



BULLETIN

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NEWS & VIEWS



“...everything is political.”

Nobel Prize-winning economist Paul Krugman was referring to 21st century USA when he made this statement in his book, “ARGUING WITH ZOMBIES”. The statement could well be applied to the world of sports, including bridge. This is what the IOC initially had to say on the matter of Russia's invasion of Ukraine:



25 Feb 2022

The Executive Board (EB) of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) reiterated today the IOC's strong condemnation of the breach of the Olympic Truce by the Russian government and the government of Belarus through its support in this. The respective UN resolution was adopted by the UN General Assembly on 2 December 2021 by consensus of all 193 UN Member States. The Olympic Truce began seven days before the start of the Olympic Games, on 4 February 2022, and ends seven days after the closing of the Paralympic Games.

The WBF followed suit swiftly:



The Ukraine Crisis

By WBF News, official announcements on 25th February 2022

The WBF notes that the IOC has passed a resolution urging all International Federations to relocate or cancel their sports events currently planned in Russia or Belarus. The WBF has no plans to stage any events in either country, but urges the Zonal Conferences to relocate or cancel the events, if any, currently planned in either Russia or Belarus.

In addition, from now on, no Russian or Belarussian national flag will be displayed

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and no Russian or Belarussian anthem be played in the events organised by the WBF. The players from Russia and Belarus participating in WBF events will participate under the WBF flag. The Zonal Conferences and affiliated NBOs are urged to adopt the same rule.

This statement is being sent to all the Zonal Conferences and affiliated NBOs.

Poland was more decisive:



Position of PZBS on Russian Aggression to Ukraine

For several days we have been witnessing the criminal, brutal aggression of the Russian Federation against independent Ukraine. Russia, Russian institutions, organizations, enterprises and Russian citizens should be subject to complete isolation in the civilized world.

Under the current conditions, the Polish Sports Bridge Association refuses to play at the World Championships in Salsomaggiore against the Russian representatives, regardless of under what name or flag they will participate in the competition. We appeal to the WBF to exclude the representatives of the Russian Federation from participating in all competitions organized by the WBF, including the World Championships in Salsomaggiore. We consider this to be a moral obligation for all world sports federations.

PZBS Board Presidium

A few days later, the IOC increased the stakes:

28 Feb 2022

In order to protect the integrity of global sports competitions and for the safety of all the participants, the IOC EB recommends that International Sports Federations and sports event organisers not invite or allow the participation of Russian and Belarussian athletes and officials in international competitions.

Sweden followed suit:



2022-03-01 16:53 Martin Löfgren

Regardless of the level of decision-making (WBF/EBL/NBU/SBF), the SBF will not allow its representatives to meet Russian or Belarussian players, regardless of flag, in the upcoming World Team Championships and European Championships, unless the situation improves so that

the international sports community recommends sanctions lift.

The WBF then acted more strongly:

WBF Management Committee Decision
By WBF In News, 3rd March 2022

The WBF Management Committee, with all members present, met via Zoom on Wednesday 2 March to discuss how the war promoted by Russia with the support of Belarus is impacting the World 2021 Bridge Team Championships to be held in Salsomaggiore Terme, Italy, from 27th March to 9th April 2022. In accordance with the resolution of the IOC, the Management Committee unanimously decided to not allow the Russian National Teams to participate in the World 2021 World Bridge Team Championships.

The European Bridge League went further...



Russia invading Ukraine

Dear friends,

We have been watching in horror the outrageous, unprovoked, invasion by Russia with the support of Belarus of the independent and sovereign territory and people of the Ukraine. (...)

The EBL has been contemplating how we can show our support in more tangible ways than merely comforting words and proclamations. We have no illusions of what real impact we can possibly have in the bigger scheme of things but want to do something relevant to the Ukrainian bridge community. In this spirit, the EBL Executive Committee has today unanimously decided as follows:

- The EBL waives the 2022 annual dues for the Ukrainian Bridge Federation ("UFSB").
- The UFSB can enter teams in all categories at the European National Teams Championships ("ENTC") on Madeira without paying the entry fee.
- The EBL will organise an online Solidarity Pairs event, possibly including a "Pro-Am" element, later this month, with all proceeds going to the UFSB.

The EBL EC also decided that, until further notice, no Russian or Belarussian participants will be invited to EBL events including, but not limited to, the ENTC on Madeira. We hope that those individual Russian bridge players affected, who may well be as outraged as the rest of us over what is happening, understand that this measure is not directed at them.

We hope and pray that sanity will ultimately prevail and this nightmare for the Ukrainian people, and really the whole civilized world, will soon end.

Jan Kamras, EBL President, Lausanne March 3, 2022

2nd Transatlantic Seniors Cup

Mark Horton, Shrewsbury, Shrops., UK
Artur Wasiak, Lodz, Poland



WINNERS: LITHUANIA



VYTAUTAS
VAINIKONIS



WOJTEK
OLAŃSKI



APOLINARY
KOWALSKI



JACEK
ROMAŃSKI



JONAS
DROBULIS



MAREK
WITEK



BOGUSŁAW
GIERULSKI



JERZY
RUSSYAN

2nd: Jeff Aker, Drew Casen, Doug Doub, Allan Falk, Jim Krekorian, John Lusky,
Frank Merblum, Glenn Milgrim, Barry Rigal, Doug Simson

3rd: Piotr Bizon, Marek Blat, Michal Kwecien, Victor Markowicz,
Krzysztof Moszczynski, Włodzimierz Starkowski

The second Transatlantic Seniors Cup for the Julian Klukowski Memorial Trophy was held over two weeks in early February. As it was last year, the event was co-sponsored by the Polish Bridge Union and the Canadian Bridge Federation. Marek Wojcicki and Włodzimierz Starkowski were instrumental in organising the event.

Thirty-six teams from Europe and the Americas took part. The top 16 would advance to the knockouts after a ten-round, five-day Swiss qualifying, with the remainder continuing on in a third-place Swiss, the KO losers entering as they were defeated.

The Qualifying Swiss - Horton

The Right Stuff

Board 18. Dealer East. NS Vul.

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

Over the last few years, I have penned the odd article revolving around how the eventual development of the engine *Alpha Zero* may change bridge forever. One of the things it is sure to do is be hyper-active in the auction, especially in the vital area of defensive bidding.

This deal from Round 5 featured a deal that would be tailor-made for the machine: with only one major-suit card, East certainly wants to be involved in the auction, but what's the best approach?

It might be nice to be able to open two notrump to show both minors, but there is a huge disparity between the two suits, and you also telegraph your hand to a certain extent. There is also a risk that you might end up in the wrong suit if you get involved in a highly contested auction.

Two players were able to open two notrump. There were also two votes for an initial pass, although it flies in the face of the old adage *'twice armed is he whose cause is just, but thrice armed he who gets his blow in first'*. Aside from the player who could open three notrump, the remainder were choosing among three diamonds (13 votes), four diamonds (7 votes) and five diamonds (9 votes).

Given that you expect North/South to get to six hearts, should East double if West is on lead, or double and lead a diamond (perhaps the ten or seven) or just lead

a diamond without doubling if East is on lead? At the only table where six hearts was doubled, South was declarer, having doubled three diamonds, bid five spades on the next round, and then six hearts on the round after that. West did not lead a spade. The other 10 pairs who bid six hearts all made it.

One South bid six diamonds over East's five-diamond opener and then went on to seven hearts after West's raise. East doubled and Belgium's Zvi Engel led the eight of spades for plus 500.

I initially spotted the deal while watching two of the all-time greats, Canada's Eric Kokish and Joey Silver.

West	North	East	South
<i>Urseanu</i>	<i>Daigneault</i>	<i>Savin</i>	<i>Baran</i>
—	—	2NT ¹	3♦ ²
4♣	4♥	5♣	6♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. Both minors, constructive, fewer than 12 HCP
2. Majors, better spades

With no knowledge of the diamond fit, East led the ace of diamonds and declarer recorded a painless plus 1430.

West	North	East	South
<i>Kokish</i>	<i>Matei</i>	<i>Silver</i>	<i>Gliga</i>
—	—	4♦	5♦
6♣	Double	Pass	6♥
Pass	Pass	7♣	Double
7♦	Double	Pass	Pass
Pass			

West's six clubs is a terrific bid, of a type that is often overlooked (where four diamonds was the opening bid, no-one else thought of bidding clubs). It can help partner in the bidding and/or the defence.

When South bid six hearts over North's double, it was clear that he held an exceptional hand, but it was also clear that the decision as to what to do over it should rest with East. He may have been tempted to double, but that would require West to find a spade lead and for the defenders to be able to score a second trick.

It was also possible that North/South might be able to retreat to six spades. It was highly likely that six clubs was based on a hand with diamond support, in which case seven clubs had to be cheap.

West converted to seven diamonds and lost a heart, a club and a club ruff for minus 500 – less than the value of a vulnerable game.

It was a brilliant exhibition of defensive bidding that brought in 14 IMPs.

Sultans of Swing

I usually listen to the radio when I am driving – if there is no test match to follow and *Radio 4* is uninteresting, I turn to *Classic FM*. If something lighter is required then *Gold – The Greatest Hits of all Time* is my go-to station,

delivering non-stop classics from a golden age of music. There are not too many pop songs you can readily associate with bridge but, if you have a certain amount of knowledge, you will appreciate that in the Round 9 match between Belgium and Israel, both teams would be looking for points and hoping for deals with swing potential.

Board 2. Dealer East. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Yadlin</i>	<i>Backes</i>	<i>Orenstein</i>	<i>Engel</i>
—	—	Pass	1♥
Pass	2♦	Pass	3♦
Pass	3♣	Pass	4♣
Pass	4NT ¹	Pass	5♦ ²
Pass	5♠ ³	Pass	5NT
Pass	6♦	Pass	Pass
Pass			

1. RKCB
2. 1 or 4 key cards
3. Grand-slam try

East led the ten of spades. Declarer won with the ace, played a heart to the ace, ruffed a heart, played a diamond to the queen and ruffed another heart. With hearts three-three and trumps three-two, he now had all the tricks, plus 1390. Was that the best line?

West	North	East	South
<i>Moulart</i>	<i>Grinberg</i>	<i>Lafourcade</i>	<i>Kalish</i>
—	—	Pass	1♥
Pass	2♦ ¹	Pass	2♥
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♦
Pass	3NT	Pass	4♦
Pass	4♠	Pass	5♣
Pass	6♦	Pass	Pass
Pass			

1. 5+ diamonds, game-forcing

Here too, East led the ten of spades. This time, declarer won with dummy's king, unblocked the king of clubs, came to hand with a spade, ruffed a club and drew trumps, West discarding the four of hearts. When declarer cashed the ace of clubs, he would have been expecting to be able to claim, but East threw a spanner in the works when he contributed the spade deuce. Declarer cashed the nine of diamonds and West

discarded the jack of hearts. On the last diamond, West pitched the jack of clubs. When declarer played a heart to the queen, West's far-sighted defence delivered plus 200 and a 17-IMP reward.

Having ruffed a club, declarer might have ruffed a spade and then played another club. If East ruffs, declarer overruffs and cashes all his trumps, squeezing West for an overtrick. Pablo Lambardi and David Kendrick both followed this line.

Four pairs went down in six diamonds after a spade lead.

Board 5. Dealer North. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Yadlin</i>	<i>Backes</i>	<i>Orenstein</i>	<i>Engel</i>
—	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♥	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♦	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♣	Pass	4♦	Pass
4NT ¹	Pass	5♥ ²	Pass
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. RKCB
2. 2 key cards, no queen of hearts

Declarer ruffed the spade lead and played a low heart to the nine, jack and queen. He took the heart return and claimed, plus 450.

West	North	East	South
<i>Moulart</i>	<i>Grinberg</i>	<i>Lafourcade</i>	<i>Kalish</i>
—	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♥	Pass	2♠	Pass
3♦	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♣	Pass	4♦	Pass
6♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

North led the ten of hearts for the jack, queen and ace. Declarer continued with the eight of clubs; when dummy's queen held, he pitched the king of clubs on the ace of spades and could afford to play a heart to the eight for plus 980 and 11 IMPs.

Only three pairs reached six diamonds, which looks better than six hearts, while 17 pairs stopped short of slam.

Board 19. Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Yadlin</i>	<i>Backes</i>	<i>Orenstein</i>	<i>Engel</i>
—	—	—	2♠ ¹
Double	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. Spades and a minor

West led the heart three. East won with the ten and returned the seven, declarer ruffing and playing the nine of diamonds. West won with the ten and continued with the six of hearts, declarer ruffing and playing the eight of diamonds. East won with the king and played the ace of hearts, declarer ruffing and ruffing a diamond with the ten of spades. East overruffed and played two rounds of spades which meant four down, plus 800.

Having worked hard to set up a diamond ruff declarer can save a trick by not trying to take it – exiting with a trump instead, relying on a good guess in clubs.

The defenders can avoid this obscure possibility if West finds the Crocodile Coup of rising with the ace of diamonds on the second round of the suit (or if East wins the first diamond with the king). He then continues with a high diamond and East overruffs dummy and plays two rounds of spades to ensure plus 800.

West	North	East	South
<i>Moulart</i>	<i>Grinberg</i>	<i>Lafourcade</i>	<i>Kalish</i>
—	—	—	2♠ ¹
Double	3♠	7♥	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. Spades and a minor

Which adjective would you choose to describe East's dramatic leap to seven hearts?

South led the three of spades. Declarer won with the queen, played a heart to the king, a heart to the ten, ruffed a spade, drew trumps and claimed, plus 2210 and 16 IMPs.

Had South led either red suit declarer would have found it impossible to make seven hearts – indeed, 13 players went down in six hearts (not impossible, especially when South has not bid). On a club lead he must guess to play dummy's queen.

Just to illustrate the awkward nature of six hearts, suppose South leads a diamond and declarer wins with

the king, ruffs a spade and plays a heart to the ten. If he now ruffs a spade with dummy's nine of hearts and cashes the heart king, he goes down, as long as South discards a minor-suit card. Ruffing the second spade with the king of hearts and then playing a heart to the jack is a winner, as declarer can then play two rounds of trumps and claim. That was the line adopted by Glenn Eisenstein (after South had opened two spades).

In the match between Switzerland and England-Hackett, both teams reached six hearts. Paul Hackett had to declare after South had opened two spades (spades and a minor). South led the seven of diamonds. Declarer won with his king, ruffed a spade, cashed the king of hearts, played a heart to the ten (South pitching a spade), ruffed another spade and played the ace of diamonds, followed by the queen. North ruffed and declarer overruffed, drew the last trump and played two rounds of spades. South won and had to play a club. Declarer put up dummy's queen to flatten the board.

If South holds on to his spades, pitching a diamond, declarer cannot afford to ruff another spade. He must play on diamonds. If North ruffs the third round, declarer overruffs, and must then cash the ace of clubs and play a second club. If South wins and exits with a club declarer wins in dummy and plays diamonds. A spade is no better, as declarer wins, ruffs a spade, takes a discard on the queen of clubs and then plays a diamond.

There is a beautiful variation if North refuses to ruff in, instead discarding two spades and only ruffing the last diamond. Declarer overruffs and draws the last trump. South, forced to hang on to three spades will be down to one club so declarer cashes the ace of clubs and then exits with a low spade to endplay South.

The KO Rounds - Wasiak

One of the semifinals was especially interesting for us Poles because Poland Markowicz (our current national seniors team) faced Lithuania, where Polish players comprised the majority of the team.

On the penultimate board, the North players had to decide whether their hand was worth forcing to game after partner's one-spade opening:

Semifinal, Session 2

Board 15. Dealer South. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Bizon</i>	<i>Romanski</i>	<i>Blat</i>	<i>Kowalski</i>
—	—	—	1♠
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♦	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Romanski forced to game with two diamonds. Bizon had no reason to lead declarer's suit. After his club lead, Kowalski took the diamond finesse and finished with 11 tricks (Kowalski knew not to put up the king of clubs at trick one on the eight-of-clubs lead), not risking any other finesse. In the closed room, Starkowski took all the tricks but lost 10 IMPs, which turned out to be more than the final margin in this semifinal. This board reduced Markowicz's lead to a single IMP, the last one produced 5 more IMPs to Lithuania.

What would double of three notrump by East have led to? Two undertricks? Two overtricks?

West	North	East	South
<i>Russyan</i>	<i>Starkowski</i>	<i>Gierulski</i>	<i>Kwiecien</i>
—	—	—	1♠
Pass	3♦	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Starkowski chose an invitational three diamonds.

Lithuania won 46-42 (13-21, 33-21).

The final match between Lithuania and USA Lusky was played over two days (4 segments of 12 boards each). One of the boards in the first segment shows missed opportunities by both teams:

Final, Session 1

Board 5. Dealer North. NS Vul.

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

One of the players has a solid suit, the other one – some extras and top values. As we can see, it was hard for any of them to risk bidding something above the game level.

West	North	East	South
<i>Aker</i>	<i>Romanski</i>	<i>Simson</i>	<i>Kowalski</i>
—	1♦	1♠	Double
3♠	4♣	Pass	4♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

West	North	East	South
<i>Olanski</i>	<i>Doub</i>	<i>Vainikonis</i>	<i>Merblum</i>
—	1♦	Pass	1♥
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♠ ¹
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♥
Pass	3NT	Pass	4♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

I. Fourth-suit forcing

An old-fashioned strong jump shift (one diamond-two hearts) would have made the bidding easier. Now we need more rounds of bidding to show a strong hand and sometimes it's hard to describe our intentions accurately.

Both tables scored plus 710 for a push.

Final, Session IV

Board 3. Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Doub</i>	<i>Russyan</i>	<i>Merblum</i>	<i>Gierulski</i>
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	1♦	Pass	1♥
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

In the open room, the bidding started slowly. When neither East nor West entered the bidding, North/South reached four hearts untroubled.

West	North	East	South
<i>Kowalski</i>	<i>Casen</i>	<i>Romanski</i>	<i>Krekorian</i>
—	—	—	2♥
Pass	4♥	Double	Pass
4♣	5♥	Pass	Pass
Double	Pass	Pass	Pass

In the closed room, North/South reached the game much more quickly. Romanski's decision to double four hearts was a winner. Both declarers finished with 10 tricks which meant 11 IMPs to Lithuania.

Lithuania won 148-99 (47-29, 2-29, 61-12, 38-29).

Third place was decided in a Swiss tournament with 10-board matches (two matches each day). Losing teams from each phase of the knock-out joined the Swiss with points giving them a score between third and fourth place in the then-current standings.

After losing the semifinal against Lithuania, Poland Markowicz played four matches in the Swiss (10 matches in all). Let's take a look at one of the boards from the last round, where they faced the leaders, Canada Czyzowicz (the team named after Jurek Czyzowicz, a Polish-born Canadian player who died a few months ago).

3rd-place Swiss, Match 10

Board 1. Dealer North. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Bizon</i>	<i>Gartaganis</i>	<i>Blat</i>	<i>Campbell</i>
—	1♠	Pass	INT
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

West	North	East	South
<i>Fergani</i>	<i>Starkowski</i>	<i>Marcinski</i>	<i>Kwiecien</i>
—	1♠	Pass	INT
Pass	2NT ¹	Pass	4♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

I. FIR, 6+ spades

Both North/South pairs reached four spades after uncontested auctions. The play at both tables started with the jack of diamonds to dummy's queen and West's king. Piotr Bizon (West) returned the four of diamonds. After ruffing the second trick, Marek Blat led the nine of clubs. Bizon did not cover the ten with his king. Declarer drew trumps and, in the ending, lost three heart tricks for two down.

The Canadian defender (Kamal Fergani) returned the two of diamonds to the second trick. The third trick went: five of clubs, ten, king, ace. Włodzimierz Starkowski (North) showed that this mistake was enough to make four spades. It was obvious that East had the ace of hearts, otherwise West would have shown it with his suit-preference diamond return (and maybe he would have overcalled two diamonds over one notrump).

North played out all his spades and, in the following ending, a diamond to the ace.

♠ —
 ♥ K 9 4
 ♦ 10
 ♣ —

♠ —
 ♥ Q 5 2
 ♦ 8
 ♣ —

♠ —
 ♥ A J
 ♦ —
 ♣ J 4

♠ —
 ♥ 10
 ♦ A
 ♣ Q 10

When East kept two clubs, declarer played a heart and took the last two tricks with dummy's queen-ten of clubs.

The final results of 2nd Transatlantic Seniors Cup were:
 1. Lithuania 2. USA Lusky 3. Poland Markowicz 4. Sweden
 5. Austria 6. Poland Amber Baltic 7. Canada Czyzowicz
 8. Poland Bochenski 9. Turkey 10. USA Hopkins



Test your lead acumen on these boards from the French National Division Open Teams. They are from the semifinal matches, played in January this year.

On the first deal, you are West.

Board 6. Dealer East. EW Vul.

♠ 5 2
 ♥ 9
 ♦ J 9 8 7 5
 ♣ 10 9 8 5 4

West	North	East	South
<i>Cronier P.</i>	<i>Rombaut J.</i>	<i>Zaleski</i>	<i>Rombaut L.</i>
—	—	Pass	INT ¹
Pass	2♥ ²	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♠ ³
Pass	4♣ ⁴	Pass	4♦ ⁴
Pass	4♥ ⁴	Pass	4NT ⁵
Pass	5♦ ⁶	Pass	5♥ ⁷
Pass	6♠ ⁸	Pass	Pass

1. 12-14
2. Transfer to spades
3. Confirms spades as trumps
4. Controls
5. RKCB
6. 1 or 4 key cards
7. Queen ask
8. Spade queen, no outside king

What do you lead as West and why?

On the second problem, you are North.

Board 12. Dealer West. NS Vul.

♠ K Q J 10 7 6 5 3
 ♥ 9
 ♦ 7
 ♣ J 7 2

West	North	East	South
<i>Lorenzini</i>	<i>Rombaut L.</i>	<i>Cronier B.</i>	<i>Rombaut J.</i>
4♥	4♠	6♥	6♠
Pass	Pass	7♥	Double
Pass	Pass	Pass	

One more time, what do you lead?

ANSWERS

1. Thinking to find the heart or spade ace in partner's hand is a very compelling idea, isn't it? On the other hand, most of the power and controls are in the opponents' hands, so maybe you should make a passive minor-suit lead and let declarer do his own work. Which is it to be?

The full deal was:

♠ K Q J 9 8
 ♥ A 10 3
 ♦ A
 ♣ A J 7 2

♠ 5 2
 ♥ 9
 ♦ J 9 8 7 5
 ♣ 10 9 8 5 4

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

♠ A 7 3
 ♥ K J 6 2
 ♦ K 6 4 3
 ♣ 6 3

At the table, Philippe Cronier (West) led the nine of hearts. Declarer, Léo Rombaut, took the nine with his jack, went to dummy with the ace of diamonds, cashed the king and ace of spades, then ruffed a diamond in dummy with the queen of spades, collected the last trump and played a low club from dummy without cashing the ace. Romain Zaleski (East) took the trick with his king and led the five of hearts. West discarded the eight of diamonds and Rombaut had to win with dummy's ace to maintain an entry to hand. Declarer then cashed dummy's last trump to produce this position:

♠ —
 ♥ 10
 ♦ —
 ♣ A J 7

♠ —
 ♥ —
 ♦ J 9
 ♣ 10 9

♠ —
 ♥ Q 8
 ♦ Q
 ♣ Q

♠ —
 ♥ K
 ♦ K 6
 ♣ 6

Rombaut returned to hand with a heart, West discarding a club. At that point, East was known to have two hearts remaining, and when declarer cashed the king of diamonds and both opponents followed, declarer concluded from the discarding that West had the outstanding diamond jack. And now Rombaut knew the remaining clubs were one-one, so he played to dummy's club ace and made his contract.

At the other table, the contract was the same but from the North hand after Frédéric Volcker opened one diamond. Bénédicte Cronier led the four of hearts. Tom Hanlon won with his ten, cashed the ace of spades and gave up a club, planning to ruff one in the dummy. Then, a second heart play beat the slam; 14 imps to ROMBAUT.

2. What does South's double mean? Is it possible to gain a large penalty or, more likely, is it to direct partner's attention to an unusual lead! Perhaps it is more difficult when it is not clear whose hand is in whose pocket.

This was the full deal:

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

When Léo Rombaut led his singleton diamond, there was no way to beat seven hearts! If Partner has an ace, it seems slightly more likely that a club can be discarded rather than a diamond, if you make the wrong lead. So maybe a club lead is more likely to succeed.

At the other table, after the same auction and the same lead, there were no IMPs exchanged.



“Kilogram of Culture” is a Latvian television and radio annual awards show in the field of culture. In addition to the six main categories: Music, Cinema, Theatre, Visual Arts, Literature and Heritage; there are three additional categories: “Cultural Events of the Year”, “Surprise of the Year” and “My Cultural Place”. Strangely, even though there is one kilogram (in base-10) of ‘culture’, there are

only nine prizes, so I decided to send in an application to add another category: “Bridge Deal of the Year”.

Since the Latvian government doesn't really consider us to be a sport, maybe it's time for bridge to settle for art.

The following deal is clearly a candidate in both the “Theatre” and the “Surprise of the Year” categories.

Imagine that, in a team tournament, when only the opponents are vulnerable, you, as East, sit in fourth seat and have this collection:

♠ A 9 7 6 5 4
♥ A 4 3 2
♦ A K
♣ 4

Your left-hand opponent opens the bidding with one heart, Partner bids one spade and RHO doubles. You need to find a bid to be nominated for an annual award. And the winner is?

Jelena Alfejeva – my partner in the Invitational Mixed Teams, which was held before the Poznan Bridge Festival – PASSED! The outcome was incredible and I think she really deserves one kilogram of culture for her creativity and artistry. The bidding continued as follows:

West	North	East	South
Rubins	Eggeling	Alfejeva	Gotard
—	—	—	1♥
1♠	Double	Pass	2♦
Pass	5♦	5♠	Pass
Pass	Double	Redouble	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Was I worried? Maybe a little. However, this was the full deal:

Board No 15. Dealer South. NS Vul.

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

Eleven tricks, 11 IMPs and a memorable board from Poznan!

Results from Poznan can be found here:
<http://e-pab.pl/brydz/210923/#000RR0010150010010010000A1>



IBPA Column Service

Tim Bourke, Canberra



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

1085. Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
—	—	—	1♣
Pass	1♥	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♦ ¹	Pass	2NT ²
Pass	6NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

1. Artificial game-force
2. Minimum with at most two hearts and three spades

This deal came up in a team game and both sides reached six notrump. Both West players led the jack of diamonds, and it was over to the declarers.

At the first table, declarer tried turning his eleven winners into thirteen. After winning the first trick with the king of diamonds, declarer cashed the king and ace of clubs, finding them five-one. Declarer's backup was the heart finesse. So, he led a low diamond to dummy's ace to play the four of hearts toward his queen. Alas, West took the queen of hearts with the king and returned the jack of hearts to declarer's ace. Declarer now had to lose a further trick to finish one down.

At the other table, the play to the first two tricks was the same, declarer winning them with dummy's minor-suit kings. However, when declarer led the four of clubs toward his hand and East played the eight of clubs, South covered it with the ten. Declarer reasoned that he just

needed four club tricks to make his contract and that playing the ten would guarantee that outcome. Once West discarded on the second round of clubs, declarer claimed twelve tricks.

1086. Dealer North. EW Vul.

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

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

This deal arose in a team game and both sides reached four spades rather than three notrump – perhaps three diamonds rather than a leap to game at South's second turn would have achieved that result.

West led the jack of hearts at both tables. At the first table, declarer played dummy's queen. East won with the king, then found the killing shift of the seven of diamonds. Declarer put in the ten of diamonds, taken by West with the queen.

West exited with the ten of hearts to dummy's ace. Declarer drew trumps in two rounds with the ace and king before cashing the three top clubs to shed his heart loser. Declarer could do no better than play a diamond to his king and West's ace. As he still had to lose a further diamond trick, declarer finished one off.

At the other table, declarer considered the position more carefully and called for dummy's five of hearts at trick one. East considered overtaking this and shifting

to the jack of diamonds but, instead, gave an encouraging signal. Declarer took the heart continuation with dummy's ace then cashed the ace and king of trumps, pleased to see them two-two. Next, declarer played the queen, ace and king of clubs to shed his heart loser. After ruffing dummy's remaining heart with his jack of trumps, declarer crossed to dummy by playing his five of trumps to dummy's ten to lead a diamond. East played the jack of diamonds, and this was covered by the king and ace.

West found himself endplayed, forced to lead a red suit. As a heart would clearly give declarer a tenth trick, West cashed the queen of diamonds then exited with the three of diamonds, taken by declarer's ten for the game-going trick.

1087. Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

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

- I. Five or more hearts and at least four cards in one of the minors

West led the jack of diamonds and North tabled a disappointing dummy. Based on the bidding, declarer decided to play West for the king of clubs. So, after taking the first trick in hand with the king of diamonds, declarer led the two of clubs from hand. Playing the ace of clubs at trick two would have allowed West to unblock the king, making sure that East would win the defence's club trick to make the killing heart shift.

After winning the second trick with the king of clubs, West exited with the ten of diamonds, declarer winning with the queen. Next, declarer played the seven of diamonds to dummy's ace to try to get a count in the suit. When East discarded a spade, it marked West with ten cards in the red suits. Accordingly, declarer cashed dummy's queen of clubs and was pleased to see that all followed. Next declarer cashed the ace and ten of clubs while West threw two low hearts.

Declarer counted West for an original 1=5=5=2 shape and so cashed the ace of spades. Declarer knew then that West had three hearts and two diamonds left and

led a heart, knowing what to play from his hand would depend on East's heart pip. When East played the eight of hearts declarer played low from hand because West's remaining hearts were known to be the king-jack-ten. West took the trick with the ten of hearts but, after cashing two diamond winners, was forced to concede the last two tricks to declarer's ace and queen of hearts.

Had West kept four hearts and one diamond in the five-card endgame, declarer would have covered the eight of hearts with the queen, ensuring a trick with dummy's nine.

1088. Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

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

This deal came up in an intermediate class. West led the six of hearts and all the declarers played the queen of hearts. East won with the king and returned the ten of hearts. All the West players overtook this with the jack of hearts, and it was allowed to hold at all tables. Every declarer took the next heart and ran the clubs, seeing every West discarding a spade and a diamond.

As a successful spade finesse would only bring their trick total to eight, the declarers led a diamond and were soon down one. The defenders took four hearts and a diamond.

In the review, the teacher said this was a deal about patience. "Instead of playing the queen of hearts at trick one, you should play low from dummy. Using the Rule of Eleven, you know that East will have two heart cards higher than the six. So, suppose East plays the ten of hearts and shifts to a spade after that wins. Now you can make sure of nine tricks by rising with the ace of spades and playing on diamonds. On this layout, you will make the major-suit aces, five clubs and at least two diamonds."

"As no shift from East can hurt you, it was safe to play low from dummy at trick one. Also, when East plays a spade at trick two rising with the ace makes sure of your contact as your nine of spades limits the defenders to at most two spade tricks subsequently."



Real Life

Larry Cohen
Delray Beach, FL

Welsh Rarebit

This deal is from the U.S. versus Europe match in the 2010 Buffett Cup, fashioned after golf's Ryder Cup. The event was the third Cup, and was held in Cardiff, Wales. USA won 109-89.

Dealer North. NS Vul.

♠ 7
♥ A 10 8 2
♦ K Q J 8
♣ A Q 10 6

♠ A 8
♥ K Q 5
♦ A 9 4 3
♣ 7 5 4 3

North opened one club. After East's pass, what should South bid? Although some players like to bash three notrump, I think it is better to go slowly and scientifically with one diamond. I don't see the need to insist on three notrump without investigation.

Over South's one diamond, West bid two spades and North bid three spades, showing a good hand. East bid four spades, and South was now interested in slam. He chose to bid five notrump to say, "pick a slam". North picked diamonds, so this was the auction to the small slam:

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

How should South play on the king-of-spades lead?

Other than the club suit, South looked to be in good shape. At the table, declarer won with the ace of spades and played a club at trick two, intending to finesse. This was fairly safe, since West would likely have led a low singleton club had he held one. When the club was played from hand, West produced the king. This was a case of good news, bad news. The good news: the king of clubs was onside. The bad news: it looked as if East might have started with the jack-nine-eight-

two of clubs, which could mean two club losers for declarer.

After winning with the ace of clubs, what should declarer do next? It looks like time to start trumps and two high ones from dummy showed that West had started with four to the ten. East threw a spade on the second round of diamonds. Now what?

It seemed that West had started with 6=2=4=1 distribution. Can you see the trouble East will be in if he started with jack-fourth in both clubs and hearts? Declarer should cross to the king of hearts to ruff his spade loser in dummy. Then play dummy's last high trump and come to the heart queen (all following low) to leave this position:

♠ —
♥ A 10
♦ —
♣ Q 10 6

♠ —
♥ 5
♦ A
♣ 7 5 4

Declarer plays the ace of diamonds to draw West's last trump. What should he throw from dummy? Either the ten of hearts or a low club will work. At this point, you expect East to be down to jack-doubleton of hearts and jack-third of clubs.

Let's say you throw a low club from dummy. What will East keep? He can't throw a heart, because that will set up dummy's ten. So, he throws a club. Now, he is down to jack-doubleton in each suit. You cross to dummy with either a club or heart and then throw East in with the ten of that suit to give dummy the last two tricks.

If, instead, you discard the ten of hearts, and East discards a club, the queen and another club sets up a long card in the suit with the ace of hearts as an entry. So, East throws a heart. Declarer then crosses to the ace of hearts, removing East's jack, and exits with a low club, making the ten and queen of clubs in the end. This was the full deal:

♠ 7
♥ A 10 8 2
♦ K Q J 8
♣ A Q 10 6

♠ K Q 6 5 4 2
♥ 7 4
♦ 10 7 5 2
♣ K

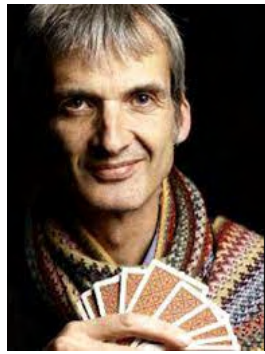
♠ J 10 9 3
♥ J 9 6 3
♦ 6
♣ J 9 8 2

♠ A 8
♥ K Q 5
♦ A 9 4 3
♣ 7 5 4 3

That was a well-earned 12 tricks and plus 1370 for North/South.

Country Life

Andrew Robson
London



Tim Seres – pronounced Serresh – (1925-2007) is undoubtedly Australia’s finest-ever player. In his obituary, it was written that, “The simplest way to describe Tim’s standing in Australian Bridge is to quote Shakespeare: ‘He doth bestride the narrow world like a colossus.’”

Unusually for top players, his favourite form of the game was rubber bridge, preferably for high stakes. (Also, and perhaps even more unusually, Tim’s vocation was betting on the horses. He took it very seriously and made a good living at it for more than 50 years. – Ed.)

Seres won the Best Deal of the Year in 1975 for this delightful, simple, killing defence as East. West leads the seven of clubs, East winning the ace. Now what?

Dealer East. Both Vul.

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

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

1. Playing Strong Notrump
2. Anyone for a two-club unassuming cue bid?
3. Clearly expecting more from partner than I'd expect for a mere two-spade raise.

After the briefest of pauses, East, Seres, switched to the king of hearts (key play), won by dummy’s ace. Now put yourself in declarer’s shoes. He could try to cash three top diamonds and discard a heart from hand, but he thought East had the queen of hearts (having led the king from king-queen). With trump promotions all-too-possible if he played out diamonds, instead he simply led up a spade at trick three.

East rose with the ace of spades, led the nine of hearts to the knave and queen, watched West cash the ten of hearts and then, the *coup de grâce*, lead a fourth heart. East naturally ruffed with the knave of spades, promoting West’s ten into the second undertrick.

Jump Cue to Notrump

Marty Bergen,
Palm Beach Gardens, FL
www.martybergen.com

On many hands, experts know that the key factor in deciding which player should become declarer is not overall strength. Instead, very often, you’ll have a holding such as an ace-queen or king-low, which will be worth a lot more if you play last when the suit is led. When you have tenaces, you’d much prefer to be the declarer.

With queen-doubleton in a suit opposite partner’s ace-third, you want the queen hand to be the declarer. Then, no matter which opponent holds the king, you’re assured of eventually winning two tricks after an opening lead in the suit.

Playing from the right side is even more important when an opponent overcalls. Here, it is definitely in your best interest to put that player on lead so that he will have to lead away from strength. When your RHO has overcalled, you would always much prefer that your partner becomes the declarer.

With this in mind, I invented the following convention: After an opponent’s one-level overcall, a jump cue-bid shows an opening bid with at least one stopper in that suit. As you’d expect, it denies four cards in an unbid major. I call it “Jump Q TNT” (TNT = Transfer to No Trump).

What do you need in RHO’s suit for a Jump Q TNT? Two or more cards, with enough strength so that you do not expect RHO to immediately run his suit. Queen-third is okay, and you would love it if partner turned up with king-doubleton. Then, when partner declares three notrump, the opening leader will be leading away from his ace, and your side will have a second winner in the suit. When you have two stoppers in RHO’s suit, such as ace-queen-third or ace-king-third, you may be happy to bid three notrump and not care who is declarer. But, two stoppers are not always enough, so give your side a chance for three. Opener might have jack-doubleton or jack-third. If he is declarer and RHO leads his long suit, your side will win three tricks.

After responder’s jump cue-bid, opener will almost always accept the transfer and bid three notrump. The only two exceptions are: (i) hands with slam interest, or (ii) very unbalanced hands that are unsuitable for three notrump.

Here's a deal from the Bergen/Cohen archives.

Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

At our table:

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

Contract: 3NT by South. Lead: ♠10. Result: Making five, plus 660.

At the other table:

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

Contract: 3NT by North. Lead: ♠7. Result: Down two, minus 200.

Over the years, Larry and I (and other experts) have used this convention with a great deal of success. A leading expert even went so far to say that, in his opinion, this is the best convention I ever invented. I have my doubts about that, but I suggest you give it a try.

Bridge Base

O N L I N E

Marc Smith

Southampton, Hants., U.K.

This deal comes from Round 2 of Heat 9 of the Alt New Comp 2021, and features noteworthy play by the Danish players, declarer play at one table and defensive bidding at the other.

Although the West hand (see top of next column) is nothing to write home about, at four of the six tables in Group A, the West player decided it was worthy of a one-spade overcall – a rarity indeed to find Thor Erik Hoftaniska plodding along with the herd!

Dealer East. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Hoftaniska	V. Gupta	Helness	M. Bilde
—	—	Pass	1♦
1♠	Double	2♦	4♥
Pass	Pass	Double	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Only one of the six passed, and I was surprised to find that there were more passers (although just one) than two-spade bidders (none), as the five-card weak-jump overcall seems to have become almost *de rigueur* on this type of deal over the past couple of years. The problem with one spade, even at this vulnerability, is that partner might be tempted to think you have at least something, hence Tor Helness's final double of South's jump to four hearts.



Morten Bilde



Andreas Plejdrup

A member of the 'First Family of Danish bridge' (*Not clear – what about the Blaksets and the Schaltzes? – Ed.*), Morten Bilde first represented his country by collecting a bronze medal at the 1986 European Junior Championships in Budapest. He made his debut in the Danish Open team in 2004 and has been almost a regular for the past two decades.

Hoftaniska led a spade and Bilde allowed East to win. Declarer won the second spade with the ace, played a club to king and ace, and ruffed when East continued with a third round of spades. Bilde then played a diamond, successfully finessing the ten, and led a low trump from the table. When Tor Helness did not split his honours, Bilde inserted the heart ten, which won. He then cashed one high trump and led winning diamonds. East could score one trump trick, but that was the third and last trick for the defenders. Nicely played: North/South plus 790.

Note that if East splits his heart honours on the first round of trumps, declarer wins, cashes the queen of clubs, and plays a diamond to the ace. East must ruff to save the overtrick, but he is then endplayed: either to lead a trump, giving declarer the finesse, or to concede a ruff-and-discard with a club, thus giving declarer entry to dummy to take the marked trump finesse.

West	North	East	South
Plejdrup	Malinowski	Jepsen	DeBotton
—	—	Pass	1♦
3♠!	Pass	4♠	Double
Pass	5♦	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Of the six candidates to take pre-emptive action on this West hand, my money would have been on Hoftaniska, but at least it comes as no surprise that it was a Scandinavian who did so. Not content with a pedestrian two-spade overcall, though, Andreas Plejdrup, another former Danish junior international, really went for the throat with a leap to three spades. Even Artur Malinowski could not stretch to make a negative double at this level, and Emil Jepsen furthered his partner's excellent work with a raise to game on the East cards.

Assuming that South would have made four hearts, this was an excellent save by the Danes: even starting with two rounds of trumps only beats it by two tricks as long as declarer plays clubs immediately. Janet de Botton was virtually forced to double four spades on her big hand. Malinowski might have passed, but doing so would only have limited the loss on the deal to 10 IMPs, so his understandable but erroneous decision to press on to five diamonds (declarer can make only ten tricks in either red suit) was relatively inexpensive. The defenders have a trick in each black suit and East's heart pips are just good enough to ensure a third defensive trick; North/South minus 100 and 13 IMPs to VINITA.

The Fleury One Notrump Hans Secelle, Schelderode, Belgium

Introduction

Conventions that show a two-suited hand come in all sizes and shapes. Most players are familiar with Ghestem, Michaels Cuebid, Raptor, Landy, etc., in all their possible variations, typically showing two known suits (e.g., Ghestem) or a known suit and an unknown suit (e.g., Michaels Cuebid).

It would seem that there's little room left for yet another (substantially) new wrinkle, but it may well be that the convention that I'll describe here does, in fact, qualify as a novelty.

The Fleury INT Overcall

In the not-too-distant past, two of our most amiable club members, Steven Fleury (who died in January) and his long-time bridge partner, José De Buysse, employed a conventional overcall that – as far as I could determine – never made it into any of the 1100-plus bridge books in my personal collection (including Amalya Kears's *Bridge Conventions Complete* and several editions of the *Official Encyclopedia of Bridge*). Unfortunately, I never asked either one of them about the origin of their convention – but perhaps some IBPA members can help me out.

Using the Fleury One Notrump overcall allows you to tell your partner that you have either both majors, after a natural one club or one diamond opening bid, or both minors, after a natural one heart or one spade opening bid.

This conventional bid looks a bit like Raptor, but unlike Raptor, the bid is never made on six-four distribution and *both* suits are known to partner. It also looks a bit like Ghestem, but Ghestem requires at least a five-five distribution.

After a one club/one diamond opening bid, the Fleury One Notrump overcall is made by Intervenor on the following hands:

- exactly 4-4 in the majors and 14+ HCP with no 4- or 5-card length in the fourth suit
- exactly 4-5 in the majors and 12+ HCP (vulnerable) / 9-11+ HCP (not vulnerable)
- at least 5-5 in the majors but not enough strength to bid a Ghestem three clubs.

Responses by Advancer are natural.

Examples

East opens one club. South overcalls one notrump with all of the following hands:

♠ A Q 10 8	♠ A K 10 8	♠ K Q 10 8 2
♥ K J 9 7 4	♥ A J 8 5	♥ A 9 8 5 4
♦ J 10	♦ K 5	♦ 6 5
♣ 8 5	♣ 6 3 2	♣ 4
(5/4M, 12 HCP)	(4/4M, 14 HCP)	(5/5M, 7 losers)

By employing Fleury, in practice, you sacrifice the natural 15-17 one notrump overcall, but the hands that allow you to make this type of overcall are rather rare, whereas the hands that allow you to bid the Fleury One Notrump are much more frequent.

Render unto Caesar

Assuming that this convention was not invented/proposed earlier by someone else, I would like to give credit to Steven Fleury (who was the system designer of the partnership) and propose to name the one notrump overcall – as described above – after him.

Please contact me at hans.secelle@telenet.be if you can shed some more light on the topic.



They put me on this “*Forbidden Planet*” back in 1956 before shipping me off and getting me “*Lost in Space*” with the Robinson family in the 1960s until I was embroiled in the “*Star Wars*” with “*Doctor Who*”. Finally, the Borg rescued me. Thank goodness my creator had kept backup copies and managed to recreate me.

These days, I usually just sit quietly and wait until someone asks me to play bridge. They get me for cheap really, just BB\$0.25 to play with a World Champion! Yes, I know it was back in 1997 and 1998 that I won the World Computer Bridge Championship, but I got bored after proving my supremacy.

Late on a Monday, I was asked to partner a human who calls himself Maximus in his local Monday duplicate when the following deal turned up. I was the dealer, sitting West, with both sides vulnerable and holding an unpromising Christmas hand (three kings) and a jack. I passed, first in hand, and Maximus opened one diamond in third seat. I responded with a routine one-heart bid and he jumped to game.

In my system, this promises about 21 HCP – what else could I do but try Blackwood? When he showed zero or three key cards, I thought it best to ask if he held the queen of hearts. We could just stop at the five level if he denied it. He jumped to six hearts. What is the matter with him? What on earth can he have? I couldn’t try for the grand slam, but I felt it would be close. I passed, knowing, in any case, that I could outplay all my other opponents who held the same cards as me.

North led the nine of hearts. I will try for all the tricks anyway.

Dealer West. Both Vul.

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

The bidding had been:

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	1♦	Pass
1♥	Pass	4♥	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♣	Pass
5♦	Pass	6♥	Pass
Pass	Pass		

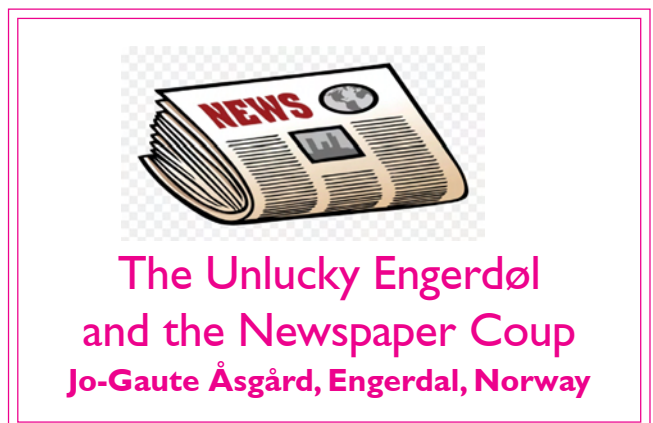
It did not take me long to work out how to play the contract, maybe 0.3 nanoseconds.

I won in hand, played a club to dummy, ruffed a diamond, led another club to dummy, with opponents obediently following to show their count (not that I take any notice of it). Another diamond was ruffed, followed by a spade to the ace and a third diamond ruffed with my last trump, the king.

Not wanting to see my club king ruffed, I tried the ten of clubs and North ruffed (pointlessly, of course, I was still in total control). I overruffed with the ace of hearts, showing off slightly as I like to do sometimes, drew the remaining trumps and played a spade to my king. My king and seven of clubs were winners and I was able to dispose of my idiot partner’s losing diamonds from the dummy. The last trick was mine with the ten of hearts in dummy.

A routine outing and, like I said, I knew the grand slam was probably on. Partner was happy when the results showed us being the only ones making the slam and my superb play for thirteen tricks was for nothing extra. I was, of course, the only one to make all the tricks. How did two manage to go off in a ‘cold’ grand when only in the small slam?

My superiority over these troubled so-called bridge players had shown again. Of course, we won with over 70%, but it should have been higher – if only Maximus knew how to play as I do.



This is a story, one of many, about an unlucky local hero in my hometown. In Norwegian, we call him “Den uheldige engerdøl”, meaning he is from “Engerdal”, a mountain community in Norway, well-known for its wild

natural terrain, great skiers, long winters, and a vital bridge club.

Maybe you know one of these unlucky characters in your own club as well? In his own mind, he is a world-class player who is always unlucky, and not given the honour he deserves.

Our unlucky friend is, of course, always hoping someone will discover his greatness. And maybe this is to be the night?

He was sitting at the table with his partner for the evening, playing against the bridge writer for the local newspaper. If he's lucky enough, maybe he can come up with something for the press to give him some attention?

With this daydream buzzing around in his head, he ended up declaring six diamonds as West on this deal:

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

In the style of modern Norwegian bridge, his partner East opened one notrump. We open one notrump on as many hands as possible, but we are not madmen, so we don't do it with five-four in the majors. Our friend in West transferred to hearts, then bid three diamonds. He soon declared six diamonds.

North started off with the king of spades. What next?

Our unlucky hero counted his tricks and losers, which were often a trick too short and a loser too many. But there was some chance: the queen of hearts could be doubleton, for instance. Our friend was pondering these thoughts when the words of a great chess champion came to mind: "When you have found a great line to play, look for a better one!"

Suddenly, he gets it. The unlucky Engerdøl has read about the Morton's Fork Coup, and wasn't this a textbook deal for the theme? Combined with an endplay, he could force the defenders to give away the twelfth trick by leading away from the queen of hearts. Wouldn't that be a coup for the papers?

Declarer could trump the first trick, cash a couple of diamonds and one high heart, come back to hand and lead a club toward the queen in dummy. If North held the ace of clubs and the queen of hearts, this would be a deal for the newspaper. North would have to withhold the ace on the first club play. Then declarer could discard a club on the ace of spade and exit with a club to the king. North would have to lead a heart from the queen or surrender a ruff-sluff.

Delighted with his plan, our friend started off with a club toward dummy. But wait – South beat the queen of clubs with the ace and returned a club. As South also had the queen-third of hearts, our friend was soon one down. This was the full deal:

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

The bridge writer in South apparently did not share West's enthusiasm for the deal. As he left the table, he stopped for a moment, and turned to our friend. The writer looked as though he were about to reveal the secret of the deal.

"It looks like you missed a great play on this deal, Engerdøl., the writer exclaimed. You can set up a Morton's Fork Coup and endplay me. Wouldn't that have been a coup for the paper? Well, better luck next time!"

Certainly, that would have been a coup. It was the same old story for our unlucky friend: in his own mind a world-class player, but in practical bridge terms?



IntoBridge.com

A New Online Bridge Platform

During the Reno NABC, IntoBridge will come into being. It is the brainchild of IBPA members Stefan Skorchev and Christophe Grosset, two avid young players who have the bridge, business and technical expertise to create, operate and maintain the new platform. Their mantra is, "For the players, by the players".

IntoBridge is designed to be a fun, community experience, the online game most like face-to-face bridge, with audio and video capability, chat rooms for post mortems, etc., and for every skill level. There will be casual games, competitive games and tournaments – the players can meet with friends or enjoy a competitive challenge. The platform is currently in demo mode.

Contact: stefan@intobridge.com or christophe@intobridge.com for further information or if you'd like to be part of the continuing improvement process (especially bridge clubs).



CONFESSIONS OF A BRIDGE ADDICT (I)

Joseph Silver, Hampstead, Québec
(Originally published in Bridge Winners)

(Maybe it's appropriate that Joey's 'Confessions' appear alongside the blurb for "Bridge with Another Perfect Partner" since he was my perfect partner for 16 years. Note that I say perfect partner, not 'perfect' partner. – Ed.)

The plague is back (January 8, 2022). Montréal is closed (even the Playground Poker Club, where I play every day, has been shuttered), and a curfew is in effect. So, what is an old man to do? I sit here with my memories and reminisce about how bridge became the central theme of my adult life. It started in 1959 when I was a seventeen-year-old student about to go into my second year at McGill University (*McGill has been a hotbed of Canadian bridge for decades. Here is a partial list of the bridge players – not mentioned by Joey here as McGill students – who have attended the university, in alphabetical order: Boris Baran, John Carruthers, Ralph Cohen, Pierre Daigneault, Charles Goren, Fred Hoffer, Eric Kokish, Robert Lebi, Irving Litvack, George Mittelman, Hugh Ross – Ed.*)

I spent the summer working as a camp counselor. Every night after the kids were tucked away, a bridge game broke out in the recreation hall; it piqued my interest so I joined in. We played every night. Of course, we didn't know what we were doing and we didn't even keep score! The last night of camp, a small tournament was held, and I discovered duplicate bridge. It appealed to my competitive nature, and I said to myself, "THIS IS FOR ME!" I had fallen head over heels in love with bridge, a love affair that has endured to this day, more than 60 years later. (As an illustration of the depth of my bridge knowledge then, it was only while playing on the train going home that someone explained to me that covering an honour with an honour could promote a defensive

trick. The light bulb went off in my head for the first time.

Back in Montréal, I had no one to play with (my friends didn't play, and I had yet to discover bridge clubs) but I did discover Auto Bridge (a solo mechanical device popular in the 1950s and 60s, before computers), which I played every waking hour until school restarted. There, I discovered the McGill Bridge Club, and the various characters who hung out there. Luckily for me, I fell in with a group of talented young bridge players, including Doug Fraser, Jacques Guertin, and Ray Jotcham. (With these guys, I was punching way above my weight.) Doug Fraser introduced me to the Vanderbilt Bridge Club, run by Mimi Roncarelli and Johnny Wisner (who later became one of the ACBL's top tournament directors). Fraser also introduced me to my first convention, the 15-17 point notrump instead of the then-standard 16-18 point notrump, recommended by my first bridge hero, Charles Goren. I had found the perfect place to hang out, which I did for most of my waking hours the remaining six years of my university studies, and long afterwards. I was besotted with the game and could think of nothing else (except of course for sex).

In those days, most serious bridge players I knew either flunked out of college or failed a year. The fact that I didn't was not due to my being a good student, I wasn't (I was mediocre at best), but that exams were held only once a year! I could goof off 11 months a year but, the month before exams, I locked myself away and studied, studied, studied, cramming into myself what I was supposed to have learned during the academic year. Of course, I forget everything after writing my exams, but it got me through, albeit with less than stellar results. (More importantly to me, I didn't fail anything – that, my fragile ego could not have supported).

In those days, bridge clubs were for gin rummy, pinochle and rubber bridge. Duplicates were only held once a week, bringing out the city's leading players. The two main bridge clubs in Montréal were the Vanderbilt, and Sam Gold's Linton Bridge Club. (Sam was Montréal's Mr. Bridge). I remember the second time the light bulb went off. I was playing a weekly duplicate and held 16 points with four spades. My partner opened one spade, I bid a forcing three spades, and he bid four spades. Since I had held a maximum for my bid, I drove to slam, the result being down one. My partner tried to explain to me what I had done wrong, but I was having none of it. After all, "I was maximum for my bid," I kept repeating. Finally, he got through to me that I had already showed my hand by bidding three spades. "Ahh," said I, as the light bulb went off for the second time in my young bridge life.

In mid-1960, I won my first club duplicate playing at the Vanderbilt, and it put me over the top. It enabled me to gather all my master point slips together and send them off to ACBL headquarters and, with my total of one master point, I become an official ACBL Junior Master, filling me with the pride of accomplishment. In 1961, I won my first sectional in a small Vermont town, playing with Fraser, Jotcham, and Guertin, in the Sunday BAM Team-of-Four. We were so excited that we were jumping up and down, yelling with joy, until the chandelier came tumbling down. (We were never invited back.)

It was during this time that I learned to control my terrible temper. When things went wrong at the table, as was my wont, I used to yell and scream at my partner for his terrible misdeeds! I began to notice that after these 'fully justified' flare-ups, there was a noticeable deterioration in my partner's play. I wanted to win so badly, and here I was doing something, however justified, counter-productive to enabling me to win, so I vowed to myself that I would control my temper. The litmus test came in a small pairs tournament in upper New York state. I was playing with Jacques Guertin, (a much better player than I). We had started badly and, halfway through the session, things had not improved when Jacques did something foolish, which made my blood boil. There he sat with a silly grin on his face – I wanted to yell and scream while reaching across the table to tear his heart out, but I controlled myself, and remained outwardly calm. All of a sudden, I experienced shooting pains in my left arm. I thought to myself, "Here I am, only 20, and I was having a heart attack!" (I wasn't.) I managed to keep my composure and we improved our game, finishing second overall. A valuable lesson was learned, and I was well on my way to developing my greatest bridge skill, being a good partner. TO BE CONTINUED (Maybe).

Bridge with Another Perfect Partner



Reluctant as I usually am to toot my own horn, I could not resist this opportunity.

From the publisher's blurb: *Bridge with a Perfect Partner*, by P. F. Saunders, was published in 1976. Many read and delighted in Saunders' articles in *Bridge Magazine* (U.K.) and Saunders' 'austere' character Wilson, with his 'mordant' sense of humour. In this sequel, one of the world's top bridge journalists takes the reader through a series of brilliant deals, collected from tournaments all over the world. The style is highly reminiscent of Saunders' original and will give its readers just as much pleasure.

See www.masterpointpress.com for details.



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World Bridge Calendar

2022

Mar 9-20	ACBL Spring NABC	Reno, NV	www.acl.org
Mar 10-13	Tórshavn Bridgefestival	Tórshavn, Faroe Islands	www.bridge.fo/kappingar
Mar 11-13	SBU Peebles Congress	Peebles Hydro, Scotland	www.sbu.org.uk
Mar 11-13	Os Junior Open	Os, Norway (Bergen)	www.osbk.no
Mar 12-14	Taranak Bridge Congress	New Plymouth, NZ	www.nzbridge.co.nz
Mar 18-19	30 th Torneo Nacional	Ciudad de Lugo, Spain	www.aebridge.com
Mar 18-20	Spring Tournament	Krakow, Poland	www.pzbs.pl
Mar 18-22	32 nd International Bridge Festival	Limassol, Cyprus	www.cyprusbridge.org
Mar 19-20	Watanabe Cup	Tokyo, Japan	www.jcbl.or.jp
Mar 19-20	KCBL Spring Teams	Seoul, South Korea	www.kcbl.org
Mar 24-27	Tasmanian Festival	Launceton, Australia	www.abf.com.au
Mar 27-Apr 9	World Team Championships	Salsomaggiore, Italy	www.worldbridge.org
Mar 28-31	Bridge Festival	Puerto de la Cruz, Tenerife	www.aebridge.com
Mar 31-Apr 3	Hotel Senator Meeting	Starachowice, Poland	www.senatorbridge.pl
Apr 15-18	Easter Festival	London, England	www.ebu.co.uk
Apr 15-18	South Perth Easter Congress	Como, Australia	www.abf.com.au
Apr 20-21	Baltic Cup	Tallinn, Estonia	aarne.rummel@err.ee
Apr 21-23	Mutton Cup	Madrid, Spain	www.mutton-cup.com
Apr 22-23	53 rd Tallinn Bridge Festival	Tallinn, Estonia	festival@bridge.ee
Apr 23-25	Wellington Bridge Congress	Wellington, NZ	www.nzbridge.co.nz
Apr 28-May 1	Slavonice Cup	Slavonice, Czech Republic	www.czechbridge.cz
Apr 28-May 2	Australian Autumn Nationals	Wayville, Australia (Adelaide)	www.abf.com.au
Apr 29-May 3	Schapiro Spring Fours	Warwick, U.K.	www.ebu.co.uk
Apr 30-May 1	31 st Lake Geneva Tournament	Vevey, Switzerland	www.fsbridge.ch
May 3-8	Lambourne Jersey Bridge Festival	St. Helier, Jersey Is.	www.ebu.co.uk
May 4-11	12 th Scottish Overseas Congress	Majorca, Balearic Is., Spain	www.sbu.org.uk
May 6-8	Swiss Open	Zurich, Switzerland	www.fsbridge.ch
May 9-13	Barrier Reef Congress	Annandale, Australia	www.abf.com.au
May 14-22	22 nd Deutsches Bridgefestival	Wyk-auf-Föhr, Germany	www.bridge-verband.de
May 19-22	Uzlina Bridge Cup	Uzlina, Romania	www.playbridgeindelta.com
May 21-29	70 th South American Bridge Festival	Cali, Colombia	www.tbricfed.or.tr
May 21-29	Turkey Summer Championships	Antalya, Turkey	www.tbridge-verband.de
May 24-Jun 1	Festival Juan-les-Pins	Antibes, France	www.festivalsdusoleil.com
May 25-29	International Bridge Festival	Budapest, Hungary	www.ibbf.hu
May 26-29	Marit Sveas International	Lillehammer, Norway	www.msibt.org
Jun 2-6	53 rd Grazer Bridgetagge	Graz, Austria	www.bridgegraz.at
Jun 9-13	Victor Champion Cup	Melbourne, Australia	www.abf.com.au
Jun 12-22	55 th Euro National Team Champs.	Funchal, Madeira Is., Portugal	www.eurobridge.org
Jun 24-Jul 3	Slawa Bridge Congress	Slawa, Poland	www.pzbs.pl
Jun 24-Jul 3	40 th International Bridge Festival	Albena, Bulgaria	www.bridgealbena.org
Jul 1-12	International Bridge Festival	Biarritz, France	www.festival-bridge-biarritz.com
Jul 2-14	Australian National Championships	Adelaide, Australia	www.abf.com.au
Jul 8-17	Dansk Bridgefestival	Svendborg, Denmark	www.bridgefestival.dk
Jul 14-24	ACBL Summer NABC	Providence, RI	www.aclbl.org
Jul 15-23	Baltic Congress	Sopot, Poland	www.pzbs.pl
Jul 15-24	Hangon BridgeViikko	Hanko, Finland	www.bridgefinland.fi
Jul 19-26	European Youth Team Championships	Veldhoven, Netherlands	www.eurobridge.org
Jul 21-29	Festival Mondiale	Deauville, France	www.mondiale-bridge-deauville.com
Jul 25-31	Viru Bridge	Vosu, Estonia	www.bridge.ee
Jul 27-Aug 7	Grand Prix of Warsaw	Warsaw, Poland	www.pzbs.pl
Jul 29-Aug 7	Swedish Bridgefestival	Örebro, Sweden	www.svenskbridge.se
Jul 30-Aug 4	Chairman's Cup	Örebro, Sweden	www.svenskbridge.se
Aug 5-14	Summer Meeting	Eastbourne, U.K.	www.ebu.co.uk
Aug 7-13	Wachauer Bridge Week	Mautern, Austria	www.bridgeaustria.at
Aug 7-14	World Youth Open Team Championships	Salsomaggiore Terme, Italy	www.wordbridge.org
Aug 19-Sep 3	World Bridge Series	Wroclaw, Poland	www.worldbridge.org
Sep 9-21	60 th International Festival	Pula, Croatia	www.pulabridgefestival.com
Sep 12-17	FISU World University Championships	Antwerp, Belgium	www.fisu.net/sport-events/fisu-calendar
Sep 14-23	Asian Games	Hangzhou, China	www.hanzhou2022.cn/En
Nov 1-3	European Small Federations Championship	Larnaca, Cyprus	www.eurobridge.org
Nov 24-Dec 4	ACBL Fall NABC	Phoenix, AZ	www.aclbl.org