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World Champions!



Rosenblum Cup winners (l. to r.): Ralph Katz, Frank Nickell, Bobby Levin, Jill Levin (NPC), Eric Greco, Geoff Hampson, Steve Weinstein, Norberto Bocchi (Team Manager)



McConnell Cup winners (l. to r.): Marion Michielsen, Cecilia Rimstedt, Joan Brody, Sandra Rimstedt, Birgitta Fisher



Rand Cup winners (l. to r.): Michal Kwiecien, Wojtek Olanski, Vytautas Vainikonis, Wlodzimierz Starkowski, Jacek Romanski, Apolinary Kowalski



Mixed Teams winners (l. to r.): Daniela von Arnim, Sjoert Brink, Barbara Ferm, Simon de Wijs, Christina Lund Madsen, Sebastiaan Drijver

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**Open Pairs winners:
Krzysztof Buras – Piotr Lutostanski**



**Women's Pairs winners:
Kerri Sanborn – Jill Meyers**



**Senior Pairs winners:
Marek Blat – Piotr Bizon**



**Mixed Pairs winners:
Justyna Zmuda – Michal Klukowski**



World Bridge Series Honour Roll



Rosenblum Cup

- 1st Eric Greco/Geoff Hampson, Ralph Katz/Frank Nickell, Bobby Levin/Steve Weinstein (USA)
2nd Guy Mendes de Leon/Thibo Sprinkhuisen (NED), Joaquín Pacareu (CHI)/Juan-Carlos Ventin (ESP),
Antonio Palma (POR)/Frederic Wrang (SWE)
=3rd Peter Bertheau/Simon Hult (SWE), Andrew Black (ENG)/Gunnar Hallberg (SWE),
Andrew McIntosh/Thomas Paske (ENG)
=3rd David Berkowitz/Jeff Meckstroth (USA), David Gold (ENG)/Zia Mahmood (PAK),
Daniel Korbel (CAN)/Eric Robinson (USA)

McConnell Trophy

- 1st Joan Brody (USA)/Brigitta Fischer (HUN)/Sandra Rimstedt (SWE),
Marion Michielsen (NED)/Cecilia Rimstedt (SWE)
2nd Kathrine Bertheau/Jessica Larsson (SWE), Hjördis Eythorsdottir (ICE)/Janice Seamon-Molson (USA),
Nevena Senior (BUL)/Nicola Smith (ENG)
=3rd Lynn Baker/Karen McCallum (USA), Sally Brock/Fiona Brown (ENG), Jill Meyers/Kerri Sanborn (USA)
=3rd Katarzyna Dufurat/Justyna Zmuda (POL), Jodi Edmonds (USA)/Irina Levitina (RUS),
Danuta Kazmucha/Anne Sarniak (POL)

Mixed Teams

- 1st Daniela von Arnim (DEU)/Simon de Wijs (NED), Sjoert Brink (NED)/Barbara Ferm (USA),
Bas Drijver (NED)/Christina Lund Madsen (DEN)
2nd Sanna Clementsson/Fredrik Nyström (SWE), Joe Grue/Gillian Minter (USA),
Geir Helgemo (NOR)/Jessica Larsson (SWE)
=3rd Isabelle Bello/Pierre Schmidt/Joanna Zochowska, Aurélie Lorenzini/Cédric Lorenzini (FRA)
=3rd Les Amoils (CAN)/Sandra Rimstedt (SWE), Per-Ola Cullin (SWE)/Marion Michielsen (NED),
Kevin Dwyer (USA)/Cecilia Rimstedt (SWE)

Rand Cup

- 1st Apolinary Kowalski/Jacek Romanski, Michal Kwiecien/Włodzimierz Starkowski (POL),
Wojtek Olanski/Vytautas Vainikonis (LIT)
2nd David Berkowitz/Jeff Meckstroth, Andy Goodman/Mark Lair/Mike Passell (USA)
=3rd Paul Hackett/Brian Senior, John Holland/Alan Mould, Kay Preddy/Norman Selway (ENG)
=3rd Marc Bompis/Philippe Soulet (FRA), Piotr Gawrys/Piotr Tuszynski (POL),
Krzysztof Martens (POL)/Pierre Zimmermann (SWI)

Open Pairs

- 1st Krzysztof Buras/Piotr Lutostanski (POL)
2nd Nabil Edgton (AUS)/Michael Whibley (NZL)
3rd Geir Helgemo (NOR)/Fredrik Nyström (SWE)

Women's Pairs

- 1st Jill Meyers/Kerri Sanborn (USA)
2nd Sarah Bell (ENG)/Marie Eggeling (DEU)
3rd Hjördis Eythorsdottir (ICE)/Janice Seamon-Molson (USA)

Mixed Pairs

- 1st Michal Klukowski/Justyna Zmuda (POL)
2nd Jelena Alfejeda/Karlis Rubins (LAT)
3rd Sally Brock (ENG)/Chris Willenken (USA)

Senior Pairs

- 1st Piotr Bizon/Marek Blat (POL)
2nd Krzysztof Martens (POL)/Pierre Zimmermann (SWI)
3rd David Berkowitz/Jeff Meckstroth (USA)

16TH WORLD BRIDGE SERIES

Wroclaw, Poland • 19 August - 3 September 2022



Wroclaw was such a fine venue in 2016 and the organisers did such a superb job that the WBF could not wait to get back. The events were teams and pairs in open, women's, seniors and mixed categories.

Seventy-nine teams entered the Rosenblum. A two-day, 10-round, 10-boards-per-round Swiss would be followed by knockouts for the top 32 teams.

Rosenblum (Open Teams)

Swiss Qualifying Round 9

Brian Senior, Nottingham, Notts., U.K.

John Carruthers, Kingsville, ON, Canada

The following deal was the star of the Swiss Qualifying and was critical to the final result of many matches.

APRÈS BRIDGE CHAMPS vs. SOUTH SWEDEN

With two rounds to play in the Swiss Qualifying stage, the multi-national German/American/Polish APRÈS BRIDGE CHAMPS (Sabine Auken/Roy Welland, Wojciech Gawel/Rafel Janiewski) led the way and were already sure of a place in the last 32. In Round 9, they faced the fourth-placed South African/Swedish/Norwegian combination, SOUTH SWEDEN (Alon Apteker/Craig Gower, Peter Fredin/Tor Eivind Grude, Marten Gustawsson/Anders Morath). They were lying fourth, over 22 VPs behind the leaders, though they needed very little to be sure of a place in the knockouts.

This was the last board of the match...

Board 20. Dealer West. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Morath	Auken	Gustawsson	Welland
Pass	1♦	4♠	6♣
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Seasoned campaigner that he is, the 'Carrot' (West) knew enough to pass six clubs and take his plus: 200 it was, for two off, with West scoring the ace of diamonds and two trump tricks.

West	North	East	South
Gawel	Fredin	Jagniewski	Grude
Pass	1♦	4♠	4NT
Pass	5♦	Pass	6♣
Pass	6♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Grude did better in the bidding, but Fredin not so in the play. Grude started with four notrump, then converted the five-diamond response to six clubs to show a very two-suited hand with longer clubs than hearts. (*JC and BS disagree on this: in JC's opinion, six clubs merely indicates that South wants to be in slam, whereas five hearts would offer that contract as an option – on his actual hand, with one more heart and one fewer club, South would bid the same way as he did.*) Of course, Fredin converted to six hearts with real hope of success.

Fredin ruffed the lead of the king of spades and ruffed a low club in hand. Next, he played the ace and another heart to dummy's king, followed by three more rounds of clubs, ruffing. Had clubs been four-two, this line would have been successful. Alas, they were five-one. Fredin played the queen of diamonds from hand. Gawel won with the ace and returned the jack of trumps, so Fredin won with the queen and gave up a club, claiming the last three tricks for down one and minus 100, but 3 IMPs to SOUTH SWEDEN.

Fifty-one of the 79 pairs who held these cards bid slam, two in seven hearts, eighteen in six clubs and six in six diamonds. None of those had any play to make their contracts. Twenty-five pairs reached the excellent six-heart contract; of those, only nine made it.

Let's examine what happened in the other seven YuGraph matches. There's no need to detail the play in diamonds or clubs – hearts are the interesting contracts.

DRINTEAM vs. ZIMMERMANN

West	North	East	South
Klukowski	Green	Gawrys	Tommasini
Pass	1♦	4♠	4NT
Double	Pass	Pass	6♣
Double	6♦	Double	6♥
Double	Pass	Pass	Pass

Guess which card Klukowski won to hold declarer to 12 tricks? Yes, the diamond ace is too simple/obvious. West led the low-from-a-doubleton seven of spades. Tommasini had a good idea from Klukowski's doubles what West's hand was. Declarer ruffed the spade lead and led a diamond – since Klukowski could see that the contract was cold if he won with the ace, he ducked, hoping for a declarer error, so the king won. Declarer ruffed a diamond, cashed the king of hearts and the two high clubs, then led the ten of clubs, covered and ruffed. Another diamond ruff set up the suit, so declarer led the queen of hearts and overtook it with the ace to play diamonds. Klukowski made the jack of hearts for minus 1660. Did you guess correctly?

West	North	East	South
Campos	Drijver	Rodrigues	Brink
Pass	1♦	4♠	6♣
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Brink suffered the same fate as had Welland, two off and 18 IMPs away.

ZAMIR vs. MINITER

West	North	East	South
Versace	Zamir	Sementa	Toledano
Pass	1♦	4♠	4NT
Pass	5♦	Pass	5♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Versace led a spade, ruffed by Toledano. Declarer ruffed a club, cashed the ace of hearts, led a heart to the king, ruffed another club and led the king of diamonds. West won and led a spade, ruffed by declarer. South drew the last trump, cashed the ace and king of clubs, then surrendered a club to West. West had to give dummy a diamond for declarer's tenth trick, but that was still minus 100 for declarer.

At the other table...

West	North	East	South
Friedlander	Nowosadzki	Yekutieli	Kalita
Pass	1♦	4♠	4NT
Pass	5♦	Pass	6♣
Pass	6♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Nowosadzki ruffed the king of spades lead, ruffed a club, played the ace of hearts and a heart to the king, then

ruffed another club. With no chance any more, declarer led the king of diamonds to the ace, ruffed the spade return, drew the last trump and cashed his clubs. When he led a club to West, the defender had to give declarer the queen of diamonds for his tenth trick, as for Toledano, but that was two off, minus 200.

BRIDGE FOR BUSINESS vs. LUCKY FOUR

West	North	East	South
Xu	Pszczola	Huang	Lutostanski
Pass	1♦	4♠	6♣
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Declarer suffered the by-now-familiar fate.

West	North	East	South
Nawrocki	Chan	Wiankoski	Sheng
Pass	1♦	4♠	5♣
Double	Pass	Pass	5♥
Double	Pass	Pass	Pass

Nawrocki made an indiscreet double of, from his hand, the only game he could beat. Sheng made a table-presence removal and West castigated himself for his over-exuberance. Sheng showed in the play that his table presence was not a one-trick pony. West led the eight of hearts, which declarer ran to his ten. South cashed the king of hearts, then led the ten of clubs and, when West followed with the two, declarer discarded a spade! There followed a club ruff, a spade ruff, another club ruff and the king of diamonds. West won with the ace and led a spade, ruffed. Sheng drew trumps and ran the clubs for 12 tricks and plus 1050.

LEBOWITZ vs. SEOUL

West	North	East	South
Lee	Nyström	Kim	Helgemo
Pass	1♦	4♠	4NT
Pass	5♦	Pass	6♣
Pass	6♦	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Nyström and Helgemo are not a regular partnership, but still...

Kim ruffed his spade ace lead when Nyström was able to ruff it in dummy with the singleton trump. He recovered somewhat when he was allowed to ruff dummy's second high club. Declarer won East's heart shift, forced out the ace of diamonds and suffered another ruff, this time with the jack of trumps. Declarer was down three, suffering the ignominy of losing four trump tricks in slam, two to East on ruffs and two to West with the ace and ten of trumps; minus 300.

West	North	East	South
Madala	Kang	Bilde	Roh
Pass	1♦	4♠	4NT
Pass	5♦	Pass	6♣
Pass	6♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Declarer ruffed the high-spade lead, ruffed a club, led a heart to the king and ruffed another club, learning his fate. He led the king of diamonds, won by West with the ace. Madala shifted to a trump, won by the ace in declarer's hand. North cashed the queen of diamonds, ruffed a spade, drew the last trump, took the two high clubs and gave up the last two tricks to go two down, but still won 3 IMPs.

STREET vs. PERCULO

West	North	East	South
<i>P. Lawrence</i>	<i>Zatorski</i>	<i>O. Lawrence</i>	<i>Pachtman</i>
Pass	1♦	4♠	4NT
Pass	5♦	Pass	5♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Declarer ruffed the spade lead, cashed the king of hearts, ruffed a club and drew trumps. When he took a high club and discovered the break, he led a diamond. West could either win and exit with a spade only to be endplayed in clubs, or duck, have his spade ruffed and be subjected to the same club endplay. Either way, it was a clever plus 650 for North/South.

West	North	East	South
<i>Di Franco</i>	<i>Allfrey</i>	<i>Manno</i>	<i>Robson</i>
Pass	1♦	4♠	6♣
Double	Pass	Pass	6♥
Double	Pass	Pass	Pass

Robson had a pretty good idea what Di Franco had doubled with, so, as had Sheng against Nawrocki, he pulled to hearts, albeit at a level higher. Could he take the same advantage of West's indiscretion as had Sheng? Declarer started out well, ruffing the spade lead and leading a diamond. West rose with the ace and led his other spade. Robson ruffed again and...tried the ace and king of clubs. Manno ruffed, so that was off one and a big 13 IMPs to STREET.

NICKELL vs. WORLD BRIDGE TOUR

West	North	East	South
<i>Hoftaniska</i>	<i>Hampson</i>	<i>Andresen</i>	<i>Greco</i>
Pass	1♦	4♠	6♣
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Greco suffered the usual fate.

West	North	East	South
<i>Weinstein</i>	<i>Helness</i>	<i>Levin</i>	<i>Charlsen</i>
Pass	1♦	4♠	4NT
Pass	5♦	Pass	6♣
Pass	6♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Helness ruffed the spade lead, ruffed a club, led a heart to the king and ruffed another club. He made the usual seven trump tricks along with three top tricks in the minors for two down and a flat board.

WOLFSON vs. ODMET

West	North	East	South
<i>Bakhshi</i>	<i>Van Prooijen</i>	<i>Malinowski</i>	<i>Verhees</i>
Pass	1♦	4♠	5♣
Double	Pass	Pass	Pass
West	North	East	South
<i>Padon</i>	<i>Buras</i>	<i>Birman</i>	<i>Narkiewicz</i>
Pass	1♦	4♠	5♣
Double	5♦	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Neither South covered himself in glory here (nor did either West for that matter), both going for minus 200 and a push, both bidding a timid five clubs, then either sitting the double or partner's pull to five diamonds.

What's the best bidding strategy with the South hand? Of the eight players on VuGraph who held the hand, four bid clubs directly, either five (pessimistically) or six (optimistically), reasoning that the two-card disparity between clubs and hearts was enough not to ask for a choice between hearts and clubs. The other four South players bid four notrump, reasoning that the heart quality was enough to counteract the disparity in suit length.

What's the best play strategy? Under normal circumstances, ruffing two clubs with low hearts would be a good plan. But, with West having, on the play to trick one, eight spades, surely the odds on five-one clubs and the ace of diamonds with West are lengthened. Is that enough to lead a diamond at trick two? Of the nine heart declarers, only Tommasini and Robson thought so, although Sheng did just as well by running the ten of clubs at trick two.

Rosenblum Round of 32 Marc Smith, Southampton, Hants., U.K.

ROBINSON vs. PERICULO

It is worth checking in on this match to see two occasional partners, Andrew Robson and Zia Mahmood, facing off against each other.

Board 19. Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>P. Lawrence</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>O. Lawrence</i>	<i>Mahmood</i>
—	—	—	1♥
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

A singleton in partner's suit is generally not good news, so David Gold's two-diamond bid hardly enthused Zia, and Zia's spade bid did little to improve Gold's hand.

Patrick Lawrence led the eight of clubs, ducked to East's king. A second club came back. Declarer drew trumps and advanced the queen of diamonds and, when West mistakenly covered, Zia was able to discard all four of his spades on three diamond winners and the ace of clubs; North/South plus 480.

The stage was then set for another edition of the Alexander Allfrey Show:

West	North	East	South
<i>Korbel</i>	<i>Allfrey</i>	<i>Robinson</i>	<i>Robson</i>
—	—	—	1♥
1♠	2♠	Pass	3♥
Pass	4♣	Double	4♥
Pass	6♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Daniel Korbel's featherweight one-spade overcall added some impetus to the English auction, allowing Allfrey to agree hearts immediately via a two-spade cue-bid. Robson gave his partner no encouragement, simply retreating to hearts at the lowest available level at every opportunity, but Allfrey was undeterred and carried his partner all the way to slam.

Korbel led the eight of clubs and it was up to Robson to justify his partner's ambitious bidding. He won with the ace of clubs, crossed to hand with the king of hearts, and successfully ran the queen of diamonds. Returning to dummy with a second round of trumps, Robson disposed of his club loser on the ace of diamonds. A diamond ruff failed to bring down the king, but Robson had a second string to his bow – he knew that West held the ace of spades, so he simply exited with a low spade towards dummy's ten. It mattered not who had the jack – the defence could win with that card but West's ace of spades would eventually be ruffed out to set up declarer's remaining spades. Bravo! North/South plus 980 and 11 IMPs to PERICULO.

Rosenblum Round of 32

Krzysztof Jassem, Poznan, Poland

Ana Roth & Fernando Lema, Buenos Aires

AZS WVRATISLAVIA vs. STREET (KJ)

Patryk Patreuha must have a strong claim to be the snappiest dresser here in Wroclaw, but his smart plays are not restricted to the sartorial variety.

Board 43. Dealer South. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Jassem</i>	<i>Zatorski</i>	<i>Patreuha</i>	<i>Pachtman</i>
—	—	—	1♥
Pass	1NT	2♣	Double
Pass	2♦	2♥	3♦
Pass	3NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

In the other room, East/West had boosted the auction to three spades and had been doubled there for minus 300, losing two high hearts, a heart ruff and three high trumps, so a lot of IMPs were riding on whether three notrump could be brought home.

Patreuha led the club queen, asking for an unblock of the jack or count, and my club seven suggested the actual layout. Plan the defence.

Patreuha shifted to a spade. Declarer won in hand and led a diamond toward the ace. Patreuha discarded the queen of hearts and, when declarer finessed in diamonds on the way back, he pitched the jack of hearts. Both plays are necessary to prevent declarer establishing hearts without letting West on lead for the killing club continuation.

Declarer's line of play was logical and technically sound; to succeed, he would have had to play a heart at trick two and duck East's jack – an impossible play to find.

MINITER vs. ZALESKI (AR & FL)

West	North	East	South
<i>Versace</i>	<i>Della Cave</i>	<i>Sementa</i>	<i>Attanasio</i>
—	—	—	1♥
Pass	1NT	2♥ ¹	Double
2♠	Double	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. Spades and a minor suit

Sementa led the ace of clubs, calling for an unblock or count. Versace followed with the seven, reverse count. Sementa switched to the jack of hearts – declarer's best move would have been to duck this, but he won with the ace and led a diamond. Sementa discarded the queen of hearts, dooming declarer.

Rosenblum Round of 16
John Carruthers, Kingsville, ON, Canada

LUCKY FOUR vs. DRINTEAM

The number four is considered unlucky in China (especially in Hong Kong and Guangzhou) because of its sounding similar to the word 'death' in Cantonese. Despite that, Zemin Xu did not consider it to be so, having been born on the fourth of the month, with his wife being born on the fourteenth. Furthermore, since they were four-handed, three Canadian players of Chinese descent (Richard Chan, Shan Huang and Zemin Xu) and one Chinese living in the USA (Ming Sheng), showing that were not the least bit superstitious, ironically named their team LUCKY FOUR, after Zemin Xu's suggestion.

LUCKY FOUR had been unlucky to have been behind 30-odd IMPs for most of their Round-of-16 match against DRINTEAM (João-Paulo Campos/Adriano Rodrigues – Brazil, and Ben Green/Stefano Tommasini – England). A terrific fourth quarter saw LUCKY FOUR's fortunes change, to the tune of 39-2 IMPs, to see them in the lead, 93-90, going into the last board of the match.

Board 56. Dealer West. NS Vul.

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

♠ 7 6 2
♥ A Q 2
♦ A K J 7 6 2
♣ 3

West	North	East	South
Campos	Sheng	Rodrigues	Chan
Pass	1♠	Pass	1NT ¹
Pass	2♠ ²	Pass	2NT ³
Pass	3♠ ⁴	Pass	4NT ⁵
Pass	5♥ ⁶	Pass	6♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. Artificial game-force
2. Shows 4+ clubs
3. Further shape ask
4. 6+ spades
5. RKCB
6. 2 key cards, no spade queen

Richard Chan, having been down 34 IMPs with 14 boards to play, knew his partnership had had a good game but, of course, had not figured on his teammates being up about 20 on their card as well, so he hoped Ming Shen could pick up the spade queen to make six spades and win a swing. He'd not realised that LUCKY FOUR was

up 3 IMPs going into the last board, otherwise he'd have subsided in game.

Six spades is makeable on any lead. For DRINTEAM to win the match, Green would have to make his slam while Sheng went down.

Rodrigues led a third-from-even seven of hearts, warned off the club lead by the bidding. Sheng won with his king and cashed the ace of spades, learning his fate immediately. Declarer manoeuvred well enough to lose just the king and queen of trumps for one off, minus 100.

At the other table ...

West	North	East	South
Xu	Green	Huang	Tommasini
Pass	1♠	3♥	4♣ ¹
Pass	4♦ ²	Pass	4♠
Pass	4NT ³	Pass	5♥ ⁴
Pass	6♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

1. Slam-try in spades
2. Diamond control
3. RKCB
4. 2 key cards, no spade queen

Green received the more-challenging king-of-clubs lead. He won with the ace and made the curious-looking (but perhaps table-presence indicated) play of the jack of spades from hand. Xu (West) won and tapped dummy with a club to the nine and queen. After this series of plays, there was no way for North to make his contract. Whatever declarer does, West can discard a heart on a fourth round of diamonds to deny declarer two heart entries to the dummy to execute a trump coup.

Down one at both tables meant LUCKY FOUR, luckily, advanced to the quarterfinals.

Rosenblum Semifinals

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

VENTIN vs. ROBINSON

NICKELL vs. BLACK

Board 45. Dealer North. Neither Vul.

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

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

In VENTIN vs. ROBINSON...

West	North	East	South
Berkowitz	Palma	Meckstroth	Wrang
—	Pass	Pass	1♠
Double	2♠	Pass	Pass
Double	Pass	2NT ¹	Pass
3♣	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. Weakness – requests 3♣ if palatable; my next bid may be pass

North led the jack of spades. South took the king and returned the six, declarer ruffing, playing three rounds of trumps ending in dummy and a heart to the ten, plus 130.

West	North	East	South
Sprinkhuizen	Gold	Mendes	Mahmood
—	Pass	Pass	1♠
Double	2♠	Pass	Pass
Double	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♣	Pass
5♣	Pass	Pass	Pass

South led the two of clubs. Declarer won in dummy and played the six of diamonds, North winning with the king and continuing with the seven of clubs. Declarer won in dummy, cashed the top hearts and must have been delighted when, for the second time on the deal, South contributed an honour. Declarer crossed to the jack of hearts, went back to dummy with a diamond, pitched a diamond on the ten of hearts, ruffed a diamond and gave up a spade for a magnificent, miraculous, 11 tricks, plus 400 and 7 IMPs.

(Tim Bourke, who kindly sends us files with all the BBO deals the following day, mentioned this deal. I had seen it, but only wrote it up on Friday – perhaps we should split the prize money!)

In the other match, NICKELL vs. BLACK...

West	North	East	South
Levin	Hult	Weinstein	Bertheau
—	Pass	Pass	1♠
Double	2♠	Pass	Pass
Double	Pass	2NT ¹	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♣	Pass
5♣	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. Perhaps weakness – requests 3♣; my next bid may be pass

South led the king of spades and switched to the nine of diamonds. Declarer ducked; North won with the king and returned the two. Declarer won with the ace, cashed the ace-king of clubs and, seeing South's jack, continued with a low club to dummy's nine. A heart to the ten was followed by a claim of ten tricks, minus 50.

West	North	East	South
Paske	Hampson	McIntosh	Greco
—	Pass	Pass	1♠
Double	2♠ ¹	Pass	Pass
Double	Pass	2NT ²	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♣	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. Weakest raise

2. Natural

East remarked that this is probably a very uncomfortable hand to have if you play two notrump as natural. (It would a triumph to reach three notrump!) South led the ace of spades and switched to the eight of diamonds. North won with the king when declarer ducked and returned the diamond two. Declarer won, cashed the ace-king of clubs and the ace of hearts, played a club to the nine and a heart, claiming ten tricks, plus 130 and 5 IMPs.

With just three boards to go, and the result of both matches hanging in the balance, NICKELL was leading 118-115 and VENTIN was ahead 112-93 when...

Board 54. Dealer East. Both Vul.

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

For VENTIN vs. ROBINSON:

West	North	East	South
Berkowitz	Palma	Meckstroth	Wrang
—	—	1♣	Pass
1♥	Pass	2♦	Pass
2NT ¹	Pass	3♣	Pass
4♦ ²	Pass	4NT ³	Pass
5NT ⁴	Pass	6♣	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. Forcing

2. RKCB for clubs

3. 2 key cards, no club queen

4. Pick a slam

Six clubs is a sound contract on the East/West cards. South led the ace of spades and declarer was soon claiming plus 1390 after handling the trumps.

West	North	East	South
<i>Sprinkhuizen</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>M. de Leon</i>	<i>Mahmood</i>
—	—	1♣ ¹	Pass
1♥ ²	Pass	2♦ ³	Pass
2♥ ⁴	Pass	3♣ ⁵	Pass
3♦ ⁶	Pass	3♠ ⁷	Pass
6NT	Pass	7♣	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. 2+ clubs
2. 8+ HCP, 4+ hearts, may have longer diamonds
3. (i) 5+ clubs and 4+ diamonds; game-forcing or (ii) 18-20 balanced
4. Relay
5. (i) Clubs and diamonds
6. Slam interest in a minor
7. Spade shortage; 4 diamonds and 6+ clubs

Seven clubs is not a sound contract on the East/West cards. Apart from the necessity of bringing in trumps without loss, about an even-money proposition if you play off the top ones, there's the issue of the fourth diamond to consider. A look at the South hand reveals that that issue will be resolved at trick one. Even if South could find a club lead (impossible, since North could have three low and declarer's natural play would be a finesse into your queen), declarer might still make – for example, he draws trumps, plays three rounds of hearts, ruffing the third, and runs the clubs to squeeze South.

In practice, Zia led a heart. Mendes de Leon claimed plus 2140 after the ten of hearts won and the top clubs brought down the queen. It was a 13-IMP swing and, with the lead up to 32 IMPs, the match was as good as over.

In the NICKELL-BLACK match, both teams bid to seven clubs.

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

1. Slammish in a minor
2. Asks which minor
3. Agrees clubs
4. Exclusion key-card ask
5. 2 key cards, no club queen

Bertheau led a heart and Weinstein was soon claiming all 13 tricks.

At the other table, Greco amused everyone by leading the seven of spades. Tosh played the top trumps and also claimed plus 2140 for a push. This had been the revealing auction:

West	North	East	South
<i>Paske</i>	<i>Hampson</i>	<i>McIntosh</i>	<i>Greco</i>
—	—	1♣	Pass
1♥	Pass	2♦	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♣	Pass
4♣	Pass	5♠ ¹	Pass
6♦ ²	Pass	7♣	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. Exclusion key-card ask
2. 2 key cards, no club queen

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

VENTIN vs. NICKELL

The overnight score was NICKELL 100 – VENTIN 84.

Board 51. Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Hampson</i>	<i>Ventin</i>	<i>Greco</i>	<i>Palma</i>
—	—	—	1♣
Pass	1♥ ¹	Pass	3♠ ²
Pass	3NT ³	Pass	4♦ ⁴
Pass	4♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

1. Spades
2. Puppet to 3NT
3. As requested
4. Spade slam try; diamond control, no club control

Antonio Palma won the jack-of-hearts lead with the ace and led a club to the queen and king. When Eric Greco returned a trump, declarer rose with the king. What would happen after a second club now? West would win and return a trump. Two ruffs would give declarer only nine tricks but, as the cards lie, he could run the jack of diamonds and survive when East began with a doubleton honour. Palma instead played the ace and another diamond to East's king. A second trump was returned, won with the ace. West won the next trick with the club jack and returned a safe heart ten. Declarer was out of steam and finished one off.

West	North	East	South
<i>Sprinkhuizen</i>	<i>Weinstein</i>	<i>M. de Leon</i>	<i>Levin</i>
—	—	—	1♣
Pass	1♠	Pass	4♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

North was declarer at this table and the six of hearts was led, won with dummy's ace. When a club was played, West rose with the ace and returned a heart to dummy's king. A club to the queen and king was followed by yet another heart, ruffed in hand. The jack of diamonds was covered by the king and ace. A second diamond then set up that suit. West led a third diamond, ruffed by East and overruffed with the eight. Declarer then ruffed the nine of clubs high and claimed the last three tricks with dummy's ace-king-jack of spades. The contract had never been in trouble at this table, and it was 10 IMPs to NICKELL.

Rosenblum Final
Jos Jacobs, Maarn, Netherlands

VENTIN vs. NICKELL

With VENTIN and NICKELL tied at 160-160 in Set 6 with seven boards to play, came another nice seven-five hand ...

Board 90. Dealer East. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Levin</i>	<i>M. de Leon</i>	<i>Weinstein</i>	<i>Sprinkhuizen</i>
—	—	Pass	2♣
Pass	4♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

This was not the first time in this tournament that a player with a seven-five hand ignored the five-card suit to his regret ...

When South opened two clubs, which might have included a weak-two bid in the suit, North was no longer in a position to transmit a clear picture of his hand. Four spades had no play: one down, plus 100 to NICKELL.

In the other room, it was West who opened the bidding in clubs, giving Hampson an opportunity ...

West	North	East	South
<i>Wrang</i>	<i>Hampson</i>	<i>Palma</i>	<i>Greco</i>
—	—	Pass	Pass
1♣	2♦ ¹	Pass	2♥
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. Majors

On this auction, Hampson could show his major two-suiter and Greco could show his preference, twice. Wrang found the excellent lead of a low diamond to his partner's ace but, when Palma returned the ten of clubs rather than partner's suit, Greco had a chance to make his contract. Declarer ruffed in the dummy, ruffed a spade in hand and led a trump to the jack and East's king. Another club was taken by the queen and when Greco's last trump brought down West's queen, the only remaining loser was a spade. So, with some luck and some help, Greco had scored a valuable plus 620, good for 12 IMPs – exactly the margin of NICKELL's lead at that moment.

McConnell (Women's Teams) Final
Ron Tacchi, Vaupillon, France

BRODY vs. TRI POLAR

Two multi-national teams had made it to the final of the McConnell Women's Teams. BRODY was an American/ Swedish/Hungarian/Dutch combination (Joan Brody/Sandra Rimstedt/Birgitta Fischer, Cecilia Rimstedt/Marion Michielsen), while TRI POLAR featured players from Iceland, USA, England, Bulgaria and Sweden (Hjördis Eythorsdottir/Janice Seamon-Molson, Nicola Smith/Nevena Senior, Jessica Larsson/Kathrine Bertheau). Okay, so Marion, Disa and Nevena no longer play for their birth nations – others may soon follow their lead.

Board 25. Dealer North. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Eythorsdottir</i>	<i>C. Rimstedt</i>	<i>Molson</i>	<i>Michielsen</i>
—	Pass	1♣	Pass
1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♣ ¹	Pass	2♦ ²	Pass
2NT ³	Pass	3NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. Puppet to 2♦
2. Forced
3. Invitational

This was a delicate 24-point three notrump. Michielsen led the eight of hearts to Cecilia's ace. Realising there was

Continued on page 16...



IBPA Column Service

Tim Bourke, Canberra



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

1109. Dealer North. EW Vul.

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

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

In a team game, both sides reached six diamonds on the auction shown. The raise to two diamonds was inverted, promising a maximum pass with four-card or longer support. Four clubs showed club shortage and four spades was control-showing. South then made a key-card enquiry before bidding the slam.

The opening lead at both tables was the jack of clubs, taken by dummy's ace. At the first table, declarer was a simple fellow. He drew trumps and led a low heart to his ten and West's queen. After ruffing West's club return, declarer crossed to the king of spades and led a second heart to the jack. West produced the king and declarer was down one.

At the other table, declarer ruffed a club at trick two, then led a trump to dummy's ten to ruff a second club with his ace of trumps. After crossing back to dummy with a low trump to the jack, declarer ruffed dummy's remaining club, thereby eliminating the suit. Next, he crossed to dummy with a low spade to the king to lead a low heart to the ten.

After taking this with the queen of hearts, West was endplayed, with only major suit cards remaining. It did

not matter which one he played, for declarer would make two tricks in that suit and be able to ruff his losing card in the other major for 12 tricks.

1110. Dealer North. Both Vul.

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

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

The auction was similar at both tables in a team game. After North rebid one notrump, South relayed with two diamonds, forcing to game. When three-card support was shown with two hearts, both South players drove to the heart slam via a key-card enquiry.

The lead at both tables was the jack of clubs. At the first table, declarer was the finesseaholic from the previous deal. He took the opening lead in hand with the queen, led a low trump to dummy's king and another to the jack. Alas, West was able to take this with the queen and made the good move of exiting with a trump.

Upon winning with the ace of hearts, declarer played off his remaining trumps, the ace of diamonds and the king of clubs. After crossing to dummy with a low spade to the king, declarer cashed the ace of clubs, throwing his losing diamond from hand. As the eight of clubs was not high, declarer cashed the queen and ace of spades.

Unfortunately for declarer, spades were four-two, so West took the last trick for down one.

At the other table, declarer just cashed the ace and king of trumps rather than risking a trump finesse. Then he cashed the king of clubs and crossed to dummy with a spade and discarded his losing diamond on the ace of clubs. Next, he cashed the ace-queen of spades and ruffed his fourth spade in dummy. All he lost was a trump to West's queen.

The second declarer would always have succeeded if trumps had been three-two and he'd have had decent residual chances if East had had four trumps to the queen. The first declarer would have succeeded with trumps three-two and the queen onside or if the spades had been three-three, a lesser chance than the approach his counterpart adopted.

1111. Dealer North. Both Vul.

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

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

After East's vulnerable pre-empt, South checked for key cards with four notrump and then bid the slam in notrump because she was wary of bad breaks.

West led a heart and declarer was relieved when East followed suit. Declarer counted two tricks in spades, five in hearts, and four in the minors. As the twelfth trick could come from either black suit, declarer decided to run hearts first, discarding a low club and a low diamond from hand, while East let go four low spades and West a club.

Declarer led the three of spades from dummy and, as she placed eight spades on her right, she covered East's cagy seven with the eight. When that held, nine of East cards were known: eight spades and one heart. That meant he had three spades and four minor-suit cards remaining.

As there were more diamonds outstanding than clubs, declarer led the ten of clubs to dummy's king and a low club back to his ace. Since a spade discard would have been hopeless, East parted with a diamond. Declarer knew that East had three spades and two diamonds left, so she played the eight of diamonds to dummy's

ace and a low diamond back to her hand. Declarer now exited with the nine of spades which East had to win. The forced spade return allowed declarer to take the last two tricks with the queen and ace of spades for her contract. That was elegant play.

It would have done East no good to split his honours on the first round of spades – a similar position would have arisen, with East endplayed at the death to lead a spade away from his king-low into declarer's ace-nine.

1112. Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
—	—	—	2♦
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♦
Pass	5♦	Pass	Pass
Pass			

After South opened with a weak-two in diamonds, North used a two notrump enquiry. The three-diamond response promised a good suit and a minimum weak two. North did well to bid five diamonds because three notrump would have had no hope on a spade lead, as long as West unblocked the king of spades at trick one.

Against five diamonds, West led the jack of hearts. Declarer saw that, if he led a trump at trick two, the defence would shift to spades, removing the entry to the clubs. A similar fate would occur if he played the ace and another spade: the defenders would play the ace and another trump, removing the possibility of a spade ruff in dummy.

It was after these ruminations that declarer saw the best play: after winning the first trick with the ace of hearts, declarer called for the eight of spades from dummy. If the defenders won and exited with a spade to dummy's now-bare ace, declarer would throw a spade on the king of hearts, ruff the two of hearts in hand and ruff his remaining spade with dummy's eight of trumps. The defenders would make the ace of trumps, but that would be their last trick.

At the table, East won the spade and played the ace and another trump. Declarer won in hand and drew the last trump before cashing the ace and king of clubs. Since that suit was three-two, declarer established it by ruffing a club and using the ace of spades to return to dummy to park his two spade losers on the good clubs. Making five.



Life on the Road

Larry Cohen
Delray Beach, FL

2006 Buffet Cup in Ireland

In September, 2006, the U.S. Ryder Cup golf team lost to Europe in Dublin, but the U.S. bridge team defeated Europe in the inaugural Warren Buffett Cup. Both events pitted 12 of America's best against 12 of Europe's best.

This deal featured a world-class defensive play by our Italian opponent, Giorgio Duboin:

Dealer East. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Bocchi	Cohen	Duboin	Berkowitz
—	—	Pass	1♥
1♠	2NT	Pass	3♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Against three hearts, Norberto Bocchi led a top club and switched to a diamond. This went to the eight and queen, and David Berkowitz cleared the diamonds by playing the ace and another. East won and shifted to a spade. Declarer won in dummy, ruffed a club, and played a heart to the king.

We can see that declarer has to lose only two trump tricks. East wins the ace, and declarer can go to dummy to run the nine of hearts. If East covers, declarer uses the eight-seven to drive out the ten. If East ducks the heart nine, declarer has a sure thing to let it run (not caring if it loses).

But, East made a spectacular play. On dummy's king of hearts, he ducked smoothly! Another heart was played from dummy to the ten and ... put yourself in declarer's

shoes. Expecting from the play and bidding that West might have a doubleton ace of hearts, declarer played low on the ten. He expected the ace would drop on air and this would produce a valuable overtrick for plus 170 and a potential win on the board. Disaster! East's ten held the trick, West showed out, and East had to get two more trump tricks for down one and a win to Europe (the other North-South made plus 140 in three hearts). This in-tempo defensive gem was indicative of the high-level bridge that was played throughout this tournament.

In the Individual, my partner, Jill Meyers defended this deal brilliantly:

Dealer West. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Auken	Meyers	Hackett	Cohen
1♦	2♠	3♦	Pass
Pass	Pass		

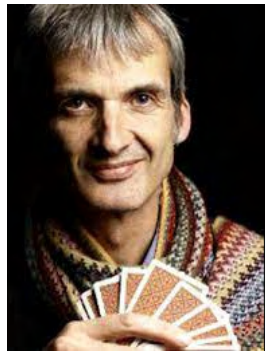
Meyers led her top spades and gave me a spade ruff. I returned my highest club and declarer finessed. We had the first four tricks, but needed one more. I remained with queen-nine-seven of diamonds. Left to her own devices, declarer would no doubt have picked up this suit. Playing the preemptor for shortage, she would lay down dummy's ace and finesse against my queen.

Meyers was having none of this. At trick five she led another spade, intentionally giving declarer a ruff-sluff. What could declarer do? If she ruffed with dummy's ace, I would have a trump trick. Ruffing low would allow me to ruff with the nine to drive out the king – and I'd still have the queen-seven of diamonds left to take a trick. Ruffing with the jack was also no good. I discard and have to get a trump trick. Sadly, down one was a loss on the board for us, because the East/West pair at the other table reached a reasonable three notrump, down two.

There was something special about playing for your country with no money involved. My favorite part of the event was the Individual. Everyone on our 12-person team played a match partnering each of the other team members. Imagine getting to play a match with Zia, then a match with Soloway as partners. Then, to end the event, my partner was some guy named Bob Hamman. It doesn't get any better.

Country Life

Andrew Robson
London



40th Lords vs. Commons

The 40th annual Lords-Commons match, now an afternoon rather than a whole day was, as usual, sponsored by Stephen Perry of London Export. For the second year in a row (2014), the Commons emerged victorious, then (*after the 2014 match - Ed.*) just 21-19 in arrears in the whole series.

Board 1 from the event was a three-notrump contract which made twice and failed twice. The key was how to play diamonds.

Dealer South. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
—	—	—	INT ¹
Pass	3NT ²	Pass	Pass
Pass			

1. 12-14

2. Aggregate scoring, so a 4-4 fit is not important

Declarer won West's queen-of-hearts lead in hand, crossed to the ace of diamonds, then led back a second diamond, East playing the eight. The key moment had arrived.

The unthinking play is the ten (or knave), but is that right? If diamonds split three-three, any play works. If they are four-two, isn't it more likely that West has king-low or queen-low than two low? (There are eight honour-low combinations to six two-low combinations.) This is especially true here as giving West two low diamonds would give East king-queen-fourth – in which

case, might he not have risen with the queen to return a heart?

The indicated play is to duck the second diamond. West wins with his bare king and returns a heart, but you win with dummy's ace (for fear of a club switch), cross to a top spade and lead the knave of diamonds to drive out the queen. You win any return and can cash the ten of diamonds and fifth diamond plus the remaining top tricks. Three spades, two hearts, one club and, crucially, three diamonds make nine tricks and game made.

Avoiding two club losers was the key to making four spades on the following deal. Declarer had to bear in mind that East's opening bid made it a virtual certainty that he held the ace of clubs over dummy's king.

Board 23. Dealer East. Both Vul.

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

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

Declarer won West's queen of hearts lead with dummy's ace, drew trumps, then eliminated diamonds, by crossing to the king, returning to the ace and ruffing a diamond. He now exited with a second heart.

If East had won with the knave (then cashed the king), he'd have found himself endplayed to lead a club from the ace (promoting dummy's king), or lead a red card to give a ruff-and-discard, enabling declarer to throw a club from hand and ruff in dummy, thereby restricting his club losers to one. The game would have been made.

East brilliantly ducked the second heart, hoping his partner could win with the ten and so switch to clubs from his side. West did indeed win with the ten and switch to a low club. However, declarer's knave saved the day for him. Knowing East held the ace, but hoping West held the queen, declarer played low from dummy. East tried the ten in the (vain) hope his partner held the queen-knave (although West would surely have switched to the queen from that holding). Declarer scooped up the knave and claimed his game.

...Continued from page 11

not much future in that suit, Rimstedt shifted to the five of diamonds to dummy's king. Dummy's heart ten ran round to South's queen. Exiting with a diamond to dummy's ace saw a spade played from dummy to the ace, dropping the singleton queen. A spade to the king was followed by two rounds of hearts, Rimstedt discarding a top diamond and a spade. Declarer cashed the ace of clubs and, to her chagrin, Rimstedt unblocked the king. Now there was no play for the contract as all exits allow the defence to take three more tricks. Had the king not been unblocked, declarer could have exited with a club and North could have taken the club and a diamond, but would then have had to lead into the spade tenace.

West	North	East	South
Brody	Senior	S. Rimstedt	Smith
—	Pass	1♣	Pass
1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass
2NT	Pass	3NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		

At this table, we had the same contract and the same opening lead. Senior won with the ace of hearts and returned the suit; Smith won with the queen and exited with the six of diamonds. The nine of clubs was led off dummy and run to Smith's ten and the four of diamonds was the exit. Had Senior now disembarassed herself of one of her diamond honours, the contract was breakable, but she followed with the nine. Sandra Rimstedt cashed two hearts, watching Senior discard a spade and the king of clubs. After cashing the ace of clubs, which forced Senior to part with a master diamond, the nine of spades towards the king collected the queen, and a spade back to the seven was followed by the ace. Rimstedt now exited with her diamond to Senior's queen, who then had to give dummy the ninth trick with a spade. Well read by Rimstedt; 12 IMPs to Brody.

Rand Cup (Senior Teams)
Ron Tacchi, Vaupillon, France
Herman De Wael, Wilrijk, Belgium

CZTERECH SZWEDOW vs. ZIMMERMANN

Board 13. Dealer North. Both Vul.

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

A Double Felony in Round Robin 6

Be prepared for some stunning bidding sequences (spoiler alert: this is intended to be ironic).

West	North	East	South
Bompis	Wrang	Soulet	Wegnelius
—	1♣	Pass	Pass
Pass			

The most interesting fact is that this is an excellent example of breaking Burn's Law. The defence have eight trumps to your five, but the good news is that they split four-four. The defence took eight tricks for two off.

I have heard a rumour that this board is even more interesting as the same team have broken Burn's Law in the other room, the team committing a double felony.

West	North	East	South
U. Goldberg	Zimmermann	L. Goldberg	Martens
—	1♣	Pass	1♦ ¹
Pass	2♥ ²	Double	Pass
2♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. Hearts

East considered that he was prepared to play in all three remaining denominations, and West tried staying as low as possible, so another violation of Burn's Law occurred.

North led a heart. Declarer took the jack and ace, then ruffed the third heart in the dummy. Next, she cashed two diamond and two club tricks and allowed South to ruff the club queen. South cashed the queen of diamonds and played another diamond, which declarer ruffed with the ten and was overruffed by the queen. When Zimmermann then played the eight of spades, this held, much to his surprise, as he still had two top trumps in hand. Still, only one down, but 7 IMPs to team ZIMMERMANN.

Mixed Teams
Swiss Qualifying Round 2
Marc Smith, Southampton, Hants., U.K.

WILSON vs. KNOTTENBELT

Board 8. Dealer West. Neither Vul.

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

Here's an early bid for a brilliancy prize (if there were such a thing at this championship). Let's start with events at the other table.

West	North	East	South
Knottenbelt	Van Prooijen	Gold	Wilson
1♦	Pass	1♥	Pass
1NT	Pass	2♦ ¹	Pass
2♥	Pass	2♠	Pass
2NT	Pass	3NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. Artificial game-force

North led a club around to declarer's king, and Knottenbelt played on spades; East/West plus 400.

West	North	East	South
M. Grönqvist	Senior	I. Grönqvist	Bell
1♣ ¹	Pass	1♦ ²	Pass
1♥ ³	Double	Redouble	1♠
2♥ ⁴	Pass	3NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		

- 2+ clubs
- 4+ hearts
- 2/3 hearts, (11)12 -14 balanced
- 3 hearts

The bidding had told Bell that dummy had a weak-notrump hand type with three-card heart support and that declarer had at least one spade stopper. Bell duly tabled the only card in his hand to defeat the contract, the jack of clubs; East/West minus 50 and 10 IMPs to KNOTTENBELT.

Mixed Teams

Swiss Qualifying Round 10

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

Here is a deal from the last round of the Mixed Teams Swiss Qualifying; nothing dull, I promise! Fifteen of the 58 pairs who played the deal bid seven hearts, the biggest swing being 21 IMPs when East/West had an accident in the other room, playing in six clubs. Another hapless pair lost 17 IMPs when they could not get beyond four hearts.

REASON vs. TECZA SZCZECINEK

Board 23. Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

To ensure that history will be served, and the reader enlightened, I dispatched Herman DeWael to discover the meaning of the auction:

West	North	East	South
Maduzia	Nehmert	Dobrowolski	Wildavsky
—	—	—	Pass
1♥	Pass	2♣ ¹	Pass
2♠ ²	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♣ ³	Pass	4NT ⁴	Pass
5NT ⁵	Pass	7♥	Pass
Pass	Pass		

- Artificial game-force
- Non-minimum, no other 4-card suit
- Club control
- RKCB
- 2 key cards plus the heart queen and 1 king

As to the play, declarer won the spade lead in dummy, took a round of trumps and claimed when everyone followed, plus 2210.

At the other table, Thompson and Cooper were unwilling to go beyond six hearts, despite East's knowing West had the king-queen of hearts and the ace-king of clubs. It cost them 13 IMPs.

In MINITER vs. ZALESKI, Jessica Larsson and Geir Helgemo won the same 13 IMPs for the following auction:

West	North	East	South
Helgemo	P. Cronier	Larsson	B. Cronier
—	—	—	Pass
1♥	Pass	2NT ¹	Pass
3♣ ²	Pass	3♦ ³	Pass
4♣ ⁴	Pass	4NT ⁵	Pass
5♠ ⁶	Pass	5NT ⁷	Pass
6♣ ⁸	Pass	7♥ ⁹	Pass
Pass	Pass		

- Game-forcing, 4+-card heart support
- Any minimum
- Asks for shortage
- Club control; no shortage
- Key-card ask
- 2 key cards plus the heart queen
- King ask
- Club king
- Please don't have the doubleton ace-king of clubs!

Mixed Teams Semifinals & Rand Cup Final

John Carruthers, Kingsville, ON, Canada

DONNER vs. MINITER CORIANDRE vs. FERM GOODMAN vs. VYTAS

Like a couple of my colleagues, I'm somewhat of a collector of curiosities (bridge curiosities, that is, although one could make a case that the same applies

to my collection of friends). Here's one: have you ever seen declarer claim down four at trick two in any game contract? Les Amoils had that distinction in his semifinal match of the Mixed Teams (Amoils was on the DONNER team).

Board 21. Dealer North. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Nyström	Amoils	Clementsson	S. Rimstedt
—	INT	Pass!	2♣
Pass	2♦	Pass!	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass!	

Observing the vulnerability was critical. Down four was plus 400 for Clementsson/Nyström. "So that's what you were thinking about over one notrump!" said Amoils to his screen-mate Clementsson after the second heart.

At the other table, Per-Ola Cullin walked the dog a bit, perhaps hoping to be doubled ...

West	North	East	South
Michielsen	Grue	Cullin	Minitier
—	INT	Double	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♥	Double
Pass	2♠	3♥	3♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Cullin capitulated over three spades, perhaps fearing that the opponents could make game and doubting that he could. He was proved correct: heart ace, heart deuce, ruffed, club ruffed; that was all for the defence, minus 170 and 11 IMPs to MINITER due to Clementsson's vivid imagination.

In CORIANDRE vs. FERM ...

West	North	East	South
Lund Madsen	Zochowska	Drijver	Schmidt
—	INT	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♦	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Sebastian Drijver found the same sequence of bids as Sanna Clementsson. He also knew what to lead for plus 400. Drijver and Clementsson are obvious soulmates.

West	North	East	South
C. Lorenzini	de Wijs	A. Lorenzini	von Arnim
—	INT	4♥	Double
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Aurélie Lorenzini bid what was in front of her nose and was pretty chuffed to find that her minus 100 compared very nicely with the potential minus 620 in four spades or minus 600 in five clubs. It was a shock to discover she'd lost 11 IMPs instead of winning a like number.

In the Seniors final between GOODMAN and VYTAS ...

West	North	East	South
Starkowski	Berkowitz	Kwiecien	Meckstroth
—	INT	4♥	Double
Pass	Pass	Pass	
West	North	East	South
Passell	Vainikonis	Goodman	Olanski
—	INT	4♥	Double
Pass	4NT	5♥	Pass
Pass	Double	Pass	Pass
Pass			

It seems that, of Simon de Wijs, David Berkowitz and Vytautas Vainikonis, only Vainikonis is a disciple of the late, great, Edgar Kaplan ("I like my partners to take out my takeout doubles."); 5 IMPs to VYTAS.

Mixed Teams Final
John Carruthers, Kingsville, ON, Canada
MINITER vs. FERM

Early in Set 2, Daniela von Arnim for FERM and Jessica Larsson for MINITER exhibited brilliant card reading ...

Board 22. Dealer East. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
De Wijs	Clementsson	Von Arnim	Nyström
—	—	INT	Pass
3♣ ¹	Pass	3♦	Pass
6♦	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. Transfer to diamonds

Simon de Wijs appreciated the power of his good six-card diamond suit, the ten adding extra value. Whether six diamonds or six notrump rated to be a better contract was an open question: imagine East with the ace-king-queen or king-queen-jack fifth of clubs and no queen of diamonds – then, six notrump might be better. On the other hand, imagine East with a 4=4=3=2

distribution and the ace-doubleton or ace-king doubleton of clubs – then, six diamonds might be superior. As it happened, there was nothing to choose between the two contracts. De Wijs also recognised the advantage of not releasing any further information to the defenders, thus the direct leap to slam.

With 11 top tricks, the contract seemed to depend upon the club finesse. Frederic Nyström led the five of diamonds, won by declarer's seven. The queen of diamonds followed: six, king, two of spades (count). Sanna Clementsson did very well to abandon spades instead of hearts – switch the two and three of hearts to the five and three of spades and declarer now had 12 tricks. On the jack of diamonds, North continued her good work by discarding the five of clubs (also count); declarer ditched the two of clubs and South won with his ace. Further torturing partner, Nyström continued with the nine of diamonds, won in dummy and forcing another discard from Clementsson: the eight of clubs; club seven from declarer.

Declarer took the ace-king of hearts, led dummy's low spade to the queen, cashed the queen of hearts and led the king of spades to the ace. On these five tricks, everyone followed up the line with the lowest card available every time. That left:

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

Larsson led dummy's three of diamonds: ten of spades, queen of clubs, eight of spades. The only heart unaccounted for was now the ten. South had shown up with the jack and nine – surely with the ten as well, South would have either led the suit or shifted to it when in with the ace of diamonds. Although by no means a certainty, it seemed that North must hold that card. So, when, on the eight of diamonds, North threw the nine of clubs, declarer discarded her heart; South let go another spade. On the club lead from dummy at trick 12, North followed with the ten and declarer could be almost certain that the remaining clubs were one-one, so she played the ace, dropping the always-singleton king. Very nicely played for plus 1370.

West	North	East	South
Helgemo	Drijver	Larsson	Lund Madsen
—	—	INT	Pass
6NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

Helgemo also appreciated the power of his diamond suit and the value of reaching the final contract without daisy picking. Lund Madsen made a better lead than had Nyström, her fourth-best five of spades. She had, fortunately for her, less information about the deal than Nyström had had. The lead seriously hindered declarer's entries: she could not cash all the major-suit winners since one was needed to access the diamond suit.

Larsson won in hand (five, seven, ten, king) and started on diamonds, South taking the second round (with North discarding the six of spades) and continuing spades (three, ace, two, queen). The difference here was that declarer had been unable to cash her queen of hearts. On the next three diamonds, North and East threw three clubs, while South followed once and discarded a heart, perhaps to alert North that he had to guard that suit. On the ace-king of hearts, North followed with the eight and five, East the three and two and South the nine and jack. We had reached this position:

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

On the ten-of-diamonds lead from the dummy, Drijver, having to keep both hearts, had to let go of a club: the ten. Having done its job, declarer sluffed the four of hearts and South released a spade. Similarly here, when declarer led a club from dummy and North followed (with the nine), she was pretty sure the outstanding clubs were now one-one, with North holding the ten-doubleton of hearts, so she also dropped the stiff king of clubs to win 2 IMPs for plus 1440. It was great card-reading by both declarers.

Drijver might have caused Larsson a more-difficult guess by playing his hearts in a different order. Madsen had let the six of hearts go on the run of the diamonds, so the eight, seven and five were equals. When South followed with the nine under the ace, North's ten also became an equal and Drijver might have played it under the king. As soon as South followed with the jack under the king, it was even more apparent here than at the other table that North held the ten – surely South would have led a heart from jack-ten-nine-fifth rather than a speculative spade from whatever spades she held not including the ten (which had appeared from North at trick one). Following with the ten of hearts would have left open

the possibility that South had started with jack-fifth and was false-carding with her equals, leaving open the idea of North holding all five of the missing clubs. Had that been the case, North would have had to discard three of them, as he did, to leave open the possibility that the remaining clubs were one-one.

Would Larsson have read that?

Open Pairs Final Mark Horton, Shrewsbury, Shrops., U.K.

A Game of Queens

Tom Hanlon does not like to blow his own trumpet, but some deals are too pretty to remain unmentioned. This is from the third session of the Open Pairs Final:

Board 9. Dealer North. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Volcker</i>	<i>M. Rimstedt</i>	<i>Hanlon</i>	<i>O. Rimstedt</i>
—	Pass	1NT	2♦ ¹
3♥ ²	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. Pointed or round suits
2. Invitational-plus in spades

The jack of diamonds was led for Hanlon's queen. He realized that there was not much chance unless the queen of spades was singleton, so he played the king at trick two! Success! North ducked the ace. But declarer's work was not yet finished. Hanlon next played the jack of spades, again ducked by North. Hanlon went to the table with the ace of clubs and played spades until North took the ace. He won the heart return in dummy and drew the outstanding trumps to reach this ending:

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

When Hanlon came to hand with a diamond, South could not afford to pitch a heart, as declarer would then play a heart, setting up the queen. However, when he threw a club, Hanlon could cash the king of clubs and exit with a club, forcing South to surrender the game-going trick to the queen of hearts.

Plus 620 was not quite a top, because three Easts made a tenth trick in three notrump, and two Norths went for minus 800 in two spades doubled, but no-one else took ten tricks in spades.

Women's Pairs Semifinal Sally Brock, London, U.K.

The Grey Cells

I was full of admiration for my partner's play here.

Session 3. Board 11. Dealer South. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Brock</i>	<i>C. Baldysz</i>	<i>Smederevac</i>	<i>S. Baldysz</i>
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	1♣ ¹	1♠	2♣
Double	Pass	2♦	3♣
3♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. Polish: (i) balanced 12-14 (ii) 15+ with clubs (iii) any 18+

The defence started accurately: seven of hearts (low from a doubleton), ducked to the jack, king of clubs, club to the ace, and the eight of hearts. Smederevac hopped up with the ace and now knew her right-hand-opponent had the king-queen-jack of hearts. A low trump to the king held.

Smederevac also knew that the queen of diamonds had to be to her left, else RHO would have opened one notrump. She advanced the jack of diamonds, ducked all around, and led a diamond to the queen and ace. Now Jovi was worried about a possible trump promotion with the ten of spades on her left if that player had begun with a 3=2=2=6 shape. So she led a low trump from dummy. If her jack held she would crossruff and lose only to the trump ace. If RHO took the ace and played a heart declarer would be able to ruff high, draw the last trump, then run the nine of diamonds. And the same play would work if RHO played

back the third trump upon winning with the ace of spades.

Had South covered the jack of diamonds with the queen, Smederevac would have played the diamond nine, covered all round, and played the jack of spades from her hand. If this had held, she would have crossruffed; if it lost, she would have taken the diamond finesse, using the queen of spades as an entry.



7th WORLD YOUTH TRANSNATIONAL BRIDGE CHAMPIONSHIPS

Salsomaggiore Terme, Italy - 7 - 14 August, 2022

Mark Horton, Shrewsbury, Shrops., U.K.
John Carruthers, Kingsville, ON, Canada

Champions

TEAMS

OPEN U-31: Dimitrios Konstantinos Balokas,
Ioannis Oikonomopoulos (GRE), Alessandro
Calmanovici,
Jeremie Stöckli (SUI)

OPEN U-26: Bo Han Zhu (CAN), Zack Grossack,
Finn Kolesnik, Harrison Anders Luba,
Kevin Rosenberg, Michael Xu (USA)

OPEN U-21: Christian Lahrmann (DEN),
Léo Rombaut (FRA), Nikolai Haiberg-Evenstad
(NOR), Andreas Abragi, Harry Hjorth Warlenius,
Ivar Lichtenstein (SWE)

OPEN U-16: Darwin Li (CAN), Albert Pedmanson,
Jasper Vahk (EST), Anshul Bhatt (IND)

WOMEN'S U-26: Kaja Brekke, Thea Lucia Indrebø,
Agnethe Hansen Kjensli, Mia Eline Statle (NOR)

PAIRS

OPEN U-31: Sagnik Roy/Sayanthan Kushari (IND)

OPEN U-26: Sibrand van Oosten (NED)/
Jacob Freeman (CAN)

OPEN U-21: Michael Xu/Finn Kolesnik (USA)

OPEN U-16: Anshul Bhatt (IND)/Darwin Li (CAN)

WOMEN'S U-26: Clara Bouton/
Margaux Kurek Beaulieu (FRA)

INDIVIDUAL

U-31, U-26, U-26W, U-21:

Panagiotis Skordas (GRE)

U-16: Brian Zhang (USA)

BOARD-A-MATCH

U-31, U-26, U-26W, U-21: Louis Bonin,

Arthur Boulin, Maxence Fragola,

Thomas Guichet, Théo Guillemin, Nao Tabata (FRA)

U-16: Kristian Dalemark, Austad Einar Osen (NOR),

Costa Theodore Ben Guigui (GRE),

Frantisek Kubat (CZE)

The Card Counter (MH)

On this deal from the semifinal of the U-26 Teams between Italy and USA, Alvaro Gaiotti found a brilliant line of play to land an apparently hopeless contract:

Board 17. Dealer North. Neither Vul.

♠ A 4 3 2

♥ Q J 3 2

♦ 10 8

♣ A 6 2

♠ K 6

♥ 10 7 5

♦ K 9 5 4

♣ Q 10 9 4

♠ J 10 9 8 5

♥ 8 6 4

♦ Q J 7 3 2

♣ —

♠ Q 7

♥ A K 9

♦ A 6

♣ K J 8 7 5 3

In one room, North/South had reached the reasonable but doomed six clubs, which failed by two tricks, West adding insult to injury by doubling.

At the other table...

West	North	East	South
Grossack	Gaiotti	Rosenberg	Giubilo
—	INT ¹	Pass	2♦ ²
Pass	2♠ ³	Pass	3♣ ⁴
Pass	3♥ ⁵	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

- (11)12-14
- FG relay
- Spades; may have hearts
- 5+ clubs
- Natural

East led the two of diamonds. Declarer took dummy's ace, West encouraging with the four, and cashed his hearts, discarding dummy's remaining diamond. On this trick, East pitched the jack of spades and West a seemingly innocuous five of diamonds, sealing the fate of the defence.

After considerable thought, declarer, who could now reasonably suppose that East was 5=3=5=0, exited with the ten of diamonds! East played the knave, but West

overtook with the king and continued with the diamond nine. East overtook it with the queen and cashed two more tricks in the suit. This was the position:

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

Declarer pitched dummy's eight of clubs and West was in trouble. He parted with the six of spades, but declarer discarded the spade four and, when East continued with the ten of spades, the seven from dummy saw West's king hit thin air and deliver the game-going trick.

It was hard for West to see that coming – he must pitch a club or the king of diamonds on the fourth heart. Then, after winning the diamond-ten exit, all will be well if East plays a high spade without taking the diamonds.

That does not in any way detract from Gaiotti's beautiful play.

After East's low-diamond discard and North's diamond-ten exit, West must win and continue diamonds to avoid immediately surrendering the ninth trick in a black suit. Then, even if East stops running diamonds and shifts to a spade, declarer can endplay West.

The Maple Leaf Forever (JC)

For the first time ever, Canadians would face each other in a World Championship final. Bo Han Zhu (with Harrison Luba, Finn Kolesnik/Michael Xu and Zach Grossack/Kevin Rosenberg, all of the USA) played against Jacob Freeman (with Sibrand van Oosten of the Netherlands and Nir Khutorsky/Aviv Zeitak from Israel), both from Toronto.

The following deal showed why these teams reached the final.

Board 38. Dealer East. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Grossack	Freeman	Rosenberg	Van Oosten
—	—	1♦	1♥
2♦	2♠	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

After the one-heart overcall, the tempo of the auction almost decreed that North/South would reach game. East led the king of diamonds: ten, three, five. Rosenberg took a few moments, then shifted to the four of clubs to Grossack's king; two more rounds of clubs put the contract one off at trick four. That was plus 100 to East/West.

There were two strong indicators at trick one that West had the king of clubs: the first was Grossack's normal suit-preference play of the three of diamonds when dummy had a singleton; the second was perhaps more telling – Freeman's falsecard of the diamond five, attempting to disguise that the three was indeed a suit-preference signal for clubs. This play alerted East to the fact that North had indeed false-carded: the three and the five could not possibly be the two lowest outstanding diamonds, since both the two and four were missing. Since West was unlikely to have both of these and have played the three (with nothing in clubs, he'd have played a higher diamond), North must have had one or both and was trying to discourage clubs. With the king of clubs (especially without the queen), North would have played his lowest club to try to encourage that shift.

At the other table, when Xu declined to overcall, the tempo was quite different...

West	North	East	South
Khutorsky	Kolesnik	Zeitak	Xu
—	—	1♦	Pass
1♥	1♠	2♥	3♥
Pass	3♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Either North or South might have been more aggressive but, when the defenders found precisely the same defence as had Rosenberg/Grossack (including declarer's diamond-five falsecard), they were glad they hadn't. It was 6 IMPs to the USA-Canada combo, who won the final 130-116.

Sadly for Canada, both Zhu and Freeman will play in the next USBF Trials for the 2023 World Junior Championship – Zhu attends Georgia Tech in Atlanta, while Freeman has dual U.S. and Canadian citizenship. With Rosenberg and Grossack aging out of the Under-26s, Freeman and Emma Kolesnik (Finn's sister and the best player in the family according to the other three) will replace them on this gold-medal winning team.

NEWS & VIEWS



Anshul Bhatt

Thirteen-year-old Anshul Bhatt, a grade-nine student at the Dhirubhai Ambani International School in Mumbai, India, became the youngest-ever World Bridge Champion after winning the Under-16 Pairs at the 2022 Transnational World Youth Championships in Salsomaggiore. He and his partner, Darwin Li from

Toronto, Canada, had only played with each other online before this tournament.

This was the second success for Anshul at the World Youth Championships. He was also the youngest recipient of the Joan Gerard Award, which rewards aptitude, fair play, good sportsmanship, and a

friendly international spirit. Anshul won the prestigious award at the age of eight in 2017 at the Open World Youth Championships in Lyon, France.

Anshul had previously won the Under-26 Indian Junior National Bridge Championship in 2018, and the Under-21 Indian Junior National Bridge Championship in 2021. He has diverse interests and an insatiable curiosity that extends from the sciences to the humanities. He enjoys reading, board and video games, writing short stories, squash, cricket, football and cycling.



Sandra Rimstedt



With her win in the Mixed Pairs in Wroclaw, Sandra Rimstedt finally joined her younger siblings Cecilia, Mikael and Ola as a World Champion.

Mikael and Ola had won the Open Pairs in Orlando in 2018 and Cecilia had won the Venice Cup in Wuhan in 2019. All three of them had also won World Junior titles. Cecilia was on the same Mixed team as Sandra in Wroclaw, although, unlike their brothers, the sisters play in different partnerships. Among them, the Rimstedts have also won multiple European and North American Championships.

The Rimstedt family were also the 2020 IBPA Personalities of the Year.



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World Bridge Calendar

2022

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 14-18	36 th Uluslararası Bridge Festival	Mersin, Türkiye	tbricfed.org.tr
Sep 14-23	19 th Asian Games	Hangzhou, China	hanzhou2022.cn/En
Sep 15-18	Anniversary Bridge Festival	Sofia, Bulgaria	bridge.bg
Sep 15-18	Czech Bridge Tour	Znojmo, Czechia	czechbridge.cz
Sep 16-19	1 st International Teams	Lisbon, Portugal	fpbridge.pt
Sep 16-22	Greek Islands Festival	Benitses, Corfu, Greece	bridgefestival.gr
Sep 17-18	HRH Princess Bajrakitiyahba Cup	Khlong Nueng, Thailand	thailandbridgeleague.com
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 29-Oct 1	4 th Mutton Cup	Madrid, Spain	mutton-cup.com
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 4-11	International Bridge Festival	Las Palmas, Canary Is., Spain	laspalmasbridge.com
Oct 5-9	Zulawski Meeting	Krynica Morska, Poland	pzbs.pl
Oct 5-11	Turkey Overseas Congress	Side, Türkiye	www.ebu.co.uk
Oct 7-9	Città di Bologna	Bologna, Italy	bridgebologna.it
Oct 7-9	Bridge Bowl	Vienna, Austria	bridgeaustria.at
Oct 8-15	Brazilian Championships	São Paulo, Brazil	bridge.esp.br
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	IX Los Cocos Teams Tournament	Los Cocos, Argentina	aba.org.ar
Oct 19-25	4 th Asia Cup	Jakarta, Indonesia	hkcba.org
Oct 19-28	Australian Spring Nationals	Sydney, Australia	abf.com.au
Oct 28-30	KCBL Open Teams	Seoul, South Korea	kcbl.org
Oct 29-30	Princess Tatamatsu Memorial Cup	Tokyo, Japan	jcbl.or.jp
Nov 1-3	European Small Fed's Championship	Larnaca, Cyprus	eurobridge.org
Nov 4-6	Donegal International Festival	Donegal, Ireland	cbai.ie
Nov 7-13	Madeira International Open	Funchal, Madeira, Portugal	bridge-madeira.com
Nov 10-12	European Champions Cup	Helsinki, Finland	eurobridge.org
Nov 10-13	Hütteldorf Trophy	Vienna, Austria	bridgeaustria.at
Nov 10-20	Red Sea International Festival	Eilat, Israel	bridgeredsea.com
Nov 24-Dec 4	ACBL Fall NABC	Phoenix, AZ	acbl.org
Dec 2-4	Torneo de Bridge Lanzarote	Lanzarote, Spain	aebbridge.com
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 16-18	Cape Town Festival of Bridge	Cape Town, South Africa	wcbridge.co.za
Dec 18-23	SEABF Championships	Bangkok, Thailand	thailandbridgeleague.com
Dec 27-30	Year End Congress	London, England	ebu.co.uk

2023

Jan 9-18	81 st International Bridge Festival	St. Moritz, Switzerland	bridgestmoritz.ch
Jan 10-22	Summer Festival of Bridge	Canberra, Australia	abf.com.au
Jan 26-29	Reykjavik Bridge Festival	Reykjavik, Iceland	reykjavikbridgefestival.com
Feb 1-7	EBU Overseas Festival	Kyrenia, Cyprus	ebu.co.uk
Feb 17-25	61 st Gold Coast Congress	Broadbeach, Australia	qldbridge.com.au
Feb 20-26	Festival de Bridge	Biarritz, France	festival-bridge-biarritz.com
Mar 9-19	ACBL Spring Nationals	New Orleans, LA	acbl.org
Mar 23-26	Tasmanian Festival	Hobart, Tasmania, Australia	abf.com.au
Apr 12-16	PCU International University Trophy	Antwerp, Belgium	pcucommittee.com/bridge
Apr 14-22	XI South American Bridge Festival	Buenos Aires, Argentina	bridgeargentina@gmail.com
Apr 28-May 1	Barrier Reef Congreaa	Edge Hill (Cairns), Australia	abf.com.au
Apr 28-May 2	Schapiro Spring Fours	Scotland (Venue TBD)	ebu.co.uk
May 2-7	Lambourne Jersey Festival	St. Helier, Jersey, Channel Is.	ebu.co.uk
May 4-8	Australian Autumn Nationals	Adelaide, Australia	abf.com.au
Aug 20-Sep 2	World Team Championships	Marrakech, Morocco	worldbridge.org
Jun 3-17	10 th Euro Transnational Championships	Strasbourg, France	eurobridge.org
Jul 13-23	ACBL Summer Nationals	Chicago, IL	acbl.org
Nov 23-Dec 3	ACBL Fall Nationals	Atlanta, GA	acbl.org