followed by two top hearts and a third round of diamonds, ruffing when North pitched his remaining club. Gold had made seven tricks and, in the five-card ending, he exited with a heart, won by North with the jack. North had to lead a trump now, and South won with the ten.

Not wishing to lead away from his ace-queen of spades, South exited with his last club. Of course, it cannot cost North to ruff with the king of spades but, when he instead ruffed low, Gold was able to score the jack of spades as his eighth trick. East/West had an excellent plus 110.

At the other table ...

West	North	East	South
Hoebe	de Wijs	Zomer	Muller
—	Pass	Pass	1♦
Pass	1♠	Pass	Pass
2♦	Double	Pass	2♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

With six-four in the majors and poor spades, this East hand is unquestionably not the ideal weak-two opening, and I am sure that many would agree with Marco Zomer's decision to pass. The subsequent auction does not look unreasonable, although neither side got close to the true potential on their cards. It is almost always bad news when your team plays in the same suit at both tables. The defensive slip at the other table, though, meant the world at Board-a-Match scoring. Simon de Wijs managed to overcome the 6-0 trump trick sufficiently to scramble six tricks. East/West plus 100 meant the whole point to GUPTA by the smallest-possible margin.

Only SELIGMAN's Norwegian stars showed how it should be done:

West	North	East	South
Lindqvist	Zamir	Brogeland	Yekutieli
—	Pass	Pass	1♣ ¹
1♦	1♥ ²	Double ³	1♠ ⁴
2♥	2♠	Double	Pass
3♦	Pass	4♥	Pass
Pass	Pass		

- 2+ clubs
- Spades
- Hearts
- 12-14 balance with 3 spades

With the opponents' bidding telling Boye Brogeland that his partner had no spades, he was able to envision how

the deal would play and bid the ultra-thin game. Great judgement!

Espen Lindqvist ruffed the opening spade lead and immediately played three rounds of diamonds, ruffing low in dummy when North pitched a club. Two rounds of trumps returned the lead to the West hand, and Lindqvist began running his diamonds.

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

Ami Zamir could have ruffed in with the master trump and forced declarer with a spade to hold the contract to ten tricks but, instead, he pitched all of his spades, dummy throwing a club and two spades. Declarer ruffed a club in dummy. When Lindqvist ruffed a spade with his last trump, what could North have done? If he discarded, that would be declarer's eleventh trick but, if he overruffed, he was then endplayed to lead away from his ace of clubs and declarer would score the king of clubs to make the same 11 tricks.

The Alt Mini-Swiss

There was only one major swing in the Round 6 match between MOSS and GUPTA at the top table. East/West held a pair of 13-counts:

Board 3. Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
de Wijs	Lee	Muller	S. Moss
—	—	—	Pass
1♦ ¹	Pass	2♣ ²	Double
3♥ ³	4♥	5♣	Pass
Pass	Pass		

- 2+ diamonds, 11-15 HCP
- Natural, invitational-plus
- Splinter in support of clubs

Bauke Muller chose to bid the vulnerable game rather than accept a 500 penalty (which might well have been less on a slightly different layout), but there was no room to investigate the deal further. With both minors behaving well enough, declarer had to lose just one high heart: East/West plus 620.

West	North	East	South
Brink	Robson	Drijver	Crouch
—	—	—	Pass
1♦	Pass	2♣	2♠
Double	3♠	Pass	Pass
4♣	Pass	4♦	Pass
4♥	Pass	5♣	Pass
5NT	Pass	6♣	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Sjoert Brink's one-diamond opening strongly suggested at least a five-card suit (or, exceptionally, 4=4=4=1 shape) and, here too, the two-club response was not game-forcing. Peter Crouch preferred to show his five-card spade suit and Brink doubled to show clubs. Andrew Robson raised spades and Brink now limited his hand with four clubs. When Bas Drijver advanced with a four-diamond bid, though, Brink's hand improved enormously. He showed his heart control and, when Drijver then settled for five clubs, he continued with a 'pick-a-slam' five notrump. East/West plus 1370 and 13 IMPs to MOSS, who won a low-scoring affair 23-10.

Next it was the turn of the Icelanders to face MOSS. The following deal produced a significant swing in eight of the eleven matches, including the top two tables.

Board 4. Dealer West. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
S. Moss	Baldursson	Lee	Gudjohnsen
Pass	1♥	Pass	2♣ ¹
Pass	2♦ ²	Pass	2♥ ³
Pass	3♦	Pass	3♠
Pass	3NT	Pass	4♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. Clubs or balanced, GF
2. Denies 4 spades or six hearts
3. Clubs

The Icemen had a seemingly natural auction (without the alerts), with North opening one heart and, eventu-

ally, bidding diamonds. South showed a game-forcing hand with clubs and then bid his spades twice. Jon Baldursson was left with a choice of playing in the 5-2 spade fit or giving preference to clubs on his singleton. He chose to pass.

Sylvia Moss led the only suit legitimately to defeat slam in spades although, when she picked out the diamond four rather than the king, it was inevitable that Roger Lee would undo some of her good work by playing the ace at trick one. Einar Gudjohnsen ruffed, crossed to the ace of clubs, and took the spade finesse. Moss won with the king and could have made things interesting by continuing with the king of diamonds, forcing declarer down to fewer trumps than she held. When, instead, she switched to the nine of hearts, declarer was able to win with the ace, draw trumps and claim the rest; North/South plus 680.

West	North	East	South
Armansson	Drijver	Thorvaldsson	Brink
Pass	1♥	Pass	2♣ ¹
Pass	2♦ ²	Double ³	3♣
Pass	3NT	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♠ ⁴	Pass	6♣
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. GF relay
2. Minimum without 4 spades
3. Diamonds
4. Good hand for clubs

The Dutch (or Swiss - Ed.) also had a quasi-natural auction, Drijver's two-diamond rebid denying four spades rather than showing diamonds, though. Sjoert Brink showed his extra club length and then emphasized the suit quality by bidding them for a third time over three notrump. Suitably inspired, Drijver advanced with four spades, showing a suitable hand for a club slam. Brink needed no second invitation.

There was little to the play. Declarer ruffed the diamond king lead, crossed to the ace of clubs, and took the losing spade finesse. He then ruffed the diamond continuation, drew trumps, and claimed once the spade suit behaved; North/South plus 1370 and 12 IMPs to MOSS.

Remembering Bernie

**James Marsh Sternberg
Palm Beach Gardens, FL**

In golf, fans applaud when players make birdies or exceptional shots. But there is a certain different noise after a hole-in-one.

A number of years ago, I was playing with the late, great, Bernie Chazen. Sitting West, I held: ♠QJ6, ♥63, ♦AKJ9, ♣Q1074.

With neither side vulnerable, my RHO opened a 12-14 point one notrump. I doubled and everyone passed. The full deal was:

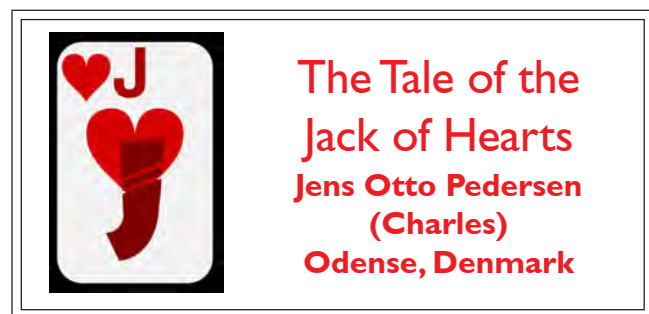
Dealer South. Neither Vul.

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

I led the diamond ace. Bernie played the two, discouraging in those days, so I switched to a low club. As you can see, with back-and forth defence, we took four clubs, four diamonds and five spades for down seven. With his usual exuberance, Bernie couldn't resist jumping up from his chair and yelling, "Yes, sir!" with a fist raised.

At the other table, the board having been already played, the opponents asked my teammate, "What's that noise all about?" My teammate correctly answered, "I'm not sure, but it sounds like one notrump doubled, down seven."

A hole-in-one, indeed.



The Danish Senior Teams Championship was played on RealBridge. The six Danish World Champions from Wuhan were in an extremely strong field.

The decisive blow fell on the last trick of the final match between the World Champions, captained by Steen Schou, and the team captained by Klaus Adamsen. Schou was leading, but the Wuhan Danish team captain Peter Magnussen, playing for Klaus Adamsen, managed to make three notrump on a very nice strip-squeeze, while four spades was down at the other table.

There were many exciting deals, and the prizes for the best declarer play and the best defence went to Adamsen's team, rather unusually, on the same board!

Dealer North. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Jørgen Pabst</i>	<i>Peter Magnussen</i>	<i>Morten Stege</i>	<i>John Henriksen</i>
—	1♦	Pass	1♥
Pass	4♣ ¹	Pass	4♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. Void splinter

West led the two of spades. When declarer followed with the four from dummy, East won with the queen, cashed the ace, and shifted to a club for the bare ace.

Henriksen could not afford two trump losers, and he knew that spades were four-three, with East holding ace-queen-fourth. Since West had three spades to East's four, declarer considered it slightly more likely that West held king-third of hearts (had East held a doubleton-king of hearts, he might have played a third round of spades, intending to play a fourth round when in with the king of hearts, in the hope of promoting a second trump trick).

Thus, when declarer led a low trump from dummy and saw the eight appear from East, he played the nine from hand! West won with the ten and continued spades for the king. Henriksen crossed to hand with king of diamonds to play the heart queen. When East followed with the jack, Henriksen's play was justly rewarded. That resulted in ten nice tricks.

Every other declarer failed in four hearts, but it took a brilliancy from Dennis Koch-Palmund at the other table to beat the contract.

West	North	East	South
<i>Klaus Adamsen</i>	<i>Benny Marquard</i>	<i>Dennis Koch-Palmund</i>	<i>Preben Taasti</i>
—	1♦	Pass	1♥
Pass	2NT ¹	Pass	3♣ ²
Pass	3♥ ³	Pass	4♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. 16+ with or without heart support
2. GF relay
3. Heart support, extra values

Continued on page 12...



IBPA Column Service

Tim Bourke, Canberra



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

1053. Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

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

1. GF raise in hearts
2. Minimum, no side-suit shortage

The opening lead at both tables in a team match was a trump. After counting winners, the first declarer decided to give himself the maximum chance of making an overtrick. He took the first trick in dummy with the king of hearts, then cashed the queen of trumps before crossing to hand with a trump to the ace and leading a low club to dummy's king and East's ace. East exited with a club and declarer's jack was taken by West's queen. After cashing the ten of clubs, West got off play with a diamond. When the jack of diamonds lost to East's queen, declarer was a trick short of his contract.

At the other table, declarer played with metronomic efficiency and speed. After drawing three rounds of trumps with dummy's tops, declarer cashed the ace-king of diamonds and then ruffed the jack of diamonds. Next he played the ace, king and another spade. West took this with the queen and exited with the eight of clubs. Declarer simply played low to ensure that he'd make a club trick no matter how the suit lay. Declarer took five trumps, two spades, two diamonds and a club.

The difference in the two plans was that, after East had followed to the first round of trumps, the second declarer's approach guaranteed the contract no matter how the opposing cards were distributed, while giving up on the overtrick. This was clearly the correct strategy at teams play, and even at pairs looks to be a sensible line.

1054. Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
—	—	—	2NT ¹
Pass	6NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

1. 20-21 points

This was a straightforward power auction to the best contract. West led the queen of spades. After dummy appeared, declarer noted that the maximum number of tricks available to him was 12, and then only if he could make five clubs tricks.

Declarer was a careful player and decided to gain as much information as possible about the defensive hands before tackling clubs. As he would always have to lose a spade trick, declarer let the queen hold the first trick. After winning the spade continuation with the king, declarer cashed the ace of spades followed by his three heart winners.

This revealed that West had begun with five-five in the major suits, making it highly unlikely that West had three

clubs. Declarer turned this into a certainty about West's maximum possible club holding by cashing the ace of diamonds: once West followed with a diamond he could have at most two clubs. So, declarer led a low club from hand to dummy's king. When West discarded a spade, declarer claimed 12 tricks on the marked club finesse.

Of note is that even if both defenders had followed to the three top hearts, declarer's best play would still have been a low club to the king on the first round of the suit, since the spade break had marked East with more vacant spaces than West.

1055. Dealer East. Neither Vul.

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

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

West led a third-highest five of hearts at both tables in a team game. The first declarer played low from the dummy and trumped East's nine. He eventually decided to hope that trumps were two-two or that the king of clubs was short. After ruffing the first trick in hand, declarer cashed the ace of clubs and ruffed a club low. Next he returned to hand with a heart ruff to ruff the nine of clubs in dummy with the king of trumps. Declarer returned to hand with a heart ruff to play the ace and another trump. When, unluckily, East had two trump winners, declarer was down one as he also had to lose a trick in each minor.

At the other table, declarer played the ten of hearts from dummy to gain information about East's holding in hearts. When East covered this with the queen declarer surmised that East had begun with ace-queen-to-six hearts, making it highly unlikely that he had the ace of diamonds. After winning the first trick with a ruff, declarer relied on the old dictum: "When in doubt, play to set up the side-suit that offers the most promise."

Accordingly, the king of diamonds was smartly on the table at trick two. West took the ace of diamonds and played a second heart. Declarer ruffed this, cashed the ace of trumps then played a second round of diamonds.

All that East could do was to ruff the diamond and exit with a club. Declarer rose with the ace, then played a trump to dummy's king before discarding his club losers on dummy's diamonds, making the contract with an overtrick.

Note that the queen-of-spades lead would have defeated four spades.

1056. Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
—	—	—	2NT ¹
Pass	6NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

1. 20-21 points

After another power auction to a notrump slam, West led the ten of spades. Declarer counted 12 tricks if the diamonds played for four tricks. So, after taking the first trick with dummy's queen, declarer cashed the king and queen of diamonds, revealing the worst-possible 4-1 break.

Declarer crossed to hand with a club to the king to lead a low heart. When West followed low, declarer played dummy's jack. Declarer was buoyed when that held, for he now had a chance for a twelfth trick. Declarer cashed his four black-suit winners ending in hand. Once West followed to three rounds of both spades and clubs, West was marked with either two hearts or three. Declarer continued with a low heart towards dummy. If West had only two hearts then the king would appear. When West followed with a low card, declarer played the ace and another heart. West had to win with his king of hearts and lead away from his jack of diamonds into declarer's ace-ten, giving declarer his twelfth trick.

Call for Nominations

Any member may nominate a deal, person, book or organisation for an IBPA Award. Nominations should be sent to Barry Rigal or John Carruthers by July 31, 2021.

West led the queen of clubs, so the defence did not get their two spade tricks straightaway. Declarer won with the club ace in dummy and followed with the ace of hearts, upon which Koch-Palmund in East beautifully unblocked the jack! That allowed Adamsen in West to take the next trump and play a spade through.

If East had played low under the ace of hearts, he would have been allowed to hold the jack on the next round of the suit. Then declarer would have been able to pitch two spades from hand on dummy's diamonds for ten tricks.

The McCallum 2NT

Karen McCallum, Exeter, NH
(From *Bridge Winners*)

In 50-odd years of playing various complex one-of-a-major-two-notrump (1M-2NT) structures, I found myself frustrated by their inaccuracy and annoyed that we sometimes gave gratuitous information to our opponents. There had to be a better way. Perhaps I've found the answer.

For several years, I've been experimenting with an entirely new approach. It appears to have a number of advantages. These are:

Advantages of the Method:

- simplified major-suit auctions
- improved accuracy
- a clear and easy way to bid with a game-force, limit raise, or a mixed raise
- often giving the opponents a headache
- giving the opponents nothing to double for the opening lead most of the time
- concealing Opener's shape when not interested in going past four of the major
- as a fringe benefit, eliminating the need for the dreaded Bergen raises.

That's a lot of plusses, with no real downside that I can see. Here is the method...

Description:

1M-2NT shows any hand with four-card support that's better than a preempt. (1M-3M is preemptive).

Opener's Rebids:

If you want to keep it super simple, Opener rebids BMW in steps (Best, Middle, Worst):

- 3♣ is the best hand
- 3♦ is above average (middle)
- 3♥ is an ordinary minimum hand (worst)
- 3♠ is a sub-minimum (only after 1♠ opener)

- four of a new suit shows a second suit with at least two of the top three honors (five/five-plus).

Then:

- the next higher non-trump-suit bid asks for a shortage
- 4NT is RKCB.

Responder's Follow-ups:

- sign off in 3M with a mixed raise
- pass 3M with a limit raise, since 3M is the worst hand
- bid game with a limit raise when the loser-count is right (if using LTC – see later)
- ask for shortage on the next round if it is relevant
- start a control-bidding sequence if not interested in shortage.

That's it in a nutshell. It's basic enough that you can play it as is, or refine it to your heart's content.

More Accuracy – The Losing Trick Count:

If you want more accuracy than BMW (as I do), and you don't mind a little extra memory work, Opener can show loser-count over two notrump, as follows:

- 3♣: 5 losers or fewer
- 3♦: 6 losers
- 3♥: 7 losers
- 3♠: 8 losers, the worst (Of course, we can only do this after a one-spade Opener, since we need to be able to stop in three hearts after one heart-two notrump.)

Responder can usually place the contract at this point. If he is interested in bigger things:

Slam Bidding:

- Responder can use the next step (other than the 3M sign-off) to ask for shortage. Show No, Low, Middle, High (or whatever scheme is standard in your partnership).
- The second idle step asks for a second four-card suit. Show No, Low, Middle, High (Or, you might use Opener's 3M+1 rebid to show a second four-card suit, and Responder can ask if he cares.)
- Alternatively, Responder can start a control-bidding sequence. Or, you could build in a control ask if you like.

The only complicated auction occurs when Opener has five losers or fewer. Opener rebids three clubs. Then, Responder continues as follows:

- 3♦: asks shortage, as expected.
- 3M: "I have exactly ten losers; maybe we don't want to bid a game." (we have 15 losers)
- 4M: "I have exactly 9 losers." Good enough for game (we have 14), but I don't want to bid more.

Otherwise, Responder shows his own losers backwards – starting with eight. Thus, after 1M-2NT-3♣:

- Responder rebids three of the other major (3OM) with 8 losers
- 3NT: 7 losers
- 4♣: 6 losers
- 4♦: 5 losers
- etc.

(If you're playing this structure in combination with a strong-club system, then all the work after 1M-2NT-3♣ is superfluous. You won't need it.)

Against Competition:

Competition doesn't present very much of a problem and can easily be handled using your current methods for interference over Jacoby 2NT, with the one exception that there is no forcing pass by Opener, since Responder often has less-than-invitational values. Opener makes that assumption and proceeds accordingly. Responder is responsible for bidding on if he has more than a Mixed Raise.

Since I play a strong club system most of the time, and we are bidding on fit and following the Law of Total Tricks principles, we don't need very complex agreements. We're simply going to bid to our Trick Total level unless Responder is very strong.

I also play this structure in one "Standard American" partnership, and again find that competition can be dealt with fairly easily using partnership general principles and a bit of common sense. Since you're in a step sequence you can use whatever structure your partnership employs against, say, Blackwood interference.

In my partnerships, whenever we're "counting on our fingers," as we are here, if the opponents interfere we use a slightly modified R2D2 (another creation of my own), which stands for "Redouble or Double is the second step." (Pass is the first step.) Thus, if they bid below 3M minus one, we simply pass when we would have bid the first step (3♣ showing 5 losers), double if we would have bid 3♦ (6 losers), and bid 3M with our normal 3M rebid.

If they bid 3M minus one or higher we modify things slightly. Pass says, "My bid was lower." Double says, "He stole my bid." Other bids through 3♠ are normal, as if there had been no overcall; 4m is also normal; 3NT is natural.

The only major modification we've had to make to our old Jacoby 2NT principles is that Opener's voluntary rebid does not promise control in the opponents' suit, since pass would not be forcing.

Further Information:

For the reader who is not familiar with the Losing Trick Count, you can easily find plenty of information online.

Google "bridge loser count" and you'll see dozens of articles on the subject. In my opinion, the best are those by Ron Klinger.

(According to Wikipedia, the concept of the LTC, but not under that name, was first promulgated by Joseph Elwell in 1910. The actual term "Losing Trick Count" was first used in print by F. Dudley Courtenay in 1934 – with credit to Arnold Fraser-Campbell. Many readers will be aware that Maurice Harrison-Gray popularised the method in the 1950s and '60s in Country Life magazine. - Ed.)

What's important to know for our purposes is to add your losers to partner's and subtract that total from 24 to reveal the number of tricks the partnership can take. Viz.:

- 14 losers = game (24-14 = 10 tricks)
- 12 losers = slam (24-12 = 12 tricks)
- <12 losers = grand slam territory (24-11 = 13 tricks).

Of course, you must pay attention to key cards, and keep in mind that ace-third is not the same two-loser suit as queen-third. Loser-count is a guide, not a bible. But it's a good one.

This approach, dubbed the "McCallum 2NT" by my friend and partner, Victor King, is certainly the simplest structure I've ever played, and I think maybe the best.



Here are some gems from last year's Canadian Championships:

Dealer South. Neither Vul.

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

Gordon Campbell (South) and Nick Gartaganis reached three notrump on a weak-notrump auction and West led the four of clubs (third and fifth). Although the two hands had a combined 25 HCPs, there was a lot of work to be done as the starting trick total was only four. Campbell played low on the club lead; East won with

the queen and returned the ten. West covered with the jack and Campbell won with the king. Declarer led the two of diamonds and East played the king. Campbell won with his ace, cashed the queen and was relieved to see East follow suit. Declarer's trick count was up to eight.

Without any information, declarer's best option for a ninth trick was to combine his chances by cashing the two top spades, hoping the queen came down and, if not, fall back on the heart finesse. Bidding his time, declarer cashed two more diamonds, ending in the dummy. East pitched the three of hearts (reverse count and attitude), then the heart four (encouraging). West followed to the third diamond and then discarded the two of hearts (also encouraging). The carding indicated that clubs were five-three and Campbell believed East's heart signal rather than West's, so he got out with a club! West won and cashed his clubs. On these, dummy discarded a spade and a heart, East the six and eight of spades and declarer, the four of spades and the queen of hearts.

The ending after trick nine, with West on lead, was:

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

West exited with a heart and Campbell rose with the ace. When East followed with the seven, declarer backed his judgment, playing for East to have the king of hearts and, therefore, the remaining four spades were two-two, so he cashed the ace-king, dropping the queen offside. Beautifully done!

Dealer North. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Mittleman	Marcinski	Cannell	Fergani
—	Pass	Pass	1♠
Double	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

Kamel Fergani led the ace of spades: four, two (encouraging), nine. When he shifted to the ace of diamonds, Zygmunt Marcinski followed with the ten. Fergani duly underled his king of spades and got a diamond ruff for down one.

Neil Kimelman had the opportunity for a modest coup on the following deal:

Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Kimelman	Baran	Thurston	Daigneault
—	—	—	1♥
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♥
Pass	3♦	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Kimelman led the jack of diamonds: two, four, eight. When he continued with the ten and declarer ducked again, East/West were quickly plus 150.



BBO Dialogue

Ercan Cem
Istanbul

The following dialogue occurred during an online championship with four internationals at the table.

East: Are you playing weak notrump?
 South: No.
 East: You had 17.
 South: I liked my tens.
 East: On the other deal you had 15.
 South: I didn't like my hand.
 North: And he had no tens.
 East: On the deal before that you had 14.
 North: I liked my hand.
 East: Nice! You play 15-17, but you always have a reason not to open an in-range one notrump!

The Card Gods' Day Off

Ron Tacchi
Vaupillon, France



We all use the epitaphs, saws, and laws of those more-famous than ourselves when attempting to add interest to our reporting on various competitions. The following deal occurred in the final session of the first Round Robin of the Seniors Championships of the African Zonal Championships.

One such famous quip of Barry Crane is, "When God deals you the ace-king of a suit, you don't have a lead problem." A casual glance at the following layout might suggest there were two possibilities of this advice being given by a correspondent.

Board 32. Dealer West. EW Vul.

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

There were a couple of auctions that concern us with this disquisition:

West	North	East	South
1♣	5♦	Pass	Pass
Pass			

and ...

West	North	East	South
1♣	5♦	Double	Pass
5♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

After the first auction, were East to lead a high spade, North can fulfil his contract. If East shifts to a heart, declarer takes the ace and leads the queen of spades, pinning West's jack, while discarding a heart from hand, thus creating a trick for the spade ten to discard the club loser, using the third round of trumps as an entry. Should East instead shift to a club, declarer wins with the ace, plays three rounds of trumps ending in the dummy, then makes the same spade play to discard a club loser, this time using the ace of hearts as an entry for a heart discard.

On the second auction, the lead of a top diamond gives declarer time to ruff two diamonds in dummy safely, whereas a trump lead will prevent declarer from doing so. On the trump lead, declarer has no easy entry back to hand without allowing South to play ace and another trump, leaving declarer with a losing diamond. Additionally, the lead of the ace and another club or the singleton spade allows a ruff for the defence.

This was definitely a day when the Card Gods were on holiday.

My Missed Coup

Martin Cantor
Hamm, NRW,
Germany



Deceptive plays are not my forte. ("And just what is your forte?" asks another disappointed partner.) A deceptive coup that I have always loved is when declarer plays the jack from a king-jack-ten holding and you win with the ace when also holding the queen. If you hold ace-queen-plus, it's usually at no cost, and can mess with declarer if he/she has to use an entry to repeat the finesse, or if it persuades him/her to avoid an alternative, winning, line. If you hold the ace-queen alone, you'd better hope declarer doesn't read it.

About twenty years ago I pulled off the coup, for the first and only time in my life, with the longer holding. I'm kicking myself for missing the chance to deploy it with the ace-queen doubleton holding in a match earlier this week in the EBU Online League.

Dealer West. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
P. Lindon	Röttger	D. Lindon	Cantor
1♣ ¹	Pass	INT ²	2♠
Double	Pass	3NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. 2+ clubs
2. 4+ clubs, 10+ points
3. 3-card support

With two or possibly three entries to my hand, I led a fourth-highest spade, won in dummy for a finesse of the club jack and, here, I slipped by taking the queen without the ace even occurring to me. I promptly switched to a heart to try to mess up declarer's transportation, but Dee Lindon won in hand, unblocked the spade ace, and played a low club towards dummy, making her contract with four spades, two hearts and three clubs.

If I take the club ace on the first round of the suit, declarer can still make the contract by following the same line (and perhaps she should), but it is harder and, if she gets it wrong, either I get a bunch of spades or Franz gets in with his ten of clubs for a bunch of hearts. The board was a push, and we won the match narrowly, so there was no obvious drama. But now, if you'll excuse me, I'm off to kick myself a few more times.



This deal provided us with a rare treat ...

Board 15. Dealer South. Neither Vul.

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

At our teammates' table:

West	North	East	South
Hanna	Kujirai	Rayner	Richardson
—	—	—	Pass
1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♦ ¹	Pass
2♥	Pass	2NT	Pass
3NT	Pass	4NT	Pass
6NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. 4th-suit forcing to game

On a neutral heart lead, the precarious entry position meant that declarer needed to know how many spade

tricks he had before trying the other suits. After discovering that he had five spade tricks, declarer tested clubs and hearts, but then could not afford to take the diamond finesse, so made 12 tricks for plus 990.

At our table ...

West	North	East	South
Bishop	McOrmond	Duquette	Hargreaves
—	—	—	Pass
1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♦ ¹	Pass
2♠ ²	Pass	4NT ³	Pass
5♥ ⁴	Pass	5NT ⁵	Pass
6♣ ⁶	Pass	6♦ ⁷	Pass
6♥ ⁸	Pass	7♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. 4th-suit forcing to game
2. 2-card support
3. RKCB for spades
4. 2 key cards, no spade queen
5. Grand slam try, asks for specific kings
6. Club king
7. Asks for the diamond king for a grand slam
8. Denies diamond king, shows heart king

John Duquette was encouraged that I'd bid two spades rather than two hearts, which I would have done with just two low spades (in our Kaplan-Sheinwold style, we raise immediately with three-card support, which shows 15-17 or distribution). Also in our K-S style, a minimum balanced or semi-balanced 12-14, even with 2=5=2=4 distribution, is within our parameters for a one-notrump opening, so it was apparent that I had more than that. Thus, East had no compunction about launching a key-card ask.

Seven spades is very good. If five spade tricks are available, four-three hearts, three-three clubs (or the appropriate honour holding with North/South) or, finally, the diamond finesse will see you home. You might even pick up ten-fifth of spades with North on the right layout.

Editorial (cont.)

2007 World Bridge Championships in Shanghai. The gesture was meant to be humorous and a display of solidarity with other nations who had expressed dismay, even revulsion, over American foreign-policy issues in Iraq and Afghanistan and the American government's "enhanced interrogation techniques" in the Middle East and Gauntánamo. To their credit, the French team supported their American colleagues in writing.

So, please don't say politics has no place in sports; it is endemic. What an organisation means when it says, "Keep politics out of sports" is "Keep politics with which we disagree out of our sport – only our organisation can be political."

Are You Worthy?

John Carruthers
Kingsville, ON



This was quite an embarrassing push for two very good international players, who have seven World Championship medals between them, two gold, one silver and four bronze. They'll remain anonymous here, as I have no wish to embarrass them further. See if you can do better than they did.

Board 2. Dealer West. NS Vul.

♠ A 3
♥ J 9 5 3
♦ K 9 6 2
♣ K 8 7

♠ 6 5 4
♥ A K 10 6 4
♦ A 3
♣ J 9 2

You may have your choice of the auctions:

Table 1

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

- 2+ diamonds 10-16 HCP (playing Precision)
- Usually 4 hearts with a minimum, 11-13; if only 3 hearts, a non-minimum

Table 2

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♥
Pass	2♣ ¹	Pass	2♥
Pass	3♥ ²	Pass	4♥
Pass	Pass		

- Drury: at least a constructive raise to 2♥
- A good limit-raise equivalent

Both declarers received the queen-of-diamonds lead from West. How would you proceed?

Both declarers won with the ace of diamonds and cashed the ace-king of hearts, finding them two-two with the queen dropping from West. Can you formulate a further plan?

With the fortunate break in trumps, your goal should be to eliminate the pointed suits and lead a club toward dummy, ensuring the contract. To do that, you need to

trump two diamonds in hand and one spade in the dummy, arranging to end in hand for the club play. All you need to do is avoid the loss of three club tricks; you can achieve this by simply covering West's card when you lead a club. If he has the ten (or even the queen) of clubs, West must play it to take his partner off the looming endplay.

The Table 1 declarer led a diamond to the king and ruffed a diamond, then played the ace and another spade. West won the second spade and led his fourth diamond, forcing declarer to ruff in hand. Declarer ruffed his third spade and led a club to the nine. That lost to the ten and a low club was returned, putting this declarer on a guess for his contract. He guessed correctly, ducking to force the ace; plus 620.

At Table 2, declarer immediately led a spade to the ace and then led another spade. East won the spade and led a diamond, allowing declarer to win with the king, ruff a diamond, ruff a spade, ruff a diamond and lead a club, completing the perfect elimination. However, had East returned a third spade upon winning the second, the perfect elimination would not have been possible: declarer would have had to ruff in dummy, play the king of diamonds and another diamond, ruffing, then lead a club. East would have won and then would have had no diamonds left to force declarer, who otherwise might well have been reduced to finding the ace of clubs onside for success. In any case, that was a plus-620 push.

This was the full deal:

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

Both declarers mistimed the play, but in different fashions. What should they have done?

It was quite simple, really: at trick four, duck a spade. Then:

- if the defence returns a spade, win with the ace, lead the king and another diamond, ruffing, ruff a spade, ruff a diamond and lead a club, covering West's card;
- if the defence returns a diamond, with with the king, cash the ace of spades, ruff a diamond, ruff a spade, ruff a diamond and lead a club.

That would have been an honourable push.

JULY 30th - AUGUST 7th

ONLINE FESTIVAL

**SWEDISH
ONLINE FESTIVAL
July 30th - August 7th**

*Tournaments open for all
players in good standing
with their NBO:s.*

SWEDISH OPEN JUNIOR PAIRS

July 30, 11.00-19.00 CET.
Real Bridge. Free entry fee
for juniors - maximum U26.
Pre-registration latest July
29th. Three cash prizes.
1st 3.000 SEK, 2nd 2.000 SEK,
3rd 1.000 SEK.

CHAIRMAN'S CUP

Swiss, July 31-August 1. Real
Bridge. KO matches, August
2-5. Real Bridge. Pre-registra-
tion latest July 30th, 20.00 CET.
Provided entry fee has been
paid latest July 30th.

Six cash prizes:

1 st	50.000 SEK
2 nd	25.000 SEK
3 rd	15.000 SEK
4 th	10.000 SEK
5-6 th	7.500 SEK

One cash prize for best
junior team 5.000 SEK.
Sponsored by Mats Qviberg,
honorary chairman.

Entry fee: 2 400 SEK/team,
must be paid latest July 30th.
Free entry fee for juniors -
maximum U26. Junior teams
with at least 4 junior players
including one or two senior
players in the team must pay
500 SEK per senior player.

GOLD PAIRS

Tournament 1: 42 boards,
I-A-F. Friday July 30th,
15.30-21.00 CET. Real Bridge.
Entry fee: 150 SEK/player,
must be paid latest July 29th.
Cash prizes: Approx. 40% of
the entry fees will be given
back as cash prizes.

Tournament 2: Swiss pairs,
42 boards. Saturday August 7th,
11.00-17.00 CET. Real Bridge.
Entry fee: 150 SEK/player,
must be paid latest August
6th. Cash prizes. Approx. 40%
of the entry fees will be given
back as cash prizes.

GOLD PAIRS

42 boards

15.30 CET July 30th

11.00 CET August 7th

CHAIRMAN'S CUP TEAMS

1st prize SEK 50.000 (€5.000)

July 31st - August 5th

Sponsor: Mats Qviberg

SWEDISH OPEN JUNIOR PAIRS

July 30th



**MORE INFORMATION:
svenskbridge.se/eng**



NEWS & VIEWS



Bridging Academia, Policy and Practice Conference



This conference was held online from Monday, 28 June to Thursday, 1 July, 2021 and was hosted by Dr. Samantha Punch, Professor of Sociology at the University of Stirling. Abstracts of the papers presented can be found at: <https://bridgemindsport.org/bridging-academia-policy-practice-conference/>

African Bridge Federation

The ABF communicated that their Management Council re-elected the following Officers for the period from 2021 to 2025:

President: Bernard Pascal, Egypt

Vice President: Chafika Taktak, Morocco

Treasurer: Jean-Claude Cador, Réunion

Joint Secretary: Helen Kruger, South Africa

Joint Secretary: Samina Esmail, Kenya

In addition, the Management Council elected Bernard Pascal as Zone 8 delegate to serve as a member of the WBF Executive Council for the period from June 21st, 2021 till June 20th, 2022.

ACBL NAOBC

The ACBL's replacement for the Providence Summer Nationals, the North American Online Bridge Championships, will be held on BBO from July 14 to 25. As well as the Grand National Teams final, there will be KO Teams and Matchpointed and IMP Pairs. The schedule can be found here:

<https://nabc.acbl.org/naobc/>

Swedish Bridge Festival Online

Having had to cancel the Swedish Bridge Festival this year, Svenska Bridgeförbundet has organised an online festival from July 30 to August 7. The events to be held are:

Junior Pairs – July 30

Chairman's Cup Teams – July 31 to August 5 (Swiss Qualifying and KO)

Gold Pairs – July 30 to August 7

All events will be held on RealBridge. Juniors play free. See the flyer on page 18.

More information can be found here:

<https://www.svenskbridge.se/eng/20xx/festival>

World Bridge Super Bowl

ACT Bridge (Accademia del Bridge Tevere) and the bridgehouse.club site have announced the World Bridge Super Bowl 2021. This new competition will take place on RealBridge with maximum security and flexibility of format. The event will end on October 31. Further information can be found here:

<https://bridgehouse.club/world-bridge-superbowl-2021/>

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 from March 27 to April 9, 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 its World Championship Qualifiers for August 23-28 online. The 19th Champions Cup is scheduled to be held live 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 has moved the Swedish Festival online. See <https://www.svenskbridge.se/eng/nyheter>. The USBF has scheduled its next Trials for September/October 2021.

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).



www.ibpa.com

This Bulletin: You can access an electronic copy of this Bulletin at www.ibpa.com/678us.pdf

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

Personal Details Changes: Whenever your contact details change, please amend them as appropriate in the database found at: www.jannersten.org or inform the Membership Secretary, Katie Thorpe: thorpe.katie@gmail.com