



BULLETIN

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April 10, 2022

2022 World Champions!



Bermuda Bowl
Winners
Switzerland
and
Runners-Up
Netherlands

Venice Cup
Winners
Sweden
and
Runners-Up
Turkey



d'Orsi Trophy
Winners
Poland
and
Runners-Up
India

Wuhan Cup
Winners
France
and
Runners-Up
USA



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World Championship Honour Roll

45TH WORLD 2021 BRIDGE TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS
Salsomaggiore Terme, Italy • 27 March - 9 April 2022



45th Bermuda Bowl

- 1st **Switzerland:** Sjoert Brink/Sebastian Drijver, Piotr Gawrys/Michal Klukowski, Fernando Piedra/Pierre Zimmermann, Krzysztof Martens (Coach)
- 2nd **Netherlands:** Berend van den Bos/Joris van Lankveld, Bauke Muller/Simon de Wijs, Ricco van Prooijen/Louk Verhees, Gert-Jan Ros (Non-Playing Captain), Ton Bakkeren (Coach)
- 3rd= **Norway:** Terje Aa/Alan Livgård, Christian Bakke/Boye Brogeland, Geir Helgemo/Tor Helness, Tolle Stabell (Non-Playing Captain), Sten Bjertnes (Coach)
- 3rd= **USAI:** Eric Greco/Geoff Hampson, Ralph Katz/Frank Nickell, Bobby Levin/Steve Weinstein, Jill Levin (Non-Playing Captain), Eric Kokish (Coach)

23rd Venice Cup

- 1st **Sweden:** Kathrine Bertheau/Jessica Larsson, Sanna Clementsson/Emma Övelius, Louise Hallqvist/Ylva Johansson, Tobias Törnqvist (Non-Playing Captain), Carine Wademark (Coach)
- 2nd **Turkey:** Özlem Kandolu/Eren Özkan, Serap Kuranoglu/Dilek Yavas, Irem Özbay/Hatice Özgür, Belis Atalay (Non-Playing Captain), Halil Atalay (Coach)
- 3rd= **England:** Sally Brock/Fiona Brown, Heather Dhondy/Nevena Senior, Catherine Draper/Gillian Fawcett, David Burn (Non-Playing Captain)
- 3rd= **Poland:** Cathy Baldysz/Sophie Baldysz, Katarzyna Dufurat/Joanna Zalewska, Danuta Kazmucha/Anna Sarniak, Mirosław Cichocki (Non-Playing Captain)

11th d'Orsi Trophy

- 1st **Poland:** Apolinary Kowalski/Jacek Romanski, Michal Kwiecien/Włodzimierz Starkowski, Victor Markowicz/Krzysztof Moszczynski, Włodzimierz Wala (Non-Playing Captain)
- 2nd **India:** Rajesh Dalal/Anil Padhye, Sukumal Das/Subrata Saha, Ashok Goel/Ramaratnam Krishnan
- 3rd= **Denmark:** Klaus Adamsen/Dennis Koch-Palmund, Jørgen Hansen/Steen Schou, Dorthe Schaltz/Peter Schaltz, Bo Lønberg Bilde (Non-Playing Captain)
- 3rd= **France:** Michel Abécassis/Alain Lévy, Marc Bompis/Philippe Soulet, Philippe Marill/Dominique Pilon, Guy Lasserre (Non-Playing Captain), Solange d'Elbée (Coach)

2nd Wuhan Cup

- 1st **France:** Bénédicte Cronier/Philippe Cronier, Vanessa Reess/Lionel Sebbane, Pierre Schmidt/Joanna Zochowska, Laurent Thuillez (Non-Playing Captain), François Combescure (Coach)
- 2nd **USAI:** Dana Berkowitz/Eldad Ginossar, Chris Willenken/Migry Zur-Campanile, Debbie Rosenberg/Andrew Rosenthal, Jeff Aker (Non-Playing Captain), Amber Lin/Kevin Rosenberg (Substitutes)
- 3rd= **Germany:** Daniela von Arnim/Helmut Häusler, Marie Eggeling/Paul Grünke, Anne Gladiator/Michael Gromöller, Max Weiss (Non-Playing Captain), Monika Luy (Coach)
- 3rd= **Italy:** Gabriella Manara/Dario Attanasio, Irene Baroni/ Alessandro Gandoglia, Leonardo Cima/Barbara Dessi, Luigina Gentili (Non-Playing Captain)

The timing was not good for reporting on the World Championships for this month's Bulletin, so we'll report the results now and some of the more exciting deals next month, but here are three deals that caught my (JC's) eye early on...

Well Bowled

Bermuda Bowl, Round Robin 2

Board 31. Dealer South. NS Vul.

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

USA1 v. USA2

West	North	East	South
<i>Greco</i>	<i>Bathurst</i>	<i>Hampson</i>	<i>Hurd</i>
—	—	—	Pass
1♣ ¹	Pass	1♦ ²	Pass
2♥ ³	Pass	2♠ ⁴	Pass
2NT ⁵	Pass	4♥ ⁶	Pass
4NT ⁷	Pass	5♣ ⁸	Pass
5♥ ⁹	Pass	5NT ¹⁰	Pass
6♣ ¹¹	Pass	7♠ ¹²	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. Strong (16+ HCP), artificial, forcing
2. 0-7 HCP
3. Birthright (hearts or GF, balanced)
4. Forced
5. 25+ balanced, GF (hearts not shown)
6. Texas, 6+ spades, slam try
7. Loves spades: RKCB
8. 0 key cards
9. Grand-slam try with all key cards and spade queen
10. King of hearts, no other king
11. Club king
12. Good

On a diamond lead, Hampson won with the ace, took two rounds of trumps, cashed the king and ace of hearts and ruffed a heart with the jack of spades. A trump to dummy, another heart ruff and there were two discards for the diamonds. Plus 1510.

West	North	East	South
<i>Kranyak</i>	<i>Levin</i>	<i>Demuy</i>	<i>Weinstein</i>
—	—	—	Pass
2♣ ¹	Pass	2♦ ²	Pass
2♥ ³	Pass	2NT ⁴	Pass
3♠ ⁵	Pass	4♥ ⁶	Pass
4NT ⁷	Pass	5NT ⁸	Pass
7♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. Strong, artificial, forcing
2. Neutral, waiting
3. Natural
4. Spades
5. Agrees spades as trumps
6. Heart control, no minor-suit control
7. RKCB
8. 0 key cards, but extra values

Kranyak played card for card as Hampson did for a noble push.

Norway v. Sweden

West	North	East	South
<i>Helgemo</i>	<i>O. Rimstedt</i>	<i>Helness</i>	<i>M. Rimstedt</i>
—	—	—	Pass
2♣ ¹	Pass	2♠ ²	Pass
2NT ³	Pass	4♠ ⁴	Pass
4NT ⁵	Pass	5♣ ⁶	Pass
5NT ⁷	Pass	6♥ ⁸	Pass
7♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. Strong, artificial, forcing
2. Natural positive
3. 23+ HCP, balanced
4. 6+ spades
5. RKCB
6. 0 or 3 key cards
7. King ask
8. King of hearts, no other king

It is always a pleasure to witness Helgemo/Helness in action, using superb bidding judgement and less science than any other top-class pair. Helness made 1510 easily.

West	North	East	South
<i>Nyström</i>	<i>Livgård</i>	<i>Wrang</i>	<i>Aa</i>
—	—	—	Pass
2♣ ¹	Pass	2♦ ²	Pass
2NT ³	Pass	3♥ ⁴	Pass
4♣ ⁵	Pass	4♥ ⁶	Pass
4♠ ⁷	Pass	4NT ⁸	Pass
5♦ ⁹	Pass	6♠ ¹⁰	Pass
7♠ ¹¹	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. Strong, artificial, forcing
2. Neutral, waiting
3. 24+ HCP, balanced
4. 5+ spades
5. Agrees spades, club control
6. Heart control, no diamond control
7. Willing to subside
8. Extra values, no other control to bid
9. Diamond control
10. I've seen enough
11. No, you haven't

Whose auction was the most convincing? For me, it was Greco/Hampson's. It seems that the others made guesses, intelligent, educated guesses mind you, but guesses just the same.

Most Roads Lead to Rome

Old rivals Italy and USA I and new rivals Sweden and Switzerland faced each other on this board.

Bermuda Bowl, Round Robin I I

Board 13. Dealer North. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Madala</i>	<i>Levin</i>	<i>Duboin</i>	<i>Weinstein</i>
<i>Greco</i>	<i>Lauria</i>	<i>Hampson</i>	<i>Versace</i>
—	2♠	Pass	4♠
Double	Pass	Pass	Pass

It is rare these days for any auction to be duplicated in a team match. Here, four spades was a good each-way bet: either the contract might make or, if not, perhaps the opponents might make four hearts.

Duboin led the five of hearts against Levin. Madala took two heart tricks and shifted to the king of diamonds. Levin won with dummy's ace and played the ten right back. Madala won with his queen and continued the tennis match with his third diamond to Levin's jack. Declarer ran the nine of spades, winning, ruffed a heart, and cashed the king of spades and the ace of clubs. When a club ruff with a low trump passed off without incident, North drew East's queen of spades with the ace and claimed plus 790. Easy-peasy.

Hampson preferred to lead the jack of clubs. Lauria tried the queen and ruffed Greco's king. Declarer ran the jack of spades, led a spade to the ten and ruffed a club with the ace of spades. He led a spade to the king, ruffed another club, and led a diamond to the ace, setting up this position:

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

At this point, Lauria claimed ten tricks, taking the clubs. If the BBO record is correct, he could have led a diamond after the clubs, forcing Greco to give him the king of hearts for eleven tricks and plus 990.

In the Sweden/Switzerland match...

West	North	East	South
<i>Klukowski</i>	<i>Bertheau</i>	<i>Gawrys</i>	<i>Hult</i>
—	Pass	Pass	INT
2♣ ¹	4♦ ²	Pass	4♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. Clubs and a major, 4+/4+
2. Spade transfer

System worked to great advantage for the Swedes when Peter Bertheau declined to open a Multi with a heart side suit. As a result, they got to declare four spades from the South seat. Klukowski led the king of diamonds. Hult won with the ace, ruffed a club, ran the jack of spades, led another to the ten and continued with the ten of diamonds. West won with the queen and led another diamond, declarer discarding a club on the diamond jack. After a spade to the king, drawing East's last trump, Hult led the queen of clubs. Declarer had won six tricks, had lost one and had reached:

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

On the queen of clubs, covered by the king, Hult discarded a heart. West had to surrender two tricks to South. Together with the two trumps still in dummy, that totalled ten. Well done.

At the other table, Brink and Drijver also had the two spades-pass-four spades-double auction against Nyström/Wrang.

Wrang led a low heart. Nyström took the jack (would the queen have been better?) and the ace, then shifted to the queen of diamonds. Brink won with dummy's ace and continued with the ten. Nyström won with the king and, unlike Madala, led another heart, putting Brink to the test. He passed that test, putting up the ten to win the trick. Declarer had lost three tricks and had no more losers. The only issue was the trump suit. When Brink cashed the ace of spades and led another to the king, he was one off for minus 200.

Brink had not made it to Rome.

Bidding Like a Junior

England and USA2 met here...

D'Orsi Trophy, Round Robin 15

Board 5. Dealer North. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Hallberg	Weichsel	Mossop	Hamman
—	4♥!	Double	Pass
Pass	Pass		

I was sitting in front of my computer watching the Senior Teams England versus USA2 match when this board popped up. As I was wondering about the efficacy of opening two or three hearts, then bidding again, Peter Weichsel opened four hearts, vulnerable against not!

Weichsel was soon declaring in eight hearts. Katie said to me, "Peter's going to get exactly what he deserves for that bid!" Let's see about that.

First, let's look at what 'should' have happened with optimal defence and declarer play: spade lead and continuation, ruffed; club from declarer, tapping West, diamond king from West, forcing declarer. The tap goes back and forth with East scoring his ace of hearts on the fourth round of clubs and declarer making his six trump tricks and nothing more for minus 1100.

If either side leads trump, it is to their disadvantage: if declarer leads a high honour at any time, the number can be minus 1400; if he cashes the other high honour when next in, he can go for minus 2000. Conversely, if the defence leads trumps, the number can be as low as plus 500 for them.

Is optimal play and defence what happened at the table? Of course not. What actually happened was a bit of, "After you, Alphonse." "No, after you, Gaston."

David Mossop led the ace of spades, received an encouraging signal from Gunnar Hallberg, and continued with a low spade to the ten, ruffed by Weichsel. Declarer tried the queen of hearts, won by Mossop, who continued with the king of spades, again ruffed by Weichsel. Declarer had three trumps remaining to West's four. Had declarer then taken the queen of hearts, playing hearts to be four-two, he'd have made no more

tricks.. West would have ruffed the next club, drawn trumps, then taken two spade tricks and three diamond tricks for plus 2000, down seven.

Weichsel was too shrewd for that and began the force on West by leading clubs, using them as surrogate trumps. Gunnar Hallberg had a blind spot, ruffing and leading a heart, forcing out the king. However, that returned the tempo to Weichsel, who then tapped West again, eventually losing just four heart tricks and one spade trick. for minus 500, then having had a trump more than West. That was a triumph for Weichsel and Hamman. Had Hallberg continued the force, declarer would have been limited to five trump tricks for minus 1400.

At their teammates' table:

West	North	East	South
Woolsey	Senior	Bramley	Hackett
—	Pass	1♣ ¹	Pass
1♥ ²	2♥	2♠	Pass
4♣ ³	Pass	4NT ⁴	Pass
5♣ ⁵	Pass	6♠	Pass
Pass	Double	Pass	Pass
Pass			

1. Strong, artificial, forcing: 16 +
2. 8+ HCP, 5+ spades
3. Club shortage
4. RKCB
5. 0 key cards

Bart Bramley and Kit Woolsey are one of the more-entertaining pairs to watch, despite their very complicated system with so much artificiality. They are both superb technicians and play a little loose with their pre-empts.

Doubling a slam for an unusual lead, normally a ruff, is often debated when the doubler does not have the setting trick in hand. On the "Don't double" side, it's felt that the ruff sometimes helps declarer avoid a second loser, while the "Do double" brigade feels that if the declaring side had a play for 13 tricks, they'd have tried for a grand slam.

In any case, Paul Hackett led the three of diamonds to dummy's ten and Brian Senior's ruff. Seeing that a club was a non-starter, Senior shifted to a heart. Bramley won with his ace and paused for thought.

Bramley had one heart trick and three diamond tricks, thus needed eight trump tricks for his contract. To succeed, he needed to ruff a club and cash a high spade from dummy, or lead the two of spades to a high one in the dummy. The one thing he could not do to make six spades doubled was to cash a high spade from hand.

Bramley accurately led the two of spades to the queen. When North showed out, declarer could cash the diamonds and claim on a cross-ruff; plus 1210 for USA2 and 12-IMP gain. Brilliantly played.



The ACBL's Spring NABC were held in Reno, Nevada from March 10th to the 20th this year. The major event winners were:

Vanderbilt Knockout Teams – Christian Bakke/Boye Brogeland, Jan Jansma/Chris Willenken, Andrew Rosenthal/Aaron Silverstein

Jacoby Open Swiss Teams – Dennis Bilde/Agustin Madala, Adam Grossack/Laurence Lebowitz, Zach Grossack/Michael Rosenberg

Kay Platinum Pairs – Zach Grossack/Michael Rosenberg

North American Pairs – Kent Mignocchi/Joel Wooldridge

Silodor Open Pairs – Mark Itabashi/Neil Silverman

Lebhar IMP Pairs – Tim van de Paverd/Luc Tijssen

NABC+ Fast Pairs – Greg Humphreys/Adam Parrish

Rockwell Mixed Pairs – Jacek Pszczola/May Sakr

Smith Women's Life Master Pairs – Margie Cole/Migry Zur-Campanile

Leventritt Silver Ribbon Pairs – Chris Moll/Russell Samuel

0-10,000 MP KO Teams – Sarik Goyal/Kyle Rockoff, Victor Xiao/Eric Xiao/Jeff Xiao



Victor Xiao, Jeff Xiao, Eric Xiao, Kyle Rockoff, Sarik Goyal

The team captained by Kyle Rockoff won the 0-10,000 Knockout Teams. Rockoff, of Gilbert AZ, played with Sarik Goyal of Worcester MA. Their teammates were Victor Xiao and his two sons, Eric and Jeff, who are 13 and 10 years old, respectively, from Shrewsbury MA. We believe Jeff Xiao is the youngest person ever to win a North American Bridge Championship.

ACBL Hall of Fame – Marty Bergen

Here are a few of the more-entertaining deals from the tournament.

X-Ray Specs
Owen Lien, Oak Park, MI

Barbara Kasle and I were playing against Per-Ola Cullin and Marion Michielsen on this deal from the second semifinal session of the Platinum Pairs:

Dealer East. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Lien	Cullin	Kasle	Michielsen
—	—	Pass	1♣ ¹
Double ²	Redouble ³	1♠	Pass
Pass	2♦	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♥	Pass	3♠
Pass	3NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

1. 16 or more HCP, forcing
2. Both majors
3. 8 or more HCP, game-force, typically, somewhat-balanced or penalty-oriented

The vagaries of the auction put East on lead, and Barbara made the normal choice of a low spade to my ace. I cashed the king of hearts at trick two to clarify my holding with the hope of getting partner back on lead for a heart through, and then continued spades. Cullin won trick three with the king of spades and proceeded to play the hand as if he had X-ray vision. He led the ten of clubs at trick four, covered by East, won in the South hand. He then proceeded to cash five rounds of diamonds. The final diamond forced East to discard in this five-card ending:

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

When the two of diamonds was led, East had to keep all three clubs in order to prevent clubs from running, so she discarded her nine of spades. Cullin read the position perfectly, deducing why East had discarded as she had. Backing his judgment, he led the eight of clubs and ran it, finessing against East's nine. He then led the ten of spades to East's queen at trick 11, and East was forced to yield the last two tricks to dummy's king jack of clubs for making four. Plus 430 was worth 24 out of 25 matchpoints.

Sorry, Partner
Jan Jansma, NYC

The following deal is from the second final round of the Kay Platinum Pairs.

Board 24. Dealer West. Neither Vul.

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

West	North <i>Willenken</i>	East	South <i>Jansma</i>
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♦
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♥
Pass	2NT ¹	Pass	3♣ ²
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♦
Pass	4♠ ³	Double	5NT ⁴
Pass	6♣	Pass	Pass
Double	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. Ingberman: may be very weak
2. Natural-ish
3. Control-bid
4. Pick a slam

Willenken came to life with four clubs. He successfully guessed my hand during the auction; he thought I was very likely to be 1=4=6=2 with excellent clubs (ergo, the doubleton ace-king) after I jumped to five notrump instead of six clubs. I was worried I'd made a mistake when West doubled the slam, but decided to stick it out rather than run to six diamonds.

After West led a spade and dummy appeared, I was so relieved to see the precious jack of diamonds in dummy that I forgot to make the overtrick by ruffing a spade in hand at trick two. We scored 100% on the board anyway, so Chris forgave me.

Coup, Coup, Kachoo
Larry Sealy, Owens Cross Roads, AL

In a first-round Vanderbilt match, as South, I picked up:

♠ 2
♥ Q 4
♦ J 9 7 2
♣ Q J 9 8 5 3

Playing with Wafik Abdou, I was first to speak at favourable vulnerability and risked three clubs. Partner raised to five clubs and all passed.

West led the queen of spades. Here's the full deal:

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

East overtook the spade queen and continued with another high spade. I ruffed and saw that I could get home if the diamond finesse worked, as long as clubs came in for one loser. I played a club to the king, all following low. A club to the queen, however, saw LHO show out. Taking stock again, I saw I could still make the contract on a trump coup if East, with the long clubs, had three or four low diamonds and at least two hearts. But I had to time the play properly.

I ran the nine of diamonds, which held. A low diamond then went to the king and ace. I played a third round of diamonds, with East following, ruffed a spade, and played the queen of hearts and a heart to the king. East followed to that, leaving this ending:

<p>♠ J ♥ J 10 ♦ — ♣ —</p>	<p>♠ 8 ♥ A ♦ 10 ♣ —</p>	<p>♠ — ♥ 8 ♦ — ♣ A 10</p>
	<p>♠ — ♥ — ♦ J ♣ J 9</p>	

I played the ace of hearts (to pitch my fourth diamond, retaining the lead in dummy) and East conceded. Although scoring plus 400 won 6 IMPs for us, we lost the match by 16.

Leading Questions

Mark Horton, Shrewsbury, Shrops., U.K.

The Round-of-16 match between Nickell and Street in the Vanderbilt was a humdinger. With just 10 boards to play, the number-two seeded Nickell team trailed 107-74. In the twinkle of an eye – well four deals – the score changed dramatically. The opening lead had a role to play on two of them:

Board 51. Dealer North. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Pachtmann	Hampson	Zatorski	Greco
—	1♦ ¹	Pass	INT
2♣ ²	3♣	4♦	5♣
Double	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. Could be as short as one diamond
2. Both majors

It would have needed to be a very good day for West to have been void in diamonds; when East led the diamond three, declarer soon claimed 12 tricks, plus 950.

West	North	East	South
Levin	Di Franco	Weinstein	Manno
—	1♦	Pass	INT
2♦	4♣	4♥	5♣
Pass	Pass	5♥	6♣
Pass	Pass	6♥	Pass
Pass	Double	Pass	Pass
Pass			

South led the king of diamonds. North overtook it, cashed the diamond queen, and switched to the king of clubs, resulting in minus 300, but 12 IMPs for Nickell.

Board 54. Dealer West. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Pachtmann	Hampson	Zatorski	Greco
1♣	Double	5♦	5♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

West led the five of clubs. Declarer put in dummy's jack, won with the king, crossed to dummy with a spade, and played the ace of clubs. When East ruffed with the eight of hearts, declarer overruffed and played a heart for one down and minus 50.

West	North	East	South
Levin	Di Franco	Weinstein	Manno
1♣	Pass	1♦	3♥
Pass	4♥	5♦	Pass
Pass	Double	Pass	Pass
Pass			

When South led the queen of hearts, declarer could pitch a black card on the second round of the suit and then play diamonds for plus 550 and another 11-IMP swing to Nickell. North might have bid three spades over three hearts – it would surely show a fit for partner's suit given that North had not overcalled at his first turn. However, regardless of that possibility, if you take the view that North cannot be doubling on the strength of possible tricks in hearts, you will lead a black suit at trick one.

With Nickell collecting another 21 IMPs on Boards 22 and 23, the score had changed to 118-107 and they went on to complete the comeback, winning 129-118.

Twin Peaks

Mark Horton, Shrewsbury, Shrops., U.K.

The second session of the Vanderbilt match between Hill and Wolfson in the round of 16 featured these two deals where the Rimstedt twins (World Pairs Champions in 2018) produced two terrific auctions:

Board 17. Dealer North. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
O. Rimstedt	van Prooijen	M. Rimstedt	Verhees
—	Pass	1♣ ¹	1♠
2♥ ²	Pass	3♠ ³	Pass
4♦ ⁴	Pass	4NT ⁵	Pass
5♠ ⁶	Pass	6♣	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Alert explanations on next page

1. Could be 2
2. 5 clubs
3. Splinter
4. Control
5. RKCB
6. 2 key cards and the club queen

With every suit controlled and, being aware of the huge fit, East made the excellent decision to splinter in spades. When his partner cue-bid in diamonds, he could safely ask for key cards as there was no danger of getting too high.

South led the king of spades and declarer claimed, plus 920.

West	North	East	South
Wolfson	Dwyer	Garner	Huang
—	Pass	1♣	1♠
2♠ ¹	Pass	3♦	3♥
3NT	4♥	5♣	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. Limit-raise or better

That represented a loss of 11 IMPs.

Board 21. Dealer North. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
O. Rimstedt	van Prooijen	M. Rimstedt	Verhees
—	1♣ ¹	Pass	1♦ ²
5♥	5♠	6♥	Pass ³
Pass	6♠	7♥	Double
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. Good 15+
2. 0-8
3. See text

A deal to delight the theorists! What should West bid on the first round? One way to approach this type of problem is to ask yourself at what level you would like your opponents to play (it's long odds that North/South have a spade fit). When West opted for five hearts and North overcalled, East preferred to raise hearts rather than bid six clubs. South's pass was alerted (but not annotated) – there is a note on the convention card that a double in high-level forcing-pass situations generally shows a desire to bid on – so it was probably a request for North to double.

When North went on to six spades East could have gambled that he had two club tricks. But he knew that seven hearts had to be very cheap – and when North led the ace of spades declarer claimed 12 tricks, minus 100, which was as cheap as inexpensive fried potatoes.

West	North	East	South
Wolfson	Dwyer	Garner	Huang
—	1♣	Pass	1♦
4♥	4♠	5♥	Dble
Pass	5♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

East led the king of clubs and switched to the queen of hearts. In due course, declarer claimed, plus 680 and 11 IMPs.

The world's leading systems expert, Al Hollander, referring to the policy of using different deals in every match posted this: 'Dear ACBL – it really sucks that we will only see this board in one match'. I agree, but, thanks to Jan Martel and BBO, it was great to be able to see the stars in action once again.

Rescuing Partner

John Carruthers, Kingsville, ON

On this board from the third-quarter Vanderbilt semi-final match between Rosenthal and Spector, Boye Brogeland found a fantastic counter to protect his partner, Christian Bakke, from allowing John Kranyak's four spades to succeed.

Board 38. Dealer West. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Demuy	Bakke	Kranyak	Brogeland
Pass	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♠	Pass
4♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

Brogeland led the ten of spades. Kranyak won with dummy's queen and led a low club. Had Bakke risen with his king, an almost-impossible play with that dummy on view, either a club continuation or a heart shift would have defeated four spades. As it was, the play went three of clubs, nine, jack, seven! Declarer led the nine of diamonds to the ace next. Brogeland continued with the five of clubs! Bakke won with his king and shifted to a heart for one off.

At the other table:

West	North	East	South
Willenken	Hurd	Jansma	Bathurst
Pass	Pass	1♠	Pass
2NT ¹	Pass	4♣	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. Strong four-card spade raise in context

Kevin Bathurst led a heart, which Jansma ducked to his queen. Declarer led the ace of spades and, when all followed, claimed plus 420; 10 IMPs to Rosenthal.



This event was played online and was in the form of a double knockout – you had to lose twice before you were out of the tournament. My team, consisting of Levinson and myself and four Norwegians – Kvangraven, Olsen, Brekka and Saur – played the mostly Polish team of Seligman, Pszczola, Kwiecien and Starkowski in the semifinals. This was Board 14:

Dealer West. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Levinson	Seligman	Shenkin	Pszczola
1♣	1♥	2♦	2♠
3♦	4♠	5♦	Double
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Pepsi led his heart. I won in hand to lead a diamond. Pepsi hesitated just slightly and played the two. I gave some thought to playing the five but would have looked rather silly if North had won with the seven and given South two heart ruffs. So, I rose with the ace and Pepsi had succeeded with this Grosvenor Gambit, as playing the diamond seven would have assured him of a trick – he also left me just shaking my head. I subsequently guessed the club jack and was down two.

The question was, could they make four spades? On, say, a trump lead, declarer wins in hand and leads a heart to the nine and ace. Now East is on the spot – should he play a diamond or a club? On a diamond back, declarer can ruff in dummy and pass the heart queen, pitching a diamond or a club. Should West continue with a trump, declarer can set up dummy's long heart by ruffing and has the ace of clubs for entry, making seven spade tricks, two hearts and a club. If West taps the dummy a second time, declarer again sets up the fifth heart, which West is able to ruff at the expense of his (now) trump trick. Declarer makes eight spade tricks, one heart and one club on that defence. Finally, if West leads a club when in with his heart honour, declarer plays as before, taking a second diamond ruff after setting up the fifth heart.

If, instead, East tries a club at trick three, declarer wins with the ace. Then the heart jack, pitching a minor-suit card, to West's king. West denies declarer the opportunity to ruff two diamonds by leading a second trump. Now only nine tricks are available for declarer.

We did not get to see the play in four spades as three spades was the contract at the other table. While the defender returned a diamond, not a club, after winning with the heart ace, declarer played safely for nine tricks.

The final was between Short, Goodman, Alex Gipson and Paul Gipson, who were undefeated, and Seligman. Short led throughout the match until the second-last board.

Dealer South. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Starkowski	Paul Gipson	Kwiecien	Alex Gipson
—	—	—	1♥
Pass	2♣ ¹	Pass	3♦ ²
Pass	3♥ ³	Pass	4♦ ⁴
Pass	4NT ⁵	Pass	5♥ ⁶
Pass	5♠ ⁷	Pass	5NT ⁸
Pass	7♦	Pass	Pass

1. FG or clubs
2. 15+ HCP, 5/5 in hearts/diamonds
3. Relay
4. 3=5=5=0
5. RKCB for diamonds
6. 2 key cards, no queen of diamonds
7. King ask
8. Heart king

North knew, counting the high-card points, that South had to hold the heart queen or spade queen to take care of his third heart. The grand slam had odds of success of more than 80 percent with diamonds to split 2-2 or hearts to split 3-2 or the smaller chance of long diamonds to be with long hearts. West believed the auction. Perhaps he had played this pair before, and refrained from leading the ace of clubs, choosing instead a trump. Thus, the contract was doomed to fail.

At the other table, the contract was five hearts, just making, for an undeserved gain of 13 IMPs. That was enough for Seligman to win by 5 IMPs. North/South can consider themselves unlucky to lose the tournament here, but perhaps they might win an award for best-bid deal!



CONFESSIONS OF A BRIDGE ADDICT (2)

Joseph Silver, Hampstead, Québec

(Originally published in Bridge Winners)

It has been three weeks (since Confessions 1), and a frozen (-22 degrees Celsius) Montréal is still closed. Here I sit, an old man in his eighties (*Joey will never be an old man, no matter his age – Ed.*), isolated at home with nowhere to go except down memory lane. So, with very little else to do, I'll continue my journey.

I have always been someone who read a lot, so in 1959, when I heard there was a monthly bridge magazine, I subscribed and, more than 60 years later, I am still a subscriber to *The Bridge World*, my favourite magazine.

Of course, at the time, I didn't understand everything written there (I was much too young, bridge-wise), but that did not matter, I still devoured every issue. In the early nineteen-sixties, I also subscribed to *Bridge Magazine*, a British publication, and there I read about the talented Adam "Plum" Meredith and his penchant for psyching. Well, I was sold, and began psyching at every opportunity. Not that I was always

successful, but I was young (very young), and it was a lot of fun!

When I grew up (bridge-wise), I became a lot more discerning, but psyching became a very-effective part of my repertoire.

Most bridge books in those days were basic how-to texts, and VERY, VERY boring. So, imagine my pleasure (about 1962) when Jacques Guertin showed me a new book he had obtained, Terence Reese's *Master Play*, an eye-opener when it came to bridge and bridge books. It showed me that bridge books could be both entertaining and instructive.

After becoming a Junior Master, I wanted to move up in class, eventually to reach the ultimate rank of Life Master, a goal shared by all my bridge buddies. That meant master points, lots of master points, and that meant hitting the tournament trail. At every opportunity possible, Jacques Guertin, Ray Jotcham, Doug Fraser and I would travel throughout Vermont, and upper-New York state, playing mostly in Sectionals, chasing those elusive master points. The Sunday Board-a-Match teams were our most-successful event because, bad as we were, the locals were worse and, since BAM teams is the bridge event that runs truest to form, we won often.

However, when it came to Montréal, it was an entirely different matter, and it wasn't until 1969 that I won my first Regional tournament event, which was also the first tournament in Montréal I had ever won! By late spring of 1963, when I finished my undergraduate degree, I was halfway to my goal!

During that time, I got fixed up in a Mixed Pairs with a Life Master! I was actually going to play with a real flesh-and-blood Life Master. I was so excited, I could hardly sleep the night before the tournament. My partner turned out to be a nice little old lady, and I learned that day that Life Masters did not walk on water.

Bridge was consuming my life in those early days, but it was getting time to decide what I wanted to do with my life when I grew up. Coming from a nice upper-middle-class Jewish family, making my living by playing rubber bridge or running a bridge club (in those ancient times, tournament bridge pros did not exist), no matter how much I loved it, just was not 'in the cards'. My middle-class self-esteem would not allow it. Since I could not stand the sight of blood, that left law school as my only option, but to get into law school I needed a B.A. and I was in Science, so, in 1961, I transferred from Science to Arts. I had taken more Arts than Science courses in my first two years, so I was able to switch from second-year Science to

Continued on page 14...



IBPA Column Service

Tim Bourke, Canberra



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

1089. Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

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

This deal came up in a BBO session against robots. Instead of leading the king of clubs, West led his trump – as those of that ilk do with excessive frequency. This time, the lead proved to be rather awkward compared to declarer's receiving the 'obvious' lead of the king of clubs.

Declarer took the trump in hand with the queen and led a low diamond towards the queen. West rose with the king of diamonds and shifted to the king of clubs. After winning the trick with his bare ace, declarer led a second diamond to dummy's queen and East's ace. East continued with a trump, which declarer took in dummy with the king. Rather than ruff a club back to hand, declarer led a low heart to the two, ten and West's queen. After ruffing West's continuation of the queen of clubs, declarer ruffed his remaining diamond in with dummy's last trump.

Declarer led the heart seven from dummy and, when East followed low, he played the nine from hand. When that held, declarer drew the last trump and claimed ten tricks – six trumps, two hearts, a diamond ruff in dummy and the ace of clubs.

While this deal offered only a minor challenge for declarer, it was vital for declarer to take the heart finesse while in dummy with the king of trumps.

1090. Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

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

West led the ace of hearts and, once that held, continued with the queen of hearts, which East ruffed. Declarer took East's king of clubs return with dummy's ace in case East had begun with six clubs. Declarer then paused to form a plan.

As declarer would always have ten tricks if diamonds were three-two, he turned his attention to dealing with a four-one split. The only hope then would be if East held at least four clubs; in that case, declarer would have to make sure to isolate the club menace in East's hand. Accordingly, declarer continued with a low trump to his king. After cashing his queen of trumps, declarer led a club. East won and exited with the jack of diamonds, rather than help declarer by playing another club.

After winning with his ace of diamonds, declarer led a low trump to dummy's ace and ruffed a club back to hand, reducing East to holding the guards in both minors. Now declarer led the jack of trumps and threw a low diamond from dummy. What could East do? It was a three-card ending and East could not keep both three diamonds and the queen of clubs. In practice, East threw a diamond and declarer had the balance with three diamond tricks.

East would have done no better exiting with the jack of diamonds at trick three. Declarer would have won in hand, drawn trumps and ducked a club. After taking a second diamond exit in hand, a trump, discarding a diamond from dummy, would have left East with no winning option.

The damage to the defence was not done at trick three – it was at trick one! Any non-heart lead would have seen the defenders prevail.

1091. Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

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

This deal came up in a team game and both North/South pairs reached the small slam in spades, played by South. At both tables, West led the four of trumps.

At the first table, declarer won the first two tricks with the ace and king of trumps. Next, he cashed the ace and king of diamonds and led his remaining diamond toward dummy's jack. West's encouraging heart discard was not a welcome sight. East took dummy's eight with the ten and exited with the two of hearts. Declarer had no choice other than to play the queen if he wanted to make his contract. Alas, West produced the king of hearts and declarer claimed eleven tricks, down one.

This plan had over a 90% chance of success and declarer rated himself unlucky. However, that was not the best line, as the declarer at the other table demonstrated. After drawing trumps at tricks one and two with his ace and dummy's jack, this declarer cashed the ace and king of clubs and ruffed dummy's last club. Next, he led a low trump to dummy's ten and a low diamond from dummy. When East followed low, declarer played his nine. When that held, declarer had twelve tricks. However, that was the limit as the diamonds were not three-three and the king of hearts was wrong.

Note that if the nine of diamonds had lost to the ten, West would have been endplayed. A red-suit return would have given declarer his twelfth trick with either the queen of hearts or in diamonds, as the jack and eight of diamonds

would have been equals against the queen. Of course, a club would have surrendered a ruff-sluff.

1092. Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

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

1. RKCB
2. Two key cards and the queen of spades

As North/South were using a two-over-one approach, three spades was a slam try. When South showed a diamond control, North checked on key cards and bid the small slam in spades.

West had to find a lead. He judged that trying for a forcing defence by leading a club was pointless. Instead, he led his singleton diamond, hoping to disrupt declarer's transportation.

Declarer won the first trick in hand with the king of diamonds and led the king of trumps, holding the trick as East discarded a diamond. Declarer continued with the queen of trumps, but West followed with a low spade and East threw a club.

Declarer paused to consider what to do next. Playing another trump now would see West win and return a club, forcing declarer to try to return to hand with a diamond or a heart ruff to draw the last trump. Neither option appealed to declarer so, instead, he cashed the ace and king of hearts, followed by the ace and king of clubs, discarding his remaining heart. Only then did he play dummy's eight of trumps to his ten.

West took this with the ace and could do no better than exit with a club. Declarer ruffed low in hand, drew West's last trump, and claimed twelve tricks – five trumps, two hearts, three diamonds and two clubs, thanks to the "Dentist's Coup" of cashing the heart and club winners in dummy before playing a third round of trumps.

Declarer's only comment was, "Six notrump would have been easier!"

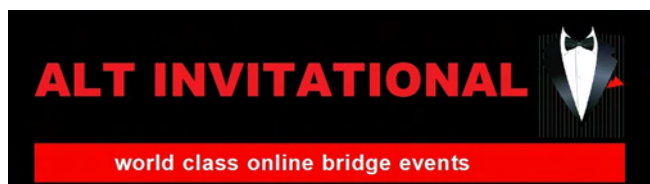
third-year Arts without too much difficulty, although I had to take both French, (at which I was terrible) and Latin (which I had never taken before).

I graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1962, but I had been a mediocre student, with less than stellar marks. That mattered little since, luckily for me, the bar to getting into Law School in those days was not very high. Basically, you had to spell your full name correctly on the application form in order to be admitted (unlike Medical School, which demanded first-class marks). Later on, admission to Law School got a lot tougher.

To digress a bit, in the mid-eighties, I was a criminal trial lawyer with some 15 years experience, when a bridge buddy of mine, Steven ‘Scoop’ Cooper, told me he was applying to Law School, and he had to take an entrance exam to get in. On a lark, I decided to take the exam with him, the result being that he passed and got in to McGill Law School, whereas I failed the exam! The Law was never one of my strong points.

So, in 1962, I entered McGill Law School. There was the usual first-day law-school drivel, the Dean saying, “Look to the right of you, then to the left of you – one or more of you is not getting into second year.” Also, notably, in a class of some 80 hopefuls, there were only five females; today, more than half the students are female, a hopeful sign for my beloved profession.

In those times, the big question for people of my generation was, “Where were you?” when you heard the news. On Friday, November 22, 1963, I was in the law library working on some sort of paper, and I remember a classmate of mine, Eric Smith, entering the library to announce that President John F. Kennedy had been assassinated. We thought he was kidding but, unfortunately, he was not! For me, the only reassuring thing about those troubled times was that the Vanderbilt Bridge Club was only a block away, less than a five-minute walk from McGill Law School. **(To be continued – maybe.)**



Alt Best Declarer Play of the Year

Martin Cantor

Hamm, North Rhine-Westphalia, Germany

The Alt events decided to offer ‘best-played’ deals for 2021 in three categories: declarer play, defence and

bidding. The winner in the “Declarer Play of the Year” category went to Andy Stark of New York for this effort:

Board 2. Dealer East NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Andrew Stark	Gilad Altshuler	Franco Baseggio	Dani Cohen
—	—	1♣	Pass
1♥	1♠	Pass ¹	Pass
Double	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♠	Double	Pass	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♥	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♣	Pass
4♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. Fewer than 3 hearts

North led his two high spades and continued with a third, the eight, attempting to weaken declarer’s trump holding. Stark discarded a club from the dummy and ruffed in hand. He led a trump to the jack and queen. South shifted to the five of diamonds to the nine, jack and ace. Declarer cashed the ace of hearts, led a club to the ace and pulled the last two trumps with the king. The king of diamonds drew the two, six and seven.

<p>♠ — ♥ 9 ♦ Q ♣ 9 3</p>	<p>♠ 4 3 2 ♥ — ♦ — ♣ 10</p> <p>♠ — ♥ — ♦ 8 6 ♣ K J</p> <p>♠ — ♥ — ♦ 10 3 ♣ Q 6</p>
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Declarer had an almost-certain inferential count: he knew that, initially, North held six spades, three hearts and two diamonds, thus two clubs. When he cashed the nine of hearts and discarded dummy’s jack of clubs, South was criss-cross squeezed. When South discarded a club, declarer led a club to the king, dropping the ten and queen, then a diamond to the queen allowed him to take the nine of clubs for the game-going trick. *(Elegant, but there are other ways to succeed. – Ed.)*



The fifth of the USBF's JLall series ended in January with DONNER (Gary Donner/Janice Molson/Sandra Rimstedt and Joe Grue/Brad Moss) defeating LALL (John Diamond/Brian Platnick, Mark Feldman/Chip Martel, Hemant Lall/Peter Weichsel) by 132-109 IMPs. Let's look at two deals, one each from the semifinal and final.

SF Set 3. Board 31. Dealer South. NS Vul.

♠ 10 9 8
♥ —
♦ Q J 9 4 2
♣ Q 10 6 3 2

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

♠ K 7
♥ 9 8 7 5 4 2
♦ 8 7 6 5 3
♣ —

West	North	East	South
Moss	Martel	Grue	Feldman
—	—	—	Pass
1♣ ¹	Pass	1♥ ²	Pass
1♠ ³	Pass	1NT ⁴	Pass
2♣ ⁵	Pass	2♦ ⁶	Pass
2♥ ⁵	Pass	2♠ ⁷	Pass
2NT ⁵	Pass	4♦ ⁸	Pass
4NT ⁹	Pass	5♠ ¹⁰	Pass
6NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. Strong
2. 12+ HCP, artificial, usually not 5 hearts
3. Starting serious questions
4. 5+ spades, but not 5-3-3-2
5. Asking
6. 4+ clubs
7. 6+ spades, exactly 4 clubs
8. 7-4 in spades and clubs, possible void in diamonds
9. RKC in hearts(!)
10. 6 controls (A=2, K=1)

After very good systemic bidding and judgement, Brad Moss could almost count 12 tricks in six notrump with good spade distribution or a club split or some squeeze.

At the other table, Kit Woolsey and Bart Bramley reached the 'safer' contract of six hearts (ruff a diamond), but hearts were 6-0 (0.74%) and they went down one trick; 14 IMPs to DONNER.

On the following deal, you are North.

Final Set 4. Board 47. Dealer South. Neither Vul.

♠ K J
♥ A K 5 4 3 2
♦ K Q J
♣ J 8

♠ 10 5 4 2
♥ J
♦ 10 5 4 2
♣ K 7 5 2

The bidding was:

West	North	East	South
Platnick	Moss	Diamond	Grue
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	1♥	2♠ ¹	3♥
4♠	Double	Pass	Pass
Pass			

1. Intermediate

South, your partner, leads the ten of hearts. You win with your ace and lead the king of diamonds (asking for standard count), six, nine, two. Now may be the moment of truth.

It is always a good habit to try to count the hands. If East has six spades and two hearts, it means that he has five cards in the minor suits. If declarer has only two diamonds and three clubs and you continue by playing two more rounds of diamonds, you subject your partner to a minor-suit squeeze in the last three tricks in the minors. (Declarer ruffs the third diamond, ruffs a heart, takes the spade finesse, draws trumps and runs spades.)

So, play a club (the eight may be better, or not) after you play the diamond king, before it's too late.

When Moss played three rounds of diamonds, it was not too difficult for John Diamond to squeeze South in the minors.

At the other table, after the same defence, four spades went down when declarer rejected the spade finesse, cashing the ace on the first round of the suit; 12 IMPs to LALL.

The full deal:

♠ K J
♥ A K 5 4 3 2
♦ K Q J
♣ J 8

♠ 10 5 4 2
♥ J
♦ 10 5 4 2
♣ K 7 5 2

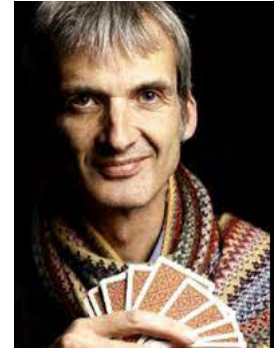
♠ A Q 9 8 6 3
♥ Q 6
♦ 7 6
♣ A 9 6

♠ 7
♥ 10 9 8 7
♦ A 9 8 3
♣ Q 10 4 3



Real Life

Larry Cohen
Delray Beach, FL



Country Life

Andrew Robson
London

The 2005 Spring Nationals were held in Pittsburgh. The following deal is from our (SCHWARTZ team) semifinal match against the SCHNEIDER team.

If you'd like to try it as a declarer-play problem, cover the East/West cards before reading on.

Dealer West. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Cohen	Wold	Berkowitz	Passell
2♠	3♣	Pass	3♥
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

At both tables, after West opened with a weak two-bid in spades, the South players reached four hearts. West led the top three spades, RHO playing high-low to show an even number. What should declarer do on the third round of spades?

When faced with this problem, my table opponent, Mike Passell, found the solution. He discarded a diamond from dummy. Now the defense could do nothing to defeat four hearts. Even on a trump shift, declarer can ruff a diamond, take two discards on the clubs, ruff a club with the ten of hearts and draw trumps to make 420.

However, our team lost 10 IMPs when, surprisingly, my expert teammate failed to find the winning line. He ruffed the third spade in dummy, East overruffed and the contract had to fail by two tricks on a trump return.

Nevertheless, I can't give my teammate all the blame. Had I led a trump at trick one, two or three, we also could have defeated four hearts.

We won the match despite this setback.

France's Alain Levy, who has been at the top of world bridge for forty-odd years, is one of the most charming of players. Winner of the Bermuda Bowl (World Team Championship) and two consecutive Olympiads, Levy is a quintessentially modest man, who simply loves the game.

Watch Levy, South, thread his way to ten tricks on this four hearts that looks doomed by poor splits in the red suits.

Dealer South. NS Vul.

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

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

1. Slightly pushy, as he was planning to rebid only two hearts. The singleton spade and the partial diamond fit have upgraded his hand, however.
2. I'm unconvinced by this bid. My general view is not to support with low singletons, on the grounds that partner will not play you for a void, so if all he needs is a low singleton in support, he can go it alone. I would prefer a four-diamond bid, leading to an easy five-diamond game.

West led the king of spades, which held the trick, and switched at trick two to a club. Declarer won with dummy's ace and ruffed a spade. He cashed the king of clubs and ruffed a club with dummy's singleton heart (so dummy did offer useful support, after all the criticism

I was giving). He ruffed a third spade, crossed to the ace of diamonds and led a fourth spade, East ruffing with the eight (best), declarer overruffing with the knave.

Declarer had scored seven tricks and held ace-king-five of hearts and knave-six of diamonds in hand. West held his four hearts and a spade. Declarer cashed the ace of hearts and led a diamond towards dummy's king. West had to ruff – or declarer would have ten winners – and had to lead a heart (on a spade continuation, declarer simply makes the five of hearts). However, declarer won with the king and led his last diamond. West ruffed, but declarer scored the last trick with his low heart. Game made.

Fighting the Law

Herman De Wael, Wilrijk, Belgium

Burn's Law (after David Burn, English international player and humourist) states that it is important to have more trumps than the opponents. Board 19 of the Mixed Teams at the last year's Pula Festival showed that this Law is not always true:

Board 19. Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Tine</i>		<i>Steven</i>	
<i>Dobbels</i>		<i>De Donder</i>	
—	—	—	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♥ ¹	Pass
2♠	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♦ ²	Pass
4♥ ³	Pass	4NT ⁴	Pass
5♥ ⁵	Pass	7♥	All Pass

1. Game-forcing
2. Control
3. Heart control; also promises a control in clubs
4. RKCB
5. 2 key cards without the spade queen

After the five-heart reply to Blackwood, Steven De Donder could almost count 13 tricks: five hearts, five spades, after clearing them with a ruff, the ace of diamonds, the ace of clubs and, he reasoned, partner had to hold

hold either a minor-suit king or a seventh spade.

It was not the first time that a grand slam could be made with only six trumps, but it is very rare to see that no other grand slam can be made (the spade queen being offside).

Picturing Partner's Hand

David Grainger, Etobicoke, ON

Playing IMPs at favourable vulnerability in an online team event, my partner Joel Wooldridge held the following uninspiring collection as South:

♠	Q 10 9 4
♥	10 9 8 7 2
♦	8 4
♣	K 6

He was about to have more to do than one might expect with this hand.

The auction starts with a pass on your right and follows with pass by you, one heart on your left, double from partner and two hearts on your right. It doesn't sound like partner has very many hearts. You face your first decision – bid two spades or pass. Joel chose two spades since his hand is very suitable in support of spades opposite a normal takeout double that holds four spades and short hearts.

The opponents cease bidding, but your partner tries four hearts. Well, you knew about his heart shortage already and, obviously, he has a good hand, but you don't have much – so you attempt to sign off in four spades, expecting the auction to be over. Partner, however, has other ideas and finds yet another call with five diamonds. Four hearts obviously agreed spades, so what is partner doing to us bidding on when he seems to be lacking a club control? It's easy enough to bide our time with five hearts – which will clearly get our club control across to partner, who now says he's done all he can with five spades and, here we are, with our final decision.

What is partner's hand and what is he looking for? Well, he knows you took a free call and have a club control, but he is still willing to give you room. Is he looking for the queen of spades or could he need the ace of clubs or even more? It's time to put his hand together. For once, you don't even need to worry about your tempo, because if you pass, the auction will be over and if you bid, it can only be six spades since a grand slam is out of the question lacking the club ace.

He must have no hearts, and can't hold too many clubs, since they are clearly not very good and he wants us to bid a slam. His spades must be headed by the ace-king as we have the queen, and to force to the five level, he won't be anticipating any diamond losers – almost surely having the ace-king-queen in some holding, or perhaps

ace-king-to-seven. If he was five-five or six-five, he would have started with a Michaels Cue-bid, so that means he must be six-four or seven-four – but which is it, and which is his long suit?

Joel decided the hands with six or seven spades would probably have bid slam over five hearts, and with the six-card diamond hand he'd have needed to catch too much to drive to the five level on his own. And, anyway, he would have passed four spades. That left me with (hopefully) something along the lines of ♠AKxx, ♥—, ♦AKQxxxx, ♣xx. He backed his judgement and bid six spades.

The full deal:

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

Only if West held jack-fourth or -fifth in spades would the slam be in jeopardy.

This was worth 11 IMPs as, at the other table, South did not bid two spades after the same start to the auction and North contented himself with a jump to five diamonds, ending the auction and making six because the club ace was onside.



Board 6. Dealer East. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Anylir</i>	DBC BOS	dbc06	M_A_N
—	—	INT ¹	Pass
2♦ ²	Double	2♥ ³	Pass
3♦ ⁴	Double	Redouble ⁵	Pass
3♥	Pass	3♠ ⁶	Pass
3NT ⁷	Pass	4♣ ⁶	Pass
4♥	Pass	4NT ⁸	Pass
5♦ ⁹	Pass	7♥	pass
Pass	Pass		

1. 14-16
2. Transfer
3. 3 hearts
4. 6 hearts, FG
5. Diamond ace
6. Control-bids
7. No shortage
8. RKCB
9. 0 or 3 key cards

Rury Andhani (BBO handle dbc06), women's national team player, paired with Conny Sumampou, just came out as the winner of the Zone 6 Selection Trial last December. In an online team practice at the Djarum Bridge Club, she managed to take advantage of the information provided by her opponent so that she was able to produce superb quality on this board.

M. Bambang Hartono's (DBC BOS) first double showed diamonds, as is normal. But the second double shouldn't have been necessary. Andhani read this as providing additional information – perhaps that additional information showed North's holding four spades and a good hand in context. (Hugh Kelsey would have said that North was daisy picking.)

South led the nine of diamonds. Andhani played the ten from dummy and won with the ace over the jack from North. Based on the information she got, she thought that North held six diamonds, four spades and the king of clubs). She immediately made a plan to execute a triple squeeze against North. For that, she played the ace of clubs and ran trumps so that this position was created:

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

When Andhani led the six of hearts from the dummy, Bambang Hartono was triple-squeezed among spades,

diamonds and clubs. A spade discard surrenders two extra tricks immediately and a diamond or club pitch allows the winner in that suit to squeeze North again in spades and the minor guard he retained. North's only hope was that South had the eight of diamonds, a forlorn hope on the actual lie.

At the other table, the same contract was reached, but declarer did not find the winning line and was down one, 20 IMPs to Andhani's team.

**INSPIRED BY
TRUE EVENTS**
Elena Ström, Stockholm

BBO is an amazing platform, a huge meeting place uniting players from all countries, regardless of skill level. We have all visited this international website and experienced both spectacular game outcomes and hilarious misunderstandings.

The first thing I do when I face a new partner is quickly check the profile which, unfortunately, is often empty. No problem if name and country are private, but things get worse when even the system line is void. The prevailing number of players define themselves as experts. The beginners and the intermediate players are extremely friendly. They seldom forget to wish partner good luck (glp) and praise him (wdp) even when he has failed to bring home a contract where every other declarer has made an overtrick. English is the official language on BBO, but it can sometimes cause confusion.

Meet 2DHS=W

On one occasion, the dealer at my table (who was from Sweden) paused a little and after examining partner's profile wrote: "Your declaration is not complete." Declaration is the Swedish word for convention card. The partner, who was from Bulgaria, seemed perplexed. He had already written in his profile 2DHS=W and had apparently nothing else to declare. I could not interpret this coded formula either and decided to ask my partner if he had a clue. He was silent and when I tried to check his profile, I then noticed that I was playing with a Robot. I left the room and, an hour later, in a bout of clarity, I realized that those letters meant two diamonds, hearts and spades are weak twos.

Exhausted Repertoire

One day, playing with a very amiable partner, I held this interesting hand (spots approximate) and started

with one spade. ♠A87632 ♥K ♦8 ♣AKQJ10. Partner bid two spades and I visualized a possible slam on that board. To control-bid in this case seemed the best alternative but I was not sure a control-bid might be one of his slam-seeking gadgets. After two hours playing and chatting, my verbal repertoire was utterly exhausted. So, I bid four clubs and wrote in the chat box: "Are you ready to fly?" My partner, a well-behaved gentleman from Northern Ireland, answered quickly, "No," and signed off hastily in four spades. He did not have first-round control in either red suit, and we reached the right contract but, afterwards, in a private chat, he wondered what the real meaning of my ambiguous question was.

Friendly Creatures

The bottom line is that we should consider ourselves lucky to have these Robots at hand. They promptly fill in the empty places at the tables, do not make any fuss or ask unnecessary questions. They are friendly creatures and do not talk. Though I should not be surprised if someday a Robot whispers in my ear: "Excuse me, are you vaccinated?"



USBC Trials Quiz Erdal Sidar, Istanbul

Here are a couple of problems from last year's United States Bridge Championship Trials.

QUESTIONS

1. Round 18. Board 22. Dealer East. EW Vul.

♠ A Q 7 5 4 2
♥ 8
♦ A 9 7
♣ 10 7 3

♠ K
♥ A Q 9 4 2
♦ K Q 10 8 6 2
♣ 4

Consider how your partnership would bid these hands in your own bidding methods...

- a.) After East passes and bids two clubs at his second turn.
- b.) After East opens three clubs and West passes.

2. Round 8. Board 56. Dealer West. Neither Vul.

♠ Q 9 8 7 4 3
 ♥ 8 5
 ♦ A 6 3
 ♣ J 3

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Berkowitz</i>	<i>Mahmood</i>	<i>Campanile</i>	<i>M. Rosenberg</i>
Pass	Pass	2♠	Double
3♠	3NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

As East, you lead the seven of spades. West covers dummy's ten with the jack and declarer follows with the five. When West continues with the spade six, declarer wins with the ace, discarding the eight of diamonds from dummy. Then he goes on by playing the two of diamonds to dummy's queen and dummy's last diamond. Partner follows with the five and jack respectively and declarer tops that with the king.

How do you defend?

ANSWERS

1. Let's look at Peter Weichsel's and Hemant Lall's bidding in the BRAMLEY vs. GU match:

West	North	East	South
<i>Sheng</i>	<i>Weichsel</i>	<i>Wei</i>	<i>Lall</i>
—	—	Pass	1♦
Pass	1♠	2♣	2♥
3♣	3♦	Pass	3♥
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♣
Pass	4NT ¹	Pass	5♠ ²
Pass	6♦	Pass	Pass
Pass			

1. RKCB

2. 2 key cards plus the diamond queen

The full deal:

♠ A Q 7 5 4 2
 ♥ 8
 ♦ A 9 7
 ♣ 10 7 3

♠ J 8 6 3
 ♥ K J 6
 ♦ J 5 4
 ♣ A 8 2

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

♠ K
 ♥ A Q 9 4 2
 ♦ K Q 10 8 6 2
 ♣ 4

At the other table, North/South declared in four spades, just making; 11 IMPs to BRAMLEY.

2. It looks as though declarer might have made an error by discarding a diamond from the dummy. Here's the full deal:

♠ A K 5
 ♥ J 3
 ♦ K 9 4 2
 ♣ 10 8 6 4

♠ J 6 2
 ♥ K 7 6 2
 ♦ J 10 5
 ♣ Q 9 2

♠ Q 9 8 7 4 3
 ♥ 8 5
 ♦ A 6 3
 ♣ J 3

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

Even seeing all four hands, it not easy to see the danger of playing a red card. Also, playing a spade is pointless because you have no entry. So, you must play a club, but which club? If you play the jack, declarer takes the trick and plays the ten of hearts; if West plays low, the game is over, but also if West takes the ten with the king. In either case, the defence could not take more than one spade, one heart and two diamond tricks. If West does not take the heart king, declarer overtakes with the jack, cashes the king of spades and plays two more clubs, giving a trick to West. After taking his diamond, West must lead a heart giving declarer two spades, three hearts, one diamond and three club tricks.

But what would have happened if East had shifted to the three of clubs instead of the jack? If declarer ducks, West takes his queen, cashes the jack of diamonds and exits with a black card – there are no more than eight tricks for the declarer. If declarer takes the low club shift with the ace and plays a heart, West can take his king and play the nine of clubs to the jack. Again, there are no more than eight tricks for declarer.

At the table, Campanile, East, shifted to a heart at the critical moment and 7 IMPs went to LEBOWITZ, who won the match 32-13.

Had declarer discarded a club on the second spade, no defence could have beaten three notrump against optimal declarer play.

THE BRIDGE TO HEALTH
Malgorzata Maruszkin, Warsaw

The Reality: The pandemic still rules as new variants of COVID appear every now and then. Fortunately, we now have vaccines, and the mortality rate – although frightening – is slowing. However, the consequences of the disease are unlimited and include cognitive function impairment, and diminished memory and concentration capacity. And, these effects are long-lasting.

It is estimated that the above-mentioned ailments affect, on average, about 50% of people convalescing from COVID. Until now, we have had 5,000,000 cases. Half of that means a lot of people adversely affected. Even if we presume that only one in ten will be interested in therapy, 250,000 is still a big number.

Therapy: Bridge for Beginners (it applies also to experienced bridge players, as I will explain further): four persons at a table, everyone gets 13 cards, as in normal bridge. At the beginning, the first lesson is about the cards, naming the suits and the ranks of the cards. Then – a game based on two rules:

1. follow suit
2. the highest card wins.

Depending on the ailment's intensity, lessons may start at 15-30 minutes, then get longer. The second lesson, for those who used to play, might differentiate the suits: majors, minors. The third is to remind players of points and, maybe, to start the auction. It all goes step by step, depending on the level of participants. For beginners, we continue with the basics, counting points, slowly, but steadily.

As we all know, bridge enhances concentration levels, memory, cooperation and communication skills. As counting is needed, the basics come back to the brain that used to count and remember.

For convalescents, both young and elderly, it is a great opportunity – even if they do not play bridge later on, their other skills will improve.

Last but not least: I had COVID, a very mild version, unnoticed at the time. The bad started two or three months afterward. I remembered that I used to play bridge, but what the hell were the rules? I woke up at night wondering which suit is a major; how many points is an ace worth, and so on. I remembered that 12 points meant something, but – what? And notrump, what was that? That lasted a week or two, then I remembered and started to play again. But maybe similar ailments might be cured by teaching/playing bridge?

We have scientific results concerning bridge and health. They suggest that bridge can be a dementia-prevention strategy as well as therapy for Mildly Cognitive Impaired people. In fact, the results from our pilot study confirm earlier findings of M.C. Diamond of the University of California, Berkeley. Moreover, tests performed by the Bridge to the People Foundation of Poland, initiated by Marek Malysa, tell us that playing bridge reduces the level of depression among patients of Social Welfare Houses and significantly increases their wellbeing.

Speaking of depression, researchers are warning that, after COVID, we will have a dark time of depression pandemic. As we have this tool, bridge, that can also prevent or reduce depression and self-induced pain, we should use it.

Why not contact health organizations with such an idea? It cannot hurt. We are in, Margaret Maruszkin and Marek Malysa.

It All Depends...

Roberto Martinez, Montevideo

Suppose you hold these North/South cards...

♠ Q 8 4
 ♥ 8 7 6 3
 ♦ Q 7 4
 ♣ K Q 4

♠ A K J 10 9 3 2
 ♥ A K 9 5
 ♦ K 2
 ♣ —

The contract is six spades. West leads the two of clubs.

The first thing we have to know is the bidding, to decide on a line of play. A three-club pre-empt in first position is not the same as a three-club overcall on the sequence pass-one spade-pass-two spades.

Our two auctions might have been:

West	North	East	South
—	—	3♣	Double
Pass	3NT	Pass	6♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

...or...

West	North	East	South
—	—	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♠	3♣	6♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

...or something similar.

To make six spades, we need the heart suit to be three-two and we need to guess who has the ace of diamonds. With a three-club preempt by East, we think about the diamond ace in the West hand, while an overcall of three clubs by East, after passing, can show this kind of hand: ♠ xx, ♥ xx, ♦ Axx, ♣ AJ10xxx.

The first card you play decides the contract: you have to play a low club, because the king or queen can lose the contract if East has the prescience to duck it. So, let's decide the location of the ace of diamonds depending on the auction.

Slam 1: with a 3♣ preemptive opening bid

The first thing is to play a low club and ruff East's card with the nine of spades or higher. At trick two, play a low diamond to the queen; if West plays the ace, we have two discards for the heart losers. If West plays a low diamond, you win the trick with the queen and play trumps – the king and the three to the eight, then continue with the king of clubs. When East covers with the ace, you ruff and go to dummy with the queen of spades to discard the diamond king on the queen of

clubs. Then look for the three-two heart distribution, and claim the contract.

Slam 2: with a 3♣ overcall

Here, it is necessary to find the spades tw-one. Trick one is the same, then you lead the ten of trumps to the queen, keeping the two and three for the eight and four. Then play a diamond from dummy to the king; if you win the trick, return to dummy by playing a spade to the eight, keeping the spade deuce for a third entry. Continue with the king of clubs, ruffing the ace high. Now you re-enter the dummy, using your spade two to the four, and play the queen of clubs to discard your low diamond. Then, wait for a favourable three-two heart split.

NEWS & VIEWS



Wroclaw

In an official statement from the World Bridge Federation on 29th March, 2022: “The World Bridge Federation regrets to advise that, while its preference is for Wroclaw as the location for the World Bridge Series, due to the current circumstances in the region, all options regarding the dates and location for the event are being considered. Further developments will be published as soon as possible.”

Alexander Hydes

Alexander Hydes has been convicted of self-kibitzing by the English Bridge Union (EBU). See <https://www.ebu.co.uk/article/new-disciplinary-conviction-9> for details of the case.

The EBU Disciplinary Committee imposed sanctions on Hydes of:

- (i) a ban on becoming a player member of the EBU for a period of four years and six months and
- (ii) a ten-year ban from playing for England in any representative event.

Hydes appealed the decision – the Appeals Committee upheld the decision of the Disciplinary Committee.

Youth Bridge

The 7th World Youth Transnational Bridge Championships will be held in Salsomaggiore Terme, Italy, from August 7-14, 2022. The Championships will be held at the Palazzo dei Congressi and will consist of Teams and Pairs Championships in all categories as well as an individual Championship. Players in all three events will compete for the Triathlon World Championship and, as in previous editions, the Joan Gerard Awards will be presented. For the first time it will include a series for U-31 players, as

well as the normal U-26 (Open and Women’s) events, U21 and U16 events. More information can be found on the WBF Championship website.

COVID-19 in Reno

Many prominent players who attended the ACBL’s Reno Spring NABC have been diagnosed with COVID, among them David Berkowitz, Louk Verhees, Boye Brogeland, Mike Becker, Sylvia Moss, Steve Robinson, Peter Boyd, Jan Martel, Fred Stewart and Adam Wildavsky. All players at the tournament were vaccinated but mask-wearing was optional. One estimate was that about 15% of players wore a mask.

Berkowitz withdrew from the USAI Senior team for Salsomaggiore and was replaced by Zia Mahmood. Verhees and Brogeland played in Salsomaggiore.

In Salsomaggiore, the players had to have been vaccinated, had to wear a mask in the playing area and had to have their temperature taken before entering the playing area – any player with an elevated temperature was not permitted to enter.

COVID-19 in Salsomaggiore

Many participants in the just-completed World Team Championships in Salsomaggiore came down with COVID at the tournament, too many to list. This unusual situation prompted the WBF to allow replacement players in the knockout stages of their competitions. Play was cancelled on Tuesday, April 5 to allow for COVID testing.

Mea Culpa

I stand corrected. Last month I questioned Marc Smith’s assertion that the Bildes were “The First Family of Danish Bridge”, suggesting that the Schaltzes or the Blaksets might be considered for such a title. The World Team Championships in Salsomaggiore made me reconsider that position.

In Italy, Dennis Bilde was on the Danish Bermuda Bowl Team, with Morten Bilde as NPC. On their Venice Cup team were Dorte Cilleborg Bilde, Lone Bilde and Trine Bilde, all playing in different partnerships. And finally, Bo Lønberg Bilde was the NPC of Denmark’s d’Orsi Trophy team. I’m not aware of any other occasion when six family members played in the same World Championship.

Gunman Acquitted

The gunman accused in the shooting deaths of 13 Microsoft employees of the development team tasked with enhancing and improving the ‘MS Word’ word-processing program was acquitted on April 1, 2022. The jury in the Redmond, Washington court took seven minutes to deliver a unanimous verdict of “Justifiable Homicide”.



ELIGIBILITY & DISCIPLINARY MATTERS

The controversy surrounding the matches forfeited against the Italian Open team during EBL's online Qualifier (for the European Champions' Cup in that case) in August 2021 has resulted in heated debate in the bridge community. In an effort to prevent similar occurrences in the future, the EBL initiated extensive discussions with its member NBOs. A special meeting was held in Paris in December 2021 and the matter figured prominently during the NBO Officers' Seminar in Cyprus earlier this year.

The following is a summary of the conclusions reached:

1. All stakeholders – WBF and Zonal organisations (together “IBOs”), NBOs and Players – must play their part in ensuring that what occurred during the Qualifier will not be repeated.
2. IBOs should provide an agreed sanction structure, covering a range of offenses, that should be adopted by all NBOs in order to avoid wide discrepancies among various bodies.
3. NBOs agreed not to nominate the most controversial players, such as those convicted by an official bridge court of collusive cheating (to be further defined in order to avoid subjectivity) to their National Teams for an additional period beyond any initial sanction.

4. If an NBO feels that it is currently prevented from acting accordingly, it must remove any obstacles, perceived or real, whether it relates to its selection methods or other regulations. Participating in one's national team cannot be a human right!
5. IBOs should, if necessary, include compliance with points (3) and (4) above as a condition for membership.
6. With IBOs and NBOs acting as above, the Players must do their part by accepting the decisions of those bodies, including their Credentials Committees, and abstaining from taking unilateral actions. It is unacceptable for individual players and/or NBOs to pick and choose against whom they want to play.

Firstly, there was little controversy, except perhaps among bridge administrators. As far as I could tell, the players were almost universally in favour of Scotland and all the other players that followed their lead. Where did this 'heated debate' take place?

Point 6 is particularly interesting. It took less than two months for Poland, leading the way, and Sweden, and there may have been others, to unilaterally state that their players would not compete against Russian teams or players in the World Championships and European Championships in 2022, no matter what flag they were flying. Did these statements did not count? They were quickly followed by the WBF and EBL banning Russian players from their 2022 Championships.



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World Bridge Calendar

2022

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 19-24	Novi Sad Bridge Festival	Novi Sad, Serbia	www.facebook.com/novisadbridge
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 22-24	Iberian Bridge Festival	Lisbon, Portugal	www.centrobridge.pt
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 1	Carlow Congress	Carlow, Ireland	www.cbai.com
Apr 29-May 3	Schapiro Spring Fours	Warwick, U.K.	www.ebu.co.uk
Apr 29-May 3	61 st Poznan Meeting	Poznan, Poland	www.pzbs.pl
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 5-6	2nd Gumusluk Bridge Festival	Gumusluk, Turkey	gumuslukbric@gmail.com
May 6-8	Swiss Open	Zurich, Switzerland	www.fsbridge.ch
May 9-13	Barrier Reef Congress	Annandale, Australia	www.abf.com.au
May 13-15	Grand Prix of Kosice	Kosice, Slovakia	www.bridgeclub.sk
May 14-22	22 nd Deutsches Bridgefestival	Wyk-auf-Föhr, Germany	www.bridge-verband.de
May 17-22	34 th Cairo Bridge Festival	Cairo, Egypt	www.egyptbridge.org
May 19-22	Uzlina Bridge Cup	Murighiol-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 16-19	Josefi Tournament	Velden, Austria	www.bridgeaustria.at
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 6-10	Lozenets Bridge Festival	Lozenets, Bulgaria	www.bridge.bg
Jul 8-17	Dansk Bridgefestival	Svendborg, Denmark	www.bridgefestival.dk
Jul 13-17	Kammergut Bridge Days	Gmunden, Austria	www.bridgeaustria.at
Jul 14-24	ACBL Summer NABC	Providence, RI	www.acbl.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 28-30	EuroGames	Nijmegen, Netherlands	www.eurogames20232.eu
Jul 29-Aug 7	Swedish Bridgefestival	Örebro, Sweden	www.svenskbridge.se
Jul 30-Aug 4	Chairman's Cup	Örebro, Sweden	www.svenskbridge.se
Aug 5-13	Norwegian Bridge Festival	Lillehammer, Norway	www.bridgefestival.no
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 Transnational Champs	Salsomaggiore Terme, Italy	www.wordbridge.org
Aug 10-14	Varna Bridge Festival	Varna, Bulgaria	www.bridge.bg
Aug 12-21	Festival Internationale de Bridge	La Baule, France	www.festivalbridgelabaule.com
Aug 19-Sep 3	World Bridge Series	Wroclaw, Poland	www.worldbridge.org
Aug 22-Sep 3	International Bridge Festival	Mamaia, Romania	office@frbridge.ro
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.acbl.org