



BULLETIN

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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.

Here are two not-so-trivial questions...

- (1.) What do Novak Djokovic (tennis), Kyrie Irving (basketball), Aaron Rodgers (American football), Chris Sale (baseball), and Harry Kane (soccer) have in common with certain bridge players?
- (2.) What do poliomyelitis, typhoid fever, rubella, tetanus, diphtheria, smallpox, measles, mumps, pertussis, meningitis, hepatitis and shingles have in common?

The answer to the first question is that they are all top athletes at the pinnacle of their professions who have declined to take the Covid-19 vaccine.

The answer to the second question is that they are all diseases that have been eradicated or almost eliminated in the Western world through vaccines.

It is worth noting that none of those athletes has a genius I.Q. For example, at least one of them (Irving) believes that the Earth is flat. Although bridge players, in general, are more intelligent than their peers in other sports, they are just as sadly misguided. Refusal to have a Covid vaccine is not a personal choice, it is a public health issue. It is an immensely selfish and foolish decision to remain unvaccinated: you are putting yourself, your family, your friends and everyone you encounter at risk. You may not become ill with the disease, but you could unwittingly transmit it to others, as did Typhoid Mary in the early 1900s.

In the first half of the twentieth century, Canada in particular, and much of the Western world, was hard hit by successive waves of polio epidemics. Researchers at the Universities of Michigan, Toronto and Pittsburgh cooperated to produce the Salk vaccine, which successfully halted the progress of the crippling disease (too late for President Franklin Delano Roosevelt of the USA; Canadian musicians Neil Young and Joni Mitchell were also victims). The vaccine was implemented free of charge to schoolchildren throughout North America. No one thought to refuse the vaccine for their children, because everyone had witnessed the debilitating effects of the disease.

Smallpox is another example. The smallpox vaccine was the first use of vaccination to control an infectious disease – it was initially tested by British physician Edward Jenner in 1796, after he and others observed that milkmaids exposed to cowpox developed immunity against smallpox. In the beginning, there were many doubters – the vaccine was decried as unnatural and dangerous. Rumours circulated that it could even turn you into a cow. That ridiculous belief echoes today's Internet-based misinformation about the Covid vaccine (not to mention the flat Earth, the moon landings, the Holocaust denial and the 2020 U.S. presidential election).

Many bridge organisations are currently mandating vaccinations and masks for competitors at face-to-face bridge events. The European Union president has even advanced the idea of a compulsory vaccination for European citizens. Some jurisdictions have planned vaccination passports. We laud them.

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Central American & Caribbean Bridge Federation 2021 Online Zone Championships October 25-31, 2021

Jack Rhind, Smith's Parish, Bermuda

The 2021 Zone 5 Championships were originally scheduled to be held in Panama in May, but the continued threat of Covid-19 required that those plans be cancelled. It was then decided that the best course of action was to prepare for and hold the Championships online, where it would be much safer for everyone and much easier to resolve the many travel restrictions that were in place. The events were scheduled for October 25th to 31st, 2021 and RealBridge™ was selected as the online platform. Six teams entered the Open (Barbados, Costa Rica, Guadeloupe, Guatemala, Panama and Trinidad & Tobago), four registered for the Women's (Barbados, Guadeloupe, Jamaica, and Trinidad & Tobago), two entered the Seniors (Guadeloupe and Martinique) and there were five NBOs in the Mixed (Barbados, Costa Rica, Guadeloupe, Guatemala and Jamaica).

The Open Team of Guadeloupe (Philippe Mathieu, Luc Soudan, Jean-Claude Pelletier, Dominique Gerin, René Aragonés and Eugène Gustave) were triumphant over a very strong and experienced team from Trinidad & Tobago (Trevor Hart, Roger Vieira, Roger Mapp, Mohan Seepersad and Shamshad Mohammed) by 92–54 IMPs. Guadeloupe has dominated this event over the last few championships and is to be congratulated on another solid victory.

The Trinidad & Tobago Women's Team of Patricia Howard, Denise Josa, Deborah Fletcher, Alana Xavier, Pam Mapp and Pat Collier, with Kalifa Howard as NPC, defeated the veteran team of women from Guadeloupe (Françoise Mondor, Christiane Thirion, Jany Grenié, Chantal Bistoquet, Jacqueline Cassin and Anne Garcia) by 107–32 IMPs. The Guadeloupe women have won this event several times in recent years. I last saw the Trinidadian women looking for some ice-cold bubbly to celebrate their resounding victory.

The Senior Teams was also won by Guadeloupe (Jeanine Moers, Jean-Pierre Bouveresse, Kitty Baert and Sophie Fabbriatore), who defeated the Martinique team

(Marie-Luce Rimbaud, Brigette Simonett, Antoine Edouard, Roland Veran and Perrine Hayot) after nine sessions of head-to-head battle.

After a single round robin of four matches in the Mixed Teams, Guadeloupe (Philippe Mathieu, Sophie Fabbriatore, Jany Grenié, Luc Soudan, Jeanine Moers and Jean-Pierre Bouveresse) and Guatemala (Fernando Tepedino, Marianne Ruefenacht, Lili Guirola and Sergio Spinola) emerged as the leaders and runners-up and played a 32-board final. Guadeloupe was the winner, 86–66 IMPs. Congratulations on a hard-fought victory.

There was also a Championship Pairs event, won by Isabelle Chaplet and John MacGregor of Costa Rica.

Here is a deal from the final of the Mixed Teams between Guadeloupe and Guatemala:

Board 6. Dealer East. EW Vul.

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

With Guatemala North/South:

West	North	East	South
<i>Grenié</i>	<i>Ruefenacht</i>	<i>Soudan</i>	<i>Tepedino</i>
—	—	Pass	1♣ ¹
Pass	1♥ ²	2♦	2♠ ³
Pass	4♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			
	1. 2+ clubs		
	2. 4+ spades		
	3. Minimum with 4 spades		

The Guatemalan declarer won the opening ten-of-diamonds lead with the ace. He cashed the ace of clubs, crossed to the ace of spades and cashed the king of clubs, pitching a diamond from dummy. He then led a spade towards the queen. West took the king and played a second diamond, but declarer was able to win the continuation, draw West's last trump and lose just the king of hearts, for plus 420.

At the other table, with Guadeloupe North/South:

West	North	East	South
<i>Spinola</i>	<i>Moers</i>	<i>Guirola</i>	<i>Bouveresse</i>
—	—	2♦	Pass
Pass	Double	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

The Guadeloupe declarer won the diamond opening lead and played a spade to the ace and a spade towards the queen. West took the king of spades and led his remaining diamond to East. When Guirola played a third round of diamonds, Spinola was able to over-ruff the nine of spades with the jack. At this table, the king of hearts was the setting trick for minus 50.

Not a complex hand, but a good illustration of the importance of listening to the bidding and planning the play accordingly. Not doing that cost Guadeloupe 10 IMPs.

The website: <https://www.bridgewebs.com/cacbf/>



The 14th National Games of China, referred to as Shaanxi 2021, was a multi-sport event held in Shaanxi province from September 15 to 27, 2021 (though some events took place before the Games officially started). The main venue was the Xi'an Olympic Sports Center. The Games attracted around 20,000 athletes, who competed in 416 events in 36 sports. This was the first major event held in China since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. It was also one of the first major sporting events to allow spectators, who had to provide proof of a negative test within 72 hours of entering any venue.

The 2021 National Games of the People's Republic of China Bridge Tournament was held in Jiaxing, on the Grand Canal, from September 17-22. There were six events in total, comprising the Pro Men's Teams, Amateur Men's Teams, Women's Teams, Mixed Teams, Pro Pairs and Amateur Pairs.



The live broadcast team with commentators Wang Xiaojing, left, and Jerry Li

There were some excellent deals from the tournament.

Double Scissors Coup

The Scissors Coup is a wonderful transportation-destroying feat. Mr. Lian Ruoyang, former China National Team member, employed it twice in this tournament.

Pro Men's Teams RR4

Board 9. Dealer North. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Lian</i>			
—	1♦	Pass	1♠
2♣	2♠	Double	3♠
4♥	4♠	Double	Pass
5♣	Pass	Pass	Pass

The eight of hearts, a possible singleton, was led by North against five clubs. If declarer tried to draw trumps immediately, North could win the trump and play a spade to South to get a heart ruff. To avoid that, Lian won the heart lead with the king in dummy and led the king of diamonds, pitching a spade when South followed with a low diamond.

That was the first Scissors Coup, destroying transportation between North and South. Lian thus made his contract.

Pro Men's Teams Semifinal

Board 1. Dealer North. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Lian</i>			
—	Pass	Pass	1♣
Double	2♣	2♠	Pass
3♥	Pass	4♣	Pass
4♥	Pass	Pass	Pass



The Venue in Jiaying

The opening lead was the jack of diamonds, South playing the queen. Lian won with his ace, drew one round trumps and played the queen of clubs, cutting the transportation link between North and South. North couldn't cash a diamond winner trick before South unblocked his king of diamonds. After this, Lian could set up spades to discard his diamond loser.

That was the second Scissors Coup executed by Lian.

A Better Line

Mixed Teams Semifinal

Board 1. Dealer North. Neither Vul.

♠ Q 10 6
♥ A Q J 8 6
♦ K 9 4
♣ A K

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

♠ K 5 2
♥ 9 7 5 4
♦ Q J 6
♣ 10 9 3

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

Four hearts is the normal contract, but some declarers took an unsuccessful line of play. East led the five of diamonds, dummy played the queen, and West ducked. Declarer played a heart to the queen and led a spade to the king. West won with the ace and led another spade. When declarer lost a finesse to the jack of spades, he was one down as there was no entry to the dummy to repeat the heart finesse.

Li Zhigang is a Hubei Mixed Team member and did very well on this deal. On the lead of the five of diamonds, Li played the queen and West ducked. Li finessed the queen

of hearts, but he didn't play a spade to the king. Instead, Li cashed the ace and king of clubs and continued with the king of diamonds. West made the good play of ducking again, so Li played third diamond to West's ace.

West could play back a club, but Li ruffed, cashed the ace of hearts, and led a heart to West. West led a spade, and Li tried the ten, covered with the jack by East, and won by the king in dummy. When Li led a spade to the queen, he made four hearts.

Only the ace-jack-nine-(low) in spades with East would have defeated LI. On either the ace or jack of spades with West, Li's line would have been successful.

The Better Trump Suit

Mixed Teams Final

Board 16. Dealer West. EW Vul.

♠ Q 7 5
♥ 8 6
♦ A K J
♣ J 8 7 4 2

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

♠ K J 6 4 3
♥ A
♦ 9 2
♣ A K Q 9 3

West	North	East	South
	<i>Dong</i>		<i>Wang</i>
Pass	1♦ ¹	Pass	1♠
Pass	INT ²	Pass	3♣ ³
Pass	3♠ ⁴	Pass	3NT ⁵
Pass	4♦	Pass	4♥
Pass	4NT ⁶	Pass	5♦ ⁷
Pass	5♥ ⁸	Double	5♠ ⁹
Pass	6♣ ¹⁰	Pass	Pass
Pass			

1. 2+ diamonds in a Strong Club system, 11-15 HCP
2. 11-13 balanced
3. 5+ spades and 5+ clubs, GF
4. Sets trumps
5. Serious slam try
6. RKCB
7. 0 or 3 key cards for spades
8. Asks for the queen of spades (see below)
9. No queen of spades
10. Choice of slam

North/South for the Tianjin Team were Dong Chunhui and Wang Jian. A useful agreement is to play four clubs over three clubs as showing three spades and four or more clubs, but North/South didn't have that agreement.

When South showed three key cards, North knew their club fit was better than their spade fit for slam purposes,

but they were off a key card. If North bid six clubs, that would invite a grand in clubs. How could he stop in six clubs? Dong Chunhui had a good idea: he bid five hearts to ask Partner for the queen of spades, knowing that he did not have it. Thus Wang knew that Dong would have to bid five spades. When South then bid six clubs, North knew that he wanted to play in six clubs because he was worried about spades.

That was a very good option, and a good contract! At the other table, North/South stopped in five spades, so Tianjin won 10 IMPs.



European Bridge League

19th European Champions Cup

Marc Smith, Southampton, Hants., UK
Jos Jacobs, Maarn, Netherlands



Winners: Team BERGEN AKADEMISKE

Thomas Charlsen, Ole Berset, Thor Erik Hoftaniska,
 EBL President Jan Kamras, Martin Andresen, Christian
 Bakke, Bjørn Olav Ekren

Round Robin Match 6 – Marc Smith

Board 29. Dealer North. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Klukowski</i>	<i>Zahariev</i>	<i>Gawrys</i>	<i>Vanchev</i>
—	1♥	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♥	Pass	3♥
Pass	3NT	Pass	4♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

North's two-heart rebid showed a six-card suit and Angel Vanchev made an invitational raise. Zahariev's three notrump was a suggestion of an alternative contract and, had Vanchev passed, would have left Piotr Gawrys needing to find a black-suit lead. Whether he would have done so, we will never know, but he did lead the seven of spades (low from a doubleton in the Polish style), against four hearts. Klukowski won with the ten and switched thoughtfully to the three of diamonds. Gawrys won with the ace and reverted to spades. A third round of that suit then promoted the jack of hearts into the setting trick: North/South minus 100.

West	North	East	South
<i>Danailov</i>	<i>S. Drijver</i>	<i>Karakolev</i>	<i>Brink</i>
—	1♥	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♥	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Ever the maverick (as a member of the BBO Prime Expert Bidding Panel, I rely on Sjoert Brink to come up with at least one bid each month that no other member of the panel has even considered), Brink did not raise hearts at his second turn, but instead invited with two notrump. (Note that, at both tables, the South players only invited game on their 12-count, something that would have been unthinkable 20 years ago. This is an illustration of how modern bidding has adjusted to take account of the more aggressive opening-bid style that has now become almost universal.) Bas Drijver raised to game, and now the focus was on Danailov in the West seat to rescue the board for the Bulgarians.

A diamond lead would have allowed East to win and switch to the nine of spades through declarer's modest suit for two down, and even a heart lead might have been good enough to beat the contract, as East can win the first round of diamonds and switch to spades. Finding that was a tough ask, though and, when Danailov opened with the king of spades, that was the end of the defensive chances. That was plus 600 to North/South and 12imps to BRIDGE CONTACT CLUB (Switzerland).

A sixth consecutive win for the Swiss kept them at the top of the table at the end of the first day's play. After their performance so far, though, their lead was still only a relatively modest 6.69 V.P. ahead of BK LAVEC (Sweden). The Swedish quartet had climbed to second place despite losing their first three matches (by a combined total of 4 IMPs), having stormed back with

three big wins. BERGEN AKADEMISKE BK and ENGLISH CHAMPIONS were in third and fourth places. There was all to play for with five more matches on day two before the knockout contestants were decided.

With four teams to advance to the knockout stage, this was the top of the standings going into the final match of the round robin:

BERGEN AKADEMISKE BK (Norway)	124.66
BK LAVEC (Sweden)	120.37
ONE-EYED JACKS (Denmark)	115.88
BRIDGE CONTACT CLUB (Switzerland)	111.81
NATIONAL CHAMPION (England)	108.98
BC 't ONSTEIN 2 (Netherlands)	104.44
BC 't ONSTEIN 1 (Netherlands)	96.14

Having won all six of their matches on the first day, the Swiss had looked like certain qualifiers, but three heavy defeats to start day two had left them teetering on the brink. Similarly, the Swedes had looked comfortable at the top of the table before their 7-51 drubbing at the hands of the Hungarians in Round 10. Clearly, every team in this field was capable of beating anyone on its day. Some matches, though, are always likely to be tougher than others and the Vugraph matchups in Round 11 pitted the Swiss against what looked like the toughest assignment, the Norwegian leaders. In another match, the Swedes would play the Dutch national champions, BC 't ONSTEIN 1. Could any team from the chasing pack close the gap on those above them? The English were playing last-placed PESCARA BRIDGE (Italy) whilst the better-placed Dutch team faced BULGARIAN CHAMPIONS, lying in eleventh place. Looking to hold on to their place in the top four, the final opponents for the Danes were ISRAELI CHAMPIONS.

Round Robin Match 11 – Marc Smith

Board: 11. Dealer South. Neither Vul.

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

Relative sanity prevailed in the match between the Swiss and the Norwegians.

West	North	East	South
<i>Klukowski</i>	<i>Berset</i>	<i>Gawrys</i>	<i>Ekren</i>
—	—	—	1♦
Pass	1♥	3♣	Pass
Pass	3♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			

After what looks like a fairly normal auction, Ole Berset declared three hearts from the North seat.

Piotr Gawrys led a top club and accurately switched to his singleton diamond, covered by the jack and queen. Only the ace of diamonds and a third round of the suit legitimately holds declarer to nine tricks, but Michal Klukowski tried to cash the queen of clubs. Berset ruffed, played a trump to the ace, ruffed a club back to hand (West pitching the eight of diamonds), and cashed the king of hearts. Had he cashed his remaining high trump, declarer would have been able to score an overtrick by successfully guessing the spades. When, instead, Berset played a diamond without drawing a third round of trumps, the defence was suddenly in command – East could have pitched both of his spades as his partner won the ace-ten of diamonds – a spade ruff would then have beaten the contract.

When Gawrys threw a club, though, declarer was still alive: West had already thrown a diamond, remember, so there could be no fourth round of that suit to promote the jack of hearts. Klukowski took his two diamond winners and then played a spade to the queen and ace. A spade back to the king then gave declarer a choice: if trumps had been three-three all along, he could have cashed the queen of hearts and claimed.

That the Poles (er ... the Swiss) had not engineered a trick with the jack of hearts, though, persuaded Berset that West had started with a 3=4=4=2 shape. He therefore attempted to engineer a trump coup by playing a spade to dummy's jack and leading through Klukowski's presumed jack-and-one at trick twelve. As Robbie Burns famously observed, though, "The best laid schemes o' mice an' men, gang aft a-gley", and this was no exception. When Berset played the third spade, Gawrys was able to ruff with the jack of hearts that logic suggested he couldn't have. Ah well, back to the drawing board; North/South minus 50.

West	North	East	South
<i>Charlsen</i>	<i>S. Drijver</i>	<i>Bakke</i>	<i>Brink</i>
—	—	—	1♦
Pass	2♥	3♣	Pass
Pass	Pass		

At the other table, Bas Drijver began with a variation of a weak jump shift, but with a hand much stronger than Americans would recognize as such. As we shall see later, though, this is presumably in keeping with the standard Dutch style. Having already described his hand, Drijver saw no reason to take a second bid when East's three-club overcall came back to him.

Sjoert Brink cashed the ace of hearts (eight from partner), then underled his spades. Drijver won with the king, cashed his two heart winners, and returned a spade to the ace for one down. Yes, the Dutch could have given declarer the chance to go one more down,

by making him guess the trumps (ace of hearts, ace of spades, king of spades, king of hearts, queen of hearts (spade pitches), and then a third round of spades – declarer now would have had to ruff specifically with the ten of clubs to get out for one down).

One extra non-vulnerable undertrick makes little difference, however, but bear in mind that a club contract can be held to just seven tricks. North/South was plus 50, so it was 3 IMPs to BRIDGE CONTACT CLUB.

Not a particularly telling deal, you may think, but read on.

West	North	East	South
De Wijs	Gustawsson	Muller	Sylvan
—	—	—	1♦
Pass	1♥	3♣	Pass
Pass	4♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Clearly, the defence can always score four tricks via a top club followed by two diamonds and a diamond ruff. When Bauke Muller began with two top clubs, though, declarer was in with a chance of making his ambitious game contract. Gustawsson ruffed, crossed to the ace of hearts and, with trumps breaking three-three, now just needed to guess the spades to bring home his game. A spade to the ten and queen was not the winning option and, when the defenders now played three rounds of diamonds, he was two down: North/South minus 100.

That was a chance missed by the Swedes, perhaps, but I have saved the most explosive action 'til last:

West	North	East	South
Fredin	Van Prooijen	Apteker	Verhees
—	—	—	1♦
Pass	2♥	3♣	4♠
5♣	Double	Pass	5♠
Double	6♦	Pass	Pass
Double	Pass	Pass	Pass

Ricco van Prooijen's jump to two hearts is, by all appearances, the standard Dutch treatment on this North hand. Bear in mind that this partnership has been together for more than a decade: indeed, they won both the Bermuda Bowl and the World Mind Games as a pair in 2011 and they have played together as part of the Dutch team in most major events since. Is it even remotely conceivable that they do not know a part of their system as basic as the meaning of one diamond-pass-two hearts? (Yes, since they'd changed the system recently from two hearts "to play" to "five spades and four hearts, 8-11", similarly to many Strong Club pairs. – Ed.)

Whatever the reason, though, it could have reaped a huge profit for the Dutch as it enticed the Swedes into the auction at the five level. We have already seen how

many tricks East can make in a club contract, and van Prooijen quite rightly doubled five clubs. Verhees, though, was clearly on a completely different page. Oblivious to the impending doom, he continued on to five spades. Peter Fredin had heard enough, and lowered the boom, surely never expecting to hear van Prooijen giving preference to diamonds at the six-level.

After the queen of clubs and a spade switch, Verhees could have engineered a trump endplay on West to save one trick. That his mind may not have been completely focussed on the play, though, is understandable. West was allowed to make all four of his trump tricks. That was plus 800 to East/West and 12 IMPs to BK LAVEC.

In the end, the three Scandinavian teams made it to the semifinals, along with the Swiss. Norway took care of Denmark in one semifinal, while Switzerland defeated the Swedes in the other.

The Final BERGEN AKADEMISKE BK (Norway) vs. BRIDGE CONTACT CLUB (Switzerland) Jos Jacobs

The final was a back-and-forth affair, with several lead changes. With two boards to go, however, things had gone Switzerland's way, with a 17-IMP lead, until...

Board 31. Dealer South. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Klukowski	Hoftaniska	Gawrys	Andresen
—	—	—	Pass
1♦ ¹	Pass	1♠	Pass
3♠	Pass	3NT ²	Pass
4♥ ³	Pass	5♣	Pass
5♦	Pass	5♥	Pass
5♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. Unbalanced with 5+ diamonds unless some 4♦-4-4-1
2. Non-serious slam try
3. Shortage

Slam is marginal at best, depending on good fortune and a bit of handling. Over partner's five hearts, Klukowski thought for a considerable time before he bid five spades. Gawrys now had even more reason to

pass this: not only technical, but also ethical. BRIDGE CONTACT CLUB plus 510.

West	North	East	South
Charlsen	S. Drijver	Bakke	Brink
—	—	—	Pass
1♣	Pass	1♥ ¹	Pass
3♥ ²	Pass	3NT ³	Pass
4♣	Pass	4♥	Pass
4♠	Pass	5♣	Pass
5♦	Pass	5NT ⁴	Pass
6♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. Spades
2. Strong splinter
3. Serious slam try
4. Anything further to say?

Strong splinter, some control-bids and a final five notrump general inquiry saw East/West getting to slam easily enough. There were no problems in the play, with everything favourable. BERGEN plus 1010 and 11 IMPs to reduce the deficit to just 6.

Over to the last board...

Board 32. Dealer West. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Charlsen	S. Drijver	Bakke	Brink
Pass	2♦	Pass	Pass
2♥	2♠	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♦	Pass	Pass
Pass			

In the Closed Room, Bas Drijver chose the wrong moment to launch his weak two in diamonds. He even got the chance to show his second suit, but nobody was impressed. One down on a heart lead from East – the expected result – with five rather inescapable losers. BERGEN plus 50.

West	North	East	South
Klukowski	Hoftaniska	Gawrys	Andresen
Pass	Pass	Pass	1NT
2♥	Double	Pass	Pass
Pass			

In the other room, North passed and this gave South the opportunity to open a strong notrump in fourth position. Klukowski introduced his suit, Hoftaniska

doubled and Andresen's pass clearly showed that hearts was HIS suit. When North found the killing lead of a club and dummy inserted the queen, the scene was set for down two. South could win with his king and return the jack of clubs. Three trump tricks and two top spades then ensured down two for another plus 500 to BERGEN, 11 IMPs and the Champions' Cup 2021, even without the help of a tie-breaking 0.1 IMP carry-forward. Yes, it would indeed have been a tie if the defence had gone astray and dropped one trick.

So, it was a breathless finish of this set with a worthy winner. Rarely we have seen a match being turned around in such a spectacular way on the last two deals. Well done, BERGEN!



The final of the Norwegian National Pairs Championship was held early in October at the Storefjell Resort, midway between Oslo and Bergen. The event started in 1942 and is a big part of Norwegian bridge history. Fifty-four pairs had qualified to play in the final.

This year's event brought a new star to the scene, the 13-year-old Nicolai Evenstad: he and his father Stian Evenstad finished second. They were in the top five from mid-event to the end and, after many rounds, they were in the lead. I hope Nicolai finds inspiration from this great achievement and continues to develop his bridge skills. The event was won by former junior stars, and current Norwegian Open Team pair, Christian Bakke/Tor Eivind Grude.

I was lucky to have Tolle Stabell as my partner. He is a great player with an eye for the details. Tolle stepped up last year as captain for the Norwegian Open Team. They recently qualified to represent Europe in the Bermuda Bowl and it will be a strong team, hopefully in the race for medals.

Stabell found the solution on this board:

Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Eide	Kvangraven	Høyland	Stabell
—	—	—	4♥
Double	Pass	Pass	Pass

West led the ace of spades, two, six, ruffed. Do you see how Stabell could make his contract?

It is about picturing how the cards are likely to split and how you can take advantage of that.

Stabell saw that, if West had an honour-doubleton in hearts, he could restrict his losses to three trump tricks – he led a low heart. That was spot-on:

Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

East played back a diamond (a spade would not have helped), Stabell took his king and played another low heart, won by the king. The queen of diamonds came back to the ace, a spade ruff and queen of hearts fulfilled the perfect trump play. Stabell made his contract by losing only three trump tricks.

Finn Brentebråten is a regular at the Norwegian championships. He found a nice play on this board...

Dealer East. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
—	—	3♥	Finn B
Pass	4NT	Pass	3NT
Pass			Pass

A heart was led. Brentebråten let East win the first trick but won the second, West discarding a club.

Finn counted 11 sure tricks. Based on the opening bid,

he could picture a fun ending if West had the clubs: a double squeeze with a Vienna Coup.

To reach the position he wanted, Brentebråten led the queen of diamonds, the ace of clubs and a diamond to dummy. He ran the diamonds down to this position:

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

On the six of diamonds, East had to let go a spade. The heart had done its job and was discarded from hand. Then West found himself squeezed in the black suits. He let go a spade only to see Finn claim his 12th trick with the eight of spades.

The funniest board of the event was this little gem. Let's see if you are up to it.

Dealer West. Neither Vul.

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

After opening two clubs, you have ended up declaring six clubs as South. West leads a heart; you win with the ace, East following suit. Do you have a line where 12 tricks are possible?

It is about a relative to the Morton's Fork Coup. If West has the ace of spades, you are safe. The deal looked like this:

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

Continued on page 12...



IBPA Column Service

Tim Bourke, Canberra



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

1073. Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

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

West led the four of hearts. Declarer played low from the dummy and took East's jack with his queen. South led the king of diamonds from hand. East won with his ace and continued with the three of hearts. Declarer tried the eight, but West played the nine, taken by dummy's ace. West eventually got in with the ace of spades and took three more heart winners for down one.

"That was a bit rough," ventured South.

"Not at all," scoffed dummy. "As there was no danger from a shift, all you had to do was let the jack of hearts hold the first trick. If East returns a heart at trick two, you play the ten and it does not matter what West does. Suppose he covers with the king and you win the trick with dummy's ace of hearts. Now, when you play on diamonds East will eventually take his ace in the suit and can do no better than exit with a spade. West can take his ace of spades but you will make nine tricks – two spades, two hearts, three diamonds and two clubs."

North continued, "The only time you will not make nine tricks after you let the jack of hearts hold is when West began with five hearts and the two missing aces. In that event the defence would always prevail. Ducking the first trick succeeds whenever West has five hearts and at most one of the missing aces."

1074. Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

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

The auctions and opening lead, the jack of diamonds, were the same in this deal from a team match. The first declarer played low from dummy and his king of diamonds won the trick. Declarer saw that his only chance was that West held a doubleton trump and a doubleton-king or -queen in hearts. Then, if declarer could eliminate the minors, he could threaten West with an endplay. So, at trick two, he led the king of clubs from hand.

East paused to consider the matter. He deduced that South might have a problem in hearts. So, after taking the king of clubs with the ace, he shifted to the five of hearts; West's ten forced dummy's ace. The effect of this was that the partial elimination could no longer be executed. If declarer left trumps alone, when East gained the lead with the ace of diamonds, he would exit with the nine of hearts to West's queen (or give West a ruff) and West could then get out with a trump. If declarer had drawn two trumps before playing the queen of diamonds, East would have won with the ace of diamonds and exited with a trump. Either way, declarer would have made only nine tricks.

Reminder: IBPA AGM, Sat. Dec. 11

At the other table, declarer played dummy's queen of diamonds at trick one. East won with his ace and shifted to a low club (a heart shift was too difficult). Declarer won with the king and played the queen of clubs. East took the ace and exited with the five of hearts to the two, ten and ace. Declarer cashed king and ace of trumps, followed by his minor suit kings, and exited with a heart. West won with the queen and, having only minor suit cards left, led a club. Declarer threw his remaining heart from the dummy and ruffed in hand. That was his seventh winner and he had three trumps to come for a total of ten tricks.

1075. Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

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

West led the jack of spades. Declarer counted seven top tricks. If diamonds were three-two, he would only need one club trick. So he won the first trick with the king of spades and cashed the ace and king of diamonds. When West discarded a low club on the second diamond, declarer had to make two club tricks.

If West held the ace of clubs then he could lead the queen of clubs and it would not matter what the defence did. If the queen of clubs held, he could play a second club and rise with dummy's king to make his ninth trick. Also, if either defender took the queen of clubs it would be a simple matter to make a second club trick by leading a club to dummy's nine.

However, that play would not succeed on this layout against the best defence. East would duck the queen of clubs, limiting declarer to one trick in clubs. Declarer found the counter to East's holding the ace-jack of clubs by leading the eight of clubs at trick four and running it. It would have done East no good to let the eight of clubs win, for then declarer could have guaranteed a second club by leading the queen of clubs to the next trick. So East won the trick with the jack of clubs and shifted to the ten of hearts.

Declarer won with the king of hearts and then led the queen of clubs, overtaking it with king. East won with the ace and cashed his two diamond winners, then exited with the ten of hearts. Declarer won with the ace and claimed nine tricks – three spades, two hearts, two diamonds and two clubs.

1076. Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

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

1. 5+ spades and 5+ of either minor

West led the ace of clubs. After East indicated an odd number of clubs, West shifted to the queen of spades. Declarer paused to take stock. If trumps were three-two, he saw that he would have two trump losers as well as a diamond loser (unless West had a singleton jack, along with a doubleton heart) for down one.

Declarer then realised that he could make ten tricks only if West had a singleton ace or king of trumps. In that case, South could cash three top diamonds with impunity for, if West ruffed one of the diamonds, declarer would be able to ruff his nine of diamonds in dummy and then lead a trump, neutralising East's mooted holding of four trumps including the nine.

However, if the three top diamonds stood up, declarer knew it would be fatal to lead the nine of diamonds next, for West would ruff high and ensure that East made two trump tricks. Declarer led a low trump at that point. West won with the ace and led the jack of spades. After winning with the ace of spades, declarer cashed his three diamond winners and ruffed the nine of diamonds. After returning to hand with a club ruff, declarer led the queen of trumps to East's king. Declarer ruffed the club return and drew the remaining trumps with his jack and ten. Declarer lost just two hearts and one club.

...Continued from page 9.

Jo-Arne Ovesen got a club lead, won in hand; he took the ace of diamonds and followed by leading the king of spades. If West won, Ovesen had the two entries in dummy to ruff out the king of diamonds and to get back to dummy afterwards. If West held back the ace, Ovesen could play another spade to score the queen as his twelfth trick.

How did you play on a heart lead?

Now you have a stronger alternative. You win the heart, cash the ace of diamonds and play a low spade from hand. If West plays low, you win the queen and play queen of diamonds to ruff out the king, discarding the king of spades if East plays low.

If West cashes the ace of spades at trick one, you make your contract by discarding a heart on the queen of spades. On a club lead, Ovesen did not have this option, since West could jump up with the ace of spades and play a second club to take away the entry in dummy.



Unlucky and Lucky Sevens

Bad luck plays a part in bridge and, on this deal from Round 3 of the November Monthly Mixed Teams, East/West were most unfortunate:

Board 7. Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

With the club finesse working, there were 13 tricks available in notrump or diamonds. With 35 high-card points and two balanced hands, six notrump seems a desirable spot; one of our pairs did just that...

Turnips v SWUSA

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Cullin</i>	<i>Franceschetti</i>	<i>Michielsen</i>	<i>Setton</i>
—	—	—	Pass
1♦ ¹	2♠	Double	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♠	Pass
3NT	Pass	5NT ²	Pass
6NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. 10-15, 1+ diamond
2. Pick a slam

With the club finesse, declarer took all the tricks for plus 1470.

Only one pair reached a grand slam:

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Lorenzini</i>	<i>Donner</i>	<i>Tartarin</i>	<i>S. Rimstedt</i>
—	—	—	Pass
1♦	Pass	1♥	Pass
1NT	Pass	2♦ ¹	Pass
2♥ ²	Pass	3♦	Pass
3NT	Pass	4♦	Pass
4♠	Pass	4NT ³	Pass
5♣ ⁴	Pass	5♥ ⁵	Pass
6♣ ⁶	Pass	7♦	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. Any game forcing hand
2. 3-card heart support
3. RKCB
4. 1 key card
5. Queen asks
6. Diamond queen and club king

North led the queen of spades. Declarer won with dummy's ace, cashed the ace and king of diamonds, and then tried the top clubs. He was ready to claim, but North's ruff was a cruel blow which meant 17 IMPs were lost.

However, the Great Shuffler had a surprise in store in the very next round – on the same board number!

Board 7. Dealer South. NS Vul.

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

Turnips v Medium Rare

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>v. Roosmalen</i>	<i>Franceschetti</i>	<i>Gast</i>	<i>Setton</i>
—	—	—	Pass
1NT ¹	Pass	2♦ ²	Pass
2NT ³	Pass	4♣ ⁴	Pass
4♥	Pass	5♣ ⁵	Pass
5♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. 14-16
2. Transfer
3. Maximum, 4 hearts
4. Splinter
5. Intended as Exclusion K.C. Blackwood

West's five hearts was not alerted or explained – it would not usually promise two key cards outside clubs – so I'm inclined to think West intended it as denying a diamond control, thinking that five clubs merely showed a void rather than a key-card ask outside clubs. Exclusion Key-Card Blackwood usually starts with a jump, so perhaps East should have bid it directly over two notrump to avoid misinterpretation. Declarer took all the tricks for plus 710.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Lorenzini</i>	<i>Levin</i>	<i>Tartarin</i>	<i>Tunçok</i>
—	—	—	Pass
1NT	Pass	2♦ ¹	Pass
3♥	Pass	3♠ ²	Pass
3NT ³	Pass	5♣ ⁴	Pass
5NT ⁵	Pass	6♦ ⁶	Pass
7♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. Transfer
2. Asks for a spade control
3. Spade control
4. Exclusion Blackwood
5. 2 key cards + heart queen
6. Try for seven seeking third-round diamond control

North led the three of hearts. Declarer won with the queen, cashed the king, took the ace of clubs, pitching a spade, ruffed a club and played three rounds of diamonds, claiming when North's queen appeared. That was a gain of 17 IMPs and, for the second time, this particular East/West had been the only pair to bid a grand slam. Not too shabby when I reveal that four pairs did not go beyond game.

Perhaps one of these deals might make the shortlist for the IBPA's award for Best Bid Deal of the Year.

Care and Carelessness

In Round 7 of the OCBL Open League, my focus was on the match between Skalman and Bridge42. After a quiet start the match exploded into life:

Board 4. Dealer West. Both Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Trenka</i>	<i>Fallenius</i>	<i>Kemény</i>	<i>Nilsland</i>
1♦	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♥ ¹	Pass
2NT	Pass	4♦ ²	Pass
4♥ ³	Pass	4♠ ⁴	Pass
5♣ ⁵	Pass	6♦	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. 4th suit forcing to game
2. Optional RKCB
3. Declining to show key cards – minimum
4. Tell me anyway
5. 1 key card

North led the nine of hearts. Dummy's jack was covered by the queen and king. Declarer led the king of diamonds and, when it held, he crossed to the ace of clubs, cashed the top spades pitching a heart and then took the king-queen of clubs and played a fourth club, ruffing in dummy when North discarded the two of hearts. Declarer overtook dummy's jack of diamonds with the queen and, when North won and exited with a heart, declarer won with dummy's ace, ruffed a heart high and drew the outstanding trump, for plus 1370.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Sandin</i>	<i>Czímer</i>	<i>Karlsson</i>	<i>Szalka</i>
1♦	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♥ ¹	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♦	Pass
3♥	Pass	4NT ²	Pass
5♣ ³	Pass	6♦	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. 4th suit forcing to game
2. RKCB
3. 1/4 key cards

North led the two of hearts for the jack, queen and king. Declarer led the queen of diamonds, which took the second trick. He then played four rounds of clubs, North pitching the three of spades on the last of them as declarer ruffed in dummy. When declarer continued with dummy's jack of diamonds, North won and exited

with a heart. Declarer won in dummy and belatedly tried to cash the top spades, but North ruffed the second round for a 16-IMP swing.

Seven pairs bid to six diamonds, five of them recording 12 tricks. In the match between Senior Ball and Junior Squad, this was how events unfurled:

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Basler	Fox	Dufrêne	Helms
1♦	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♥ [!]	Pass
2NT	Pass	4NT	Pass
6NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. 4th suit forcing to game

The result in the other room had been four notrump making six, so there was sure to be a swing. North led the nine of hearts for the jack, queen and king. Declarer played on diamonds, North taking the ace on the third round and exiting with the three of spades after South had pitched the spade six. Declarer cashed dummy's top spades, discarding a heart, and then took two rounds of clubs to reach this position:

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

If declarer had now cashed the ten and nine of diamonds, discarding two of dummy's spades, the second diamond would have caught South in a guard squeeze! Unable to spare a spade or a club, he would have parted with the ten of hearts, allowing declarer to cash the queen of clubs and take a heart finesse with the seven. Alas, declarer cashed the queen of clubs first, and then, the squeeze no longer operated.

Overruling Belladonna

This deal from the seventh round of the October ALT Trophy reminded me of a remark by Giorgio Belladonna to the effect that, when playing a difficult contract, "You first set up the squeeze, then take the finesse."

Board 5. Dealer North. NS Vul.

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

Three pairs arrived in the dubious contract of six diamonds – this was one of the sequences:

West	North	East	South
—	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♦ [!]	Pass	3♦	Pass
3♠	Pass	3NT	Pass
4NT	Pass	6♦	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. Waiting

North leads the six of hearts. You win with dummy's ace as South follows with the two. Clearly you will need the trumps to break favourably and find South with the king of clubs. I would probably start with the top spades and then, with fingers crossed, play three rounds of trumps, discarding a spade and a club from dummy. At the table, declarer played trumps immediately, both defenders following all the way, South taking the third round with the queen and switching to the jack of clubs. When you play dummy's queen, North follows with the five. You come to hand with a spade and, when you cash a second spade, South discards the two of clubs. Now you appreciate why writing is less stressful than playing.

Eleven tricks are certain, and you have the heart finesse in reserve. Marking time, you cash your remaining trumps, South discarding the three of hearts, the seven of clubs and the ten of hearts, while North parts with three spades. These cards remain:

♠ —	♠ —
♥ 9	♥ K J
♦ —	♦ —
♣ A 8	♣ 6

When you cross to dummy with a club, South plays the king and North the four. On the nine of hearts, North follows with the eight. Assuming you have been counting, which card do you play from dummy on this trick?

Time to reveal the layout:

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

If North has the missing club, then South has the queen-four of hearts left, so you must assume South still has the ten of clubs. That being the case, you know South's distribution must then be 1=4=3=5. Playing with the odds, you go up with the king of hearts and land your contract in spectacular non-Belladonna style.

Merrimac Coup

Toine van Hoof
Utrecht, Netherlands

Tracey Bauer of San Rafael, CA, found a great defence against a three-notrump contract in the Monthly Mixed Teams XI.

Round 2. Board 1. Dealer North. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Jarlvik	Bauer	Trendafilova	Jacobs
—	1♣	Pass	Pass
Double	Pass	1♦	1♥
INT ¹	Pass	3NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		
I. 15-17			

George Jacobs as South felt he was too weak to respond initially, but when the bidding stayed low he seized the opportunity to stick in a one-heart bid. That put the defence on the right track.

Bauer led the ace of hearts, followed by the queen, ducked, and a heart to the ten and king. Declarer played a spade to the jack, which held, and ran the nine of diamonds. Bauer smoothly ducked.

Fredrik Jarlvik was at the crossroads. North had an opening bid, but could easily have both missing club honors, giving her 12 HCP. In that case the king of diamonds was with South. Jarlvik decided to play a diamond to the jack. Bauer produced the king and killed the dummy by returning the king of spades, a Merrimac Coup. Declarer could not take more than eight tricks: plus 50 to North/South.

Surprisingly, Bauer and Jacobs lost 2 IMPs on the board as their teammates, in a bidding mixup, after a 12-14 one notrump by North and an intended transfer by South, ended up in two spades in the three-three fit, for minus 100.

There was one more odd result: one diamond plus two by East/West. At the other five tables East/West bid and made three notrump.



Eye Catchers

Brian Senior,
Nottingham, UK

Here are three great declarer-play deals from the November OCBL Cup...

NEW AMATEURS (NS Table 1) v SELIGMAN

Board 10. Dealer East. Both Vul.

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

Table 1

West	North	East	South
Starkowski	Falk	Kwiecien	Lusky
—	—	Pass	INT
Pass	2♥ ¹	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♦	Pass	4♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

I. Transfer

Starkowski led the three of clubs, Polish style, to the ten, jack and ace. Lusky led a heart towards the jack, Starkowski going in with the king and returning the ten of hearts, which Lusky ruffed in the dummy. Declarer led a spade to the king and ace, ruffed the heart return, and cashed the queen of spades. Seeing the bad break, Lusky switched his attention to diamonds. All Starkowski could take were his two trump tricks, but that was enough to beat the contract; down one for minus 100 North/South.

Table 2

West	North	East	South
Yang	Seligman	Gu	Lesniewski
—	—	Pass	INT
Pass	2♥ ¹	Pass	2♠
Pass	2NT	Pass	4♠
Double	Pass	Pass	Pass

I. Transfer

When Lesniewski jumped to four spades after Seligman's invitation, the partnership was known to have nothing

to spare, and Yang doubled on the strength of his spade holding. It proved to be an expensive double. Yang led the two of diamonds. Lesniewski won with dummy's king and led the jack of hearts. Gu won with the ace of hearts and returned a diamond, imagining that his partner might be ruffing, but Lesniewski won with the ace and took a heart ruff. Next he played the queen of diamonds but, when Gu followed suit, declarer was certain that the suit must be divided evenly, so ruffed to get to hand to take a second heart ruff. A club to the ace allowed Lesniewski to take a third heart ruff, and now he played a club to the king followed by his last club, ruffed with the nine and over-ruffed with the queen. Lesniewski led the ten of diamonds, discarding his remaining heart. Down to just the ace-jack-ten of spades, Yang had to over-ruff his partner's two and Lesniewski's king of spades won trick 13, giving him 10 tricks in all for a beautifully played plus 790 and 13 IMPs to SELIGMAN.

Thirteen players were in four spades, six of them doubled. Lesniewski was the only one to find a way home. To be fair, without the double, declarer would have no reason to play this way, while early club leads look to take away a crucial late entry to play the third club.

FREDIN (NS Table 1) v FRIENDS

Board 10. Dealer East. Both Vul.

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

Table 1

West	North	East	South
<i>Yan</i>	<i>Eber</i>	<i>Xu</i>	<i>Bosenberg</i>
—	—	1♦	Pass
1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass
4♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

Xu received the lead of the king of clubs to the two, jack and ace. He took the spade finesse at trick two, which looks premature to me, and the jack lost to the queen. Eber played back the six of clubs to his partner's queen, and Bosenberg continued with another club, ruffed by declarer. Xu led a heart to the jack and ace and a fourth club was ruffed with the nine and over-ruffed with the ten. The queen of hearts was won by the king, but there was a heart to be lost at the end so the contract was down two for minus 200.

Table 2

West	North	East	South
<i>Fredin</i>	<i>Mou</i>	<i>Apteker</i>	<i>Han</i>
—	—	1♦	Pass
1♥	Pass	2♥	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

Mou led the jack of clubs. Fredin ducked, Han overtaking with the queen and returning a spade. Fredin won with the ace, cashed the ace of clubs, and led a heart to the jack and ace. Back came a diamond. Fredin won with the ace and led a spade to the king. The fall of the queen was good news, but there was still work to be done. Fredin ruffed a club, and then cashed the king of diamonds, discarding his last club. That was important, because had he tried to ruff the club in dummy it would have been over-ruffed and there would still have been a heart to lose at the end. Now, however, Fredin led a heart to his seven, losing to the nine but, crucially, to the hand that could not play a third round of trumps. Fredin ruffed the diamond return, cashed the king of hearts, and ruffed his last heart in dummy. The jack of spades was Fredin's tenth trick for a very well-played plus 620 and 13 IMPs to FREDIN.

Eleven people declared four spades, with Fredin the only one to find the winning line.

Gunnar Hallberg, originally from Sweden but, for many years, one of England's finest, found an excellent line on this deal from the November OCBL CUP.A line, I have to admit, that I doubt would have occurred to me had I been in his seat.

BLACK v SELIGMAN

Board 6. Dealer East. EW Vul.

<p>♠ 9 ♥ K Q 10 6 4 ♦ A 10 5 4 3 ♣ K 7</p> <p>♠ 7 5 3 2 ♥ A 9 8 ♦ K Q ♣ Q 8 6 2</p>	<p>♠ 9 ♥ K Q 10 6 4 ♦ A 10 5 4 3 ♣ K 7</p>
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West	North	East	South
<i>Starkowski</i>	<i>Hallberg</i>	<i>Kwiecien</i>	<i>Hult</i>
—	—	Pass	Pass
Pass	1♥	Double	Redouble
2♠	3♦	3♠	4♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

The defence started with two rounds of spades. Hallberg ruffed, then thought for quite a long time – by his standards – before leading to trick three.

On the auction, the opposing spades were surely divided four-four, while East was likely to be short in hearts to

justify his bidding twice as a passed hand. If East also had jack to four diamonds, straightforward play would not be successful.

At trick three, Hallberg led the seven of clubs from hand and, after some thought, Kwiecien played low. Winning with the queen of clubs, Hallberg took a second spade ruff, then played the king of clubs to Kwiecien's ace. Back came a trump, which ran to the ten. Hallberg crossed to the queen of diamonds and took a third spade ruff, crossed to the king of diamonds, and ruffed a club with his last trump. Now he played the ace of diamonds and discarded dummy's last club. Starkowski, down to jack to three hearts, was obliged to ruff this trick and lead back into dummy's ace-nine of hearts at trick 12 to give the tenth trick.

This was the full deal:

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

So, with diamonds three-three, all Hallberg's work was unnecessary – even Mrs. Guggenheim could have made this one, assuming that she didn't mess up the trump suit. But that surely does not detract from the imagination and technique Hallberg showed. Once East held the ace of clubs, the contact could not be defeated. A spade or club return on winning the ace of clubs is equally ineffective, as is winning the first club. And, of course, Declarer's line is also successful when East is 4=1=4=4, which is what Hallberg was guarding against.



**Rudolph's
Revenge**
Richard Pavlicek,
Ft. Lauderdale, FL
www.rpbridge.net

With last year's cancellation of the North Pole Regional due to the pandemic, Arctic bridge had come to a halt. Even if the Planning Committee had seen fit to host another tournament, there would have been no place to hold it – all of the hotels had either been demolished

by the fiascoes of the past or had been closed due to lack of trade because of travel restrictions.

But bridge players have a will to survive and, where there's a will, there's a way. The tourney would be held at Donner's house! Donner had two conditions: every competitor had to be vaccinated and had to produce proof of a negative PCR Covid test result. That left out Dasher and Comet, the Reindeers' up-and-coming pair who had declined to be vaccinated or tested, believing Covid to be an evil scam by the Eskimos.

The match of all matches would feature Donner, Blitzen, Randolph and Rudolph versus their Eskimo arch-rivals, Miko, Sliko, Mush and Slush. To virtually eliminate the luck factor, it was decided to play 256 boards over four days. Incredibly, the match was dead even going into the final board.

Board 256. Dealer West. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Miko	Blitzen	Sliko	Donner
Randolph	Slush	Rudolph	Mush
Pass	Pass	INT	3♥
Pass	4♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			

At Table 1, Donner overcame the lack of entries to dummy with amazing skill. He won Miko's club lead and immediately led a diamond to Sliko, who continued the suit with high diamonds. Donner ruffed the third diamond with the ten of hearts, then carefully led the six of hearts and overtook it with dummy's seven. Wow!

Sliko had to win the jack of hearts and this was the situation, with East to lead:

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

Any return would allow Donner to reach dummy. Sliko did his best by returning the four of hearts, but Donner made no mistake; he played the heart five (saving the two) and won with the eight in dummy. He next led the good clubs, and when Sliko ruffed the third round with the king of hearts, Donner overruffed with the ace and returned to dummy with the two of hearts to the three.

Despite the clever play by Donner, everyone felt the deal would be a push. South at Table 2 was none other than Mush, widely regarded as best declarer in the Arctic. What they did *not* figure on was Rudolph.

The bidding was the same. Randolph also led a club, and Mush led the jack of diamonds to Rudolph's queen. Next came a brilliant stroke: Rudolph returned the nine of diamonds, giving Mush a free trick! Mush next led the six of hearts and played low from dummy (overtaking doesn't work either) and Rudolph ducked! Mush was furious!



The contract could not be made. No matter what Mush tried, Rudolph's sacrifice of a diamond trick was the killer. Mush, of course, could not stand to lose this way. He immediately called for a ruling by the appeals committee, claiming the only possible cause for Rudolph's play was accidental. "He just pulled the wrong card!"

Rudolph laughed, "No, it seems I pulled the *right* card. I just wasted it on the wrong fur brain."

That did it! Mush threw a punch at Rudolph, and the entire room broke into a frenzy. Hooves and antlers toppled every piece of furniture, as the Eskimos ran for their lives. Alas, poor Donner is now homeless.

NEWS & VIEWS



2nd Transatlantic Seniors Cup

The second Polish Bridge Union/Canadian Bridge Federation Transatlantic Seniors Cup for the Julian Klukowski Trophy will take place on BBO from January 31 to February 13, 2022.. Last year's event was the strongest Senior event ever. Contact Marek Wojcicki for details at marek.wojcicki@bridge.com.pl

New WBF Disciplinary Code

WBF President Gianarrigo Rona reports that the WBF Management Committee is working on a revised WBF Disciplinary Code, which will take into account events (whether in-person or online) organised by third parties.

Jeff Goldsmith's Legacy

Jeff Goldsmith, who died in October, had a very useful website that he asked us (IBPA) to maintain after his death. We are doing so and you can visit the site by clicking on "Goldsmith's Legacy" on the IBPA home page.

Johan Upmark

On the 4th of November, under the provisions of paragraph 14.3 of the Swedish Bridge Federation Disciplinary Rules, the SBF suspended Johan Upmark for 18 months. The period of suspension runs from

October 15, 2021 to April 14, 2023 inclusive. Upmark was found guilty of unfair play online.

According to European Bridge League by-laws, all member NBOs within the EBL shall recognize the EBL's and each others' suspensions and expulsions, without examining the reasons for them.

MyABF Software

The Australian Bridge Federation is developing administration software for its affiliated clubs. The ultimate vision for MyABF is that it becomes the only software that an affiliated bridge club needs to run its operations and the primary interface that players use for all their bridge entries and results. No bridge-playing software is planned – MyABF is aimed only at the administration of bridge.

These are the modules:

- Dashboard and framework
- Events / Calendar management
- Payments
- Forums
- Notifications
- Results display
- Masterpoints
- Membership
- Scoring

Sue Picus

1948 – 2021



Susan Jean Picus was a graduate of NYU and the University of Wisconsin and had worked as a software engineering manager and director at Bell Labs, Unix, Novell and Bear Sterns. She had been married to IBPA President Barry Rigal for 25 years.

Sue Picus won the Venice Cup three times, in 1991, 1993 and 2003 and finished as runner-up in 1995. She also won the McConnell Trophy in 1994. Sue won 10 North American Bridge Championships. She also captained the U.S. women to two Venice Cup wins, in 1997 and 2013. In the eight USBF Trials Picus took part in from 1991 to 2003, she finished first or second seven times. She had successes partnering Sharon Osberg, Rozanne Pollack, Jill Levin, Judi Radin and Gail Greenberg.

Barry Rigal revealed that, upon meeting Sue at the 1986 World Championships in Miami, he thought, "That's the woman I'm going to marry." He confessed that the first three times he'd thought that, he'd been slapped with restraining orders. Sue was obviously more tolerant of being stalked than Barry's previous three victims. All this was despite the fact that Sue and their Cupid, Kitty Cooper (then Bethe), gently mocked Barry for wearing socks with his sandals.

Sue was always smiling, always agreeable, always a magnificent hostess, and always a polite, if fierce, opponent. Mitch Dunitz said of her: "Sue is someone who makes everyone else's life a little better." That sums it up.

John Carruthers

Victor Silverstone

1941-2021



Victor, one of Scotland's greatest players, died in London last month after complications from surgery. Victor was born in Glasgow and moved to London in 1975. He worked all his life as an accountant, but it was as a bridge player that he was world-renowned.

Andrew Robson wrote of Victor, "The legendary Victor Silverstone won the Gold Cup in the Sixties. He has lifted countless trophies in the decades that followed. A more modest, self-deprecating person you'll be hard pressed to find." That is a perfect description.

After starting the bridge club at Glasgow University, Victor went on to represent Scotland and Great Britain many times from 1965 to 2018, most often partnering Willie Coyle. Victor won the Camrose Trophy five times, the Commonwealth Teams, the Common Market Championship and the Lederer Memorial seven times. He won silver in the Maccabiah Games and bronze in the European Senior Team Championship. Victor was a mainstay in the Sunday Times Invitational.

Victor was married to his lovely wife Linda for 56 years. They had a son, three daughters and six grandchildren. Victor carried his personality to the bridge table: he was never heard to say an unpleasant word to his many partners over nearly 60 years. Victor was a fine player and a loving, thoughtful, and caring person. The world has lost a good man.

Barnet Shenkin

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 Austin Fall NABC is currently scheduled to be held face-to-face.

PBU/CBF – The 2nd Transatlantic Seniors Cup will be held from Jan. 31 to Feb. 13, 2022 on BBO. Contact marek.wojcicki@bridge.com.pl for details. This event is for national senior teams.

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.

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 events. Details can be found at <https://ocbl.org>. OCBL also produces a daily journal. See also <https://www.worldbridgetour.org>

ACT Bridge & Bridgehouse – Arranges online team events with daily bulletins. Information can be found at <https://bridgehouse.club>

Monthly Invitational Teams – Organised by Christina Lund Madsen (clm@christina-bridge.com) and Denis Dobrin. See <https://mit.bridgeresults.org>. They also organise open mixed events.

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

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



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

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