



BULLETIN

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Editorial

The opinions expressed here are solely those of the Editor, and do not necessarily represent those of the IBPA Executive or its members.

Our Executive Committee has recently gone on a membership drive, attempting to increase membership due to attrition and an ageing membership, as with many other bridge organisations. This membership drive has been both good news and bad news for me as Bulletin editor. The good news is that I have received many worthy articles from new members, some of them quite different from our usual fare. The bad news is that I now have quite a large stockpile of unpublished material waiting to see print.

I mention this as an appeal to those of you who have sent articles to me and have yet to see them in the Bulletin. Please be patient; I have not forgotten you. You may have to wait a few months to see them published.

Lately, I've been pondering retirement as Bulletin editor. About three years ago, I suggested to Barry Rigal and Per Jannersten that they put in place some sort of succession plan. I proposed that they, and I, form a search committee for my successor. By the time Wrocław is concluded, I shall have completed 20 years as IBPA Bulletin Editor. Which means that we've had just two editors in the past 40 years, Patrick Jourdain and me. Pretty incredible – a feat exceeded, as far as I know, only by *The Bridge World*, with Edgar Kaplan and Jeff Rubens. Both my brain and my body are becoming a bit creaky, so I'm thinking that at the end of 2022, it will be time to bring in a new, younger, more vital person to take the helm.

So, if you're interested, please let Barry, Per or me know. A new editor will need the approval of the Executive, but Barry's vote will carry a lot of weight. As he puts it, "The most-important characteristic of the editor will be his/her ability to get along well with the president." It is particularly important to let me know so that, in turn, I can tell you what's involved, to ensure that the new editor would not be coming into the post blind.

Members, please also note that the World Bridge Federation Laws Committee has announced that they are investigating changes to "The Laws of Contract Bridge" to be incorporated in a 2027 edition. The Committee is inviting suggestions from players, administrators, officials, TDs, NBOs and Zones. The committee is particularly interested in suggestions which:

- propose a change to the effect of a law, or
- focus on improvements to the wording of a law.

Please email 2027laws@laikel.com with "2027 Duplicate Bridge Law" and a law number in the subject line. The deadline for submissions is **June 30, 2023**.

This is an excellent chance for we IBPA members to help shape the future direction of the game.

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THE SCHAPIRO SPRING FOURSOMES

Four from the Fours

David Bird, Eastleigh, Hants., U.K.

The Spring Foursomes is England's premier event, attracting many high-ranking European players. Let's see some eventful deals from this year's latter stages.

The VuGraph analysts were kept busy on this three-notrump deal from the quarterfinal between de Botton and Orca:

Dealer South. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Mahmood</i>	<i>Hoftaniska</i>	<i>Crouch</i>	<i>Charlsen</i>
—	—	—	1♣ ¹
Pass	3NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

1. 2+ clubs, natural or balanced outside the one-notrump range

What would you have led from the East hand against three notrump?

Peter Crouch led the jack of clubs, Thor Erik Hoftaniska winning with the king. A diamond to the king was followed by the queen and king of spades. Four diamond tricks were needed, and the learned commentators on Bridge Base VuGraph discussed the possibility of an endplay against East.

When a third spade was led, Crouch discarded the six of hearts. On the fourth spade, declarer discarded the club four and East had to find a discard from the ace of hearts,

jack-third of diamonds and the ace-queen-ten-three of clubs. The defenders had not yet scored a trick. If East threw the three of clubs, he could be thrown in to give declarer a ninth trick in diamonds.

I received several messages from kibitzers. "East must throw the ace of hearts," I was told. That's no good. Declarer will cash the queen of diamonds and throw East in with a club. If he scores four club tricks, he will then have to lead into the ace-ten of diamonds. If, instead, he crosses to partner's eight of clubs on the third round, West will have to concede a ninth trick to declarer's queen of hearts. The same flaw arises if East discards the ten of clubs and keeps the ace of hearts.

Crouch eventually discarded a diamond, and declarer was not tested. At the other table South went one down ... in three diamonds.

GIB cleverly tells us how three notrump can be defeated against declarer's best efforts. East must lead the ace of clubs, apparently, followed by the queen. He can then discard both hearts on the spades. Since dummy has no clubs left, East cannot be thrown on lead.

Andrew Robson read the cards splendidly on Board 4 of the final, between Orca and Hinden:

Dealer West. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Forrester</i>	<i>Robson</i>	<i>Osborne</i>	<i>Allfrey</i>
1♦	1♠	Pass	2♣
2♦	2♠	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♦	Pass	4♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Alexander Allfrey's two-club bid was a transfer to diamonds and therefore showed a sound raise in spades. When Robson signed off in two spades, Allfrey made another try with three clubs. Robson was not good enough for a leap to four spades, but showed a little extra with his three-diamond bid. It was an impressive auction.

The ten-of-diamonds opening lead was covered by the jack and ace. When Robson crossed to the king of spades and called for a low club, Forrester rose with the king and cashed the king of diamonds. He then switched to

the eight of hearts, covered by the jack, king and ace. A club to the queen was followed by a long pause and ... a spade to the nine! When he played the ace-ten of clubs for two heart discards, East ruffed the fourth round. Robson ruffed the heart return, crossed to the queen of spades and threw his last diamond on the club seven. A fine plus 620 was his reward.

How did declarer read the spade position? West's two-diamond rebid and the ten-of-diamonds lead signposted the six-two break there. Forrester's eight-of-hearts switch, covered by the jack and king, suggested that West held the queen-nine-eight of that suit. As for the clubs, a three-three break was required to discard red-suit losers. That left the West hand with 1=3=6=3 shape.

At the other table, Jeffrey Allerton played in four spades after the same first three tricks. He subsequently read the spade suit correctly too, finessing the nine of spades. Can you guess why he nevertheless went down? He made the hard-to-see error of ducking the heart return at trick four, winning the second round.

By way of light relief, we will now see if the two finalists in the Spring Foursomes can avoid bidding a slam with two top losers in a side suit.

Dealer West. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Allfrey	Osborne	Robson	Forrester
Pass	1♦	Pass	1♥
1♠	2♥	4♦ ¹	Pass
4♣	Pass	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♦	Pass	5♥
5♠	Pass	Pass	5NT
Pass	6♥	Pass	Pass

1. Splinter in support of spades

Bidding five-over-five at Game All is not often seen, but five spades would have been only one down. Forrester sensed this and decided that the chance of making six hearts on a spade lead (if the clubs were not controlled) was worth more than the 200 or so that was on offer. However, Allfrey led a club and that was one down.

West	North	East	South
Hinden	Crouch	Jagger	Mahmood
Pass	1♦	Pass	2♦ ¹
Pass	2♥	Pass	3♥ ²
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♥	Pass	4♠
Pass	5♣	Double	Pass
Pass	5♦	Pass	5♥
Pass	6♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Zia's two diamonds (1) was a transfer and his three-heart bid (2) was then forcing to game. On the face of it, his four clubs was a spoof control-bid (a well-known Zia move). It is possible that Chris Jagger's lead-directing double of five clubs was made while forgetting that a heart contract would be played by North. Jagger now had to find a black-suit lead when each of these suits had been control-bid by both opponents! He reached for the three of spades and paid out 17 IMPs.

This deal was also reported by Erdal Sidar of Istanbul, whose comment to Zia's four-club bid was, "The stock market opens." – Ed.

The Great Dealer likes to provide critical lead problems and there was another one in the same eight-board segment. What would you have led from Mahmood's South hand:

<p>♠ Q 8 7 5 ♥ Q 10 4 ♦ J 7 6 2 ♣ 7 2</p>	
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Cover the deal below and look at the bidding:

Dealer South. EW Vul.

West	North	East	South
Hinden	Crouch	Jagger	Mahmood
—	—	—	Pass
1♥	INT	5♣	Pass
Pass	Double	Pass	Pass
Pass			

It seems to be a choice between a spade and a diamond. A diamond would normally be safer. Against that, you are facing a one-notrump overcall and partner may well hold at least one of the top spades. This was the layout:

<p>♠ 4 3 ♥ A J 8 6 2 ♦ K Q 10 4 3 ♣ 3</p>	<p>♠ A J 6 2 ♥ K 9 3 ♦ A 9 8 5 ♣ A 8</p> <p>♠ K 10 9 ♥ 7 5 ♦ — ♣ K Q J 10 9 6 5 4</p>
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Zia led the two of diamonds and Jagger paused for quite a while before making his play from dummy. Commentating, I posed the question: "How greedy will he be?"

It was obvious that the defenders would not permit a spade ruff. Suppose declarer risked the ten of diamonds and North produced the jack. No diamond discard would then be available and a 500 penalty would result. However, the lead of the diamond deuce perhaps suggested that South held an honour. Zia has underled many aces in his time, but this was hardly the moment to do so (with declarer holding a massively long club suit).

"Ten please," said Jagger eventually. North played the ace and declarer ruffed. The jack of clubs went to the ace, Crouch continuing with the ace and another spade. Declarer won, drew the last trump and claimed his doubled contract. This was worth 13 IMPs against four clubs at the other table, one down on a spade lead.

With one eight-board set to play, the score stood at: Hinden 125 – Orca 76. The Orca team graciously conceded.



The Swedish Teams Cup Peter Ventura, Krylbo, Sweden

The Swedish Teams Cup has an interesting format, in which the first matches are played locally. As the knockout proceeds, fewer teams remain and some 100 km of travel will be likely in the mid-stage before 16 teams are left to compete in the playoffs. In 2020, the impressive number of 371 teams participated in the Cup, but when the pandemic swept across the world, it became increasingly difficult to arrange live games and, just weeks before the playoff weekend, the plans were changed so that the 16 teams had to play on computers or tablets.

In 2021, we saw a reverse order, where 173 teams circumvented the pandemic and started the Cup online. Eventually, the bridge clubs reopened and the game could be relocated. The playoffs in Uppsala (70 km north of Stockholm) were arranged in mid-November without any problems. Team "Skalman," with Ida Grönkvist, Mikael Grönkvist, Krister Ahlesved,

Niklas Warne, Johan Säfsten and Per-Erik Malmström were the winners.

Skalman encountered the Scanian (from Skåne, in southern Sweden) team of "Tootsie" on the following board, where we saw Johan Bennet as declarer – and, for me, a candidate for the Justin Lall Award for Best Declarer Play of the Year.

As declarer, it is important to be one step ahead of your opponents. This deal from the first segment of the semifinal was interesting from that aspect.

Board 8. Dealer West. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Johan Bennet	Niklas Warne	Thomas Andersson	Krister Ahlesved
1♣ ¹	1♥	2♣ ²	3♥
Double	Pass	4♥ ³	Pass
5♦	Pass	6♦	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. 2+ clubs
2. Diamonds
3. Takeout
4. Slam try in diamonds

The prospects were not glorious. The heart loser could be pitched on a high spade, but it seemed declarer could not avoid losing two club tricks.

Warne led the heart king, won with the ace. At trick two, Bennet smoothly played the club ace! From South's point of view, it seemed the most normal thing in the world to follow low, but that would prove to be costly. Declarer continued with a spade to the ace, cashed the spade king, discarding a heart, then ruffed a spade high. A trump to hand, another high spade ruff, another trump to the hand and a heart ruff completed the elimination. When declarer led a club, South had to win and was forced concede a ruff and discard. East/West plus 920.

That was beautiful play by Johan Bennet.

At the other table, the siblings Grönkvist played in five diamonds making five; 11 IMPs to Tootsie.

The Norwegian National League

Knut Kjærnsrød, Tored, Norway

The finals of our National League, scheduled for February, were postponed to April, due to the pandemic. In the First Division, Team Kippe came on strongly in the final two matches, but Team Charlsen, with Thomas Charlsen, Tor Hoftaniska, Geir Helgemo and Martin Andresen managed to stand firm and emerged the winners by a margin of fewer than 4VP.

Each of the following deals was characterized by imperfect defence.

Peter Marstrander was one of very few declarers to land four hearts on this board:

Dealer West. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
2♠!	Pass	Pass	Double
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♥
Pass	4♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			

1. 5 spades plus 4+ of either minor

West led the queen of spades. Marstrander took the ace and king and ruffed a spade with the nine, overruffed with the ten. The knave of diamonds ran to the queen, followed by a diamond to the king and ace. West elected to continue with the knave of spades, ruffed by the ace. Marstrander ran the seven of trumps, trumped a diamond and played the king of hearts followed by a heart to East's queen, forcing him to lead away from his king of clubs.

Both sides missed chances. Declarer can ensure success by delaying spade ruffs and playing on the minors. East could have beaten the contract by, counter-intuitively, shifting to a heart when he over-ruffed the spade. On the actual jack-of-diamonds shift, declarer wins by playing the king instead of the eight. Finally, West could have beaten the contract by shifting to a club he won the diamond ace.

Torkild Hagen also managed to land the following two-notrump contract here due to a little help from his opponents:

Dealer North. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
—	Pass	Pass	INT
Pass	2NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

West led a heart to the knave, ducked, but Hagen had to use his ace on the next trick. Declarer led a club to the king, and the jack of spades ran to the king. West cashed his hearts and could have beaten the contract by shifting to a minor, but played another spade, Hagen then prevailed. He cashed the spades to reach this position:

♠ 8 ♥ — ♦ 8 ♣ 9 5	♠ — ♥ — ♦ J 3 ♣ A 8 ♠ 10 ♥ — ♦ A ♣ J 6
----------------------------	---

When he cashed his last spade, throwing a club from dummy, East had to surrender the guard in one of the minors. No matter which suit he discarded, declarer could make two notrump by playing on the suit discarded by East.

Per Bryde Sundseth landed a precarious three-notrump contract on this board, also with a little assistance:

Dealer North. EW Vul.

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

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

South started with the knave of spades to the king. Sundseth led a low club to the seven and ace. North shifted to a diamond, won with the knave, and Sundseth scored his king and queen of clubs and the queen of spades. North discarded two 'useless' spades on the clubs, following the adage "Discard losers, keep winners." Declarer continued with three rounds of diamonds, endplaying North, who had to give dummy three tricks with the king of hearts and the ace-nine of spades.

Scorway

Nils Kvangraven, Kristiansand, Norway

During the COVID restrictions, a new era of bridge has arisen with the proliferation of online events. I've been lucky to have been a part of Steve Levinson's team, Scorway. After a year of both online and live tournaments, we decided to play the ALT and Word Bridge Tour (WBT) online events.

Steve is a man of many surprises. He pleasantly surprised us (initially, we were Steve Levinson/Barnet Shenkin and Geir Brekke/Nils Kvangraven) by adding a top international pair; Boye Brogeland and Christian Bakke joined to play the WBT with us. The WBT tournaments seem to be the strongest online events, with a big prize pool. We were to play in the first of many WBT events with 18 top international teams competing. After a Swiss qualification of 12 rounds, the four top-ranked teams qualified to the semifinals.

Bakke/Brogeland did their job extremely well during the Swiss qualification, with an average of plus 1 IMP per board in the Butler ranking. They played all the boards of both the semifinal and final, leading team Scorway to victory.

This board was routine for Christian Bakke in the play, if not in the bidding.

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

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

Six spades would have been a better spot with a heart ruff or two available, but Bakke made his contract anyway. The jack of hearts was led to the queen. Three rounds of spades let East on play and a club came in return. With the diamonds looking promising, Bakke took his club ace and cashed the spades down to this position:

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

When the ace of hearts was cashed, as long as the heart and club guards were in different hands, neither defender could hold on to four diamonds. In practice, the heart ace squeezed West in the minors and the contract was made for a 13-IMP gain when the other team stopped in game.

I've truly been blessed with strong teammates on Team Scorway. We plan to stay in the circus, hopefully there will be more boards to write about on the "score" way.

Hulgård Strangles the King Svend Novrup, Kerteminde, Denmark

Dealer East. Neither Vul.

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

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

Killing kings is a traditional practice, and the one who did so was either hailed as a hero or a villain – depending on who reigned afterwards – unless it was a bridge player who executed an elegant smother coup. Danish star player Johannes Hulgård did this in a top league match back in 1959 against the winners in the two previous years, Christian Brokholm.

West led the jack of clubs, ducked by all, and continued the suit to the ace. Declarer led the four of spades to the queen and ace, the four of hearts to the seven, and the six of spades to the king. East continued with the king of clubs and declarer ruffed with the ten of hearts. The eight of hearts to the nine followed and, when East showed out, discarding a diamond, most declarers would have given up the hope of avoiding a trump loser.

The opening lead, however, marked East with all the remaining high cards, so Hulgård cashed the ace-king of diamonds and the jack of spades before letting East in with the queen of diamonds in this position:

	♠ —	
	♥ A	
	♦ 5	
	♣ —	
♠ —		♠ 7
♥ K 5		♥ —
♦ —		♦ —
♣ —		♣ Q
	♠ —	
	♥ Q J	
	♦ —	
	♣ —	

The queen of clubs from East strangled West's king of hearts. Brilliant.

Maybe the greatest hero of this deal was East who didn't spoil his opponent's brilliancy by discarding a spade instead of a diamond. Had he been able to play a diamond in the penultimate trick, there would have been no smother coup.

Queen Sacrifice

Per-Ola Cullin, Stockholm

In chess, sacrificing pieces to strengthen your position is a common theme. The most spectacular examples involve sacrificing the queen. Even though it is a game of only 13 tricks, such strategic maneuvering is also a common theme in bridge. The most common examples involve unblocking an honour to avoid an endplay. Another example is the entry creating unblock. A spectacular version of the latter is to discard the ace

from the ace doubleton to create an entry for partners jack in a position where declarer holds king-queen-ten-fifth opposite three low ones. Yet another common example is the entry killing king sacrifice where you need to remove an ace from dummy before declarer can establish dummy's side suit.

I am currently taking a sabbatical (from the Stockholm Court of Appeals bench) in Portugal and happened to come across this deal from the 2009 Portuguese team trials in a Portuguese bridge magazine (originally reported by Jorge Monteiro dos Santos, who was the victim on the deal). Since the deal is a sacrificial gem (I call it the entry-denying trump queen sacrifice), I consider it worthy of a broader audience.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Palma</i>		<i>Barbosa</i>	
—	1♠	Pass	2♥
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

António Palma (a.k.a. the Évorian Goat, at that point relatively unknown outside Portugal, but now an international star) led the seven of diamonds, won by the ace. Declarer (dos Santos) followed with the ace of spades, king of clubs and king of spades, discarding the queen of diamonds. A club to the ace was ruffed by Palma. This was now the position.

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

Palma figured out that he had to play trumps to prevent a cross-ruff. Once you realize the necessity to play trumps, it is, however, easy to fall into the trap of only temporarily sacrificing the queen of hearts by playing ace, followed by

the eight as this allows you to cut down ruffs whilst still enjoying the queen of hearts with a subsequent overruff.

Taking a deeper look, Palma realized that this was not the time to try to have his pastel de nata (a Portuguese pastry that it a must for any visitor to Portugal) and eat it too. Instead, he followed the ace of hearts with the queen! By irrevocably sacrificing his trump queen, Palma forced declarer to win the trump shift in hand, thus denying him the ability to establish the fifth spade as the tenth trick.

Palma was later able to make a trick with the eight of hearts on a trump promotion, leading to down one.

Declarer could have made his contract in either of two ways: (i) by playing to ruff spades in hand early instead of clubs in the dummy, or (ii) by withholding the ace of clubs on the second round of the suit. However, had he done either of those, we'd not have seen Palma's great defence.

Expert, Meet Club Player

Lars Moquist, Nybro, Sweden

Experts often have problems playing against weaker players. Weak players make big mistakes or act in an odd way and the expert is often far too late in realizing how to handle the situation.

When I played in the USA in 2001, my partner was a nice, average Swedish club player. We went overseas and played in a tournament – the Cape Fear Regional in Wilmington, NC. We played some pair events with good results, including the “Monday Charity Stratified Pairs”, in which we were second in the B group. After some more good results, I asked the staff if we might be allowed to play in an ‘expert’ group. Our results had been good enough that we got “Yes”.

At once, we had to play against Michael Seamon. At that time (2001), he was ranked third after Jeff Meckstroth and Eric Rodwell in master points, with more than 50,000. He died in 2017.

This board is from Wilmington with Seamon as East. I was South.

Dealer North. NS Vul.

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

My partner, North, opened two clubs, 12-16 and six-

plus clubs. I bid three clubs and my partner jumped to five clubs. Seamon's lead was the queen of hearts. West won with the ace and, with nothing more attractive, played another heart – won by my partner. Declarer wanted to finesse the diamonds but saw no immediate entry to dummy so, at once, he played a low club. Seamon checked our system and knew that his partner had a singleton club and that club must be the singleton ace, so he played low and dummy won with the queen. Partner had not realized that the best option was to play the ace, then the queen of clubs.

Anyway, declarer could now finesse in diamonds. The finesse failed but, when plus 120 or plus 130 were the other top results for North/South, we got the top score for plus 600. No one could beat that result. Only an average player could get such a good result against an expert.

On the next day, we met Michael Seamon again. He was cheerful, and said with a glint in his eye, “What are you gentlemen going to do today?” This one was one of the boards.

Dealer East. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
—	—	1♦	Pass
INT ¹	Pass	3NT	Double
Pass	Pass	Pass	
1. Game-forcing			

I was just going to pass when I remembered Michael Seamon saying earlier, “What are you gentlemen going to do today?” My Swedish friend had the lead so I doubled three notrump to get a diamond lead. My partner had never heard of such a convention, so he started with the jack of hearts to the queen, king and six, followed by the five of hearts to the ace. Seamon had understood my intention and felt he could not duck again to give North a second chance. Declarer played the ace of spades and then a club back to his hand and a spade finesse. I won with my queen and continued with my last heart. My partner took his hearts (two clubs and a diamond from the dummy) and, after having seen my diamond signal, he played the ten of diamonds to beat three notrump doubled three tricks for plus 500.

Without my double, Seamon would might even have made three notrump: duck two hearts, win the third, cash one high spade and four clubs, take the spade finesse, ending playing South with only diamonds left.



In December, the Australian Bridge Federation held an online teams event for Open, Women's, Seniors, Mixed and Youth divisions, with Australia, Indonesia and New Zealand competing. Each country had two teams in each division, except for the Youth, where NZ had only one team. The format was a double round-robin of 12-board matches, with teams from the same country not playing against each other; that meant 96 boards in total. For the Open Teams, Australia 1 was Peter Gill/Sartaj Hans, Nabil Edgtton/Andy Hung, and James Coutts/Liam Milne.

**Round 4: Australia 1 vs. Indonesia 2
Board 37. Dealer North. NS Vul.**

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

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

1. Artificial, usually 16+ points
2. Normally 6-7 points
3. Control-bid

West led the king of spades. South won and cashed the ace, queen and king of clubs, pitching two spades from dummy. Then came the six of clubs: spade three – diamond two – club five. South ruffed a heart and played the king of diamonds: eight – three – ace. These cards remained (see top of next column):

East returned the ten of diamonds; South covered with the jack. What was West to do?

West ditched the nine of spades. South ruffed a spade, ruffed a heart and ruffed another spade. South's jack of spades was now high for 12 tricks, plus 620.

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

It would not have helped West to discard a heart, for South would then have overtaken the diamond jack with the queen, ruffed a heart, ruffed a spade and ruffed a heart, felling the ace and leaving the king of hearts high. It was that *rara avis*, the entry-shifting trump squeeze, last sighted in the pages of Geza Ottlik..

At the other table, South was down in six diamonds, East/West plus 100 – 12 Imps to Australia 1.

Results:

Open:	1 st Australia 1	2 nd New Zealand 1
Women:	1 st Indonesia 1	2 nd Indonesia 2
Seniors:	1 st Australia 1	2 nd Australia 2
Mixed:	1 st Indonesia 1	2 nd Indonesia 2
Youth:	1 st New Zealand 1	2 nd Indonesia 1



**The 2022 CNTC
Jack Rhind, Smith's, Bermuda**

Hand evaluation has long been a critical part of success in bridge. High-card points are easy, but what about distribution? Does your distribution work with the distribution of your partner's hand?

Board 48. Dealer West. EW Vul.

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

Here is an example of the importance of just such hand evaluation. It reared its ugly head in the round-robin stage of the Canadian National Teams Championships, which were played online at RealBridge.com.

Here are the results on the board and the average number of IMPs won and lost for each possibility:

Contract & Result	Score NS	IMPs NS
Passed	—	+5.47
2♠ NS =	+110	+7.46
3♦ EW +2	-150	+1.66
3♠ NS -1	-50	+4.31
4♦ EW +1	-150	+1.66
4♠ NS -2	-100	+3.07
4♠X NS -2	-300	-1.91
5♦ EW =	-600	-7.87
6♦ EW =	-1370	-14.75

As the results table shows, the contracts ranged anywhere from passed out to six diamonds making, with six diamonds cold on the lie of the cards. At most tables, the competitive auction ended at the four level, some East/Wests playing in four diamonds, while most North/South contracts were four spades. Pity the poor four-spades-doubled pairs who went for minus 300 into the opponents' slam, only to lose about 2 IMPs on average.

Typical auctions were:

West	North	East	South
INT ¹	2♥ ²	2NT ³	4♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	
1. 11-14 HCP			
2. Majors			
3. Forces 3♣			

West	North	East	South
1♦ ¹	Double	3♠ ²	4♠
Double	Pass	Pass	Pass
1. Unbalanced, 4+ diamonds			
2. Splinter			

At another table, five diamonds was reached:

West	North	East	South
2♦ ¹	Double	2NT ²	3♠
Double ³	Pass	5♦	Pass
Pass	Pass		
1. Artificial = 9-11 HCP, 5+ diamonds			
2. Asking			
3. Discouraging			

At yet another table, six diamonds was bid.

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

Alert explanations - top of next column...

1. 2+ clubs, may have longer diamonds if balanced
2. 4 spades and 5+ hearts
3. Intended as club support
4. Unsure of our footing

For those who are interested, here is some further reading on the subject:

The Complete Book on Hand Evaluation at Contract Bridge by Mike Lawrence

Hand Evaluation: Points, Schmoits by Marty Bergen

Super Accuracy: Optimal Hand Evaluation in Bridge by Patrick Darricades

Mastering Hand Evaluation by Lawrence Diamond

Imagination Barnet Shenkin, Glasgow

Few bridge deals contain either a bid or play which could be described as imaginative. Similarly, there are not many players who have imagination in their repertoire. The following deal comes from the quarterfinal of the Bermuda Bowl between USA2 and Norway. Vincent Demuy, originally from Canada, is a player who has such a repertoire.

Board 42. Dealer East. Both Vul.

♠ J 7 4 3
♥ K Q 10 6 5
♦ J
♣ Q 6 4

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

West	North	East	South
Kranyak	Bakke	Demuy	Brogeland
—	—	INT	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass
3NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

South led the ten of diamonds. Declarer could count eight top tricks and had good chances for a ninth. Either diamonds or spades could bring the ninth trick and there were other chances as well. Demuy showed his imagination when he ducked North's jack of diamonds! If North had continued with diamonds, they'd have split four-two at worst and declarer would have established his fifth diamond. If instead, North had shifted to a club, Demuy would have ducked that. He then would have the extra chance of the club honours being split.

So, North shifted to the king of hearts and declarer also ducked that. His plan was to duck the heart queen

if that was the next play, forcing North to make a play favourable to him. In the event, North continued with a low heart and declarer won with the jack in hand to give him his ninth trick.

At the other table, Tor Helness, playing against Gavin Wolpert (North) and Warren Spector (South), received the same lead. He won with the ace of diamonds at trick one to lead a club to the eight and nine. South returned a club to the jack, queen and ace. Declarer cashed the king of diamonds, North pitching a heart. Helness exited with his third club to South's king. Spector cashed his club winner while dummy and North both pitched hearts, declarer discarding a diamond. South exited with a heart, declarer winning with the ace and crossing to the king of spades. When he took the queen of diamonds, Wolpert tried the effect of the king of hearts as a discard. Helness was not fooled: he cashed the queen of spades and exited with his last heart to North's queen, making the last two spade winners in dummy.

This was also well-played. The same boards were played in all four championships and, on this deal, every table declared in three notrump. Twenty of thirty-two declarers made it, but Demuy was the only one to make his imaginative play.



The Brazilian National Pairs

Paulinho Brum, Rio de Janeiro

The 2022 Brazilian National Pairs took place between May 14th and 16th, 2022. There were five sessions (three qualifying, two final), and the first session already included some fireworks. After 18 deals, Lia Tajtelbaum/Rosa Gorescu were in the lead, having scored a very respectable 67.7%. The following deal certainly helped.

You are North, the dealer, and see this promising hand:

Board 9. Dealer North. EW Vul.

♠ —
♥ A K 4
♦ A J 9 8 7 6 3 2
♣ J 8

It looks like a sunny day but clouds soon appear after this auction (see *top of next column*):

Partner is very weak, very short in diamonds, and very long in spades. Do you leave him there or try four

diamonds? Your LHO already doubled three diamonds, but you do have eight of them.

West	North	East	South
RHO	You	LHO	Partner
—	1♦	Double	1♠
Pass	2♦	2NT	Pass
Pass	3♦	Double	3♠
Pass	?		

I think this hand should pass – particularly since three spades has not been doubled yet – but it is always hard to put down an eight-carder in dummy. As a general rule, in this type of auction (two one-suiters battling one another), the long suit from the weaker hand should declare.

Only one table managed to do it (when South, with seven-four in the majors, decided to bid hearts at the three level. It's much easier to pass with ace-king-third than with a void!). Four diamonds could not be made when partner had:

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

If they find a club lead, three spades will not make either, but they have to double and find the right lead!

This was the full deal:

♠ —
♥ A K 4
♦ A J 9 8 7 6 3 2
♣ J 8

♠ Q 8 5 4
♥ 6 5 2
♦ 10 4
♣ 9 7 6 5

♠ A K
♥ Q 9 7
♦ K Q 5
♣ K Q 4 3 2

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

Here's another explosive deal. You are North.

Dealer East. NS Vul.

♠ 5 2
♥ A 10 5 3
♦ A 8
♣ A 10 8 3 2

You see this bidding:

West	North	East	South
	You		Partner
—	—	2♦	2♠
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♥
Pass	4♥	Pass	Pass
Double	Redouble	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Continued on page 14...



IBPA Column Service

Tim Bourke, Canberra



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

1097. Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
—	—	—	INT
Pass	6NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

West led the jack of diamonds. Declarer counted ten winners. He saw that the other two could come from clubs on a three-two break with the queen onside or they could come from a combination of the red suits plus clubs.

So, after taking the jack of diamonds with the queen, declarer led a low spade to dummy's king and continued with a low heart to his jack. When that held, he had eleven tricks. Now all he needed for his contract was three club tricks.

Accordingly, declarer made the sure play for three tricks in clubs: he led the two of clubs to dummy's king followed by a low club from dummy. East followed with a low club and declarer covered it with his nine. When that held and West threw a diamond, declarer cashed the king of diamonds. As West guarded diamonds and East spades, declarer made twelve tricks.

Note that if the heart finesse had lost, declarer would have handled clubs differently. He'd have led a low club toward dummy with the intention of finessing the jack if West had followed low. In that case, a singleton queen of clubs with East would have defeated the contract.

However, this approach would have allowed declarer to play clubs for four tricks whenever West had begun with a singleton queen; on the other hand, no play in clubs would have permitted four tricks in the suit had East held a singleton queen.

1098. Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

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

1. 4th-suit forcing to game
2. RKCB
3. 2 key cards plus the queen of spades
4. King ask
5. King of hearts

South decided that his singleton queen of hearts was worth showing, treating it as a king. That was a dangerous tack to take since, for all South knew, North might well have counted the king of hearts as trick thirteen in seven notrump.

After the lead of a top diamond, declarer counted eleven winners: five clubs, four trump tricks and two aces.

Declarer saw that two diamond ruffs would increase the total to thirteen. Then, if trumps were three-two, all would be plain sailing. However, if trumps were four-one, the club suit would be blocked.

Declarer found a neat counter to this problem. He won the diamond lead and ruffed a diamond with the ace of trumps and crossed back to hand with a trump to his eight. After ruffing the jack of diamonds with dummy's jack of trumps, declarer cashed the ace of clubs. Next, he led dummy's last trump to his king then drew West's remaining trumps with the queen and ten of trumps, discarding the king and queen of clubs from dummy. He then claimed the contract with four club winners and the ace of hearts.

A different plan would have seen declarer home if West had led a trump. Instead of taking diamond ruffs in dummy, declarer would have ruffed two hearts in hand and used the ace of diamonds as an entry to the winning clubs after drawing trumps and cashing dummy's high clubs.

1099. Dealer South. Neither Vul.

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

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

1. Roman Key-Card Blackwood
2. Asking for the queen of spades
3. Promises the queen, but with no king

The auction was not a thing of beauty (especially with the partner of the two-club opener bidding Blackwood, a bid disallowed in many partnerships) and neither was the play. West led the king of diamonds. Declarer took the first trick with the ace of diamonds and ruffed a diamond. Then he drew trumps in three rounds and played the ace and another club to dummy's jack.

East found the good defence of letting the jack of clubs win. As there was no longer any hope of making four club tricks, declarer switched his attention to hearts by running the ten of hearts to West's jack. After ruffing the diamond exit, declarer crossed to dummy with a

club to the king to lead a heart to his queen. When West took this with the king declarer was down one.

"Why did you ruff a diamond at trick two?" asked North. "There was no rush to do so. Simply draw the trumps in three rounds then play ace of clubs and a club to the jack. It would not profit East to let the jack hold (you would cash the king of clubs, ruff a club then ruff a diamond to cash your winning club). So, East takes the jack of clubs with his queen and shifts to a heart. You win the trick with the ace of hearts and claim by way of five trumps, the red aces, a diamond ruff and four clubs."

1100. Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

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

Both North/South pairs in a team game reached the small slam in spades. Both declarers received the opening lead of the jack of diamonds.

At the first table, declarer won with the ace of diamonds then decided to cater for West having a low singleton trump – an event that is four times more likely than the West holding the singleton queen. Declarer thus led a heart to dummy's king followed by a low trump to his ten. Alas for him, West produced the queen of trumps and cashed a diamond for one off.

At the other table, the declarer was a hardy veteran. He had faced similar problems to this one any times. So, after winning the ace of diamonds, declarer played the ace and king of trumps. When the queen of trumps, not appear, declarer played three rounds of clubs, discarding two diamonds from hand. When no one had ruffed in, declarer ruffed a club then crossed to dummy with a heart to the king and threw his remaining diamond on the established club. West ruffed this with the queen of trumps and tried to cash a diamond. Declarer ruffed and claimed his contract.

The odds favoured the second declarer's approach 55% to 48%. The casinos and bookmakers of the world are delighted with such a difference.

...Brum continued

That looks like a comfortable contract, but you are surprised when the auction continues pass, pass, double! If you are the redoubling type, this hand is attractive for it. At Tajtelbaum and Gorescu's table, their opponent did just that. Now go over the table to watch South play it.

♠ 5 2
♥ A 10 5 3
♦ A 8
♣ A 10 8 3 2

♠ A Q J 8 3
♥ J 9 7 2
♦ K 9 3
♣ 7

The lead of the diamond five goes to the eight, ten and your king. What now?

If you are willing to believe that hearts are five-zero, the contract is probably safe as long as you don't mess with trumps too early. But let's say you play a heart from your hand. West played the six, you play the ten and, as somewhat expected, East shows out, pitching a diamond. Can you make ten tricks from here?

Watch out for the power of that five of hearts! (If East had played the four, would you have played the five?)

Let's look at the full deal and follow the right line:

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

The play so far has been: diamond lead to South's king, low heart from South to the six and ten, with East discarding a diamond. You continue with a spade to the queen and king. West will probably lead the king of hearts (he should perhaps have started with that card – but I don't think it would defeat the contract). You win in dummy with the ace, play the ace of clubs and a club ruffed in South. You cash two spades, and lead a diamond to dummy's ace, then ruff another club (West is following suit all the time).

Finally, when you get to this ending, you play any card from South and thank partner for having the five of hearts in dummy:

♠ —		♠ —
♥ 5 3		♥ —
♦ —		♦ Q J
♣ 10		♣ Q
♠ —	♠ 8 3	
♥ Q 8 4	♥ —	
♦ —	♦ 9	
♣ —	♣ —	

The actual South did not find this line, contributing heavily to Tajtelbaum and Gorescu's excellent first round. However, there were four more sessions to come.



There used to be an antique shop in Atlanta called "Rust and Dust." The name could be fairly applied to my bridge, except that "Corroded" might be more appropriate.

Is it possible to compress careers as both a writer and a player into one life? Many years ago, I was teaching, which I enjoyed, and playing a bit professionally, which I detested. The travel, partnering poor players and the stress of competition wore on me, and I wanted out. When I began to focus on writing and eventually became the ACBL Bridge Bulletin's Managing Editor, I made the decision to stop playing. Maybe some people can capably play and write all at once (cf. Eddie Kantar's obituary in last month's issue – Ed.); I chose not to try.

So, for almost 40 years, the only competitive bridge I played was in charity events at which I was auctioned off as a partner. (In those cases, I thought there should have been two winners: the high bidder played with me; the second-high bidder had to play with me twice. That's how much my game had deteriorated.)

Playing and writing are different worlds. If you don't play, your technique may remain sharp to a degree, but your competitive edge, your intensity, your desire – they decline. More than anything, your judgement grows dull. Judgement is drawn from a well of experience, and the water level in my well had run low.

A few months ago, my friend and ACBL colleague Richard Oshlag urged me to un-retire. I had little interest in competing for glory and less in embarrassing myself, but we set up a weekly game on BBO with two old partners and former teammates. I practiced a bit against the BBO robots to see whether I could still follow suit, and advanced into the fray – and I soon found out how rusty I was.

Dealer West Neither Vul.

```

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

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

      ♠ J 10 7 2
      ♥ J 9
      ♦ A K 10 4
      ♣ J 10 8
  
```

West	North	East	South
1♠	4NT	6♠	7♦ <i>Rusty</i>
Double	Pass	Pass	Pass

It was a typical BBO deal. (When I opposed the robots, I never saw so many eight-card suits and five-zero trump breaks.) My partner was absent when they distributed fear; over one spade, he invited a five-level save. East did the best he could by leaping to six spades – I bid seven diamonds, and was doubled.

West should have led the ace of clubs – East could hardly have bid six spades without a club control – and I would have been minus 500. The actual opening lead was a trump, but minus 300 was a phantom sacrifice since we would have beaten six spades with a diamond and a trump trick.

I reproached myself for bidding seven diamonds. East was sure to have strong spades – probably two high honours – how else could he leap to slam in the face of the North barrage, so my save was questionable at best.

A little later, as South, I held:

Dealer East. Neither Vul.

```

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

East opened one diamond, I passed (no doubt many players would have acted), and the auction proceeded:

West	North	East	South
—	—	1♦	Pass <i>Dusty</i>
1♥	2♠	3♣	?

What is your style in these situations? The opponents may well have a slam. Do you pass, let them find their

level and then save? Raise gently to three or four spades? Indulge in some outrageous bluff bid? My preference, against good opposition, was always to bid to the limit directly, but I thought we might buy the deal for five spades. I was soon proved wrong.

```

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

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

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

West	North	East	South
—	—	1♦	<i>Dusty</i> Pass
1♥	2♠	3♣	5♠
6♦	Pass	Pass	6♠
Pass	Pass	7♦	Pass
Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass

Minus 1440! Well judged, except by me. If I had bid six spades directly, East/West might have reached their ice-cold grand slam anyway but, for all I know, they might still be sitting there thinking.

Luckily, not all of my rusty/dusty misadventures were catastrophic. As North, vulnerable against not, I was the dealer and held:

```

      ♠ A 8 7 4
      ♥ A J 7
      ♦ K 7 2
      ♣ Q 8 3
  
```

West	North	East	South
—	1♣	1♥	<i>Corroded</i> Double
3♥	4♣	Pass	?

I knew my partner had a singleton heart, and all my values looked good. Oshlag isn't known for timidity, but this was the last board of the evening, I had held a string of lousy hands and we were losing. What the heck, I bid six clubs.

```

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

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

      ♠ K Q
      ♥ 8
      ♦ J 6 5 4
      ♣ A K J 9 4 2
  
```

Continued on page 16, column 2...



Real Life

Larry Cohen
Delray Beach, FL

In 2008, I played in one of the most pressure-packed events on the U.S. calendar: the USBF Team Trials. The winning team would earn the right to represent our country in Beijing to try to win the world championship. The pressure is hard to describe – unless you’ve been there, you can’t imagine the tension. Here is my worst deal of the year, from the semifinals.

Dealer West. EW Vul.

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

My left-hand opponent (he was vulnerable against not) opened one spade. My RHO bid three diamonds, alerted. I asked and was told it was artificial, showing a three- or four-card spade raise and 10-12 points in support (a limit raise). What should I have done?

First of all, if you play tournament bridge, you will run into such conventions often. This one was a form of Bergen raises. What does it mean if you double such an artificial bid? Is it a takeout double of spades? Or does it show diamonds? I prefer the latter. I want to be able to double such artificial raises to get the right opening lead. I would double with, say:

♠ 8 6
♥ J 7 6
♦ K Q J 9 4
♣ 10 5 2

Instead of watching partner blow a trick against four spades, I’d have the pleasure of receiving a diamond lead. I think that hand-type (diamonds) is more likely than a good hand – such as this 19-count I happened to hold. It seems impossible to have so much when an opening bid is on my left and a limit raise on my right. Anyway, I couldn’t double (as, following my philosophy,

that would show diamonds). Probably, I should have bid four clubs, but I had a better plan (I thought).

Surely LHO would have a minimum and sign off in three spades. Then, when that came back to me, I could double for takeout. This would get hearts into the picture in case partner had five or six cards there. So I passed. However, LHO ruined my plan by jumping to four spades! Was this a Pinochle deck?

When four spades came back to me, I could have guessed to double – or maybe to bid five clubs, but I decided to pass and try to beat them. Why should I take a phantom sacrifice? Well, like I said, this was not my shining moment. As you can see, four spades made easily. All we took was our three aces, minus 620.

Meanwhile, at the other table, the auction began one spade-pass-three spades. South had an easy takeout double, and ended up as declarer in six clubs doubled! The king of hearts was led and declarer played brilliantly. He won, drew only one trump, then played the top diamonds. (LHO, as declarer suspected from the wild auction, had no trumps left). Now declarer was home. He was able to ruff all three low spades in dummy, and throw a heart loser on the king of diamonds. He made six for a score of plus 1090 and our team lost 17 IMPs!

You’d think I’d be smart enough to not publish this deal – but I believe in full disclosure for my valued readers. You get the good, bad, and in this case, the ugly (and embarrassing).

...Frank Stewart – continued from page 15.

Sure enough, Richard’s four-club bid was lusty. When West led a heart, declarer took the ace, led a trump to his hand and led the four of diamonds toward dummy. West, who was as tired as I was, erred by putting up the ace and blundered again by leading a second heart. Richard ruffed and ran the trumps to reach:

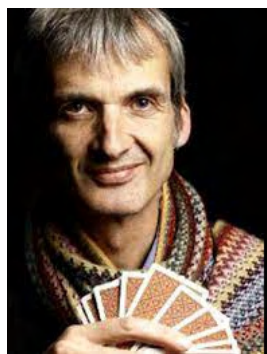
	♠ A 8 7 4	
	♥ —	
	♦ K 7	
	♣ —	
♠ 9 6 5		♠ J 10 3 2
♥ K 10		♥ —
♦ 10		♦ Q 9
♣ —		♣ —
	♠ K Q	
	♥ —	
	♦ J 6 4	
	♣ 2	

On the last club, West pitched a heart and dummy threw away the beer card. East, still to discard, could turn in his sword. He was criss-cross squeezed.

I hate to admit it, but I’m enjoying playing again. I’ll be back next week, if only to see how long it may take my coating of rust to flake off.

Country Life

Andrew Robson
London



Weak-two openers are all the rage these days, a sort of mini-preempt showing a decent six-card suit and about five-ten points. Few competitors in the quadrennial World Series in Philadelphia in 2010 would have played strong twos – mainly on frequency grounds. When was the last time *you* held a strong two?

Which game contract would you opt for facing South's weak two-heart opener on this deal from the Rosenblum Teams? Three notrump because there is no eight-card heart fit? Or four hearts because getting to South's hearts might be nigh-on impossible unless hearts are trumps?

Dealer South. Neither Vul.

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

Three notrump was the bid chosen at one table. This contract proved easy, declarer (North) winning East's diamond lead (king from West) on the second round and playing on clubs (nice cards, that ten and nine) to ensure nine tricks (he would have made more if he'd gone for the riskier hearts).

How about four hearts? At the other table...

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

Four hearts looks to be a comfortable make – with hearts three-three and the king of diamonds onside. That is reckoning without the diabolical lead and subsequent defence of West, the Netherlands' Jan van

Cleeff. He underled his ace of clubs at trick one, normally an extremely unwise idea.

Naturally placing the ace of clubs with East, declarer played a low club from dummy. East, Scotland's (although then living in Florida) Barnet Shenkin, won with the queen and returned his second club to West's ace (and declarer's annoyance). West now led a third club and East ruffed with the eight of hearts. This sounded the death-knell for the contract, promoting West's king-ten-five into two trump tricks.

There was more to come, however, for when declarer crossed to dummy to lead to his queen of trumps (the normal finesse), West won with the king and led a fourth club. East ruffed with his heart nine and, after declarer overruffed with the ace, West was left with the ten-five of trumps over the seven-four-three and had to score a third trump trick.

That was a wonderful double uppercut and meant down two for declarer.

The Case for Adding Partial to Duplicate Bridge (Part II)

Bruce Altshuler, Los Angeles

Last month, we presented the case for adding partials to duplicate bridge, along with the mechanics and details. This month, Altshuler describes the system and strategy adjustments players need to make for boards with partials and discusses the benefits.

For easy reference, Table 1 on page 18 is Altshuler's suggested partial protocol for a set of 36 boards.

Bidding Adjustments/Strategy Changes

Pairs will have to adjust bidding methods within their preferred system when partials have been assigned to a deal. For example, a pair's opening one-notrump bid can be altered to a range of 14-21 high-card points with a 60 partial, especially if partner is a passed hand. With slam possibilities, partner can bid beyond the 100-point game threshold to allow for extras by opener and avoid missing slam. The reason for this is obvious. If one opens two notrump with 20 HCP as one would without a 60 partial, it would be a disaster to find partner with extreme weakness so that two notrump goes down one, with one notrump making. In my own rubber-bridge experience, strong-club systems can send the strong message immediately with the ability to stop at a safe low level once slam considerations are eliminated early in the auction.

**Table I – Suggested Partial
for Duplicate Bridge**

Bd. #	Vul.	NS Partial	EW Partial
3	E/W	+40	None
4	Both	None	+60
8	Neither	+70	None
12	N/S	+30	+80
13	Both	None	+20
16	E/W	+90	+40
18	N/S	+60	None
22	E/W	None	+70
24	Neither	+20	+90
26	Both	+60	+60
30	Neither	None	+30
31	N/S	+80	None

With a 60 partial facing a passed partner, one should open one notrump (not two notrump) with:

♠ A K
♥ Q J 9 2
♦ A Q J 7 4
♣ K 9

If partner has not passed and has this hand:

♠ 9 3 2
♥ A K 3
♦ K 8
♣ Q J 6 5

he should bid an ‘unnecessary’ two notrump to invite slam. Any bid over the game threshold should be treated as a slam try. Two notrump should be safe, even if partner has shaded his one-notrump opening down to 14 HCP.

For those playing two-over-one, a pair might adopt a rule that a game-forcing two-over-one bid be forcing to two notrump or three of the major (or minor), even if beyond the 100 required to close out the game, and agree that all new-suit bids by responder be forcing. A two-over-one pair should also eliminate a forcing one-notrump bid with a partial of 60 or above. You do not want to bid three-card fragments with a partial, and one notrump may be your best or last-makeable partial. A three-card limit raise should just bid two of the major with a partial of 40 or more or to the three level with any lower partial. Don’t start with a forcing one notrump with a known major-suit fit.

Strong jump-shifts by responder should be used in natural systems to create forcing auctions beyond the game minimum, in order to facilitate slam bidding. Strong

jump-shifts are a vital inclusion for a format featuring partials. Weak jump-shifts by responder is a convention that does not work well with partials.

Drury with a partial would be of dubious value since the invitational passed hand with support should simply bid enough (two or three of the major) to reach the game threshold. A bid of two clubs by a passed hand over one of a major is probably more useful as a natural bid with a partial. If you play Bergen raises, you might end up at the three level when there is a partial condition, down one, when a simple raise to the two level to close out the partial for game may be all that is required. In fact, with a 60 partial, a hand which normally makes a limit raise should be content with a mere raise of a major to the two level, or of the minor to the three level.

Jacoby Two Notrump would be effective to create a forcing auction with a partial and a major-suit fit, but the traditional responses of three spades and four spades should be inverted to allow the pair to rest at a safer three of a major when opener has minimum values, thus not risking the four level. Jumping to the four level with a minimum opening would be unnecessary if three of the major is sufficient to close out the game.

Preempts are affected by one’s side having a partial assigned. For example, should a pair open three spades with a 60 partial when two is sufficient for closing out the game? Should a normal one-spade full opener with six spades be opened two spades if starting with a 40 partial? If one does that, how will partner be able to distinguish between a true preempt and the mere desire to be in game with an opening bid? Perhaps using a forcing two-notrump ask over a weak two would solve that problem.

These are all issues that partnerships would have to discuss as it is necessary to modify one’s system and competitive bidding requirements when a partial condition applies. You may not want to play negative doubles beyond two spades if a partial applies lest your auctions be jammed with junky preempts when you have a partial.

Passed-Hand and Balancing Issues

You are not vulnerable versus vulnerable opponents who have a 60 partial and there are three passes to you. In fourth seat, you hold:

♠ J 10
♥ A 5
♦ K J 8 4 3
♣ K J 10 2

This is an obvious one-diamond opener in duplicate, even if one might expect the opponents to compete in a major. The bid justifies that risk as it may be your hand for a partscore. But against a 60 partial, a prudent player in fourth seat might just pass, especially at IMPs, to avoid allowing the opponents to get to an easy major-suit game contract at the two level without partner's help to push them any higher. Experienced rubber bridge players are well aware of the danger of bidding with this hand. If partials are ever included, this tactical fourth-seat pass should be in your playbook.

Balancing at rubber bridge in general, and against a partial in particular, is fraught with danger. In duplicate pairs, balancing is almost always worth the risk when, for example, the opponents have found a fit at the two level. You must fight for the partial or attempt to push the opponents to the three level, even at the risk of surrendering a big number. On the other hand, shrewd rubber-bridge players make a living doubling the opponents when the doubling side has a partial. One key factor when balancing against a partial is to hold good trumps.

Who Benefits From Including Partials, the Weak or the Strong?

Each time additional decisions and variables are required in a bridge match, experts will always have an edge, especially experts with rubber-bridge experience. In fact, I suspect that an overwhelming majority of duplicate players have never played rubber bridge and would be unfamiliar with partials so, initially, the use of partials in duplicate would have to start at the top tier of bridge events and work its way down to the mainstream players. In a top-seeded championship team event, adding partials to one-third of the boards would lead to more explosive results at both tables, more penalties, more variables and would generate more excitement overall, as well as increasing the odds for a superior pair. A good pair with a sub-system for partials (disclosed, of course) would have a distinct advantage.

Just don't forget your side's partials during the auction or, ethically, you will have to bite your tongue as you carelessly raise to three notrump over partner's opening one-notrump opener with 10 high-card points, forgetting your side's 60 partial, a mishap experienced by all rubber bridge players at least once. Refrain from saying "Oops!", for example, after you have unnecessarily overbid your hand.

Partial conditions would inject variety and new skills to our stodgy duplicate events, with no major adjustments to the familiar duplicate format. All it would take is for

either a pair or team event to try it and see if it works or for a bridge organization to experiment in a pair or team event. I suspect that it is the team events where the partial format would work best. Anyone is free to use my suggested partial conditions, but the boards assigned partials and conditions should be uniform if partials ever catch on.



The defenders can sometimes introduce a losing option into declarer's thinking. Here's an example from a deal played recently in a pairs game at the Majör Bogaziçi Bridge Club, Istanbul.

Dealer South. Neither Vul.

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

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

1. Multi
2. Pass or correct

South, Sedat Aluf, led the ace of spades for the ten, five, and six. Aluf knew from the bidding that North had spade support, so that declarer's spade was singleton. South shifted to the nine of hearts: five, queen, ace. Declarer crossed to dummy with the king of clubs to the ace and led the diamond deuce to the queen; Aluf followed with the jack! This defensive play introduced a new option for declarer. Believing that the diamond jack was a singleton, declarer thought his only chance was to reach dummy with the ten of hearts, however unlikely

that was after the nine-of-hearts shift. So he played a heart. Alas, Aluf ruffed and the contract was down one.

Was declarer's play right or wrong? Who can say? Perhaps naïve. I think the essential issue is, who is the South player? Inexperienced, average or expert? I suggest that if South is an expert, don't believe him when you have enough reason not to do so. An inexperienced player would not consider false-carding. Against an average player, guess correctly! Only one thing is certain: declarer would have made the contract if Aluf had not make his false-card.



CONFESSIONS OF A BRIDGE ADDICT (4)

Joseph Silver, Hampstead, Québec

(Originally published in Bridge Winners)

My Two-year Weekend

In late September of 1965, having just turned 24 and, having graduated from law school the previous spring, I was going to spend a year in Paris, where I hoped to be able to perfect my French. (Despite living in French Canada, and having 12 years of schooling on the subject, my grasp of the language was at best pathetic.)

My plan (if it could be called that) was to enroll at the University of Paris's law school in order to study international law. Someone had given me the name of a cheap hotel in the student quarter, so that was where I headed after arriving by plane in the early hours of the morning. I can still remember the oppressive heat, and how heavy my suitcase was as I dragged it, first to the Métro, and then afterwards to the hotel. I rented a small room on the third floor barely big enough for a bed and my belongings.

It was a very depressing, and lonely start to my great adventure. Anything had to be better than the dingy room where I was staying, so the next day I went to Canada House at University City (with the exception of Iron Curtain countries, nations around the world

had student residents there). The bad news was that they were filled up for the school year, but the good news was they had an opening for a week. I wasted no time leaving the depressing place where I had spent my first night, and moved in. Luckily for me the week turned into a year when a spot unexpectedly opened up at the last moment.

Early on, I met, and became good friends with, fellow Canada House resident Ron Ianni, a graduate of Osgoode Hall Law School in Toronto. He had spent the previous two years in Italy where he said he had studied Italian, and now he was in Paris to continue his law education, and to learn French. Ron was a few years older than me, and a real hell-raiser! I was, in those days, an unworldly innocent, and he was a revelation to me. I learned a lot from him (mostly about hell-raising).

We also hung out with Michael Blumenstein, a McGill law classmate of mine studying in Paris on a scholarship. He lasted three months, but returned to Montréal to take his bar exams because he was worried about falling behind and damaging his future law career! (What nonsense! Over the years, every time I see him, he tells me what an immature idiot he had been, not to have stayed in Paris for the full year of his scholarship.) It just shows you that even students bright enough to win scholarships are possessed of stupid genes. (Book-learning is good for school, but not always applicable in the real world).

I was besotted with this strange city, living away from home for the first time – everything was new and exciting. As a consequence, my bridge career was put on the back burner during that first Paris year. Early on, I registered at the law school, which got me a student card, and entry to the student cafeteria, one-franc meals, and female students.

I also registered at the Alliance Française to take French lessons, but that lasted less than two weeks because I had the habit of falling asleep in class, and learned nothing. (In law school, I tried to overcome my tendency to nod off by sitting in the front row, but it did no good, so I moved to the back of the classroom where I could sleep undisturbed.) I did attend a few law classes, but I kept that to a minimum, because I was getting more than enough sleep. Law school was my habitat for the more important things in life like chasing after female students, getting laid, and drinking lots of beer and wine.

While I had gotten letters from home during my first few months in Paris I had not received any *Bridge Worlds*. When I wrote my mother about that, she answered that she had forgotten to renew my subscription. To say I was upset and angry would be an underbid. I wrote back immediately telling her how furious I was and that she and I were finished, that she would not hear from me again! A few weeks later the back issues of *The Bridge World* arrived along with a letter of apology telling me

that my B.W. subscription had been renewed, but I was not appeased. After all, there are certain things in life too serious to forgive, and letting my subscription to *The Bridge World* lapse was one of them. In the month that followed despite the many letters, and entreaties from my mother, I would not forgive her or write. Finally she sent me a four-word letter in which she wrote “DON’T BE AN ASS!” It seemed like good motherly advice, so I restarted my correspondence with home.

Ron and I explored Paris together; often we ended up in a brasserie drinking beer and playing flipper (pinball). I became an expert at collecting beer glasses from many different brasseries. We never could go back twice to the same brasserie because, in addition to my hobby of collecting, we often skipped out on the tab – we had it down to an art. I became famous at Canada House for both my light fingers and my collection of beer glasses.

In November or December, the Canadian embassy had a big reception, and they invited all the students at Canada House to attend. Needless to say, the promise of free food and liquor was too good to resist, so most of the students went, and celebrated like students do by drinking more than their fair share.

On returning to Canada House, a group of students showed me a trophy they had pilfered from the embassy, a small statuette, which in their drunken state, they had thought it a good idea to take. Myself, I had doubts about the wisdom of their actions, and so it proved. A few days later, someone from the embassy approached me about the theft (my reputation had preceded me) I professed my innocence, and the person said, “Of course you are not a suspect, we are not looking to blame anyone, all we want is to get the statuette returned anonymously, could you help?” I said, “I will do my best.” And so it was, I arranged for the embassy to get their property back. My reward for my efforts was that I became ‘persona non grata’ at the embassy, and at all their future functions. As the saying goes, “No good deed goes unpunished.”

In the late spring of 1966, I attended Bob and Barbara Hamman’s honeymoon. You see, the Bermuda Bowl was being held in St. Vincent, Italy, and playing for North America were Murray/Kehela (my bridge heroes), Rubin/Feldesman and Mathe/Hamman. (Bob and Barbara had been recently married and had decided to take advantage of Bob’s making the team to honeymoon in St. Vincent.) It was a first-class team, the strongest North America had fielded in years.

After ten years of failure, I was certain that this would be the year that the dreaded Italians would finally go down to defeat. I wanted to be there and see it happen. So I packed my knapsack, put a Canadian flag on its back, (god forbid I be mistaken for an American) and hitchhiked across France and Italy to St. Vincent to see my heroes do battle. I got to watch the North American

team lose 319 -262 over 140 boards to the Italians, a dreary and disappointing affair. One of the highlights of the trip for me was getting to play bridge with Alphonse Moyses, Jr., then-editor of *The Bridge World*.

After the débâcle, Mathe could be heard loudly complaining that, during the tournament, Hamman had been getting laid too much, and it had had a negative effect on his performance! (I assumed he was talking about Bob’s bridge game, but I can’t be a 100% certain since I didn’t ask Barbara.)

Paris was agreeing with me: I was having the time of my life, I had no worries, for the first time in my life no school pressures (I attended the occasional class, but I didn’t take it seriously, and had no intention of taking my final exams). It was like every day was Saturday. So I decided to stay in France for another year. I applied to Canada House’s Director to stay there another year, and on July 9, 1966, I got a not-surprising answer. Roughly translated, it said, “Sir, your request to stay another year is refused, due to your lack of academic diligence and the little interest you have shown in your studies and, that by your loud and disorderly conduct, you have often embarrassed your fellow students.”

So, I had to say goodbye to Canada House, and find a new place to live for the following year. Luckily my buddy Ron Ianni was also turfed for the same reasons that I had been (Ron later became Dean of the University of Windsor) so we rented an apartment together. About this time, a childhood friend was coming to Paris to study law for a year, and wanted to stay at Canada House, and wanted my advice as the best way to gain admission. I quickly wrote him back, saying the advice I had for him was, “DO NOT MENTION MY NAME!” He didn’t, and he got in.

TO BE CONTINUED (If inspired)

My Guilty Pleasure Marshall Lewis, Zagreb



By dint of concatenated miracles, I managed to get readmitted to the country (*Croatia – Ed.*) several days before its Grand Opening, which meant I was in time for the Pairs at the Pula International Bridge Festival. We (Renata Muller and I) led after the first final session and were second by a whisker after the next, but we completely collapsed in the third and fell off the pace. Sigh. Now we’ve finished two days of qualifiers in the teams, and the same pattern has repeated itself. Sigh.

I often defer a direct assault on the trump suit in favour of an alternate approach, and when the opportunity to do so came along on the following board, I could not resist. It was only a partscore at IMPs, and a matter of overtricks, hence the stakes were very low but, for me, it was rather entertaining.

Dealer South. Neither Vul. (EW spots approximate)

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

West	North	East	South
—	Le Mort	—	Le Moi
Pass	2NT ¹	Pass	INT
Pass	Pass	Pass	3♦ ²

1. Diamonds
2. Negative toward diamonds

West led a second/fourth four of hearts. East produced the ten, so it looked like he'd started with queen-ten-fourth, provided West had tried to be passive on opening lead. After winning with the ace, I crossed to dummy via a club ruff. I played a spade to the queen, which was won by the ace, and LHO very collegially played another club for dummy to ruff. Dummy's heart jack was helpfully but predictably covered and, after the king of hearts won, a third club was ruffed. Now a spade finesse against the knave and another spade put me back in hand to take a fourth club ruff.

I led a heart to my nine, everybody following, then my fifth club, LHO discarding the thirteenth spade with no apparent problem. I ruffed in dummy and was over-ruffed by the nine of diamonds. East now led the thirteenth heart and I had to guess the trump layout for plus 150. It seemed likely to me that West would've inserted the trump knave on the previous trick if he had held it, so I put in the ten and that was that.

So, there you have it: with a seven-card trump suit in dummy, trumps were never led at any point – until trick 13 of course, which hardly counts, does it?

I know, it's just a frivolous and capricious little bagatelle – but we all have our guilty pleasures, and I have always had a sweet tooth for quaint curiosities of this sort, however modest they may be. For better or worse, they are part of why I have always loved the game.



Should the women's world bridge championships continue? If the women-only game both helps and hinders women's progression in the card game bridge, should we consider the radical move of abolishing women's bridge? The latest academic paper by *Bridge: A MindSport for All* (BAMSA) argues that no, there are good reasons for the existence of the women-only game.

BAMSA's fifth and sixth academic papers have recently been published, and both are about gender inequalities and bridge:

Rogers, A., Snellgrove, M.L. and Punch, S. (2022) 'Between Equality and Discrimination: The Paradox of the Women's Game in the Mind-sport Bridge,' *World Leisure Journal*. This paper discusses the existence of women's events in the mindsport bridge. It shows how the women-only game can be viewed as both hindering women's progression in bridge whilst also providing opportunities for women to compete internationally.

Punch, S. and Rogers, A. (2022) 'Building, not Burning Bridges in Research: Insider/Outsider Dilemmas and Engaging with the Bridge Community,' *Journal of Leisure Research*, 53(2): 272-289. This paper offers insights into some of the exchanges that have taken place between two sociological researchers working on the thorny topic of sexism within the bridge community. The BAMSA team reflect on the challenges of balancing their commitment to funders, academic institutions, and the pursuit of knowledge, as well as to those individuals, communities and organisations that they are researching.

Both papers are based on 151 email questionnaires from bridge players largely from the USA and UK (84 men, 67 women) covering a range of ages and levels.

In a recent interview with the *Sorry Partner* podcast, Professor Samantha Punch talks about the *Bridging Gender* BAMSA research project. She discusses potential ways of addressing neurosexism and gender inequalities within the game.

Practical two-page summaries are on the *Bridge: A MindSport for All* (BAMSA) website: *Summary on the paradox of women's bridge* and *Summary on the process of doing research on gender and bridge*.

The development of an Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) policy by the World Bridge Federation, the ACBL

and the European Bridge League would enable recognition and awareness-raising about (neuro)sexism and gender inequalities. An EDI policy could be followed up with unconscious bias training for coaches, mentors, tournament organisers and team selection committees.

As always, BAMSAs is interested to hear what you think about the latest published papers. If interested in helping to develop an Equality, Diversity and Inclusion policy, please email: bamsa@stir.ac.uk

NEWS & VIEWS



EBL Hall of Fame 2022

The European Bridge League will induct the following players into its Hall of Fame at the EBL General Assembly on 18th June, 2022. All three have won multiple European and World Championships in several categories in both team and pair events.

Bénédicte Cronier. Cronier has won 15 World and European titles in Junior, Women's and Mixed events.

Piotr Gawrys. Gawrys has the best record in open World Championship play of any player who is not Italian or American. He has won 15 European and World Championships, including the Triple Crown of Olympiad Teams, Bermuda Bowl and Rosenblum Cup. He needs 'only' the World Open Pairs to complete the career Grand Slam, a feat so far not accomplished by any player.

Tor Helness. Helness has won 12 World and European titles in Junior, Open, and Mixed events.

Liz McGowan

Congratulations to Liz McGowan, who has been awarded the Medal of the Order of the British Empire for services to the game of bridge in Scotland. Queen Elizabeth's Birthday Honours mark the extraordinary contributions and service of people across the UK.

Vintage Bidding Systems

Robert Munger of Seattle reports that he has catalogued 628 vintage bidding systems (e.g., Aces Scientific, Big Diamond, Buller, Canary Club, Little Major, Tiger Bridge, and so on). To receive a pdf of the document (with no strings attached, no charges and no sharing of your information), send an email to:

RobertMungerBridge@gmail.com

with Vintage Bidding Systems in the Subject line.

ACBL to Test Tablets

David Grainger reports that, at the request of the ACBL Advisory Council's Anti-Cheating Commission, the Competition and Conventions Committee, with approval from the ACBL Board of Directors, has formed a sub-committee to study and prepare to adopt a version of the USBF 'Martel Method' for use in the later rounds of several ACBL NABC premier team events. The Martel Method consists of playing on provided tablets and having two sets of screenmates from each table in separate ballrooms. This method was used successfully last year and again this year for the USBF Team Trials, where it was generally well-received. The purpose of this is to eliminate cheating, while also providing directors with a solid record of information from which to make better informed rulings. It is also expected to reduce operating costs in the long term.



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

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

World Bridge Calendar

2022

Jun 12-22	55 th Euro National Team Champs.	Funchal, Madeira, Portugal	eurobridge.org
Jun 14-19	All-African SABF Congress	Online	sabf.co.za
Jun 16-19	Josefi Tournament	Velden, Austria	bridgeaustria.at
Jun 17-23	New Aegli Tournament	Poros, Greece	hellasbridge.org
Jun 20-26	33 rd Tunisian Bridge Festival	Hammamet, Tunisia	bridgewebs.com/bridgetunisie
Jun 24-Jul 3	Slawa Bridge Congress	Slawa, Poland	pzbs.pl
Jun 24-Jul 3	40 th International Bridge Festival	Albena, Bulgaria	bridgealbena.org
Jul 1-12	International Bridge Festival	Biarritz, France	festival-bridge-biarritz.com
Jul 2-14	Australian National Championships	Adelaide, Australia	abf.com.au
Jul 6-10	Lozenets Bridge Festival	Lozenets, Bulgaria	bridge.bg
Jul 7-14	54 th Tel-Aviv Bridge Festival	Tel-Aviv, Israel	ibf-festival.org
Jul 8-17	Dansk Bridgefestival	Svendborg, Denmark	bridgefestival.dk
Jul 13-17	Kammergut Bridge Days	Gmunden, Austria	bridgeaustria.at
Jul 14-17	Yarimada Bridge Festival	Bodrum, Turkey	tbricfed.org.tr
Jul 14-24	ACBL Summer NABC	Providence, RI	acbl.org
Jul 15-23	Baltic Congress	Sopot, Poland	pzbs.pl
Jul 15-24	Hangon BridgeViikko	Hanko, Finland	bridgefinland.fi
Jul 16-20	Falkenberg Bridge Week	Falkenberg, Sweden	svenskbridge.se
Jul 19-26	European Youth Team Championships	Veldhoven, Netherlands	eurobridge.org
Jul 21-24	Scarborough Summer Congress	Scarborough, England	ebu.co.uk
Jul 21-29	Festival Mondiale	Deauville, France	mondiale-bridge-deauville.com
Jul 25-31	Viru Bridge	Vosu, Estonia	bridge.ee
Jul 27-Aug 7	Grand Prix of Warsaw	Warsaw, Poland	pzbs.pl
Jul 28-30	EuroGames	Nijmegen, Netherlands	eurogames20232.eu
Jul 29-Aug 7	Swedish Bridge Festival	Örebro, Sweden	svenskbridge.se
Jul 30-Aug 4	Chairman's Cup	Örebro, Sweden	svenskbridge.se
Aug 5-13	Norwegian Bridge Festival	Lillehammer, Norway	bridgefestival.no
Aug 7-13	Wachauer Bridge Week	Mautern, Austria	bridgeaustria.at
Aug 7-14	World Youth Transnational Champs	Salsomaggiore Terme, Italy	wordbridge.org
Aug 9-14	Coffs Coast Gold Congress	Coffs Harbour, Australia	coffsbridge.com.au
Aug 10-14	16 th Riga Invites	Riga, Latvia	rigainvites.lv
Aug 10-14	Varna Bridge Festival	Varna, Bulgaria	bridge.bg
Aug 11-14	Summer Meeting	Eastbourne, U.K.	ebu.co.uk
Aug 12-21	Festival Internationale de Bridge	La Baule, France	festivalbridgelabaule.com
Aug 16-25	Buzios Bridge	Rio de Janeiro, Brazil	frankiebridge@hotmail.com
Aug 19-Sep 3	World Bridge Series	Wroclaw, Poland	worldbridge.org
Aug 20-28	Erasmus Bridge Week	Rotterdam, Netherlands	denksportcentrumrotterdam.nl
Aug 20-28	Festival La Grande Motte	La Grande-Motte, France	festival-bridge-lagrandemotte.fr
Aug 22-Sep 3	International Bridge Festival	Mamaia, Romania	frbridge.ro
Aug 23-28	65 th International Festival du Touquet	Le Touquet, France	letouquet-festivaldebridge.com
Aug 24-28	Territory Gold Bridge Festival	Darwin, Australia	ntba.com.au
Sep 2-4	Northern Lights Bridge Festival	Siglufjörður, Iceland	vikingbridge.is
Sep 2-4	International Women's Tournament	Augsberg, Germany	bridgezentrum-augsberg.de
Sep 9-21	60 th International Festival	Pula, Croatia	pulabridgefestival.com
Sep 12-17	FISU World University Championships	Antwerp, Belgium	fisu.net/sport-events/fisu-calendar
Sep 12-18	Guernsey Bridge Congress	Guernsey, Channel Is.	ebu.co.uk
Sep 12-18	Abano Bridge Festival	Abano Terme, Italy	termebridgefestival.com
Sep 14-23	Asian Games	Hangzhou, China	hanzhou2022.cn/En
Sep 23-25	Vilnius Cup	Vilnius, Lithuania	bridgescanner.com
Sep 28-Oct 3	39 th Jordan International Festival	Amman, Jordan	bridgewebs.com/jbf/jordan
Oct 1-8	NZB National Congress	Mt. Maunganui, NZ	nzbridge.co.nz
Oct 5-11	Turkey Overseas Congress	Side, Turkey	www.ebu.co.uk
Oct 11-16	18 th HCL Bridge Championships	New Delhi, India	hcl-bridge.com
Oct 19-28	Australian Spring Nationals	Sydney, Australia	abf.com.au
Oct 28-30	KCBL Open Teams	Seoul, South Korea	kcbl.org
Nov 1-3	European Small Fed's Championship	Larnaca, Cyprus	eurobridge.org
Nov 7-13	Madeira International Open	Funchal, Madeira, Portugal	bridge-madeira.com
Nov 10-20	Red Sea International Festival	Eilat, Israel	bridgeredsea.com
Nov 24-Dec 4	ACBL Fall NABC	Phoenix, AZ	acbl.org
Dec 2-10	Festival de Mar del Plata	Mar del Plata, Argentina	aba.org.ar
Dec 27-30	Year End Congress	London, England	ebu.co.uk