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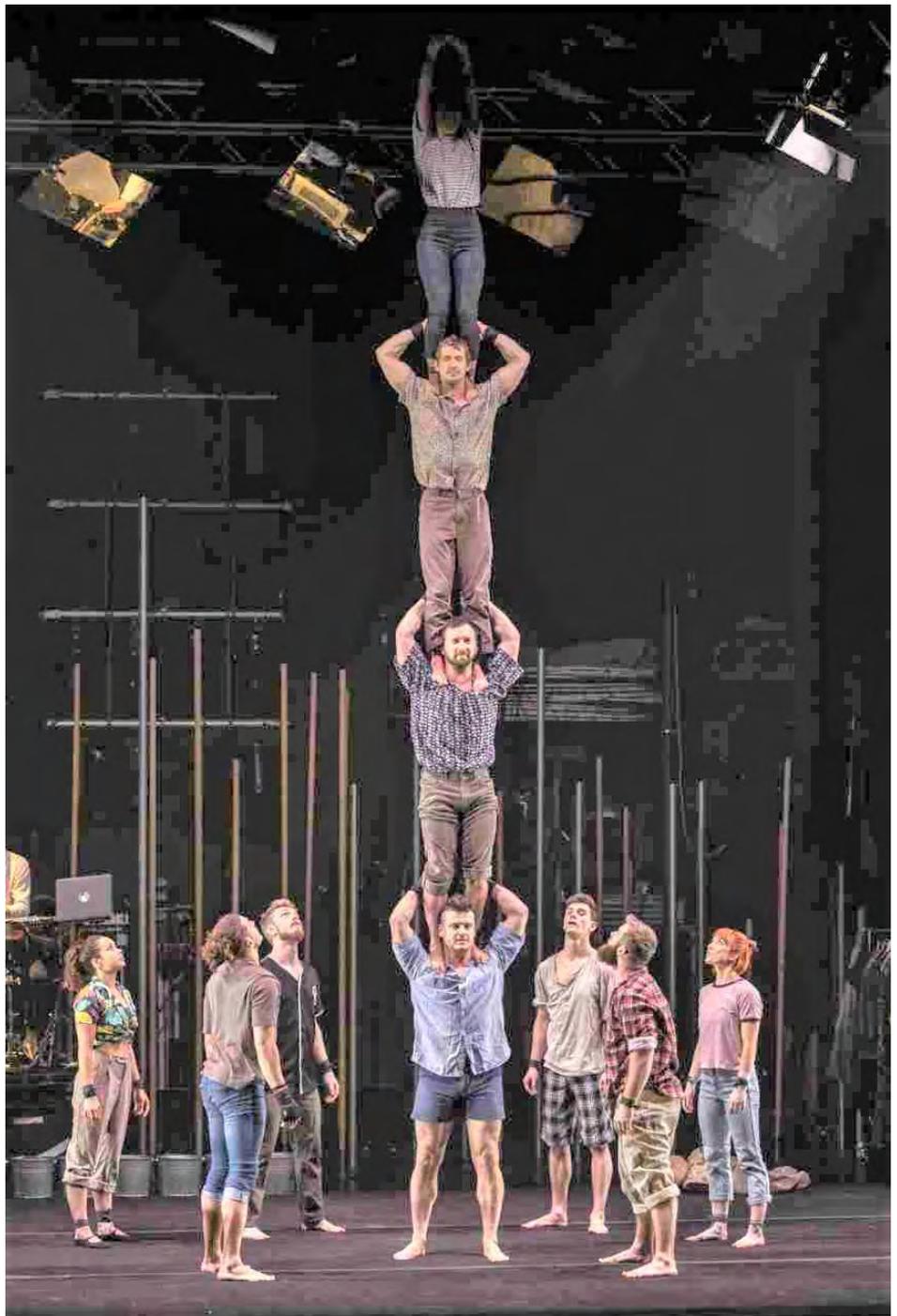
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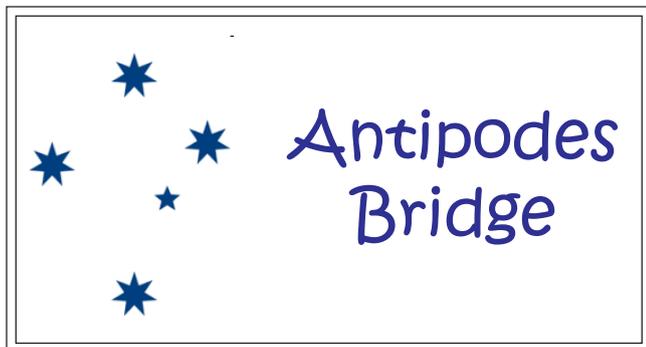
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Who are these guys and why are they on page 1 of the Bulletin? See page 2.

Address all IBPA Bulletin correspondence to: JOHN CARRUTHERS
1322 Patricia Blvd., Kingsville, Ontario, N9Y 2R4, CANADA
Tel: +1 519 733 9247 email: ibpaeditor@sympatico.ca



GRAND SLAMS & OTHER MYTHS Lauren Travis, Adelaide

Jake Randell and Marty Schreiber are not your average bridge players. They're co-founders of an award-winning acrobatics company, Gravity & Other Myths, and have toured the world performing their shows for the past eight years. Due to the pandemic, they have settled back in Adelaide for a while, and they've become familiar faces at their local bridge club.

Walking into the South Australia Bridge Association in January, the director told me in hushed tones, "Those two young guys over there are acrobats!" I recognised them both – and not just from going to four of their shows over the last few years. When I worked at the club years ago, Jake and his father would play Monday nights when he was in town. Going back a little further, one of the last times I saw Marty was in 2008, when our Year 12 Maths teacher convinced him to do backflips off a desk in our final lesson.

When we sat down together after a Monday morning bridge session, they both looked a little disappointed, having scored only 51%. While I don't think that's a bad effort, it does pale in comparison to Jake's 70% in a weekend congress the previous day!

Jake actually learnt bridge around the same time as me, in Year 8, from David Lusk, "in the little back room" at Unley. His family learnt together, his mum giving up early, and he played for a while before prioritising his thrice-weekly circus training. Although he played a bit with his dad about five years ago, he really got back into the game through Funbridge, playing online to pass his spare time on tour. Jake managed to convince his fellow acrobats to play; he wrote some basic notes for them, then got them turning cards straight away. Marty was his most enthusiastic student and agreed to play in a club, and they've started to bring some others on board. They're realistic about their aspirations, knowing they won't be lighting up the world stage in this particular arena. Jake hopes to be like today's opponents, enjoying multiple games a week in his retirement.

So how do full-time acrobats fit a hobby like bridge into their schedule? They train in long blocks a couple

of days a week, leaving plenty of time for hobbies on other days. Jake observed that, like acrobatics, bridge is one of those activities where you don't notice the time passing, and a session goes by in a flash. When they're actually performing, it's usually at night, conveniently allowing them to play bridge during the day.

It's not often you get the opportunity to grill a couple of world-famous acrobats, so I took the chance to find out more about Gravity & Other Myths. How did they go from Cirkidz to world tours? A group of young Cirkidz acrobats formed Gravity & Other Myths in 2009 and toured Australia for a couple of years. Marty tells me that an international tour was the ultimate dream, so in 2013 the company headed overseas with "Simple Space" (my personal favourite), as a last hurrah. While there, they met an agent, and later got a call telling them they'd landed a ten-month international tour. The acrobats quit their jobs, dropped out of university, and the rest is history. Gravity & Other Myths now comprises 30 acrobats and has travelled the world consistently from that first tour until 2020 when they returned to Australia.

Their most recent show, "The Pulse", was conceived in 2020 during the pandemic. It premiered at the 2021 Adelaide Festival to rave reviews, and at the time of writing was about to run for a second season in Adelaide in late July. Currently, Gravity & Other Myths plan to take The Pulse to Europe and North America later this year before returning to Adelaide for the Fringe/Festival season in 2022. I strongly recommend going to see any of their work, as long as you're not opposed to a few heart-stopping moments.

I suspect we'll see a lot more of Jake and Marty at bridge clubs, both in Adelaide and around the world. They definitely find bridge addictive. It fits into their nerdy interests – they also regularly play board games and Dungeons & Dragons – and Marty is clearly convinced bridge is the king of card games, comparing it favourably to others like Australian Five Hundred. And when I asked Jake for any parting words, he had one thing to say: "We need more young people in bridge." Let's do it. For more information about Gravity & Other Myths, go to <https://www.gravityandothermyths.com.au/>

Back at the Table The 2021 Australian Autumn National Open Teams Julian Foster & Liam Milne, Sydney

It feels like an age since the last match report of a face-to-face teams event in Australia. Since the Gold Coast Congress last year, most face-to-face bridge in Australia has been on hold due to COVID-19; it is only recently that major championships have started to be held again outside of Western Australia.

Two thousand and twenty-one's first nationally rated congress was successfully staged in mid-April in Tasmania. This led up to the first national teams event, the Autumn Nationals, held April 29-May 3 in Adelaide. With players keen to get back to the table, the field was at full strength with numbers only slightly down from previous years. The format was unchanged from recent Autumn Nationals: nine rounds of qualifying, with the first five matches 12 boards and the last four matches lengthening to 14 boards. The top two teams from 56 entries would play the full-day final on Monday.

(The following deal was sent by Ron Klinger and by Liam Milne and Julian Foster almost simultaneously. Terry Brown was the Klinger declarer. Since it's a contender for an award, all should share attribution if it wins. – Ed.)

In the first round of qualifying, expatriate Kiwi James Coutts was able to pull off an unlikely coup. Have you ever seen a triple squeeze with no long-suit entries and two of the three guards sitting over the menace? We hadn't either, but witness:

Match 1. Board 6. Dealer East. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
—	—	Pass	1♣
1♦	3♣ ¹	3♦	5♣
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. Pre-emptive

Three notrump with a single diamond stopper was unlikely to be successful unless partner produced very good clubs; instead, Coutts opted for five clubs and received the lead of the king of diamonds. After winning with the ace, Coutts started with a club to the king, expecting to claim 11 tricks soon after if trumps were two-one. However, West showed out and East took the ace. When East returned the king of spades, the contract appeared to be impossible. *(If East instead returns a diamond, now and later, the contract is indeed impossible. – Ed.)* Declarer can't ruff two diamonds in hand without promoting East's remaining jack of clubs, and there are not many prospects of building tricks in other suits.

Soldiering on, Coutts won with the ace of spades and returned a spade to East's queen. East tried a heart next. Coutts won with the ace, ruffed a spade in dummy,

ruffed a diamond in hand, then played the king of hearts and ruffed a heart in the dummy. Finally, he led a trump from the dummy and finessed the ten of clubs. He cashed the queen of clubs in this three-card endgame:

<p>♠ — ♥ — ♦ 9 ♣ 9 8</p> <p>♠ 10 ♥ Q ♦ Q ♣ —</p> <p>♠ 7 ♥ 6 ♦ — ♣ Q</p>	<p>♠ — ♥ — ♦ 8 7 ♣ —</p>
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Despite having the master cards in every side suit, West was unable to hold the position on the lead of the queen of clubs. Pitching either major-suit guard would turn one of declarer's spot cards into a winner, while throwing the queen of diamonds would make dummy's nine high. West had been triple-squeezed in a highly unusual way.

Not all well-played hands are beautiful, and not all beautiful hands are well-played, but this one met all the criteria. Nicely done, James Coutts!

After the first day of qualifying, MILNE (Liam Milne/James Coutts, Tony Nunn/Paul Dalley) had the lead with 79.77 VPs, ahead of MULLAMPHY (Matt Mullamphy/Ron Klinger, Jon Hunt/Ian Thomson) on 76.05 VPs and previous winners ASHTON (Sophie Ashton/Sartaj Hans, Helana Dawson/David Wiltshire) on 74.29 VPs. With four matches to play, conceivably any team in the top third of the field could qualify for the final.

Match 7 from the second day produced this deep defensive problem:

Board 20. Dealer East. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
—	—	Pass	3♥
Double	Pass	Pass	Pass

As West, you select the king of clubs as your opening lead. Dummy plays low, partner signals with the ten, indicating he has an odd number, while declarer plays the four. You opt to shift to the jack of diamonds, which receives the queen, seven and five. Declarer now leads the king of spades from dummy, partner contributing the ten, and declarer pitches the six of diamonds. After

winning the with the ace of spades, what should you play and why?

Playing a club or a spade is clearly out of the question, so it boils down to this: should you cash the ace of diamonds, or do something else? Declarer looks to have 0=7=4=2 shape with the king-low in diamonds remaining so if you can get to partner's hand, you may be able to get two diamond tricks instead of one. However, if you switch to trumps, you might let a cold-off contract make by picking up partner's trump holding and allowing declarer to pitch his diamonds on the ace of clubs (with the aid of the finesse of the jack), and the queen of spades. How do you weigh up the evidence?

With partner's minor-suit holdings known, count having been given in both suits, might the ten of spades have some special meaning? Since we know partner had started with the ten-seven-two of the suit, could the ten have been a suit-preference signal for trumps?

The full deal:

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

The ten of spades was a solid effort by East to attempt to direct attention to his trump entries. A heart switch was the only way to extract the maximum penalty at West's decision point. Did you wimp out like West at the table and cash the ace of diamonds for one down, or did you find the nerve to switch to a trump for plus 500?

This was quite an unusual signalling situation, but perhaps an instructive one. The bidding was interesting too – the results on the board for North/South varied from plus 870 in two hearts doubled plus one to minus 1400 for playing in a doomed black-suit game, doubled and down five.

With one round to play, FOSTER (Julian Foster/David Weston, Bruce Neill/Kim Morrison) and MILNE were close to level in the top two places with the rest of the field at least 8 VPs back. Unusually, both of the leading teams lost in the last round, but neither by enough to drop out of the top two – so it would be MILNE versus FOSTER in the 56-board final.

The first stanza was pretty much one-way traffic, ending 23-3 to FOSTER after a dull set of boards. Seven of those IMPs came from Board 4, but it might well have

been ten the other way. Kim Morrison/Bruce Neill played in two spades making ten tricks. At the other table, Liam Milne and James Coutts were more ambitious, reaching four spades by North, after West had started with a weak notrump and East had transferred to hearts.

Board 4. Dealer West. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Weston</i>	<i>Milne</i>	<i>Foster</i>	<i>Coutts</i>
INT ¹	Pass	2♦ ²	Double ³
2♥ ⁴	2♠	Pass	Pass
3♥	Double	Pass	4♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	
1. 12-14			
2. Transfer to hearts			
3. Values			
4. 3- or 4-card heart fit			

Julian Foster, East, led the jack of hearts. At the table, after considerable thought, Milne ducked this to Dave Weston's king. West accurately switched to a diamond. This gave the defence the tempo to play a second diamond when in with the ace of spades and ultimately score a trick in each suit to beat the contract.

The winning play on the actual layout is to win with the ace of hearts at trick one and immediately play a club to the jack. This provides an entry to take the spade finesse but, more importantly, it also gives declarer the vital tempo to knock out the aces of spades and clubs before both top diamonds are knocked out, whereupon the three-three club break allows the diamond loser to be discarded.

There are a lot of possibilities for declarer to consider, however. The lead might have been from a king-jack-ten holding; West might have held the queen and jack of diamonds (in which case he cannot effectively attack diamonds if he does win a trick with the king of hearts); the positions of the spade ace and queen might have been reversed; clubs might not have broken or the ten might have been onside or doubleton; etc.!

MILNE clawed back most of the lead in Stanza 2, leaving the half-time score 38-33 to FOSTER. Twelve of their IMPs came from the following deal:

Board 20. Dealer West. Both Vul.

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

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

I. Inquiry

James Coutts (East) provided another example of nice declarer play here. After two rounds of hearts and a club exit from South, Coutts won with dummy's ace, drew three rounds of trumps with the king, ace and another to the jack and queen. He took a club finesse in the following position:

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

Even though this lost to the queen, his contract was still perfectly safe. The best the defence could do was to lead another heart, but that could be ruffed with the spade eight in the West hand, then declarer could cross to the ace of diamonds in hand to draw the last trump, discarding dummy's king of clubs(!), enabling him to cash the remaining clubs in hand.

The other table declared from West and received a diamond lead, attacking declarer's transportation. The contract could still have been made but, in practice, wasn't.

Stanza 3 proved to be the decisive one. The following board (see the top of the next column) ended up being flat, but there could have been a game swing to either side...

Morrison (for FOSTER) led a diamond against Dalley (for MILNE). Declarer won with the diamond ace and immediately took a ruff in dummy, followed by a spade to the ace and a second diamond ruff. He then played the king of clubs, which West won.

Board 5. Dealer North. NS Vul.

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

The auction was the same at both tables:

West	North	East	South
Morrison	Nunn	Neill	Dalley
Milne	Weston	Coutts	Foster
—	Pass	Pass	1♥
Pass	1♠	Pass	3♥
Pass	4♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			

At that point, with West in with the ace of clubs, there were two successful defences available:

- (i.) play a second club, win the ace of hearts, cross to partner's king of spades, receive a trump promotion via another club, or;
- (ii.) play a fourth diamond, win the ace of hearts, play the fifth diamond for partner to ruff with heart eight, also promoting a trump trick.

In practice, however, neither was found, so declarer made ten tricks.

At the other table, Milne led the ace of clubs against Foster which, upon seeing dummy, didn't look like a good start for the defence. He followed up, however, with an expert play of the ten of hearts. This limits diamond ruffs but also maintains trump control to preserve the defence's chances of a trump promotion or the threat of cashing diamonds.

Declarer could not play a second heart; if he did, Milne would win and switch to diamonds, setting up two diamond tricks for the defence before declarer could reach dummy. If declarer instead took one diamond ruff in dummy and discarded the other on the king of clubs he would then have also been exposed to the same trump promotion risk.

Foster therefore tried the unusual-looking play of a low spade to the queen and king, setting up the spade jack as a later entry to dummy. The defence was then powerless. On a non-trump return declarer could ruff one diamond, discard the other on king of clubs, cash the jack, then the ace of spades. (Note that it's important to play spades in this order, otherwise, after winning the heart ace, West can trap declarer in dummy with the third round of spades to force a trump promotion).

In practice, James Coutts returned a second trump, which allowed Foster to later win the ace of diamonds, draw the last trump and cross to the jack of spades to discard the two losing diamonds on the king-queen of clubs for a flat board.

The rest of the stanza belonged to MILNE.

On Board 7, where would you want to play?

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

Milne/Coutts bid to seven spades. With trumps three-two and the heart jack doubleton, Milne ended up with an easy 13 tricks and the same number of IMPs.

Two boards later, Milne/Coutts bid these cards to six spades:

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

After an initial diamond lead and a spade to the queen and ace, diamonds four-two and the jack of spades dropping led to a quick plus 1430 and 13 more IMPs when Nunn/Dalley stopped in game at the other table, making six.

A further 13 IMPs came in on the following board, almost entirely due to assorted bidding decisions:

Board 10. Dealer East. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Morrison	Nunn	Neill	Dalley
—	—	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦
Pass	3NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Dalley/Nunn had a routine auction to three notrump, making 11 tricks after a heart lead.

West	North	East	South
Milne	Weston	Coutts	Foster
—	—	1♠	Double
3♠	4♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			

At Weston's first turn, double followed by a pass from Foster would have worked better and might have netted 800! With the king of hearts offside, four hearts had no real chance and ended up two off. Even had North/South reached the better spot of three notrump, the one-spade opening meant a spade would have been led. To make three notrump on a spade lead, assuming the diamonds come home for four tricks, declarer would have needed to make two more tricks from either hearts or clubs while only losing the lead once. This would have required deciding whether to play East either for the ace-queen of clubs or for the king of hearts with the suit three-three. That was not clear.

One further double-digit IMP swing meant Stanza 3 ended up 69-16 to MILNE, giving them a 48-IMP lead with 14 boards to go.

Stanza 4 was a relative anti-climax, ending up with 1 IMP to FOSTER, leaving the final score MILNE 115.1 – FOSTER 68. Congratulations to Liam Milne, James Coutts, Tony Nunn and Paul Dalley for a well-deserved win. Thanks also to the organisers, especially tireless convenor Jinny Fuss, for running the tournament so smoothly, as well as enduring what must have been an anxious lead-up period worrying about possible Covid-related cancellation scenarios (in the event only a couple of Western Australia teams had to withdraw). This was Jinny's final time organising the event so, on behalf of all the players, many thanks for all her years of work.

Several of the finalists found that they were absolutely exhausted after the final, and even for most of the next day. We suspect that, with the lack of face-to-face tournaments, we were just not as used to maintaining the concentration required for several days of bridge as we had been pre-Covid. Hopefully that stamina will return, along with many other face-to-face national events, this year.

The Generosity of Michael Ware

Alan Grant, Wellington, NZ

From the start of 2021, we have been fortunate in New Zealand to have been able to play face-to-face bridge safely in almost all of our tournaments. I have to admire the generosity of NZ's top ranked player, Michael Ware, as he often offers to play with different partners and teammates. I asked him if he could, with a partner of his choice, team up with me and my most regular partner Anthony Ker in the annual Kelly Peirse Memorial tournament at the Rotorua Bridge Club occurring in late summer this year (March in NZ). He partnered NZ International representative Matt Brown to complete our team for the event.

One deal from the tournament stood out as illustrating very good defence by Ware. After responder's transfer auction, South became declarer in four spades:

Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

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

1. 2+ clubs
2. 4+ spades
3. 18-19 HCP, fewer than 4 spades
4. Transfer to spades

After Ware's lead of the seven of diamonds, declarer played low from dummy and East followed with the two. As a challenge to the reader, how would you proceed?

Ware's lead of the seven of diamonds generously gave declarer a free trick. As the play developed, Ware generously offered declarer a second free trick later – but these offers had a sting in the tail!

Our declarer took the first trick with the nine of diamonds and played on trumps, winning the first two rounds, with East following with the ten and showing out on the second round, discarding a diamond. Ware won the third round of trumps with his ace (another diamond from East) and continued his generosity by leading a heart away from the ace, East contributing the ten, allowing declarer to win with the king.

However, these generous free finesses came with a cost – as you will see from the full deal:

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

Declarer, with no immediate entry to dummy after winning with the king of hearts, may have regretted having won the earlier cheap trick with the diamond nine. He tried to cash the ace and king of clubs, planning to ruff a club in dummy to draw Ware's last trump. The contract was defeated when Ware ruffed the second top club and, because of his gift of a free trick to the heart king, had two heart tricks ready to cash.

At the other table, where I also played in four spades after a responder transfer sequence, the six of clubs was led – which, when covered with the ten, jack and ace, gave me a clue to the potential risk in the club suit. When West won an early ace of spades, in trying for a club ruff, he underled the ace of hearts, allowing me also to make a trick with the king. I drew trumps and discarded a heart on the clubs, then took the diamond finesse for an overtrick.

That resulted in a 13-IMP swing to help us on our way to winning the tournament.

Oz Bridge

Ron Klinger, Northbridge, NSW
(From The Sydney Morning Herald)

Twelve pairs contested the final to select the 2021 NSW Open Teams Trial. The format was a round robin of eleven 10-board matches. The successful pairs were Pauline Gumby/Warren Lazer, Kim Morrison/Avon Wilsmore, and Julian Foster/David Weston.

Round 1. Board 2. Dealer West. NS Vul.

♠ K Q 7 2
 ♥ A K 8 6
 ♦ A 4 3 2
 ♣ Q

West	North	East	South
1♦	Double	3♥ ¹	4♠
5♥	?		

1. Natural, pre-emptive

What would you do as North?

With no way to check on aces, you have to decide whether to bid five spades, six spades, or double five hearts. Pass is not a consideration. A good way to approach such problems is to use the Losing Trick Count formula. Count your losers: North has five losers. Calculate partner's losers: South bid to game opposite a potentially minimum double and so should have a seven-loser hand or better. Add the losers: five plus seven = 12. Deducting 12 from 24 = 12 probable tricks for your side.

After the auction above, Warren Lazer jumped to six spades and all passed. No other pair reached six spades. This was the full deal:

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

West led the king of clubs. Pauline Gumby (South) could cash three tricks in the red suits and cross-ruff her way to 12 tricks, plus 1430 and plus 11 IMPs. Not reaching slam would have scored minus 2 IMPs.

What would you lead as West from this hand...?

Round 2. Board 17. Dealer North. Neither Vul.

♠ 3
♥ A 9 7 4 3
♦ 10 8
♣ A Q 10 8 2

...after this auction:

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

If a club, which one? This was the full deal:

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

With North five-four or five-five in spades and diamonds, North might well have been shortish in clubs. South figured to have the king of clubs, but maybe North had the jack. Accordingly, Julian Foster led the queen of clubs! The layout proved him right. South could not come to nine tricks without letting West in with the ace of hearts. The defence took four club tricks and the heart ace, one down, East/West plus 50, plus 2.33 IMPs. Letting three notrump make would have cost 7 IMPs.

Kim Morrison (South) received the eight-of-clubs lead (fourth-highest) and dummy's nine won trick one. After the six of hearts went to the ten, jack and ace, West shifted to the three of spades: two – ten – ace. Declarer cashed the king of hearts: three – spade four – queen. Placing West with five hearts and five clubs, South cashed two diamonds. This left:

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

South exited with the five of hearts. West was endplayed and had to give South a heart or a club for the ninth trick.

What would you do as South with the following hand?

Round 10. Board 15. Dealer West. EW Vul.

♠ Q 10 6 5
♥ K J 5
♦ K 9 4 2
♣ 6 3

...after the auction:

West	North	East	South
Pass	2♣ ¹	2♠	Pass
Pass	3♥	Pass	?
1. 5+ clubs, 11-15 points			

This was the full deal:

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

A natural auction might have gone one club – one spade – one notrump – pass – four hearts – all pass. With just a three-loser hand, North would certainly have been entitled to jump to three or four hearts after South had bid one notrump. Four hearts would have garnered plus 4.67 IMPs; three notrump would have lost 6.33 IMPs.

In our auction, North's three hearts must have shown five hearts and six clubs and thus South should raise to four hearts. With four-five or four-six in hearts and clubs, North would have doubled two spades for takeout rather than bid three hearts on a four-card suit.

Against three notrump after the diagrammed auction, Kim Morrison (West) led the three of spades. Avon Wilsmore (East) took the ace and returned the eight (original fourth-highest) to the ten and king, declarer pitching hearts from the dummy, relying on the clubs coming in. West continued spades, dislodging the queen. Declarer finished two down when the clubs were not three-two.

To make three notrump, declarer must play low on East's eight of spades at trick two. That is easier said than done.

The Australian National Championships (Pairs, Interstate Teams, Butler Trials), originally scheduled for July, were postponed to November because of state lockdowns due to new outbreaks of Covid-19.

There were 56 teams in the Autumn National Open Teams in Adelaide in May (compared with 62 teams in

2019). After nine rounds of Swiss format, the two leaders played a 56-board final. MILNE (Liam Milne/James Coutts, Paul Dalley/Tony Nunn) defeated FOSTER (Julian Foster/David Weston, Kim Morrison/Bruce Neill) by 125 Imps to 68.

(The following deal was sent by Ron Klinger and by Liam Milne and Julian Foster almost simultaneously. We repeat the deal here for convenience. The play and defence were different at both tables. – Ed.)

Session 1. Board 6. Dealer East. EW Vul.

♠ J 3
♥ 8 5
♦ 9 6 5
♣ K 9 8 5 3 2

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

♠ A 7 6 2
♥ A K 6 4
♦ A
♣ Q 10 6 4

West	North	East	South
—	Buchen	Pass	Brown
Double	3♣ ¹	3NT	Double
4♦	Pass	Pass	5♣
Pass	Pass	Double	Pass
Pass	Pass		

I. Pre-emptive

West led the king of diamonds: five – two – ace. South (Terry Brown) played the two of spades: four – jack – queen. East switched to the seven of hearts. South won, cashed the spade ace, ruffed a spade in dummy and continued with the nine of clubs. East rose with the ace and led the two of hearts. South won with the king, ruffed a heart in dummy and ruffed the six of diamonds in hand. This was the ending:

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

On the ten of clubs to the king, West discarded the jack of diamonds, but on the club five to the queen, West was squeezed in three suits. To throw the queen of diamonds would leave dummy high. When West discarded the ten of spades, South played the established seven of spades to discard dummy's diamond!

"In over 50 years of playing bridge, I have never had this squeeze before," said Brown. Hardly a surprise there.

Peter Buchen, who was North, made the following points:

1. The nine of diamonds (the Curse of Scotland) was a threat against the king-queen-jack-ten!
2. A double of four diamonds would have yielded plus 800, but then a great deal and play would have been consigned to oblivion.
3. After East rose with ace of clubs, a diamond return would have given South an easy run to 11 tricks via five clubs in dummy, two diamond ruffs in hand, plus the ace of spades, the ace and king of hearts and the ace of diamonds.
4. The play was a variation of the Schroeder Squeeze aka a trump-steppingstone-squeeze (https://www.bridgehands.com/S/Schroeder_Squeeze.htm), a squeeze against three singletons without the count. Terry Brown's squeeze was similar, but with the count.
5. In the other room, North/South were minus 50 in five clubs, so that plus 550 was worth 12 IMPs.
6. Four other declarers made five clubs and so did Deep Finesse.

On the following deal, a judicious choice-of-slams bid led to a so-so slam instead of a dreadful one.

Session 2. Board 16. Dealer North. NS Vul.

♠ Q 4 2
♥ Q 8 7 4
♦ Q J 6
♣ K Q J

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

♠ —
♥ K 9 6 5
♦ A K 10 9 5 3 2
♣ A 2

West	North	East	South
—	Jessica Brake		Susan Humphries
—	1♣	Pass!	1♦
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♦ ¹
Pass	2♥	Pass	4♠ ²
Pass	4NT ³	Pass	5♣ ⁴
Pass	6♣ ⁵	Pass	6♦ ⁶
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. Artificial game-force
2. Exclusion Key-Card Blackwood
3. 0 key cards outside spades
4. Queen-ask
5. King of clubs and queen of hearts
6. Choice of slams

Continued on page 12...



IBPA Column Service

Tim Bourke, Canberra



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

1057. Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

♠ J 10 9 7 6 5 4
♥ A 2
♦ Q 4
♣ A 6

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

Three spades was forcing and the control-bid of four clubs was a courtesy (non-serious) slam try. Once South had shown controls in both clubs and hearts, North drove to the spade slam via Roman Key-Card Blackwood.

West duly led the nine of diamonds, taken by dummy's ace. Declarer saw that if the trump finesse won, he would have 12 tricks. While that offered a reasonable chance of success, declarer looked for something better.

At trick two, declarer cashed the ace of trumps. After both opponents followed low, he led the nine of clubs to his ace then led a low club to dummy's ten. When that held and East could not ruff, declarer cashed the king of clubs and threw the queen of diamonds from hand. He later discarded his heart loser on the queen of clubs, conceding just a trump trick.

You might ask, "How does the chosen line compare to the 50-50 spade finesse?" If trumps are two-one and

the king of trumps has not appeared, you need the club jack onside and clubs no worse than five-two. If trumps are three-zero, then you need the jack of clubs to be with West and for the defender with three trumps to hold at least three clubs if it's West and four clubs if East. An added bonus would accrue when East held the king of trumps singleton. All of this gave declarer about a 58% chance of making his contract on the plan he adopted, much better than the straight 50% afforded by the spade finesse.

1058. Dealer East. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
—	—	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♦	Pass	3♣
Pass	5♣	Pass	Pass
Pass			

The auction was fairly straightforward after the artificial opening. Of note is that South might well have treated his hand as balanced, resulting in a final contract of three notrump – which would have succeeded since West might have led a heart and, if not, East had the queen of spades anyway.

West led the jack of diamonds. Declarer covered with dummy's queen and took the king with his ace. After drawing trumps with his ace and king, declarer cashed the ace of spades then entered dummy with the five of trumps to dummy's ten. Next, he played a spade to his

jack. When that held, declarer cashed the king of spades and ruffed the ten of spades in dummy.

After these preliminaries, declarer led dummy's nine of diamonds. West won the trick with the ten of diamonds and was endplayed. West led the ace and another heart. Declarer was able to win the trick with his king of hearts and claim the rest of the tricks to make his contract.

You should note the importance of playing the queen of diamonds at trick one: it proved to be a necessary avoidance play as the cards lay – if East had gained the lead with the king of diamonds a heart shift would have defeated the contract.

1059. Dealer East. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
—	—	1♦	1♥
3♦	6♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			

After South had dredged up an overcall from the bottom of the rubbish bin and West had raised preemptively, North bid what he thought his side could make, if a little precipitously.

West led the jack of diamonds. Declarer ruffed this, then cashed the ace and queen of trumps, disappointed to see the three-one break. Declarer crossed to hand with the queen of clubs to ruff a diamond in dummy. All that remained was to come to hand with the king of spades to draw trumps and claim. Alas, West ruffed the king of spades and there was no way for declarer to avoid losing a trick to the queen of spades.

“What rotten luck,” was South's mumbled response.

North was unsympathetic: “Luck had nothing to do with the outcome. The contract was certain. All you had to do was lead a spade at trick four and, once East followed with a low card, put in the eight. Here, West ruffs the spade but you would have been safe. You can ruff a diamond in dummy and claim the contract. If West had won with the queen of spades, the suit would have been set up and no return by West could harm you.”

North continued, “If instead, East had started with three trumps, you could again make certain of the contract by leading a low spade at trick four. If East had ruffed

this, you would have had the rest. If not, then the king of spades would have won, and there are a couple of ways to guarantee the contract. For example, you could try for an overtrick by ruffing a diamond in dummy and coming back to hand with a club to the queen to draw trumps before playing a second spade.”

1060. Dealer East. EW Vul.

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

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

This deal came up in a team game and the auction was the same at both tables. East's two-diamond opening was weak; South's cue-bid of three diamonds showed at least five-five in the majors and at most a five-loser hand; North's four-diamond bid asked South to choose.

West led a third-highest two of diamonds and, after both East players took their two diamond tricks, they had to find a shift.

At the first table, East tried a crafty queen of hearts at trick three since the alternatives were so unappealing. Declarer looked at this sceptically, thinking that there was no way East would lead the queen of hearts from a queen-jack holding. Then he asked himself, “Why did East make such a weird shift when he could have led a trump if he had held one?”

So, declarer played the king of hearts and led the ace and another trump to West's king, unblocking the queen as East discarded diamonds. After winning the trump return, declarer drew West's remaining trump and then played a heart toward dummy's ace. The appearance of the jack of hearts allowed declarer to claim his contract.

At the other table, East thought about the auction before playing to trick three, asking himself, “Why did South bid four spades rather than four hearts?” That bid suggested that South's spades were somehow better than his hearts. The only conclusion that East could reliably draw was that South probably had six spades. As a result, he concluded that South had begun with 6=5=2=0 shape and so led the queen of clubs at trick three. It did not matter what declarer did then, he had to lose a trump and a heart for down one.

West led the jack of spades. South ruffed, crossed to the queen of diamonds, ruffed a spade, crossed to the jack of diamonds, ruffed dummy's last spade and cashed ace of diamonds. The slam required only one heart loser. That meant finding East or West with the doubleton ace of hearts. East had pitched spades on the diamonds and had showed up with five spades to the ace-king. With the ace of hearts as well, East would have overcalled one spade (and should have done so in any case) and thus South led a low heart to the queen and ducked the next heart, 12 tricks, plus 1370, plus 17 IMPs vs six hearts down two at the other table.

Six hearts can be beaten with diamond ruffs or a spade force on South.

On July 1, 2021, Australia's #1 master-point holder was Pauline Gumby with 13,758.41 master points. She was more than 1000 points ahead of #2, her partner Warren Lazer (12,292.05) and #3 Peter Gill (12,262.69).

On this deal from Knockout Stage 3 in the New South Wales Grand National Open Teams Qualifying, Gumby made five clubs via an unusual dummy reversal, giving up trump control in the process.

Board 15. Dealer North. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
	<i>Lazer</i>		<i>Gumby</i>
—	Pass	Pass	INT
2♦ ¹	Double ²	2♥ ³	Pass
Pass	Double ⁴	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♥ ⁵	Double	Pass
Pass	5♣	Pass	Pass

1. Diamonds plus a major
2. Invitational values or better
3. Pass or correct
4. Takeout
5. Stopper ask

West led the king of hearts. East overtook it and returned the heart eight, ruffed in dummy. The queen

of clubs won trick three, followed by the six of clubs to the ten, West pitching the jack of hearts. Declarer ruffed another heart in dummy, came to the ace of spades and ruffed her last heart with the jack of clubs.

These cards remained:

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

South cashed the ace of clubs and the king of spades, discarding the seven of diamonds, and led the diamond ace and another to the king. East could make the king of clubs, but dummy had the rest, North/South plus 600. That won 12 IMPs vs five diamonds one off at the other table.

The following deal arose in the Victor Champion Cup Congress Swiss Teams online:

Board 29. Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
	<i>Lazer</i>		<i>Gumby</i>
—	—	—	1♣
Pass	1♥	Pass	1♠
Pass	4♠	Pass	4NT ¹
Pass	5♦ ²	Pass	6♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. Roman Key-Card Blackwood
2. 1 or 4 key cards

There were seven pairs in six spades. Not only was Pauline Gumby the only one to make it, but she also made it look effortless.

West led the ace of diamonds, followed by the diamond three, won by the king, South discarding the three of clubs. Then came the ace of clubs, the heart six to the ace, a club ruff, the eight of spades: jack – ace – three, and another club ruff. Declarer cashed dummy's ten of spades, crossed to the king of hearts and drew West's remaining trumps with the king and queen of spades. Finally, South led the four of hearts to the queen and the jack of hearts was her twelfth trick. As the cards lie, six spades can always be made.



The Impossible Made Possible

**Knut Kjærnsrød,
Tored, Norway**

Hans Hiorth from Oslo faced a seemingly impossible task on this board from the Asker Championships but, with brilliant play and a little help from his opponents, he landed his three-notrump contract.

Dealer West. Neither Vul.

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

The bidding was short:

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

West led the ten of spades. Hiorth tried the queen, holding the trick. It was a big disappointment to see West discard a heart on the ace and king of diamonds. Hiorth led a low heart to his nine, hoping that East would hold a doubleton queen. West won with his king and continued with a spade to East's jack, allowed to hold the trick, and East shifted to a club to dummy's singleton ace.

As hoped, East's queen of hearts fell under the ace and two more heart tricks followed. This was the four-card end position:

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

The spade ace left East in an untenable position. In practice, a diamond discard, then a diamond to the queen endplayed East, who had to give South his ninth trick with the queen of clubs. If East had discarded a club instead of a diamond on the third spade, he would have been endplayed in that suit.



Online Contract Bridge League

OCBL June Cup

Marc Smith
Southampton, Hants., U.K.

Round 2 of the Online Contract Bridge League June Cup saw a multinational team move to the top of Group B. After a win against LESLIE (England) in Round 1, TILLY (England, Germany, Brazil) came up against GREENSPAN (USA).

Board 12. Dealer West. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Thoma</i>	<i>Greenspan</i>	<i>Tommasini</i>	<i>Schenker</i>
Pass	INT	Pass	6NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

The Americans wasted little time on the auction. East led a club and, when declarer played low from dummy, West withheld his king. Declarer won with the ten and soon claimed the rest with the club ace and 11 winners in the other suits. North/South were plus 1470 and no

doubt glad to see that the club finesse was losing all along.

West	North	East	South
Kranyak	King	Becker	Castner
Pass	INT	Pass	3♣ ¹
Pass	3♥ ²	Pass	3♠ ³
Pass	4♦ ⁴	Pass	4NT ⁵
Pass	5♣ ⁶	Pass	7♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. Puppet Stayman
2. 5-card heart suit
3. Slam try; spade control in support of hearts
4. Control
5. Roman Key-Card Blackwood
6. 0 or 3 key cards

Germany's Kevin Castner had more sophisticated weapons at his disposal when England's Phil King opened one notrump on the North cards. Castner utilized Puppet Stayman and Roman Key-Card Blackwood to reach the grand slam. He might well have asked for kings over the three key-card response to Blackwood, but he'd have been very unlucky to find his partner with 15 points in the majors and zero in the minors. Even then, he'd have been at worst on a try for a singleton king with the defenders in one minor and a finesse in the other.

South would also have been unlucky to find North with just two spades. As it was, a spade ruff provided the thirteenth trick without the need for the club finesse.

King won the opening trump lead with the nine, cashed the two high spades, ruffed his third spade with the queen of hearts, and claimed 13 tricks; East/West plus 2210 and 12 IMPs to TILLY, who won the match 37-16.

West	North	East	South
Jennifer	Rokia	Nathalie	Nadia
Mourgues	Poizat	Frey	Payan
—	Pass	1♦	INT
2♥ ¹	Pass	2♠	Pass
Pass	Double	Pass	3♣
3♦	3NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			
I. Transfer			

The French Women's Trials were contested on RealBridge, and this deal caught my eye. See if you think that declarer ought to have read the cards successfully.

The bidding at the other table was the same up to two spades, which was passed out for two down. So, North/South could have gained IMPs by doubling and defending either two spades or three diamonds. However, against three notrump, West led the ten of diamonds to dummy's king. How would you have played this one?

After winning the diamond lead in dummy, Nadia Payan led a heart to the king, followed by the ace-king of clubs. She might then have gone down, even if West held the queen doubleton. A third club went to East's queen and eight tricks were made after a diamond return.

West's two bids marked her with five spades and four diamonds. East would have opened one heart with five cards in that suit, so West must hold at least two hearts. Declarer's winning play, leading the jack of clubs from dummy at trick two, is perhaps coming into focus. If East fails to cover, declarer runs the jack. Five club tricks will be hers, and she can set up the king of hearts as a ninth trick either now or later. Let's say that East covers with the queen of clubs. Declarer wins, crosses to the ace of spades and leads the eight of clubs. If East covers with the ten, dummy's seven will be the entry for leading towards the king of hearts. If instead, East plays low, declarer will remain in dummy for a heart lead.

Leading the jack of clubs at trick two would also succeed against a singleton ten with West. You may be thinking, yes, yes, but it's rather double-dummy. You may be right!

Sufficient Evidence?
David Bird
Eastleigh, Hants., U.K.



Dealer North. Both Vul.

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



Turkish Bridge
Erdal Sidar,
Istanbul

Here are four deals from the fourth-round match of the OCBL July Cup starring the MOSS and RIPPEY teams.

I. POLISH DUEL

Board 2. Dealer East. NS Vul.

♠ K 8 5
 ♥ 10 9 7 6 3 2
 ♦ 9 8 5 3
 ♣ —

♠ A J 4 2
 ♥ 5
 ♦ K Q J 6 2
 ♣ Q 6 3

♠ 9
 ♥ A K Q 8
 ♦ A 7 4
 ♣ A K 10 9 5

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

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

- (i.) 12-14 HCP, balanced, or (ii.) 15+ HCP, 5+ clubs, or (iii.) any 18+ HCP
- 8+ HCP, 4+ spades
- 15+ HCP, 5+ clubs
- Natural and forcing; could have longer diamonds than spades
- Natural
- Invitational

Gawrys led the six of spades. Nawrocki won with dummy's ace and led the three of clubs. When Klukowski discarded the seven of hearts, declarer won with his ace, cashed the ace of diamonds and led another. When Gawrys discarded the three of spades, Nawrocki won and returned to hand with the ace of hearts, then played the king and queen of hearts. Gawrys discarded another spade. Declarer discarded a spade from dummy and led the last heart. Again Gawrys did not ruff, so Nawrocki ruffed it in dummy with the six of clubs for his eighth trick. We had arrived here, with the lead in dummy:

♠ K 8
 ♥ 10 9
 ♦ 9 8
 ♣ —

♠ J 4
 ♥ —
 ♦ K Q
 ♣ Q

♠ —
 ♥ —
 ♦ 7
 ♣ K 10 9 5

♠ Q
 ♥ —
 ♦ —
 ♣ J 8 7 4

Declarer ruffed a spade, led a club to the queen and played a diamond. Gawrys had to ruff and lead a club into the king-ten. Ruffing earlier would not have helped.

RIPPEY gained 14 IMPs when, in the other room, seven clubs was short one trick.

Since seven notrump was cold on the lie of the cards, this was not a triumph for either side.

2. ELEGANT DEFENCE

Board 6. Dealer East. EW Vul.

♠ K Q 8 7
 ♥ A J
 ♦ Q 7 5
 ♣ Q 5 4 3

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

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

♠ A 9
 ♥ 9 8 4 3
 ♦ K 6 3 2
 ♣ 8 7 2

West	North	East	South
—	—	INT	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass
Pass	Pass		

The contract and bidding were the same at both tables. This time we'll look at an elegant defence by Gawrys and Klukowski.

Gawrys led an effective two of diamonds. When the four was played from dummy (any other card might have been better), Klukowski also started well by playing the seven instead of the queen. Nawrocki won with his ten and led the two of hearts to dummy's ten. North took that with his jack and returned the five of diamonds to declarer's then-bare ace.

Declarer led the queen of hearts to North's equally bare ace, and Klukowski shifted to a low spade to the jack and ace. Gawrys continued with his nine of spades; after three more spades (declarer discarding the six of clubs and South the club two and seven), Klukowski continued by leading a low club. Nawrocki took that with his ace and tried the king. Gawrys ruffed with his low diamond, overruffed in the dummy.

Declarer led dummy's last trump, gathering the king and queen together. The defence had a heart to come for three down, minus 300.

Had Gawrys ruffed the club king with his king of diamonds, the defence would have made two diamond tricks instead of a diamond and a heart.

At the other table, the eight of hearts was led to the ten, jack and queen. Declarer could then play three rounds of clubs, discarding spades, and lose just two spades, one heart, two diamonds and one club for down one and a 5-IMP gain for MOSS.

3. THE MOMENT OF TRUTH

Board 10. Dealer East. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
—	—	1♦	Pass
3♦ [!]	4♦	Pass	4♥
Pass	5♦	Pass	5♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

I. Mixed raise

In my opinion, Klukowski's slam-try bid of five diamonds was quite logical. The problem on this deal is not *whether* to make a slam invitation or not, but *how* to reach a grand slam if 13 tricks can be collected when Gawry's hand was something like ♠Kx ♥Qxx ♦xxx ♣Axxxx. Perhaps then a return control-bid of six clubs might have done it.

Gawry's ruffed the jack-of-diamonds lead in dummy, crossed to hand with the ace of clubs and led a spade to the ten. When East ruffed the third round of spades with his queen of hearts, South made 12 tricks.

In the other room, four hearts was very strangely down three tricks and MOSS gained 14 IMPs.

4. JUDGEMENT?

Board 16. Dealer West. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	1♥	2♣
3♥ [!]	3♠	Pass	4♣
Pass	5♣	Pass	Pass
Pass			

I. Weak

For Gawry's, bidding a red suit at the four level would have been a show of power, so he settled for four clubs. When clubs divided two-two, it was easy to make 12 tricks.

At the other table, game was not reached, so MOSS won 10 IMPs to go ahead in the match and win it, 29-26.

NEWS & VIEWS



Past IBPA Bulletins

Most Bulletins can be downloaded from:

<http://www.jannersten.org:1500/~server/IBPA/archive/Bulletins/>

Members with a full set of printed Bulletins, who'd be willing to part with them should contact the Editor as he receives occasional requests for such.

Accessible AI for Vision-Impaired Bridge Players From Gonzalo Goded, Spain on Bridge Winners

In collaboration with RealBridge, I'm developing an interface to provide accessibility to the platform for users with impaired vision.

Widely used screen readers such as Jaws fail to give a practical response to cards being shown on a screen, making players with impaired vision unable to play at all during the pandemic. I hope to change that.

My interface will identify and read out loud all bids and cards as they are being made/played, and when a certain key is hit, will read the cards the player and dummy hold. The interface also provides keyboard access to play cards and make bids. All of this is possible thanks to RealBridge's integrated microphone, which handles some parts of the game such as alerting and explaining bids using players' voices, keeping the total number of words the script needs to read low.

Using the script itself is easy, but installing it might require some help from someone who is computer-savvy. I have set up a web page with detailed instructions on how to install it and how to use it:

<https://bridgegod.com/accessibility.htm>

The interface is in English (two voices recorded) and German (one voice), and Spanish and Italian might be added soon. If you want to help by adding your own language, or your own particular accent/voice to a language already there, please contact me at ggoded@gmail.com.

Margaret Bourke 1945-2021



The successful declarer was Margi Bourke, wife of IBPA Column Service author Tim Bourke.

Dealer North. EW Vul.

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

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

1. Diamond support and a good spade suit

After being quite timid in the auction, West led the heart ace, then switched to the diamond ten. Declarer Margaret Bourke, took stock. The spade king had to be onside for the contract to succeed, and unless East held the king singleton, or the king plus just one other, three entries were needed to dummy: one for the spade finesse, another for the ruffing finesse for the king, and a third to run the established spades for club discards.

Margi Bourke passed the first test by inserting dummy's queen and, when East rose with the ace, she unblocked her diamond eight. She won the club return at trick three, rejecting the Greek gift of the finesse, then played her diamond seven to the jack to take the spade finesse, and followed up by cashing the spade ace. The diamond two to the three was followed by the spade queen, covered perforce, and ruffed high. Now declarer could ruff her heart winner in dummy, and thus gain access to the North hand to take the two spade winners there and allow two club discards from hand.

Note that if declarer does not rise with a high trump in dummy at trick two, East could defeat the contract, if inspired, by withholding the diamond ace. Then there would have been one fewer entry to dummy, so declarer would have had to lose a club trick at the end.

Margi died on August 6, after a staunchly brave, more-than-three-year fight against Stage IV Melanoma.

Margaret was born in Canberra to John Cumpston, a career diplomat, and Helen Cumpston, a university administrator at the Australian National University. For her tertiary education, she moved to Melbourne where she became involved in bridge and met her future husband, Tim. She and Tim moved to Canberra in 1989 to join the Commonwealth Public Service.

Success came early and often, representing Victoria at the Australian National Championships for the first time in 1973. Margaret was proud of her 47 continual years of attendance at the ANC. She won upwards of 100 times at the ANC and other national tournaments. However, her best performance was representing Australia on 31 occasions, currently more than any other player. These included 15 times at World Championships, and 15 times at Asia Pacific Championships, including three wins.

Over the years, Margaret had many partners. However, her favourite partner was Lidia Beech with whom she won many events.

Once retired, she threw herself into volunteer work, both at ABF Headquarters in Canberra, and the Canberra Senior Citizens Book Fair for which she was the chief organizer for many years.

David Hoffman, Canberra

Barry Rigal reported this deal of Margi's:

Careful management of the trump pips brought home this game at the Australian National Teams.



Correspondence

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

Dear John,

I was reading with a general sense of concurrence your editorial on sports and politics – until I got to the part where you launch a diatribe against “blatant...hypocrisy” in regard to the USBF’s disciplinary action against the Venice Cup winners of 2007 in Shanghai. There I must part company with you. Full disclosure – for the princely sum of \$1, I represented the USBF in that matter, until it sadly caved to the pressure of multiple major law firms threatening all kinds of ridiculous legal actions, despite the utter lack of justification or supporting authority behind the opposing bluster. Here is what I wrote in response to similar contentions at the time (emphasis in the original):

“In addition to having contractually agreed, by becoming members of the USBF, to submit to USBF discipline under the USBF’s bylaws and rules, respondents (the Venice Cup team members), by entering the USWBC agreed to be bound by the USBF’s General Conditions of Contest, Part VII of which provides:

‘Each player in a USBF Championship, by entering the event, agrees that in the event the player represents the United States in a WBF Championship, he or she will comply with WBF requirements for the championship.’

Among those “WBF requirements” to which respondents agreed is section 4.1 of the WBF General Conditions of Contest, which reads:

‘4.1 General

‘To be eligible for participation in the World Bridge Championships a competitor must comply with the Olympic Charter as well as with the rules of the WBF, and must be entered by his NBO. He must notably respect the spirit of fair play and ethics, and behave accordingly.’

The explicit reference to the Olympic Charter put respondents on notice that their conduct must comply with Olympic standards. Chapter 5, Rule 51, Section 3 of the Olympic Charter in turn specifies (emphasis added):

‘No kind of demonstration or political, religious or racial propaganda is permitted in any Olympic sites, venues, or other areas.’

Respondents’ decision to introduce their political views at the medal ceremony was thus clearly contrary to the standards of conduct to which they agreed to adhere – not merely once, but three times: on joining the USBF,

on entering an event subject to the USBF’s general conditions of contest, and upon choosing to participate in the Venice Cup under the auspices of the WBF”

Allan goes on to cite legal precedents which need not be reproduced here and further mentions that, “in 1968 the USOC itself, without a hearing, barred **for life** sprinters Tommy Smith and John Carlos, who won the gold and silver medals in the 200 meters in Mexico City, for giving a ‘Black Power’ salute during the playing of the national anthem as they stood on the podium after receiving their medals.”

When USBF took steps to enforce its regulations against a group of players that had expressly agreed to comply therewith, it was not indulging in “hypocrisy” of any kind, but acting as any sponsoring organization must to assure that its international representatives not sully the organization’s reputation or cause the organization itself to violate rules by which it, in turn, agreed to be bound. Had the USBF players expressed their views of then President G.W. Bush as individuals, or after returning home from Shanghai (thereby ending their status as USBF representatives), I’d have found myself in general agreement with their political views. But the issue was not how we voted or our disapproval of a presidential administration; the issue concerned the arrogation of the USBF’s imprimatur by those with no right to speak for the Federation, in clear contravention of rules with which they had agreed to comply.

Usually, your editorials reflect clear thinking and cogent analysis. This time, you fell from grace – it happens. I’m confident you will strive to do better next time, and I predict you will succeed.

Your co-evalist and friend,
Allan Falk, Okemos, MI

I have a few points to make:

1. We’ll just have to agree to disagree. Allan is a lawyer and, if he’d been retained by the U.S. Women’s Team rather than the USBF, I’d guess his argument for them would have been based on the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, guaranteeing the right to free speech. Any regulation passed by any U.S. entity violating the Constitution is itself illegal.

2. Agreed, there is no hypocrisy in organizations attempting to enforce their own regulations. Their hypocrisy lies in (a.) formulating those regulations in the first place and (b.) pretending not to be political entities themselves.

3. Re: Tommie Smith and John Carlos. Firstly, they won gold and bronze, not gold and silver in the 200. Secondly, in 2019,

the USOC (now the USOPC to include the Paralympics) inducted Smith and Carlos into the USOPC Hall of Fame! Do you not think there's some hypocrisy there somewhere? Thirdly, there was another victim of the 1968 podium ceremony: Australian Peter Norman, the silver-medal winner, who supported the Americans by wearing a badge, but did not raise a fist, was unofficially blacklisted by the Australian Olympic Committee and never represented his country again.

4. I try my best all the time, so cannot strive to do better. Any failures do not come from lack of effort or intent, but lack of talent, intelligence, cognition or vision.

5. These organizations (USOC, USBF, WBF, IOC, FIFA, UEFA, et al) take themselves way too seriously. Get a sense of humour; get a life. For example, for the IOC to call the Olympics the "Olympic Movement" as if it were some sort of popular revolution is absurd enough that it's Kafkaesque in nature.

6. Have you noticed that it's always the right-wingers who are outraged at these peccadillos?

7. Perhaps the USBF overpaid you. Okay, just kidding about that one.

– Ed.

Bridging Academia, Policy and Practice Conference



More than 500 delegates from 62 countries attended the 4th international bridge conference. The University of Stirling and Bridge: A MindSport for All (BAMSA) hosted the online event over four days at the end of June. The success of the conference was due to a concerted effort on the part of many people. The programme involved 70 presenters and panelists from 20 countries. Collaboration among members of the global BAMSA network was the driving force behind the event. The Scottish Bridge Union, the American Contract Bridge League Educational Foundation, the Leisure Studies Association and the University of Stirling all provided funding. Thanks to their support, the conference created a valuable online resource for the international bridge community. The conference was free to attend.

The conference aimed to create a dialogue between academics and bridge players. Representatives of local, regional, national and international bridge organisations were all present. Practitioners included policymakers, bridge teachers, organisers and players. The academics came from a variety of disciplines. Sociology, psychology, sports studies, health sciences, global studies, social work and leisure studies were all represented.

The conference sessions inspired wide-ranging discussions. In his insightful keynote address, Professor Martin Seligman applied his wellbeing theory to the game of bridge. Other sessions focused on the role of bridge in society, and the ways in which bridge benefits people of different generations. A session on education and digital learning provoked discussion on how best to teach bridge in schools.

The conference also demonstrated the importance of addressing inequalities and creating a safe and welcoming environment. Training in equality and unconscious bias for tournament directors, selectors and youth trainers was proposed at a session on gender.

Covid-19 has changed the way bridge clubs operate. A discussion about opportunities and challenges post-Covid was relevant to bridge clubs planning a return to face-to-face play. Online bridge has been a lifeline for many players but not for all. Some half of all club players stopped playing during the pandemic and bridge clubs cannot be complacent.

To raise awareness of the positive role of bridge in society, the conference showcased the multiple benefits of playing bridge and the social role of bridge clubs. Positive case studies from around the world are particularly relevant to governing parties committed to improving mental health and reducing social isolation.

Recordings of all sessions are being edited and full reports will appear on the BAMSA website later in the year.

To support Bridge: A MindSport for All, please donate to the Keep Bridge Alive crowdfunder <https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/u5c0e5e7810869>.

Follow BAMSA on Facebook and Twitter (@bridgemindsport). Visit the website and subscribe to the e-bulletin to keep up to date with news from Bridge: A MindSport for All at <https://bridgemindsport.org>.

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 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, but most think it unlikely to proceed.

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).



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