



BULLETIN

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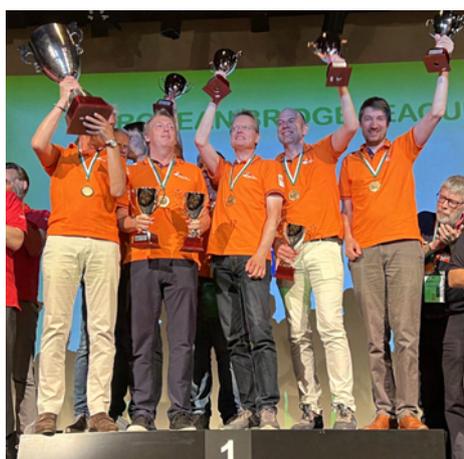
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Bulletin No. 690

July 8, 2022

European Champions !

Open Teams: Netherlands



Simon de Wijs/Bauke Muller, Berend van den Bos/Joris van Lankveld, Ricco van Prooijen/Louk Verhees, Gert-Jan Ros (NPC), Ton Bakkeren (Coach)

Women's Teams: Poland



Cathy Baldysz/Sophia Baldysz, Ewa Banaszekiwicz/Aleksandra Jarosz, Danuta Kazmucha/Anna Sarniak, Miroslaw Cichocki (NPC)

Senior Teams: Poland



Piotr Bizon/Marek Blat, Apolinary Kowalski/Jacek Romanski, Michal Kwiecien/Wlodimierz Starkowski, Wlodimierz Wala (NPC)

Mixed Teams: France



Bénédicte Cronier/Philippe Cronier, Vanessa Rees/Laurent Thuillez, Pierre Schmidt/Joanna Zochowska, Nicolas Déchelette (NPC)

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**55th EUROPEAN NATIONAL
TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS**
MADEIRA 12-22
FUNCHAL JUNE 2022

WOMEN'S / SENIORS' PAIRS - OPEN / WOMEN'S / SENIORS' / MIXED TEAMS

**The 55th European National
Team Championships**
Funchal, Madeira, Portugal
June 12-22, 2022

Marc Smith, Southampton, Hants., UK
Povl Sommer, Roskilde, Denmark
**Charles (Jens Otto Pedersen), Odense,
Denmark**

Mark Horton, Shrewsbury, Shrops., UK
David Bird, Eastleigh, Hants., UK
Herman De Wael, Wilrijk, Belgium
Brian Senior, Nottingham, Notts., UK
Barry Rigal, New York, NY, USA
Jos Jacobs, Maarn, Netherlands
Ben Norton, Loughborough, Leics., UK
Wlodek Starkowski, Poznan, Poland

Despite the name of the tournament, the first events to get underway were the Women's and Senior Pairs. The medal winners in these were:

Women's Pairs

1. BARONI, Irene / GOLIN, Cristina ITA 59.72
2. ERKKILA, Pia / TUOMI, Raija FIN 55.42
3. GRUMM, Iris / GRUMM, Susanne AUT 53.21

Senior Pairs

1. KWIECIEN, Michal / STARKOWSKI, Wlodzimierz POL 60.24
2. BIZON, Piotr / BLAT, Marek POL 58.01
3. VAINIKONIS, Vytautas / OLANSKI, Wojtek LTU 56.23

Unlike most pairs events, none of the placings was close to any other. That applied to the third-fourth delta as well.

The top eight NBOs in each category qualified for the World Championships (Bermuda Bowl, Venice Cup, d'Orsi Trophy, Wuhan Cup) to be held in Marrakech in 2023. With the current travel restrictions still plaguing many nations, it is possible that as many as ten European

teams will qualify for any event. Thus, the top ten in each series were:

Rank	Open Teams (30)	VP
1	Netherlands	410.90
2	Switzerland	407.65
3	Norway	371.80
4	Italy	356.34
5	Poland	352.59
6	Ireland	343.45
7	Israel	331.38
8	Belgium	328.25
9	Lithuania	326.95
10	Portugal	317.97

Rank	Women's Teams (19)	VP
1	Poland	273.01
2	Sweden	262.20
3	Israel	241.79
4	Germany	235.83
5	France	230.87
6	Denmark	224.41
7	Türkiye	213.60
8	Norway	205.83
9	Ireland	204.82
10	Estonia	200.15

Rank	Senior Teams (19)	VP
1	Poland	267.15
2	Denmark	247.32
3	Sweden	237.93
4	Italy	233.32
5	Israel	233.10
6	Belgium	219.75
7	Norway	212.63
8	Netherlands	210.30
9	France	200.22
10	Germany	175.92

Rank	Mixed Teams (22)	VP
1	France	276.35
2	Romania	266.30
3	Italy	261.38
4	Denmark	249.80
5	Germany	243.40

6	Poland	238.58
7	Israel	237.69
8	Belgium	236.95
9	Croatia	216.61
10	England	213.58

West	North	East	South
De Wijs	Lahrmann	Muller	Blakset
Pass	Pass	1♠	2♥
2♠	4♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Open Teams, Round 4, Netherlands vs. Denmark (Smith)

After a stuttering start against Poland in their opening match, the Dutch slipped into top gear to produce comfortable wins against Serbia and Hungary to move into fourth place. Meanwhile, the Danes had been moving in the opposite direction, a narrow win over fellow Scandinavians Sweden being followed by losses to Estonia and Romania. Could they arrest the slide against the Bermuda-Bowl finalists? They did not get off to a good start.

The contract and the opening lead were the same in both rooms on the following deal. One declarer found the excellent winning line of play initially, only to trip on a later hurdle.

Board 24. Dealer West. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Askgård	Van Prooijen	Konow	Verhees
Pass	2♣ ¹	Pass	2♦ ²
Pass	3♣ ³	Pass	3♥
Pass	4♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			

1. 6+ clubs, 11-15
2. Relay
3. No 4-card major, minimum

The Dutch began with a Precision-style two-club opening from North and then located their heart fit.

Louk Verhees won the spade lead in hand and immediately ruffed a spade in dummy. When he then led the queen of hearts at trick three, Kasper Konow won with the ace and played a second round of hearts. Whatever he did now, declarer could not avoid losing a spade trick in addition to the ace of diamonds and the jack of hearts; North/South minus 50.

Initially, Lars Blakset found a better solution:

Christian Lahrmann did not open the North hand, which worked out well as it meant that Blakset had learned more about the defenders' hands by the time he had to plan the play. He also won the spade lead and ruffed a spade, but when he then continued with the low heart from dummy at trick three, East had no answer. Rising with the ace and continuing with a trump would have prevented declarer from taking a second spade ruff, but would also have meant only one trump loser.

So, Muller followed low and Blakset won with the king of hearts. Declarer then cashed the king of spades before taking his second spade ruff, West discarding a club on the fourth spade. After taking his second spade ruff with the queen of hearts, declarer led the king of diamonds and de Wijs accurately ducked his ace. If declarer had then played a second diamond, the defence would have taken a ruff with the ace of hearts and the queen of spades would have promoted West's heart six into the setting trick.

Accordingly, Blakset ruffed a club to hand to play a trump, but East won with the ace and played the queen of spades, which forced declarer's penultimate trump (if declarer still held the king of spades, a club would have done as well). When declarer then played a diamond, West won with the ace, drew declarer's last trump with the jack of hearts, and cashed the ace of clubs for one down; North/South minus 50 and a flat board.

After declarer had ruffed his fourth spade with the queen of hearts, had he then led dummy's low diamond to his ten or queen, he would have been in a position to make the contract whether or not West had taken the ace immediately. Neither a club ruff nor the king of diamonds works for declarer.

Kill Points in a Great Defence (Smith, Sommer and Pedersen)

(The following deal appeared in the European Championships Daily Bulletin under Marc Smith's byline and, remarkably, was reported independently to the IBPA Bulletin by two more of our members, Povl Sommer and Jens Otto Pedersen. – Ed.)

The Dutch led 22-0 at the midway point of the match and the first deal of the second half provided plenty of excitement for the large crowd watching on BBO VuGraph. Both East players declared in two spades doubled, and both were allowed a chance to make the contract.

Board 25. Dealer North. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Askgård	Van Prooijen	Konow	Verhees
De Wijs	Lahrmann	Muller	Blakset
—	Pass	2♠	Pass
Pass	Double	Pass	Pass
Pass			

After identical auctions, both South players started accurately with the ace of diamonds. Neither, though, found the best continuation, a trump (any but the nine), both instead switching to a heart to the queen and ace. There the lines of play diverged.

For the Danes, Konow played a trump, ducked by Verhees and won by the king. A diamond to the queen, a heart to the king and a club to the ace followed. Declarer ruffed a heart and played the queen of spades, also ducked. Declarer led another diamond, South discarding the king of clubs, leaving this position:

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

The defence had taken three diamonds and a heart. When North led his diamond, South could ruff it and exit with the heart, scoring the nine and ace of spades at tricks 12 and 13. That was two off, minus 500.

For the Dutch, Muller thought for 12 minutes before taking his only chance to make the contract, a club to the queen. Then came the ace of clubs, declarer pitching his heart loser and Blakset following with the king (kill point no. 1). To make the contract, declarer must now ruff the third round of clubs but Muller, leery of being over-ruffed, ruffed a heart instead, then played a trump. This gave Blakset the chance to make the second of three excellent defensive plays (kill point no. 2), winning the ace and returning

the four of trumps into declarer's tenace. When Muller exited with a diamond, Blakset pitched his third club and Lahrmann won with his queen, leaving:

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

The defence had won just three tricks. Lahrmann played a club through declarer and, when Muller ruffed high, Blakset found another superb play by under-ruffing (kill point no. 3). Muller again exited with a diamond and, when Lahrmann won with the king (trick four for the defence) and played another club through, declarer's goose was finally cooked: (i) he could ruff low, be overruffed and have his last trump forced out by a heart, leaving Blakset with a winning trump; conversely, (ii) he could ruff high and concede the last two trumps to South; finally, declarer could discard, see South discard as well, then any card through declarer would have allowed South to make the nine of spades. That was excellent defence to beat the contract by a trick (North/South plus 200), losing 7 IMPs. Had Blakset allowed Muller to make two spades doubled, Denmark would have lost 15.

Netherlands won the exciting match 35-32, but had been leading 35-0 with only four boards to play. Lars Blakset is one of the oldies in Danish bridge, with several appearances on the national team. His partner, Christian Lahrmann, is only 19 years old, and was playing for the first time in the national team. He won his first World Championship as a Junior, when he was only 13 years old.

Open Teams, Round 4, Italy vs. France (Horton)

Board 31. Dealer South. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Duboin	Seguineau	Versace	Sebbane
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	1♦	1♥	Pass
1♠	INT	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

The king is dead, long live the king! On this deal, Italy appeared to be on the way to a significant gain...

The combination of North's opening bid and East's overcall saw North/South miss the virtually laydown (on the lie of the cards) four hearts.

East led the queen of clubs and, having been allowed to win with the king, declarer played the king of hearts, East winning and playing the club knave for two down, minus 200. As it happened, there was nothing wrong with that, but imagine West's diamond holding had been the doubleton king-ten instead of the king-six.

West	North	East	South
Volcker	Donati	Rombaut	Percario
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	INT	Pass	3♣ ¹
Double	4♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			

1. 5 hearts and 4 spades, limit

North/South sailed into the heart game and the wind appeared to be set fair for a big swing to Italy. East led the queen of clubs; West took the ace and paused for thought. Meanwhile, the BBO commentator noted that, "Four hearts should make, even with the five-zero break."

At this point, West played his card to the second trick; it was the six of diamonds! You could hardly blame declarer for going up with the ace and playing a heart but, when West discarded the two of clubs, the five-zero break was revealed. Declarer now played on spades, but East ruffed the second round of the suit and exited with the jack of clubs, declarer winning with the king and playing the diamond three. Imagine his feelings when it was West who took the trick with the king! A second spade ruff and the ace of hearts meant a flat board, thanks to Frédéric Volcker's brilliant switch.

Open Teams, Round 7, Netherlands vs. Norway (Horton)

Verhees was abso-louk-ly fabulous on these two deals.

Board 2. Dealer East. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Van Lankveld	Bakke	Van den Bos	Brogeland
—	—	1♥	Double
2♦	Pass	4♥	4♠
5♥	Pass	Pass	Double
Pass	Pass	Pass	

South led the king of spades and switched to the five of hearts. Declarer won with the jack and led the ten of diamonds. South took the king and continued with the spade ace. Declarer ruffed in dummy, pitching a club, ruffed a diamond and ran his trumps, squeezing South in the minors, plus 650.

West	North	East	South
Helgemo	Van Prooijen	Grude	Verhees
—	—	1♥	Double
INT	Pass	4♥	4♠
5♥	Pass	Pass	Double
Pass	Pass	Pass	

As before, South switched to a heart after cashing the king of spades. He took the diamond return and led the king of clubs(!), a classic Merrimac Coup that ensured the demise of the contract along with 13 IMPs to the Netherlands.

Board 4. Dealer West. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Van Lankveld	Bakke	Van den Bos	Brogeland
Pass	1♦	Pass	2♣ ¹
Pass	2♦	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♦	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♦	Pass	4NT ²
Pass	5♠ ³	Pass	6NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. Game-forcing
2. RKCB
3. 2 key cards plus diamond queen

West led the beer card. Declarer took the trick with dummy's diamond ace and played a club for the four, king and five(!). Declarer unblocked the spades, cashed his winners in dummy and by the time he played a heart to the ace West had blanked the king, a miraculous plus 1470. It was an effective psychological ploy by Brogeland.

West	North	East	South
Helgemo	Van Prooijen	Grude	Verhees
Pass	1♦ ¹	Pass	2♣ ²
Pass	2♦	Pass	4♦ ³
Pass	4♥ ⁴	Pass	4NT ⁵
Pass	5NT ⁶	Pass	6NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. 2+ diamonds, 11-15
2. 3+ clubs, invitational-plus, denies 4 of a major
3. Sets diamonds, slam try
4. Heart control
5. RKCB
6. 2 key cards plus diamond queen

West led the four of spades. Declarer won, unblocked the spades, and cashed winners to reach this position:

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

Declarer cashed the spade jack, discarding the club eight and, when West pitched the jack of clubs, he exited with a club to bring home his slam in magnificent style.

What a way to lose an IMP!

Open Teams, Round 9, Poland vs. Czech Republic (Bird)

This board was a potential slam:

Board 7. Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Vozabal	Jagniewski	Klems	Gawel
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	Pass	1♦	1♥
3♣ ¹	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♦ ²	Pass	4♥ ³	Pass
4♠ ³	Pass	6♦	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. Fit-jump
2. Minimum
3. Control

A trump lead seems clear-cut to me, but Gawel considered other possibilities for a full minute or so before producing the six of diamonds. Declarer won with dummy's queen and took a losing finesse of the spade queen. Back came another trump and declarer had to lose a heart trick for one down.

West	North	East	South
Kotorowicz	Kopecky	Araskiewicz	Slemr
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	2♠	Double	3♠
Pass	Pass	Double	Pass
4NT	Pass	6♦	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Konrad Araskiewicz won the trump lead with the queen, and made the winning start of calling for the king of clubs, covered and ruffed. After ace of spades and a spade ruff, he discarded a heart on the queen of clubs. A club ruff was followed by a spade ruff, bringing down the king. Two more rounds of trumps left his position...

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

The queen of spades drew the heart five from South and the club ten from dummy. The queen of hearts then endplayed South to lead into the split heart tenace. That was 12 tricks and a reward of 16 IMPs for a brilliantly played (albeit a bit lucky) hand.

Open Teams, Round 14, France vs. Türkiye (Horton & De Wael)

Board 19. Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Umur</i>	<i>Seguineau</i>	<i>Aslan</i>	<i>Sebbane</i>
—	—	—	2♣
Pass	2♦ ¹	Pass	2NT ²
Pass	3♣ ³	Pass	3♦ ⁴
Pass	3♥ ⁵	Pass	3NT
Pass	5NT ⁶	Pass	6NT

1. 0-1 controls (A=2, K=1)
2. 24+ balanced
3. Stayman
4. No major
5. Smolen (4 heart/5 spades)
6. Pick a slam

In the other room, North/South had scored plus 460, so a swing was guaranteed here. What occurred there was a gem...

West led the diamond deuce. Declarer won with dummy's queen (had he put in the eight, life would, as it happens, have been easier) and played a spade for the six and nine. (Many played on hearts, which is worse odds by roughly 2.7%.) West made a brilliant try when he withheld the queen and declarer continued by cashing the ace. When East's king appeared, declarer cashed his diamonds, East discarding the ten of clubs on the third round. With six cards remaining this was the situation:

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

Declarer cashed his three clubs, throwing dummy's spade, and then played a heart to dummy's nine forcing East to win and lead into the split tenace. Had West tried putting in the ten of hearts on the first round of the suit declarer would have applied the principle of restricted choice after East had taken the queen with king, running the heart return to dummy's nine. C'est magnifique, n'est-ce pas?

Open Teams, Round 15, Belgium vs. Bulgaria (Senior)

(See top of next column.) Nanev led a heart, which Gunev won. Had he continued with a second heart, that would have set up declarer's ninth trick, but Gunev got that right, by switching to the king of spades followed by a low spade to the queen. The defence established three spade tricks and De Donder was a trick short; down one for minus 100.

Board 4. Dealer West. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Gunev</i>	<i>De Donder</i>	<i>Nanev</i>	<i>Bahbout</i>
1♥	2♦	2♥	2♠
Pass	3NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

West	North	East	South
<i>Arts</i>	<i>Donev</i>	<i>De Roos</i>	<i>Draganov</i>
1♥	Double	3♥	4♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Geert Arts cashed the ace of hearts then switched to a club. Draganov won in dummy with the jack and passed the jack of spades, losing to the king. Back came the jack of diamonds. Draganov won with the ace and played the ace and another club. De Roos didn't ruff, so the king scored, and Draganov played two more rounds of spades. He had to lose a total of three spade tricks and one heart, so was down one for minus 100 and a flat board.

I wondered if anyone had bid and made five of a minor. Nobody played in five clubs, while eight pairs played in five diamonds, but none was successful. Meanwhile, 15 of the 19 pairs who played in three notrump were allowed to make it – the lead against it was always a heart – so Gunev did better than I had at first realised when he found the killing spade king switch at trick two, which also works against stiff queen in declarer's hand.

Open Teams, Round 17, England vs. Netherlands (Bird)

The only large swing came here:

Board 22. Dealer East. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Van Lankveld</i>	<i>Townsend</i>	<i>Van den Bos</i>	<i>Handley</i>
—	—	Pass	Pass
1♦	Pass	1♥	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♣ ¹	Pass
2♦	Pass	2♠ ²	Pass
4♣	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. XYZ
2. Invitational, non-forcing

Townsend led the king of hearts, won in dummy. A diamond to the king won the next trick, and declarer ran the jack of diamonds, discarding a club from dummy. Ben Handley-Pritchard won with the ace and returned a heart, declarer ruffing and North playing the queen, the card he was known to hold. A diamond ruff, followed by the spade ace left declarer at the crossroads.

Apparently, there is a double-dummy line available by ruffing yet another heart in his hand and then playing good diamonds. Declarer instead played another trump to the king, going one down, minus 100.

West	North	East	South
<i>Bell</i>	<i>Van Prooijen</i>	<i>Norton</i>	<i>Verhees</i>
—	—	Pass	Pass
1♦ ¹	Pass	1♥ ²	Pass
2♣ ³	Pass	2♥ ⁴	Pass
4♣	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. (i) Unbalanced; could be 4-5 in the minors (ii) weak NT with 5 diamonds
2. No 5-card major
3. Any hand with 4 spades
4. Invitational 4-card spade raise

Mike Bell won the king-of-hearts lead with the ace and successfully led a diamond to the king. After ruffing a diamond and ruffing a heart, he ruffed the queen of diamonds and ruffed another heart. When the jack of diamonds was led, North ruffed with the ten of spades, overruffed with the ace. A club to the jack and ace was followed by the diamond six, North ruffing with the queen of spades. A club went to the king and Verhees could not then prevent declarer from scoring an overtrick.

If Verhees led a trump, Bell could draw the last trump and enjoy a diamond. If instead, he led a club, the last three tricks would be made on a high crossruff. That was 13 much-needed IMPs to England, bringing the score to 18-14. It is a measure of the fabulous play by both sides thereafter that the scoreline in the remaining ten boards was just 1-0 to the Netherlands!

Open Teams, Round 18, Spain vs. England (Rigal)

This was a pretty 'ropey' slam:

Board 3. Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Jiminez</i>	<i>Norton</i>	<i>Knap</i>	<i>Bell</i>
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♥	Pass	3♠ ¹
Pass	3NT ²	Pass	4♣ ³
Pass	6♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			

1. Slam try for hearts
2. Shortage/attitude ask
3. Either no shortage, or a mild try with a shortage

Ben Norton wasn't exactly impressed by his partnership bidding to reach slam here against Spain – with no way to discover the shortage, he simply bid the slam. However, the line of play that he followed was very elegant.

You can hardly blame Andrzej Knap for leading a top spade here – can you? Norton won and, not having the entries to cater for the jack-doubleton of diamonds offside, took a diamond finesse as his best line to play the suit for four tricks, then drew trumps and played the diamonds to pitch dummy's club. That squeezed East down to three spades and a doubleton club in this position:

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

Norton led a low spade from hand and Knap correctly ducked. Norton then ducked a spade to East, pitching a club from hand, and East was back in the hot seat. He could do no better than return his club jack. Norton ran it to his hand, ruffed a club, and claimed. Note that,

on a passive trump lead, declarer could embark on the same line, but East can prevail this time by pitching a spade, not a club, on the fourth diamond. Then he wins the second spade and exits with a low club.

That was 11 IMPs to England in a big win instead of 11 IMPs to Spain and a small win.

Steve Landen of the USA used to call this type of contract a “Canadian slam”, this one needing three-two trumps, a finesse for the jack of diamonds, East to hold the club ace and not lead it and, finally, a squeeze without the count. John Gowdy, steadfast and patriotic Canadian international, used to reply, “...and an American on opening lead!” – Ed.

Open Teams, Round 20, Norway vs. Switzerland (Smith)

A stellar piece of declarer play swung 22 IMPs on the first deal of the match.

Board 1. Dealer North. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Brogeland	Drijver	Bakke	Brink
—	Pass	1♣	Pass
1♦ ¹	Double	3♥	Pass
4♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. Hearts

South led a diamond to the queen and ace and North switched to a spade. Declarer could see that slam has some play, but that it is not a good contract, essentially needing trumps three-two with the queen onside, so around 34%. Bakke won the spade switch, cashed the ace of hearts, and played a heart to the jack. When North showed out, he effectively claimed his 11 tricks; East/West plus 450 and what looked for all the world like a flat board. Hah!

West	North	East	South
Klukowski	Grude	Gawrys	Helgemo
—	Pass	1♣ ¹	Pass
1♥ ²	2♦	3♥ ³	Pass
3♠ ⁴	Pass	4♦ ⁵	Pass
4♠ ⁶	Pass	4NT ⁷	Pass
5♠ ⁸	Pass	6♥	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. (i) 12-14 balanced (ii) 15+ with clubs (iii) any 18+
2. 8+ HCP, 4+ hearts
3. 15-17 HCP; some 4441 (with clubs), or 5+ clubs and 4 hearts
4. Asks
5. Short diamonds
6. Spade control
7. RKCB
8. 2 key cards plus heart queen !

The auction effectively started the same way here, with North bidding diamonds, having passed initially, and Piotr Gawrys showing a raise to three hearts. Rather than just bidding game, though, Michal Klukowski made a slam try with three spades (maybe a control-bid, but perhaps asking for shortage). Gawrys showed his diamond shortage and before you could say “Na Zdrowie”, the Swiss team’s Polish contingent had installed themselves in slam.

Most of the onlookers were convinced that this was an excellent start for the Norwegians. Michal Klukowski, though, took about three seconds to disillusion them.

Grude led the ace of diamonds and continued with a low diamond at trick two. Klukowski ruffed in dummy, cashed the ace of hearts and, channelling Edgar Kaplan, promptly ran the nine of hearts. When North discarded, declarer took a second trump finesse and claimed his 12 tricks. I suppose if you’re never going to lose a trick to the queen of trumps, you might as well say you have it!

“Did he really just do that?” asked one stunned commentator.

Yes, there was an inference from North’s bidding, but it was tenuous at best: he hadn’t opened a weak two diamonds, but he decided he then had a good enough hand to come in at the two level on the next round. North must hold five or six diamonds, so why had he not opened? Perhaps because he also held four spades? With something like queen-ten-fourth of spades and ace-ten-sixth of diamonds, might North not have led a singleton club rather than an unsupported ace?

Thus, North’s most likely shape was 4=1=6=2. Yes, tenuous at best, but the only explanations are either that Michal Klukowski is completely mad or he is completely brilliant. The number of world championship titles he has won, while still barely out of short pants, strongly suggests that it is the latter.

Amazing! East/West plus 980 and 11 IMPs to Switzerland, when almost any other declarer in the world would have been inscribing those IMPs in the Norwegian column.

Open Teams, Round 20, Norway vs. Switzerland (Smith)

Board 12. Dealer West. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Brogeland</i>	<i>Drijver</i>	<i>Bakke</i>	<i>Brink</i>
1♥	1♠	Pass	2♦ ¹
2♥	Double ²	Pass	4♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. Constructive 3-card spade rise or better
2. Game try

Bakke led his heart. Brogeland cashed the ace and king before switching to a club. Declarer's problem was the losing heart in his hand. He needed to ruff it, but needed to do so in such a way that East's ten of spades would not get promoted. Drijver won the club switch in his hand and played a spade to the king, but Brogeland accurately followed with the two. The winning play at this point was to play the low trump from dummy. West could win with the ace, but declarer would still have a high trump in dummy with which to ruff his heart loser.

The Madeira Daily Bulletin Editor, Mark Horton, averred that there were other winning lines; for example, declarer could cash a second club, then ruff a diamond, cash a club, and then ruff a heart. However, that would not cater for West holding the ace-ten-low of spades. Declarer might get a slender clue from the two rounds of clubs. In the event, ten players made four spades in the Open Teams.

After the king of spades won, Drijver crossed back to his hand with the ace of diamonds and a diamond ruff, and then ruffed his low heart with the eight of spades. When he followed that with the jack of spades, though, Brogeland won and played a fourth round of hearts for his partner to ruff declarer's queen. North/South minus 100.

At the other table, Klukowski bid to three hearts, but the Norwegians turned down the 500 penalty available to play in four spades...

West	North	East	South
<i>Klukowski</i>	<i>Grude</i>	<i>Gawrys</i>	<i>Helgemo</i>
1♥	1♠	Pass	2♥
3♥	3♠	Pass	4♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Double of three hearts would have been a maximal overcall double as a game try. Had Grude passed, Helgemo might well have re-opened with a double for North to leave in.

The first six tricks were the same as at the other table. Here, though, after ruffing a diamond back to hand, declarer led the queen of hearts. East discarded and declarer ruffed his heart loser. Then, when Klukowski won the second round of trumps with the ace, a fifth round of hearts promoted the ten of spades. That resulted in one off and a flat board.

Open Teams, Round 21, Switzerland vs. Poland (Jacobs)

Board 29. Dealer North. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Kotorowicz</i>	<i>Drijver</i>	<i>Araszkievicz</i>	<i>Brink</i>
—	1♥	1♠	3NT ¹
Pass	4♦ ²	Pass	4♠
Pass	4NT ³	Pass	5♥ ⁴
Pass	6♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			

1. Game-forcing heart fit
2. Intermediate hand with 2 spade losers
3. RKCB
4. 2 key cards, no heart queen

East led the king of spades. Declarer realised that the spade loser could not be avoided, so he needed both the trumps and the clubs to behave nicely. Little did he know that they both actually did, but what else could he do? Declarer won with the ace of spades and advanced the queen of clubs. West covered and declarer took the ace. First hurdle successfully cleared. Over now to the trumps. Low heart from hand and... East produced the queen!

If the queen of hearts were a true card, a trump coup would be needed to get rid of the losing club in declarer's hand since ruffing it would destroy the chance of a trump finesse. So declarer cashed his three top diamonds first and was shocked when East ruffed the third round with his ten of hearts. That was well-defended; Poland plus 100 and 13 IMPs to them when

the Poles were in the more peaceful four hearts at the other table, making it with an overtrick.

Open Teams, Round 22 France vs. Ireland (Bird)

This board was a bulletin writer's delight – a real firecracker.

Board 3. Dealer South. NS Vul.

<p>♠ A 9 6 5 ♥ 10 8 ♦ K J 9 7 ♣ 9 8 6</p> <p>♠ J 10 4 ♥ Q 9 6 ♦ Q 6 ♣ A K Q 10 5</p> <p>♠ 7 3 ♥ K 4 3 2 ♦ A 10 8 5 3 ♣ 4 3</p>	<p>♠ K Q 8 2 ♥ A J 7 5 ♦ 2 ♣ J 7 2</p>
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West	North	East	South
McGann	Bompis	Hanlon	Pilon
—	—	—	Pass
1NT	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♦	Pass	3NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Bompis led the five of spades, McGann winning with dummy's king. Suppose declarer gives you his chair now. How would you continue the play?

"Low diamond, please," was McGann's choice and his queen drew North's king. The spade continuation was won with the jack. With two spades in the bag, a successful heart finesse would bring the total to nine. Or should declarer press his luck by knocking out the ace of spades? McGann finessed the jack of hearts, taking his now-legitimate chance, losing to the king.

Time stood still while Pilon decided what to return. The heart-rates of French kibitzers were climbing, but at last South reached for a card. It was the five of diamonds. Bompis won with the seven and... returned the ten of hearts! McGann's ruse had eventually succeeded, and his prize was a valuable plus 630.

We had royalty sitting among the kibitzers. The USA's Michael Rosenberg sent me a message, saying that South should have played the ace and another diamond instead of the diamond five. Declarer might have held the queen-jack doubleton.

North/South are former European champions, so all we can say is that it is more difficult to see through this type of deceptive play than we might imagine.

West	North	East	South
Sebbane	FitzGibbon	Seguineau	Mesbur
—	—	—	Pass
1♣	Pass	1♥	Pass
1NT	Pass	2NT	Pass
3NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

Declarer won the five-of-spades lead with the ten and finessed the jack of hearts. The defenders took the king of hearts, five diamond tricks and the ace of spades; 300 down, for a swing of 14 IMPs to Ireland.

Board 13. Dealer North. Both Vul.

<p>♠ K 6 3 ♥ A K Q 3 2 ♦ Q ♣ Q J 7 5</p> <p>♠ Q 9 7 5 2 ♥ 7 ♦ 10 4 3 2 ♣ K 8 2</p> <p>♠ J 10 ♥ J 8 6 ♦ A J 8 7 ♣ A 10 9 4</p>	<p>♠ A 8 4 ♥ 10 9 5 4 ♦ K 9 6 5 ♣ 6 3</p>
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West	North	East	South
McGann	Bompis	Hanlon	Pilon
—	1♥	Pass	2♠ ¹
Pass	2NT ²	Pass	3♦ ³
Pass	4♥	Pass	Pass

1. 3- or 4-card limit raise
2. Short-suit game try somewhere (?)
3. Accepting in clubs or diamonds (?)

Bompis might have rebid four hearts, saving me the trouble of seeking out their convention card. There was no explanation for the two-notrump and three-diamond bids anyway.

Bompis won the six-of-clubs lead with dummy's ace and drew trumps in four rounds. The jack of clubs went to the king and declarer guessed to play low when the seven of spades was returned. Five trumps, a spade, a diamond and three clubs added up to ten. No chance of a swing on this board, was there?

West	North	East	South
Sebbane	FitzGibbon	Seguineau	Mesbur
—	1♣ ¹	Pass	1NT ²
Pass	2♥	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♣	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♥	Pass	Pass

1. 17+
2. 11+ balanced

FitzGibbon won the six-of-diamonds lead with dummy's ace. When the jack of spade was run to the ace, GIB confidently predicted an overtrick. Sometimes he is overconfident, though. Let's see.

When Seguineau continued with the five of diamonds, declarer withheld the jack from dummy and ruffed West's ten. Maybe it's only ten tricks, muttered GIB. FitzGibbon cashed the king of spades and ruffed his last spade. Cashing the jack of hearts was okay next. As the cards lay, though,

declarer then needed to play clubs from the dummy, away from the ace. He preferred to play a second trump to the queen, West showing out on the trick. The ace of hearts was followed by the queen of clubs, run to the king. Declarer ruffed the queen-of-spades return with the king of trumps, promoting East's ten, as East threw his last club. Seguireau then ruffed the next club and cashed the king-nine of diamonds (declarer had discarded a diamond) for two down. It was 13 IMPs to France.

Open Teams, Round 23, Sweden vs. Switzerland (Smith)

Board 21. Dealer North. NS Vul.

<p>♠ 8 6 4 2 ♥ K Q J 10 6 ♦ J 10 5 ♣ 6</p> <p>♠ A K Q ♥ — ♦ A 8 4 2 ♣ A K 10 8 7 2</p> <p>♠ J 5 3 ♥ A 5 4 ♦ K Q 9 6 ♣ 9 5 3</p>	<p>♠ 10 9 7 ♥ 9 8 7 3 2 ♦ 7 3 ♣ Q J 4</p>
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West	North	East	South
<i>Bertheau</i>	<i>Drijver</i>	<i>Hult</i>	<i>Brink</i>
—	Pass	Pass	Pass
1♣ ¹	1♥	Pass	2♥
Double	Pass	2NT ²	Pass
3♥ ³	Pass	5♣	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. 3+ clubs
2. Lebensohl: weakness
3. Strength!

North's heart lead gave declarer time to set up two diamond ruffs in dummy and thus twelve tricks were made: East/West plus 420.

West	North	East	South
<i>Klukowski</i>	<i>O.Rimstedt</i>	<i>Gawrys</i>	<i>M.Rimstedt</i>
—	Pass	Pass	Pass
1♣ ¹	1♥	Pass ²	2♥
Double	Pass	3♣ ³	Pass
4♥ ⁴	Pass	5♣ ⁵	Pass
6♣ ⁶	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. (i) 11-14 balanced (ii) 15+ with clubs (iii) any 18+
2. 0-7
3. I've seen the kid play before
4. Short hearts
5. Enough
6. Not really

Could Ola Rimstedt find the trump lead needed to limit declarer to one diamond ruff? No chance. Ola led the queen of hearts and two shakes later declarer was claiming 12 tricks: East/West plus 920 and an 11-IMP swing.

Open Teams, Round 25, Belgium vs. England (Bird)

Belgium started this match in eighth place; England were 2 VPs behind in ninth. Did I remember to take my heart pills, in case the match became exciting? I believe I did.

Board 18. Dealer East. NS Vul.

<p>♠ 9 8 4 ♥ 9 7 4 ♦ 6 3 ♣ K 10 6 5 4</p> <p>♠ A 10 7 2 ♥ Q 8 5 2 ♦ 2 ♣ A Q 9 7</p> <p>♠ Q 6 3 ♥ A J 6 3 ♦ A Q 9 5 ♣ 3 2</p>	<p>♠ K J 5 ♥ K 10 ♦ K J 10 8 7 4 ♣ J 8</p>
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West	North	East	South
<i>Bell</i>	<i>De Donder</i>	<i>Norton</i>	<i>Bahbout</i>
—	—	1♦	Pass
1♥ ¹	Pass	1♠	Pass
1NT	Pass	2♦	Pass
3NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. Denies a 5-card major

Well, the meaning of the one-heart response might be familiar to you. Yes, you're right, it denies a five-card major. (Bridge was so much simpler 45 years ago, when I was in my prime.) The England pair's convention card unhelpfully tells us that "most rebids are artificial". Well, I think we had better wave the auction goodbye and watch the play in three notrump.

The four-of-clubs lead went to dummy's eight, overtaken with the nine. It was natural to play a diamond next, but the all-seeing Mr. GIB told me that he would have done something different. Michael Bell rose with the king, losing to the ace. Sam Bahbout returned a club to partner's king, and North's four-of-hearts switch went to the ten, jack and queen. Declarer's spade to the jack and queen was followed by the ace of hearts, the queen of diamonds, and a heart to North's nine. That was two down.

West	North	East	South
<i>Arts</i>	<i>Townsend</i>	<i>De Roos</i>	<i>H.-Pritchard</i>
—	—	1♦	Double
Redouble	2♣	2♦	Pass
2NT	Pass	3NT	Double
Pass	Pass	Pass	

South's double could hardly be requesting a diamond lead, it seems, after his take-out double. Tom Townsend thus led the eight of spades, which gave no more away than declarer already knew from the earlier take-out double. The spade jack, queen and ace completed the

first trick. Declarer still had some work to do. When the two of diamonds was played to the six and jack, Ben Handley-Pritchard could not tell who held the three of diamonds. He decided to duck, and this gave declarer a chance. (Winning with the queen and returning either black suit would have put the defence in control.)

Geert Arts did not take immediate advantage. He ran the jack of clubs to the king, North returning a heart to the king and ace. After a spade return to the seven, nine and king, Arts demonstrated that he had been following the spotcards. He led dummy's five of spades, which collected the three, two and four. A club to his ace left this position:

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

The defenders had taken two tricks so far. What should South have discarded when declarer's spade ten drew the four of clubs and the four of diamonds? To beat the contract, it had to be a heart. Still not having seen the three of diamonds, South threw the diamond nine. Declarer then cashed the queen of clubs and played a heart to the ten and jack. South cashed the ace of diamonds and returned a heart at trick 12. Arts rose with the queen, dropping North's nine, and claimed the eight of hearts as his ninth trick. All that remained was to enter a precious plus 550 on his card. It was 12 IMPs to Belgium.

Open Teams, Round 26, Netherlands vs. Israel (Smith)

Board 14. Dealer East. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Verhees	Birman	Van Prooijen	Padon
—	—	1♣ ¹	Pass
1♦ ²	Pass	1NT ³	Pass
2♣ ⁴	Pass	2♠	Pass
3♦ ⁵	Pass	Pass	Pass
1. 15+ any			
2. 0-8			
3. 17-19			
4. Stayman			
5. To play			

Game in diamonds is basically on the trump finesse but, as Verhees demonstrated, may also make if the defenders do not cash their two heart winners. North led a trump and Verhees won with the ace in dummy. He then cashed his three winners in each black suit to dispose of three hearts. The defenders came to a trick in each red suit at the end; East/West plus 150.

West	North	East	South
Zamir	De Wijs	Toledano	Muller
—	—	1♣ ¹	Pass
1♥ ²	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♠	Pass
3NT	Pass	Pass	Pass
1. 16+ any			
2. 8-11 any without 5 spades			

After the spade-showing Stayman response here, Zamir had no non-forcing options so he took a shot at the most-likely game. As it happens, three notrump is inferior, as it still needs the diamond finesse, but might also fail if the defenders are able to cash five hearts.

Bauke Muller led the ten of clubs, declarer winning with the queen and running the queen of diamonds at trick two. Yes, one possibility is to find partner with king-jack-third of hearts. Another, though, is that he holds the ace of spades and a heart holding such as jack-ten-third. To which major would you switch when you take the king of diamonds?

The heart play needs slightly less than the spade play (a king rather than an ace), but experts always prefer not to have to guess, and Muller found a way to avoid doing so on this deal. At trick two, he followed smoothly with the eight of diamonds. Of course, declarer continued by running the jack of diamonds and now, after taking the king, Muller could safely exit with a spade, removing dummy's only remaining possible entry whilst the diamonds were blocked. Declarer could score eight tricks, three in each black suit plus two diamonds, but that was all; East/West minus 50 and 5 IMPs to Netherlands.



IBPA Column Service

Tim Bourke, Canberra



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1101. Dealer South. Both Vul.

♠ 6 4 3 2 ♥ K Q 8 6 4 ♦ 10 5 ♣ 10 5 ♠ K Q J 8 ♥ 3 ♦ 8 4 2 ♣ A J 9 8 3	♠ 10 9 ♥ J 10 7 2 ♦ 9 7 6 3 ♣ K 6 2 ♠ A 7 5 ♥ A 9 5 ♦ A K Q J ♣ Q 7 4
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West	North	East	South
—	—	—	2NT
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♦
Pass	3♠ ¹	Pass	4♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. Smolen, four spades and five hearts

This deal came up in a team game and, after similar auctions, both declarers faced the problem of making ten tricks after receiving the lead of the king of spades.

At the first table, declarer won trick one with the ace of spades and cashed the king and ace of hearts. He then played four rounds of diamonds, discarding two clubs from the dummy. After ruffing a club, declarer led a spade from dummy. Alas for declarer, East was able to win the spade and return the jack of trumps, taken by dummy's queen. When declarer played a spade from dummy, West was able to cash the queen and jack of spades. East took the last trick with the ten of trumps for one down.

At the other table, declarer also won the first trick with the ace of spades. Declarer saw that, if trumps were three-two, he would always make ten tricks. He then addressed the problem of whether he could do anything if they were four-one. Declarer saw that he might succeed if the hand with four trumps also had four diamonds and South could score two of dummy's low trumps by ruffing clubs.

South's next move was to cash dummy's king and queen of trumps, keeping the ace of trumps as an entry to his

hand. When the four-one break was revealed, declarer ran four rounds of diamonds, discarding two clubs from dummy.

Declarer's luck was in: it was East who began with four diamonds, along with his four trumps. So, after ruffing a club in dummy, declarer returned to hand with a trump to the ace. Then he ruffed a second club in dummy for his tenth trick: he made one spade, five trumps and four diamonds.

1102. Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

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

1. 22-24 points

2. Spades

This was another deal from a team game. The auctions to the small slam in spades were identical. Both South players thought they knew what to do after four diamonds – they were wrong; six clubs was a far better contract than six spades.

The opening lead was the same at both tables, the ten of clubs. Both declarers counted 11 tricks as long as the spades were three-two. In that case, the success of the contract would depend on one of the two red-suit finesses winning. After winning the first trick in hand with

the king of clubs, the declarers cashed the ace and king of trumps, getting the bad news.

At the first table, declarer cashed the queen of trumps before leading a diamond to West's five and dummy's queen. Next, declarer led a low heart to his queen. Alas, West took this with his king of hearts and declarer still had to lose a trump trick for one down.

At the other table, declarer led a low diamond to dummy's queen at trick four. When that held, declarer cashed the ace of diamonds and then led a low trump from dummy to his queen. When he ruffed his eight of diamonds in dummy with the seven of trumps, an extra chance came in: West had started with king-jack-third of diamonds and declarer's ten of diamonds was now high. So declarer crossed to hand with a heart to his ace to play the ten of diamonds, throwing dummy's remaining heart. Declarer then claimed 12 tricks, conceding only a trump trick to East.

1103. Dealer East. Both Vul.

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

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

This deal was from an intermediate class. Every East player opened one club and every South player knew what to do – they all bid four spades. Eventually, four spades was passed out at all four tables.

The lead at every table was the obvious one, the jack of clubs. At two tables, declarer took the first trick with his queen of clubs and cashed the ace of trumps. When their left-hand opponents discarded a diamond, these declarers saw that they would have to lose a trump, two hearts and a club for down one.

At a third table, South led a heart to dummy at trick two. East won and continued with a club. Declarer now cashed the spade ace and played a second heart. West won and cashed a club then exited with a red suit, forcing declarer to ruff dummy's winner, so, stranded in hand, he had to lose a trick to East's queen of trumps.

At the fourth table, South was the best of the sixteen newcomers in the room. She sensed that there would be hardly any point to the deal if the ace and king of trumps would draw the outstanding trumps. So, she considered what to do if East had three trumps to the

queen. After a short pause she found the answer: she led her ten of trumps at trick two!

What could East do now? If he ducked, declarer would make eight trumps and two clubs for her contract. East took his queen of trumps and continued with a club. Declarer was now in control: she rose with the ace of clubs then played a low trump to dummy's jack. Then, after throwing her losing club on dummy's ace of diamonds, she had ten tricks.

1104. Dealer West. EW Vul.

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

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

West led the queen of hearts. Declarer could see only nine obvious tricks – five trumps, two hearts and the minor-suit aces. His only hope was that East had the king of diamonds and that he could get to dummy twice in trumps: once to lead a diamond towards his queen and a second time to discard a heart or a club on the ace of diamonds.

Declarer saw that if West had the ace of trumps it would not matter how he played the trumps: he would always get to dummy twice – once with the king of trumps and a second time with the eight of trumps. So, declarer considered what he could do if East had the ace of trumps.

Declarer's solution to this possibility was elegant. After winning the first trick with his ace of hearts, declarer led the queen of trumps to dummy's king. East took this with his ace of trumps and continued with hearts. Declarer won this with his king of hearts then led his six of trumps to dummy's eight. When this drew all of the outstanding trumps, declarer was in with a chance to make ten tricks. He led a low diamond from dummy; East rose with the king and declarer followed with the two.

As East still had the ten of hearts, he cashed it. When it held, East shifted to a low club. Declarer rose with the ace, cashed the queen of diamonds and led his carefully preserved two of trumps to dummy's three. All that remained was to throw his losing club on the ace of diamonds and claim his contract.

Note that if declarer fails to overtake the queen of trumps at trick two, East can withhold the ace to defeat the contract.



Real Life

Larry Cohen
Delray Beach, FL

In the fall of 2009, I was on a seven-week cruise, teaching bridge in Asia. At night, I would often play deals with my students. This people-dealt deal arose in the China Sea. I held the North cards and South was one of my better students. This was the deal and the auction:

Dealer East. EW Vul.

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

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

After some optimistic bidding by me (North), declarer received a diamond lead. The defence led three rounds of diamonds and declarer ruffed, then took a heart finesse. He ended up losing two diamonds, a heart and, eventually, a club.

When teaching, I stress that at suit contracts you must count losers. Here, there appears to be one too many: two diamonds, one heart and one club.

After the deal, my partner asked me if he could have made it. What do you think? Would the deal be here if the answer was no?

For starters, the heart finesse wasn't likely to win. West had passed his partner's opening, and had already shown the queen-jack of diamonds, so it was unlikely he could also have the king of hearts and have failed to respond with six HCP.

So, I would not have taken the heart finesse. Some days, playing a heart to the ace would actually drop the singleton king offside – but not here.

There is a way, however, to avoid the loss of the club trick. If clubs are three-three, there isn't much that can be done but, if East has fewer than three clubs, he can be thrown in with good effect if his only remaining heart is the king. The first three tricks are diamonds, declarer ruffing the third round. Then comes a heart to the ace, with the bad news that the king doesn't fall. All is not lost. Next, cash the top spades (throw a club from dummy) and ruff a spade. Then play the ace-king of clubs and ruff your last spade in dummy.

Now, you just have to hope that when you play a heart that East will have no more clubs (nor a small heart with the king). In Real Life, he has to win his king of hearts and concede the rest. Whether he plays his last spade or diamond, you can throw a club from one hand and ruff in the other. The ruff-sluff gives you your contract.

Do I expect my intermediate students to play a deal this way? Not at the table – especially with no warning bells or whistles. This one isn't easy as it involves envisioning an ending after ten tricks have been played. However, once you realize the heart finesse is doomed, you can count three sure losers outside of clubs. This chance of East having a doubleton club and playing as shown can be worked out, but only with concentration and logic.



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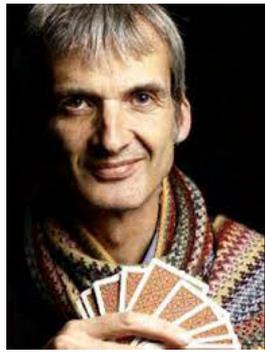
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Country Life

Andrew Robson
London



Whether to draw trumps and, if so, just how many to get rid of, is a fascinating issue. If the answer was easy, though, the game would not be what it is.

Take this deal from the 2010 U.S. Nationals in Reno, Nevada.

Dealer South. Neither Vul.

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

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

1. Fourth Suit Forcing

With his jump to three spades, South had upgraded his hand because of the diamond void. With such good support for hearts, North decided that six hearts was the spot in which to play. There is much to be said for preferring spades as trumps here, because, with South marked with at most one diamond, diamond ruffs can be taken in the hand with the short trump length. Modern players might have employed a five-notrump ‘Pick a Slam’ treatment.

West led the three of diamonds, declarer ruffing in hand to delay the decision as to which black suit to discard on the diamond ace. At trick two, South led a low spade to the queen, the finesse succeeding (had the queen lost to East’s king, declarer would have needed the club finesse and a

trump break). Declarer then cashed the ace of spades.

If the king of spades had not appeared under the ace, declarer would have discarded his third spade on dummy’s ace of diamonds, ruffed a spade, drawn trumps finishing in dummy, cashed the two long spades and relied on a winning club finesse. In fact, the king of spades did fall under the ace so, now, with some clever manoeuvring, declarer could avoid the club finesse.

Declarer cashed the ace of diamonds, discarding a club, and ruffed a diamond to eliminate the suit. He then cashed the ace-queen of trumps (both following) and led the master knave of spades. If East had held the remaining knave of trumps, the knave of spades would have won and South could have crossed to the king of trumps to enjoy the spades, with an overtrick resting on the club finesse.

In practice, West held the missing trump and ruffed the knave of spades with it. However, the cleverness of declarer’s line was then revealed as West was now endplayed. A diamond would have enabled declarer to ruff in dummy and throw a club from hand, then to lead out the two long spades, throwing two more clubs (obviating the need for the club finesse); whilst a club from the king would have elevated declarer’s queen into a trick; 12 tricks and slam made.

That was excellent declarer play. Delaying the drawing of trumps was crucial to the success of the contract.

Correspondence



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

Dear: (Mark Horton, Arianna Testa, Sam Punch, Barry Rigal and me – Ed.)

Seriously?

From the final Madeira Bulletin: “Arianna Testa was the girl behind the lens ...”

I do understand that your job as Bulletin editor involves a lot of time-sensitive pressure. Nevertheless, it should have been but the work of a moment or two to find a formulation that would have been even more sexist and patronizing. Let me guess – this was the first locution that a Google search kicked up.

Marshall Lewis, Zagreb

Open Teams, Round 28, Poland vs. Ireland (Smith)

Board 8. Dealer West. Neither Vul.

<p>♠ 6 5 2 ♥ A K 10 7 4 2 ♦ K 7 ♣ 5 2</p> <p>♠ Q J 10 4 ♥ 8 ♦ J 4 2 ♣ K Q 10 7 4</p> <p>♠ A ♥ J 9 6 5 ♦ A Q 10 5 ♣ A 8 6 3</p>	<p>♠ K 9 8 7 3 ♥ Q 3 ♦ 9 8 6 3 ♣ J 9</p>
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West	North	East	South
<i>Gawel</i>	<i>Hanlon</i>	<i>Jagniewski</i>	<i>McGann</i>
Pass	1♥	Pass	2NT ¹
Double	3♣ ²	4♠	Pass ³
Pass	5♥ ⁴	Pass	6♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. Game-forcing heart raise
2. Any minimum
3. Forcing
4. Encouraging

McGann could have advanced with five spades rather than concluding with six hearts but, mindful of the original three-club bid, simply raised to slam. Would Hanlon's six diamonds over five spades have been enough to bid the grand, or would McGann still have been concerned about a club loser? Thirteen tricks were easy: North/South plus 1010.

At the other table, the Poles had an unopposed run...

West	North	East	South
<i>FitzGibbon</i>	<i>Kotorowicz</i>	<i>Mesbur</i>	<i>Araszkievicz</i>
Pass	1♥	Pass	2♣ ¹
Pass	2♥	Pass	3♠ ²
Pass	4♦ ³	Pass	4NT ⁴
Pass	6♣ ⁵	Pass	7♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. Artificial game-force (here, 2NT would have been invitational)
2. Splinter
3. Diamond control, no spade or club control
4. RKCB
5. 2 key cards, plus trump queen (or extra length), plus diamond king or the two other side kings

North/South plus 1510 and 11 IMP to Poland.

Only seven pairs out of 30 in the Open got to the grand, and all of those who did gained a slam swing. What is perhaps more remarkable is that nine also stopped in game.

Board 16. Dealer West. Neither Vul.

<p>♠ 3 2 ♥ A K 4 ♦ A K J 10 7 6 3 ♣ J</p> <p>♠ K 10 9 ♥ Q 10 7 6 3 ♦ Q 2 ♣ A K 4</p> <p>♠ J 8 6 4 ♥ 8 ♦ 9 8 5 4 ♣ Q 10 3 2</p>	<p>♠ A Q 7 5 ♥ J 9 5 2 ♦ — ♣ 9 8 7 6 5</p>
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West	North	East	South
<i>Gawel</i>	<i>Hanlon</i>	<i>Jagniewski</i>	<i>McGann</i>
INT	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♥	3♦	4♥	5♦
Pass	Pass	Double	Pass
Pass	Pass		

I confess that I do not understand the logic behind passing on this North hand over West's one notrump. The Hanlon/McGann convention card gives no clue as to the meaning of a direct three diamonds. Even so, it does look like a more attractive option than allowing the opponents to exchange vital information at the two level. The Poles duly found their heart fit and, when Hanlon then bid three diamonds at his second turn, East had an easy raise to four hearts. Of course, McGann would surely have bid five diamonds on this South hand whenever North intervened. Neither Pole was willing to risk the five level, so they settled for the meagre penalty on offer: just plus 100.

In the replay, Krzysztof Kotorowicz was much more adventurous:

West	North	East	South
<i>FitzGibbon</i>	<i>Kotorowicz</i>	<i>Mesbur</i>	<i>Araszkievicz</i>
INT	3NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

It was just about impossible for Adam Mesbur to steer the Irish pair to their cold game after North's intervention. Indeed, the Irish had to defend accurately in order to avoid conceding a game. Mesbur kicked off with the ace of spades and then switched to the nine of clubs. Nick FitzGibbon won with the king and, after a great deal of thought, cashed the king of spades. When he then played the ace of clubs, Mesbur followed suit with the eight, so FitzGibbon played a third spade, thus at least garnering a plus score. That was plus 50 to East/West and 2 IMPs to Poland.

Poland won a tight encounter 28-17, which meant that both Poland and Ireland will be at the 2023 Bermuda Bowl in Morocco. No doubt plenty of vodka and Guinness will be consumed in the bars of Funchal tonight, but I'd wager that the black stuff will be

flowing long before I have even finished keying in this report.

Open Teams, Round 29, Italy vs. Netherlands (De Wael & Horton)

As the final countdown proceeded, a swarm of bees invaded the BBO rooms, so play was suspended and, anticipating a long delay, we considered changing the title of this piece to 'Nine Hours on Rama'. Eventually the players decamped to another room which, unfortunately, meant from then on all we could see were the results as they were entered onto the official scoreboard.

Here is a chronological account of the finish to the Open Championship. Although no-one would have predicted it a few days ago, the Netherlands' lead over Switzerland had shrunk to just 4.14 VP before the last round. In that match, the Netherlands faced Italy, who were lying fourth (although without a realistic chance of getting a medal), while Switzerland played Bulgaria, seventeenth in the rankings. The smart money was probably not on the men from the low countries.

- 13:45 The difference is 4.14 VP in favour of the Dutch team.
- 14:03 Switzerland take the lead by 1.69 VP.
- 14:12 Netherlands score 6 IMPs on Board 19 and 1 IMP on Board 20, to regain the lead by 0.11 VP.
- 15:05 The Netherlands gain 12 IMPs on board 22...

Board 22. Dealer East. EW Vul.

<p>♠ K 8 7 6 ♥ K 8 7 3 ♦ 10 ♣ K J 10 4</p> <p>♠ A 10 ♥ A Q 6 ♦ K 3 2 ♣ A 6 5 3 2</p> <p>♠ 9 4 2 ♥ 9 ♦ Q 8 7 6 5 ♣ Q 9 8 7</p>	<p>♠ Q J 5 3 ♥ J 10 5 4 2 ♦ A J 9 4 ♣ —</p>
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In the Open Room, the Dutch bid and made four hearts, but in the Closed Room, the Italians played in three notrump. Simon De Wijs started with the jack of clubs and continued with the four of clubs. Bauke Muller, in with the eight, found the perfect return of a spade. That made it much more difficult for declarer., who could no longer force North to lead away from his kings.

Marjo Chorus actually contributed this gem and we calculated that, without this switch, the Swiss would have won the championship.

After Board 26, both matches show a scoreline of 31-15, but the Swiss are on the wrong side of this. The difference in the rankings is now 12.50 VP. This means

that the Dutch can allow themselves a small loss; they will still be champions unless they lose 19 IMPs over the last 5 boards. It could happen!

- 16:29 The tournament ends with Netherlands winning by 3.25 Victory Points.

Women's Teams, Round 19, Israel vs. England (Senior)

This was the final round of the 2022 Women's European Team Championship, with a number of issues still to be resolved. Poland went into the final match just under 5 VPs ahead of Sweden, and these two battled it out for gold and silver, while Israel led the chasing pack and were favourites to take the bronze medal, but were under half a match ahead of Germany and Denmark. France and Türkiye had also booked their places at next year's world championships and, finally, Norway occupied the all-important eighth qualifying spot, nearly 8 VPs ahead of Ireland, with Estonia also still just in the hunt.

England had been fading over the last couple of days and a 20-0 blitz at the hands of Hungary in Round 18 had put paid to any lingering hopes of a top-eight finish.

Board 26. Dealer East. Both Vul.

<p>♠ — ♥ 6 5 2 ♦ 9 8 3 ♣ K Q 9 8 7 6 2</p> <p>♠ K J 8 4 ♥ A 10 4 ♦ J 6 ♣ J 5 4 3</p> <p>♠ Q 9 7 6 2 ♥ K J 9 8 7 ♦ 7 5 ♣ 10</p>	<p>♠ A 10 5 3 ♥ Q 3 ♦ A K Q 10 4 2 ♣ A</p>
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West	North	East	South
<i>Kater</i>	<i>Asulin</i>	<i>Wieczorek</i>	<i>Levi</i>
—	—	1♦	1♠
1NT	Pass	2♠	Double ¹
Pass	Pass	3♦	Pass
3NT	Pass	4♦	Pass
4♥	Pass	6♦	Pass
Pass	Pass(?)		

1. Would entertain a non-spade lead (a redouble would have yielded minus 1440 for North/South)

Six diamonds can be beaten by a spade lead, North getting a ruff and South an eventual heart trick but, if North doubles, East/West could remove to the cold six notrump. Indeed, ridiculously, six spades is also cold if played by East as spades can be picked up then diamonds rumbled through South, who can use the fifth trump whenever she likes, but has then to lead a heart, giving a trick to the queen and, crucially, an entry to the

remaining diamonds. (Or, see Dana Tal's simpler, and better, play shortly.)

Levi led her singleton ten of clubs. Wiczorek won that, drew trumps and knew how to play the spades; 12 tricks for plus 1370.

West	North	East	South
<i>D. Tal</i>	<i>Draper</i>	<i>N. Tal</i>	<i>Seale</i>
—	—	1♦	Pass
1♠	3♣	4♣ ¹	Pass
4♥ ²	Pass	4NT ³	Pass
5♥ ⁴	Pass	6♦ ⁵	Pass
6♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. Spade slam try
2. Heart control
3. RKCB
4. 2 key cards, no spade queen
5. Choice of slams

Seale did not overcall with the South cards, so Dana got to introduce her spades and, now, Draper preempted in clubs. Noga cuebid in support of spades then asked for key cards when Dana cooperated, before suggesting that they play in six diamonds. No, Dana preferred to stick to spades, thank you very much.

Draper led the king of clubs. Tal won with the bare ace, cashed the ace of trumps, and saw the five-zero split. She thought for some time, understandably enough, before leading a low spade to her eight. Dana found a different line from the one I had imagined above – she ruffed a club, and now Seale thought for a long time before overruffing and returning the queen of spades. Dana could win with the king, cash the jack, and had six diamond tricks to bring her total to 12; plus 1430 and 2 IMPs to Israel.

It does Seale no good to discard on the club. Declarer can draw trumps and fall back on my original winning line. One pair made six notrump doubled and one six diamonds doubled, and two each made six diamonds and six spades undoubled. Three pairs were down in six spades by West, one of them doubled.

Senior Teams, Round 3, Sweden vs. England (Bird)

Among Simon Cochemé's many claims to fame, he was best man at my wedding and, for another, he was also NPC of the England Seniors here in Madeira. He tells me of an amazing (and amusing for some) deal from the England-Sweden match. West for Sweden made a splinter bid on a void. When this was passed out, very much to his surprise, he gained 12 IMPs for his team! It helped that his partner had eight cards in support.

Board 4. Dealer West. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Morath</i>	<i>Dixon</i>	<i>Östberg</i>	<i>Anthias</i>
2♠ ¹	Pass	3♦ ²	Pass
4♥ ³	Pass	Pass ⁴	Pass

1. 10-12
2. Natural and forcing for one-round, according to their convention card, but intended as a transfer
3. Intended as a splinter-bid in support of diamonds
4. That worked out well! :-)

East told North that three diamonds was a transfer response. West did not alert three diamonds and showed his enthusiasm for a diamond contract with a splinter bid in hearts. This was passed out, and the ace of hearts was led. West was no doubt relieved to find that he was playing in an eight-card fit. He scored six trump tricks and two aces, going two down for minus 200. The Tournament Director was called, but no redress was due.

West	North	East	South
<i>Mossop</i>	<i>Efrainsson</i>	<i>Hallberg</i>	<i>Axdorph</i>
3♠	Pass	Pass	Double
Pass	Pass	4♥	Double
Pass	Pass	Pass	

There were no accidents in the bidding here. The ace of clubs was led against East's four hearts doubled. Declarer has to lose two trumps, two clubs and one diamond. After a minor-suit opening lead from either side (or a spade lead from South), he cannot avoid the eventual promotion of South's nine of hearts. That was 800 and a gain of 12 IMPs for Sweden.

Senior Teams, Round 15, Sweden vs. Iceland (Norton)

Forty years ago or more, Resnick's Rule was born when, at the Boston Chess Club (a noted English bridge venue at the time), Mr. Resnick had a 12-card trump fit and voluntarily lost a trick to the singleton king, finessing when his right-hand opponent showed out, exclaiming something to the effect of, "Oh, well, I must lose a trick to the king anyway."

Resnick's Rule was immediately formulated and states: "With 12 trumps, play for the drop." Since then, I have seen one legitimate instance where the defenders promoted a trick

for the singleton trump king, but the great thing about bridge is that no record can survive forever.

Let us turn our attention to an amusing deal in a Senior Teams encounter. Although I rarely list the players when unsuccessful actions have been taken, maybe I will break the rules here and apologize to them if necessary.

Board 7. Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Jorgensen</i>	<i>Eliasson</i>	<i>Eysteinnsson</i>	<i>Elmroth</i>
—	—	—	INT ¹
2NT ²	3♥ ³	Pass	Pass ⁴
Pass			
1. (13)14-16			
2. Minors			
3. Intended as a transfer to spades...			
4. ...but believed to be natural and non-forcing			

A difference of opinion saw the final contract in less than the optimal spot and declarer won a spade and a diamond trick for minus 700.

The Swedes play Transfer Lebensohl over two-level interference after their one-notrump opener; they also play that three of a major is natural and non-forcing after their one-of-a-major opening and an Unusual-Two-Notrump overcall. Eliasson thought Transfer Lebensohl applied, while Elmroth thought their Unusual-Notrump defence applied. (PG Eliasson assured us that they have sorted it out now.)

All in all, not a terrible result you may say, given that four hearts (or, very luckily, even six hearts) was available for his opponents.

However, in the other room, events were just as odd...

West	North	East	South
<i>Axdorph</i>	<i>Ingason</i>	<i>Efrainsson</i>	<i>Jonsson</i>
—	—	—	INT
2NT	3♠	4♥	4♠
Double	Pass	Pass	Pass

East led the ten of clubs to West's queen. West cashed the ace of clubs, then a diabolical diamond ace, followed by a third club. Declarer ruffed with the ace of spades and decided to play for the contract by taking the diamond finesse without drawing trumps. (Had he drawn trumps and discarded one heart on the king of clubs, there would have been no way back to hand to take the diamond finesse, so that would have been conceding one off.)

West won with the diamond queen, led a low heart to East's ace, won the heart return with the king and continued with a fourth round of clubs. East's spade ten scored a trick, and North had managed to lose a trump trick with an 11-card trump fit solid down to the jack with trumps one-one.

That was seven tricks for the defence and a penalty of minus 1100 to North/South and a loss of 9 IMPs rather than a gain of 11 IMPs for one down doubled.

Senior Pairs (Starkowski)

The Senior and Women's Pairs had an interesting format: the qualifying rounds were played together, but the finals were separated. Here's a cute deal from Day 2 of qualifying. Maybe it's eligible for the Guinness Book of World Records.

Board 18. Dealer East. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Starkowski</i>	<i>Pierce</i>	<i>Kwiecien</i>	<i>Cunningham</i>
—	—	1♥	Pass
INT ¹	2♥ ²	Double ³	3♦(?) ⁴
3♥ ⁵	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. One-round force; one of the possibilities is a mini-raise
2. 2-suiter with spades
3. Good hand
4. Let's hope it's not pass-or-correct
5. Poor hand

Let's not assess the North/South bidding but, instead, look at the defence and play. South led the queen of diamonds, ruffed with the heart jack. The next two tricks were the ace of clubs and the ace of spades. The distribution was completely revealed now, as North had shown 5=1=0=7.

At trick four, a low club was continued and ruffed by Kwiecien with trump ten. Declarer led the two of hearts and, when South followed with three(?), declarer ordered the four from dummy. That held the trick! That trick is probably worth an entry in the Guinness Book of World Records as the lowest-ever first-round trump trick.

As East/West, we scored plus 170 and 7.69%, as the most popular contract was four spades doubled, which cost North/South 800. We beat just two scores, North/South plus 50 against five hearts and North/South plus 620 (!) in four spades.

Starkowski is too modest. He and Michal Kwiecien won the Senior Pairs quite handily. – Ed.

LXX Sudamericano Transnacional

por Equipos,

Campeonato Internacional por Parejas 'Copa Colombia', Campeonato Zonal Juvenil



Club Campestre de Cali

South American Championships

Cali, Colombia

May 21-28, 2022

Fernando Lema, Buenos Aires

From May 21 to 28, 2022, the tenth Transnational South American Championships (being the 70th SA Championships) and the Zone 3 Youth Qualifying for the world championships were played. The venue was the Country Club of Cali, Colombia, and tournament organization was in charge of Doña Elsa de Castillo and her son Juan Carlos Castillo. They made this event something special that will live in the memory of the participants forever.

The winners were:

Open Teams

May Sakr, Mike Levine, Mike Cappelletti (Jr.), Jacek Pszczola, Jacek Kalita and Michal Nowosadzki

Women's Teams

Malena Iacapraro, Maria del Rosario Garateguy, Irene Elkin, Ana Lía Smalinsky, Laura Ferrero, Vivian Jacobovsky and Fernando Lema (NPC)

U-26 Zonal Teams

Argentina: Clara Feintuch, Santiago Semberoiz, Ramiro Nuñez, Tomas Popowsky, Francisco Guerra, Baltazar Etchepareborda and Esteban Pugliese (NPC).

U-26 Zonal Women's Teams

Ecuador: Cindy Chan, Vivian Chan, Silvia Garcia and Raphalea Arreag

U-21 Zonal Teams

Ecuador: Renata Serrano, Denisse Peralta, Andres Salazar and Nicolai Sortop

Open Pairs

Tim van de Pavverd and Oscar Nijssen

Women's Pairs

Maria Cecilia Malta and Teresa Falk

Mixed Pairs

Beatriz Marangunic and Gonzalo Rubio

On the last day of competition, two of the favourites

met in the final of the Open Teams – the Bernal team: Agustin Madala, Alfredo Versace, Miguel Villas Boas, Francisco Bernal, Carlos Hoyos and the Levine team: May Sakr, Jacek Kalita, Mike Cappelletti, Michal Nowosadzki, Mike Levine, Jacek Pszczola. The Bernal team sat down in the last set with an advantage of 29 IMPs, 75-46. However, the Bernal team could not maintain that advantage and the Levine team prevailed in that stanza by 41 to 9, winning the tournament by only 3 IMPs.

Let's look at two deals where there were big swings:

Stanza 3. Board 7. Dealer West. Both Vul.

♠ A 9 6 4

♥ —

♦ A K J 4

♣ A J 8 4 3

♠ K Q 5

♥ 10 7 4 2

♦ 10 9 3 2

♣ 7 2

♠ 10 8 3 2

♥ A K Q J 9 5 3

♦ —

♣ Q 9

♠ J 7

♥ 8 6

♦ Q 8 7 6 5

♣ K 10 6 5

West	North	East	South
Hoyos	Nowosadzki	Villas Boas	Kalita
Pass	1♣	4♥	Pass
Pass	Double	Pass	4NT
Pass	6♦	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Villas Boas led the king of hearts. Nowosadzki trumped it, cashed his three trump honours, crossed dummy with the king of clubs and completed drawing trumps. He followed up with a club to the ace and claimed his contract.

West	North	East	South
Cappelletti	Madala	Pzczola	Versace
Pass	1♣	4♥	Pass
Pass	Double	Pass	5♣
Pass	Pass	Pass	

On the same lead, North ruffed, played a club to dummy's king and tried the trump finesse, which failed, then lost a spade to score 600 points in his column,

costing 13 IMPs.

Session 3. Board 15. Dealer South. NS Vul.

♠ Q 10 9
 ♥ A Q 7 5 2
 ♦ J 8 4 3
 ♣ A

♠ A J 5 2
 ♥ K 8 3
 ♦ Q 7
 ♣ Q 8 6 5

♠ K 7 6 4
 ♥ 4
 ♦ A 6 2
 ♣ J 9 4 3 2

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Hoyos</i>	<i>Nowosadzki</i>	<i>Villas Boas</i>	<i>Kalita</i>
—	—	—	Pass
1♣	1♥	Double	3♦
Pass	4♥	5♣	Double
Pass	Pass	Pass	

North cashed his ace of clubs and switched to the three of diamonds. West ducked in dummy, so South made his king and returned the jack of hearts. Declarer couldn't help but lose a trump and a spade, and so was three off, a fine of 500 points.

Could North have made four hearts? Not without help.

West	North	East	South
<i>Cappelletti</i>	<i>Madala</i>	<i>Pzczola</i>	<i>Versace</i>
—	—	—	Pass
1♣	1♥	Double	3♦
Pass	4♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			

The opening lead was a club, which North won in hand with the ace. Declarer exited with the ten of spades for West's jack and the queen of clubs went to dummy's king, North discarding a spade.

North successfully tried the trump finesse but couldn't help but lose one more spade and two diamonds for a one-trick set. One hundred points for East/West that, with the five hundred from the other table, awarded 12 IMPs and the title to the Levine team.

What help was needed for North to make four hearts? Not that much: two rounds of spades, setting up the queen, then a non-diamond shift from East; that was unlikely since West had not raised spades. Declarer could then eliminate the side suits while drawing trumps, using the diamond king as an entry and discarding a diamond on the king of clubs. After a club ruff, drawing West's last trump, and the spade queen, a diamond exit would have seen the defence end-played.

The next South American championship will be held in Buenos Aires from Friday, April 14 to Saturday, April 22, 2023.



Open Teams Winners: Jacek Pszczola, Michal Nowosadzki, May Sakr, Mike Cappelletti, Jacek Kalita (missing: Mike Levine)



Women's Teams Winners: Irene Elkin, Charo Garateguy, Ana Lia Smalinsky, Vivian Jacobovsky, Laura Ferrero, Malena Iacapraro

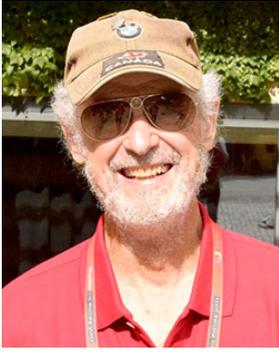


U-26 Zone 3 Teams Winners - Argentina: Ramiro Nuñez, Francisco Guerra, Tomas Popowsky, Esteban Pugliese (NPC), Clara Feintuch, Baltazar Etchepareborda, Santiago Semberoz



Open Pairs Winners: Tim van de Paverd, Oscar Tijssen

All Photos: CSB News



**Confessions
of a Bridge
Addict (5)**
Joseph Silver
Hampstead,
Québec
*(Originally published
in Bridge Winners)*

For the coming academic year in Paris, Ron Ianni and I both decided to turn over a new leaf and get serious, he with his studies, and me with my bridge game. I had discovered the Elysée Bridge Club, just off the Champs d'Élysée, run by Jean Klotz and Michel Zadouroff, where some of France's leading players played. Most days, I would open and close the place, playing rubber bridge in the afternoon and team games at night with, and against, many world-class players, including, when he was in town, Omar Sharif. Even Eddie Kantar played there a few times when he was passing through Paris on his honeymoon with his then-wife Phyllis.

Playing in this tough competition certainly had a positive effect on my bridge game and I left France a much-improved player. The rubber bridge game I played in was five francs-per-hundred and was mostly goulash. All part scores that didn't make game were scored up and followed by a goulash hand. Every player put his hands into suits, and gave them to the dealer, who cut the cards three times and dealt them out to the players five at a time twice, and three at a time once. Needless to say, it was a wild game with huge distributional storms. On a goulash deal, a one-opening showed a suit of at least six cards in length, otherwise one notrump was opened, and any suit bid over it was forcing. What fun that was!

One time, playing a goulash deal, vulnerable, I picked up a hand with 13 hearts, only to hear my partner, an inveterate psycher, open one heart in front of me. Now I had huge problem, worried that if I bid seven hearts he would run to seven spades and we would go for our lives. (He was a very poor player, in addition to being a very poor psycher.) However, after much thought I concluded, "the hell with it" (*Joey used a much-more ancient and colourful Anglo-Saxon phrase. – Ed.*), and bid seven hearts. Somehow he must have got the message because, with a big smile on his face and, much to my relief, he passed.

To be continued - perhaps.

NEWS & VIEWS



Eric Laurant Elected President of the European Bridge League



The EBL General Assembly was held in Funchal, Madeira, Portugal, on Saturday, June 18, at 10 a.m. Eric Laurant (past-Treasurer) was elected President. The members of the Executive Committee were also elected, as follows:

The EBL Executive Committee: Eric Laurant, President (Netherlands), Peter Belcak (Slovakia), Igor Chalupec (Poland), Marc De Pauw (Belgium), Ida Grönkvist (Sweden), Geert Magerman (Belgium) Oryah Meir (Israel), Emmanuelle Monod (France), Gilad Ofir (Israel), Kari-Anne Opsal (Norway), Ian Payn (England), Paul Porteous (Ireland), Erikas Vainikonis (Lithuania).

Eric Laurant has been involved in bridge administration since the early 2000s. He has an exemplary record in Dutch and European bridge, having been Non-Playing Captain of Dutch teams 13 times in international competition. His crowning glory was to steer the Dutch to the Bermuda Bowl win on home soil in 2011 in Veldhoven. Coincidentally, he was also the Organising Committee Chairman of those 40th World Team Championships.

Those Dutch successes were a springboard to the EBL Executive in 2012, where Laurant has served with distinction in a variety of positions ever since, including Teaching, Finance, Special Investigations, Technology, Marketing and Credentials. Laurant is also a long-time member of the ACBL's Anti-Cheating Commission.

ACBL Disciplinary Actions

Allan Siebert

by Nicolas Hammond, Johns Creek, GA

Allan Siebert, an ACBL Grand Life Master (GLM), and #22 on the ACBL all-time masterpoint list, has confessed to cheating online with Marcia Hixson, his student, from 2020-2022. Details are at https://web2.acbl.org/discipline/HR_OEOC_Siebert.pdf.

Siebert was sentenced by the ACBL to two years' suspension, effective from his confession date of April 18, 2022, five years' probation after his suspension has ended, forfeiture of 25% of his masterpoints, and revocation of his GLM rank during his suspension. This cheating was first detected in August 2021, when a club asked me about this pair. The pair was subsequently banned from some online ACBL clubs. The cheating would likely have gone unnoticed by ACBL if Marcia Hixson had not confessed to the ACBL in April, 2022. Marcia Hixson agreed to a negotiated resolution of six-months' suspension followed by two years of probation and a loss of 10% of her total masterpoints.

Allan Siebert (AS) and Marcia Hixson (MH) played at least 834 boards in 45 ACBL BBO events; 19,596 other players played in those events. AS/MH played at least 1,582 boards in 83 Virtual ACBL Club events; 3,652 other players played in those events. Thus, a total of 23,248 players were affected by their cheating, though there is certainly some duplication of names.

Although the ACBL has removed masterpoints from Siebert and Hixson, they have not re-scored or re-masterpointed the events that they played in, so the honest players have suffered. AS was able to improve MH's overall double-dummy weighted error rate – a measure of performance based on double dummy error rate – from the 94th percentile to the 3rd percentile when compare to MH's regular partnership. AS had many other students. In one case, the student's overall double-dummy weighted error rate improved from the 78th percentile with their regular partner to the 3rd percentile with Siebert. We shall wait to see if ACBL investigates Siebert's other partnerships.

There are other 'teachers' who have had even better success with their students than Siebert. It remains to be seen if ACBL will prosecute these players or if they will wait for the students to confess. Other NBOs have similar problems.

Online cheating remains in the 1-5% rate for nearly all NBOs.

Sharon Anderson

by Mitch Dunitz, Los Angeles, CA,
ACBL Hall of Fame Committee Chair

The ACBL Hall of Fame Committee has rescinded

Sharon Anderson's admission to the Hall of Fame as the 2022 Blackwood Award recipient. A Blackwood Award recipient is selected annually by the Hall of Fame Committee and given to individuals who have contributed greatly to the game of bridge without necessarily being world-class players. Anderson had been a long-time volunteer, a former President of the League and had served on the Board of Trustees of the ACBL Education Foundation.

On June 28, 2022, the ACBL Appeals and Charges Committee accepted a Negotiated Resolution agreed to by Sharon Anderson in which she admitted to a First Class Ethical Violation under the ACBL Code of Disciplinary Regulations. This involved sharing Unauthorized Information with her husband, Roger Anderson.

The ACBL Appeals and Charges Committee report states, in part:

"In the matter of Roger and Sharon Anderson, the Committee approved a Negotiated Resolution entered into by the parties and ACBL management in which they admitted a violation of CDR § 301(A)(2): Collusive Cheating: Online.

Roger Anderson agreed to a Suspension of 30 months, followed by a Probation of 5 years, an Exclusion from playing with Sharon Anderson as a partner in online ACBL sanctioned events during the length of his Probation, and a forfeiture of 10% of his total Masterpoints. He will be a Member 'Not in Good Standing' during the length of his Probationary period.

Sharon Anderson agreed to a Suspension of 3 years, followed by a Probation of 5 years, an Exclusion from playing with Roger Anderson as a partner in online ACBL sanctioned events during the length of her Probation, a forfeiture of 10% of her total Masterpoints, and withdrawal from ACBL Hall of Fame induction. She will be a Member 'Not in Good Standing' during the length of her Probationary period."

Further details can be found here:

https://web2.acbl.org/discipline/HR_AC_Anderson.pdf.

The ACBL Hall of Fame Committee believes that it should not bestow the honour of induction on an ACBL member under these circumstances.

Sharon Anderson Addendum

by Nicolas Hammond, Johns Creek, GA

Sharon and Roger Anderson played in at least 277 events, 4741 boards, in ACBL BBO events. These events had 153,826 other participants. They played in 108 VACB events, 2409 boards. These events had 4,694 other participants. The total entry fees for these events were in excess of \$200,000.

MAUREEN HIRON

1942-2022



Photo: Peter Hasenson

Maureen Hiron: “I’m quite disruptive, trying out my ideas on everybody and, if I’m working on something, I’m pretty boorish ... I know people think I’m a bit mad”. Peter Hasenson

Extraordinary IBPA member, bridge player and writer and games designer Maureen Hiron passed away in June at the age of 80. Hiron was the bridge correspondent for *The Independent* and *The Irish Independent* as well as being the author of several books on bridge (with husband Alan Hiron) and trivia, including *The Ultimate Trivia Quiz Games Book*, with over 10,000 questions, which reached No. 2 in the British Bestsellers list in the Non-fiction category. Maureen also wrote the questions for the first series of BBC Channel 4’s popular quiz show *Fifteen to One* and created puzzles for ITV’s *The Krypton Factor*.

Maureen Hiron started her working career as a teacher, becoming head of the Physical Education Department of an Inner London comprehensive school. She retired from teaching at 32 after a serious freak injury when an air conditioner broke away and fell on her head while she was calling from a window to quieten some unruly children. In her retirement, Hiron started designing games in 1982 when the idea for *Continuo* came to her “in about two seconds”. *Continuo* became Britain’s best-selling game within a few weeks of its publication, selling more than 200,000 sets by the end of the year. Over her games-designing career, Hiron published more than 60 games. In 2021, Hiron was inducted into [The Academy of Adventure](#)

[Gaming Arts & Design Hall of Fame](#). Designer Tony Boydell described her as “undeniably, an outstanding – if eccentric – force within the industry; exasperating (the conversation was usually pretty one-sided) and admirable in equal measure.”

In 1982, the Hiron family founded the games publishing company **Hiron Games Ltd.**, initially to produce and market the game *Continuo* and later a stream of other games such as *Quizwrangle* and *Cavendish*. Maureen invented the games and Alan was the tester and editor. A dozen of Maureen’s games won ‘Game of the Year’ awards in various countries and from Mensa. The Hiron family moved to southern Spain in the early 1990s for the climate.

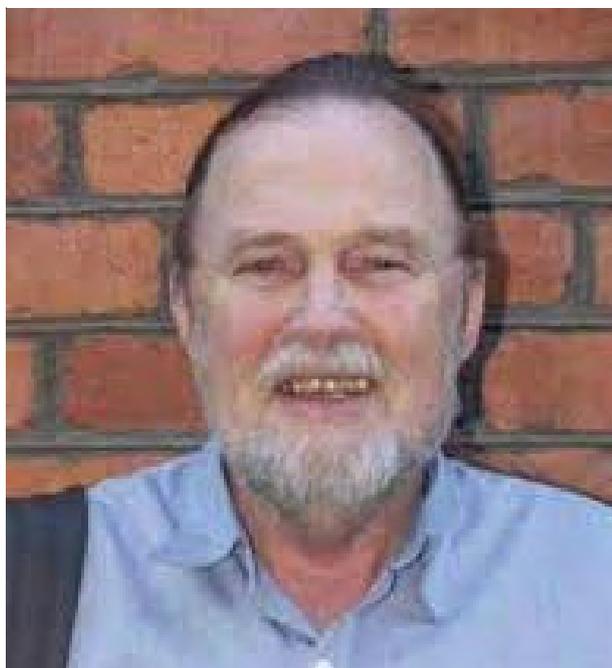
Before and parallel with her games-designing career, Hiron was a top-class bridge player, being on the winning England team in both the 1974 and the 1975 Lady Milne Trophy (the GB&I Home Internationals) and representing Great Britain in the European Championships of 1974. In 1993, Maureen and Alan competed in partnership at the European Union’s Bridge Championship Senior Pairs in Portugal and won the bronze medal.

In 1984, Maureen and Alan Hiron were the subject of a 30-minute BBC TV documentary *A Will to Win*. Shortly afterwards, Maureen was diagnosed with cancer and was admitted to the Royal Marsden Hospital, the world’s first specialist cancer hospital. There, using her fellow patients as play-testers, she developed the game *Chip In*, which her company manufactured and used in the campaign to raise £25 million for the Royal Marsden. The Appeal President was Princess Diana and the main backing newspaper was the *Daily Star*. Maureen was subsequently voted Londoner of the Year in London Electricity’s *Brightening Up London* campaign. Then-Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher even took on Maureen and Alan at *Chip In*.

Besides games-designing and bridge, Maureen’s other great love was music. She could coax a tune out of almost any instrument. During her university days, Maureen wrote a children’s operetta, which she called *Cats*. (Yes, also based on T.S. Eliot’s *Old Possum’s Book of Practical Cats*.) On a Caribbean cruise in 2011, Maureen met Sheyla Bonnick of Boney M and they became friends (Boney M were the cabaret performers and Maureen was the bridge lecturer). Maureen and Sheyla collaborated on an album, *Look Beyond*, in a new musical genre Maureen called Matzar, music written in modes rather than keys. The album has enjoyed international success and acclaim.

John Carruthers, with help from *Board Game Geek News*, *The Telegraph*, the English Bridge Union, YouTube, and Wikipedia.

SVEN-OLOV (TJOLPE) FLODQVIST 1940-2022



Sven-Olov Flodqvist had a distinguished career as a player and writer. He was a member of Swedish international teams for more than four decades. Tjolpe, as he was universally known, won bronze medals in the 1977 and 1987 Bermuda Bowls and the 1988 Olympiad. He won two European Open Team Championships and a Senior European Team Championship. He also won the Zonal Teams at the 2002 World Championships. Tjolpe won the *Sunday Times* twice, in 1978 and 1981.

As a writer, Flodqvist was the bridge editor of *Dagens Nyheter* ("the news of the day"), published in Stockholm, Sweden's most-prestigious and best-known newspaper. He was the author of a number of bridge books, notably one on the Carrot Club System. Flodqvist also translated many of Andrew Robson's books into Swedish. For IBPA, Tjolpe was the driving force and editor of the *IBPA Handbook*.

The hallmark of Flodqvist's play was imagination, as the deal at the top of the next column illustrates. It comes from the pen of Alan Truscott in *The New York Times*.

The opening lead called for on the diagrammed deal from the 1980 World Team Championship would probably escape the experts, as well as the novices. Paradoxically, it might be made by a complete beginner with no training in the game at all.

Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Flodqvist</i>	—	—	INT
—	—	—	INT
Pass	3NT	Pass	Pass
Pass	—	—	—

The opening one-notrump bid by an Icelandic player was weak, so the raise to game by North was wildly ambitious. The fate of the contract then hinged on the opening lead chosen by West. Sitting in that seat was Tjolpe Flodqvist of Sweden, a former European champion and a player of world class.

Ninety-nine players out of 100, not excluding the experts, would look at the West hand, toss an imaginary coin and lead the seven of one of the major suits. As it happens, those who guessed to lead a heart would beat the contract and those who guessed to lead a spade would not. South would have time to play diamonds and score nine tricks.

Flodqvist gave the lead problem serious thought, and did not feel restricted by the conventional wisdom that calls for "fourth best of the longest suit" against notrump. He realized that his partner held very little, and that his only hope was to find his partner with something useful in one of the major suits, either a queen or five-card length.

It was vital, however, to attack the breakthrough suit quickly, while the diamond ace was still available as an entry. So he led the heart ace, a bizarre choice that was absolutely right. As it happened, East signalled firmly with the heart ten and West continued the suit. Now the defence was sure to take five tricks before South could score more than six.

With the lead of an ace, it was not necessary for West to make the right guess, for he preserved control of the situation. If he had led the spade ace, he would have received a discouraging three from his partner. Then he would have been able to shift to a heart and South would have had eight tricks – but not nine.

John Carruthers and Alan Truscott

World Bridge Calendar

2022

Jul 13-17	Kammergut Bridge Days	Ohlsdorf, 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 15-17	Czech Open	Pardubice, Czechia	czechbridge.cz
Jul 15-23	Baltic Congress	Sopot, Poland	pzbs.pl
Jul 15-24	Hangon Bridge Viikko	Hanko, Finland	bridgefinland.fi
Jul 16-20	Falkenberg Bridge Week	Falkenberg, Sweden	svenskbridge.se
Jul 17	Schools Open	Hyères, France	bridgefestivalhyeres.f
Jul 19-26	European Youth Team Championships	Veldhoven, Netherlands	eurobridge.org
Jul 21-23	Youth NABC	Providence, RI	www.acbl.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 3-6	Copa Fundadores	Buenos Aires, Argentina	aba.org.ar
Aug 5-7	Pesta Sukan Congress	Singapore	www.scba.org.sg
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 12-15	India Masters	Online	bridgefromhome.com
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
Aug 25-28	6 th International Festival	Saint-Malo, France	bridgeclubstmalo.fr
Aug 25-28	Budapest Open	Budapest, Hungary	kbbo.kibicbridge.com
Aug 25-30	World Computer Bridge Championship	Wroclaw, Poland	worldbridge.org
Aug 27-Sep 11	HRH Princess Bajrakitiyabha Cup	Khlong Nueng, Thailand	thailandbridgeleague.com
Sep 2-4	Northern Lights Bridge Festival	Siglufjörður, Iceland	vikingbridge.is
Sep 2-4	International Women's Tournament	Augsberg, Germany	bridgezentrum-augsberg.de
Sep 8-11	3 rd Gümüşlük Autumn Festival	Gümüşlük, Türkiye	gumusluksportbridge.com
Sep 9-21	60 th International Festival	Pula, Croatia	pulabridgefestival.com
Sep 10-18	Takamatsunomiya Festival	Tokyo, Japan	jcbl.or.jp
Sep 12-17	FISU World University Championships	Antwerp, Belgium	fisu.net/sport-events/fisu-calendar
Sep 12-18	Abano Bridge Festival	Abano Terme, Italy	termebridgefestival.com
Sep 14-23	Asian Games	Hangzhou, China	hanzhou2022.cn/En
Sep 16-22	Greek Islands Festival	Benitses, Corfu, Greece	bridgefestival.gr
Sep 19-25	Guernsey Bridge Congress	Guernsey, Channel Is.	ebu.co.uk
Sep 22-25	Bodrum Bridge Festival	Mugla, Türkiye	tbricfed.org
Sep 23-25	Vilnius Cup	Vilnius, Lithuania	bridgescanner.com
Sep 23-25	Grand Prix of Slovakia	Poprad, Slovakia	new.bridge.kosice.sk
Sep 28-Oct 3	39 th Jordan International Festival	Amman, Jordan	bridgewebs.com/jbf/jordan
Sep 30-Oct 3	Canberra in Bloom	Canberra, ACT, Australia	abf.co.au
Oct 1-8	NZB National Congress	Mt. Maunganui, NZ	nzbridge.co.nz
Oct 5-11	Turkey Overseas Congress	Side, Türkiye	www.ebu.co.uk
Oct 8-15	Brazilian Championships	São Paulo, Brazil	bridge.esp.br
Oct 9-15	4 th Asia Cup	Jakarta, Indonesia	hkcba.org
Oct 11-16	18 th HCL Bridge Championships	New Delhi, India	hcl-bridge.com
Oct 14-16	Bulgarian Open masters Championship	Albena, Bulgaria	bridgealbena.org
Oct 19-23	Los Cocos Tournament	los Cocos, Argentina	aba.org.ar
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 16-18	Channel Trophy	Lille, France	ebu.co.uk
Dec 27-30	Year End Congress	London, England	ebu.co.uk