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THE INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE PRESS ASSOCIATION

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This Bulletin is published monthly and circulated to members of the International Bridge Press Association, comprising the world's leading journalists, authors and editors of news, books and articles about contract bridge, with an estimated readership of some 200 million people who enjoy the most widely-played of all card games.

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Editorial

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

The first Rosenblum was held in New Orleans in 1978 – at the time it was designated the World Knockout Teams Championship. Teams were national, not transnational, as they are now, and each NBO had a quota of teams allowed (based on its number of members) to ensure a high-quality event (the main goals now are inclusion and high participation). The 64 teams entered in New Orleans were divided into 16 groups of four, with three match-winners from each group advancing after two 16-board, head-to-head, matches. Those 48 teams were again divided into seeded 16-team groups, designated Europe, North America and The Rest of the World, for head-to-head 32-board knockout matches. The 16 losing teams, and all subsequent knockout losers, went into a repechage event, run as a Swiss Teams. Each of the three bracket winners was designated as a semifinallist. The fourth semifinallist came from an eight-team Mini-KO among the three eventual bracket-final losers and the top five teams from what was ironically referred to as the “Neverending Swiss” repechage. The event worked well and was very exciting, with France, the USA and Brazil winning their knockout brackets and Poland emerging from the repechage.

That format, more or less, was used in Biarritz in 1982, but three major changes took place after 1982: (i.) the NBO quota requirement was removed, (ii.) the event became transnational, and (iii.) the qualifying stage became a group round-robin, as in Montréal (2002), or a Swiss, as in Wrocław (2016).

Personally, I find it much more glamorous when Poland plays Brazil in a World Championship final, as they did in New Orleans, rather than Dummies versus Deuces, which has little meaning, other than to its team members and their immediate families. Furthermore, a knockout match win feels more satisfying than a qualification by any other format.

In Wrocław, the 79 teams played a two-day, ten-match (10 boards each) Swiss qualifying, with 32 teams going through to the knockout phase. This is a bit like shooting craps or drawing cards to see who qualifies. One might just as well have every team draw a card from a pack, with the ones drawing a seven or higher making the knockout phase.

It's often said that IMP Pairs is the most luck-dependent form of bridge. In an IMP Pairs, being on the right side of a slam swing can bring as much as 25% of your total score. Well, we've found its equivalent. This Swiss Qualifier in Poland was similar to an IMP-Pair event in its luck-dependence: the Victory Point scale was far too severe. For example, suppose you and your opponents had battled

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Meet Your New IBPA Editor

Brad Coles of Canberra, ACT, Australia is the incoming Editor of the International Bridge Press Association Bulletin. Brad will commence his duties with the January, 2023 issue (Bulletin No. 696). He and John Carruthers will co-edit that number and Brad will take over as solo editor in February.



Brad grew up in regional New South Wales, and trained as an actuary before transitioning into a career in programming, joining the Y2K team at AMP Insurance in Sydney. After a three-year stint developing the company's new website, Brad left the corporate world in 2003 to work with Paul Marston on Australian Bridge Magazine, taking over as Editor in 2014.

Brad now lives in the Australian Capital Territory (ACT) with his partner Erin Tewes and their two cats, Sugar and Crystal. He plays bridge two or three times a year, and has represented the ACT four times since moving there in 2017. In recent years his best results have been second in the 2015 New Zealand National Teams, and second in the 2013 and 2018 Australian National Teams.

Brad's other interests include music (favourite artists Jim Steinman, Indigo Girls, TMBG and Taylor Swift) and quizzing (placing third in the 2022 series of Mastermind).

Brad brings the perfect blend of bridge expertise, writing and editing skill and experience, as well as technology know-how to the post of IBPA Editor. We wish Brad all the best in the coming years, while knowing the IBPA Bulletin is in good hands.

Brad can be reached at:
editor@ibpa.com



The 2022 Norwegian Bridge Festival Knut Kjærnsrød, Tored, Norway

The festival was back in fine, full form in Lillehammer from August 5 through August 13. The Mixed Pairs field consisted of 143 pairs and was won quite comfortably by Mona Lindstrøm and her husband Geir Brekka.

Toward the end of the last session, Lindstrøm contributed to their victory by landing nine tricks on this deal:

Dealer East. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
—	—	Pass	Pass
INT	2♦ ¹	Double	2♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

I. Majors

West led the ace of diamonds and shifted to a club, won by East's ace. Another diamond was trumped in dummy, and Lindstrøm then played a club to her king. She led a spade to the queen, cashed the ace of spades and trumped a spade in hand. Another diamond was trumped and the fourth spade led from dummy.

When East followed suit with the jack, Lindstrøm discarded her last club and West let go a diamond. East played a trump to the knave and ace, and a club was trumped, to leave this ending:

♠ —
 ♥ 9
 ♦ —
 ♣ J
 ♠ —
 ♥ K 3
 ♦ —
 ♣ —
 ♠ —
 ♥ Q
 ♦ J
 ♣ —

The diamond jack toward dummy secured the ninth trick for a score of 63 match points out of a possible 70. West could have done better by discarding his queen of clubs on the fourth spade, but 110 would still have netted 54 match points.

Bjørn Ola Ekren is widely known for his Two-Diamond convention*, but he is also an expert player. On this board from the Mixed Teams, he managed to use East's knave of clubs as a stepping stone to land his doubled contract.

* *Two diamonds as a weak bid with both majors was developed by Steve Landen and Frank Bell of Ann Arbor, Michigan in about 1972 (and so pre-dated Ekren by two decades or more). We called it the Michigan Two Diamonds then, although the Landen Two Diamonds might have been more accurate. It enjoyed some popularity amongst the young players in Michigan and neighbouring jurisdictions around that time and has done ever since, its appeal subsequently broadening. — Ed.*

Dealer South. Neither Vul.

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

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

The king of diamonds lead was trumped in dummy, and the seven of spades was run uncontested. A second spade was taken by the ace, and the low heart return

was trumped in hand. The king of spades and a spade to the queen was followed by a second heart, trumped in hand. Ekren discarded a heart on his ace of diamonds and played three rounds of clubs, ending play East, who had to surrender the last two tricks to dummy.

Sven Olai Høyland is also a well-known and very competent player, and in the last round of the Mixed Pairs he managed to produce an extra trick in his game contract, collecting nearly all the match points (65 out of 70):

Dealer West. Neither Vul.

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

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

West led the five of diamonds to the nine and ace. It was not easy to see where the eleventh trick would come from, but Høyland assumed that East would possess the major part of the honour strength and started by cashing his trumps. With one trump remaining the position was:

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

On the last trump dummy discarded a club, and East had to do the same. The knave of hearts rode round to the ace, and East could cash one club, but had to surrender the rest to dummy. East could have parted with all his high clubs, keeping the nine, but since West would have had only one club trick to cash, Høyland would still have made 11 tricks.



OZ BRIDGE
Ron Klinger,
Northbridge, NSW
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Safety First

From the New South Wales Open Team Selection:

Dealer South. EW Vul.

West	North	East	South
—	—	—	Pass
1♣	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♥	Pass	3♣	Pass
3NT	Pass	Pass	Double!
?			

I. Asking for a spade lead

What would you do as West with:

♠ Q
 ♥ A K 7 2
 ♦ A J 8
 ♣ A K 10 3 2

Have you decided?

Round 8. Board 19. Dealer South. EW Vul.

♠ 7 6 3 2
 ♥ 10 9 4 3
 ♦ Q 10 9 3
 ♣ 7

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

♠ K J 10 4
 ♥ Q 8
 ♦ 5 4 2
 ♣ Q J 8 5

The winner was to pass or redouble. Tony Nunn, West in three notrump undoubled, made 12 tricks by winning the diamond lead and playing the ace of clubs and another to the nine.

In the problem where South, a passed hand, doubled three notrump for a spade lead, West ran to five clubs. This went two off.

With extra strength for the two-heart reverse and the queen of spades as a bolster for East's spades, West might have passed the double and left the decision to East. There are enough tricks as long as declarer takes the precaution in clubs.

Shape Beats Points

In the 2022 New South Wales Seniors' Team Selection, after three passes, West opens one notrump (15-17). Neither side is vulnerable. What would you do as North with:

♠ Q J 5 3 2
 ♥ 10 9 7 5 4 2
 ♦ 8
 ♣ Q

Here's what happened...

Round 9. Board 1. Dealer North. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
—	Buchen	—	Kanetkar
—	Pass	Pass	Pass
1NT	2♦ ¹	Double	3♥
3NT	4♥	Pass	Pass
Double	Pass	Pass	Pass
I. Majors			

With the spade king onside, declarer lost only a heart, a diamond and a club, North/South plus 590.

Style Points

In the 2022 Australian Open Team Playoffs:

Round Robin 1. Round 7.

Board 9. Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
—	—	—	1♥
Pass	2♣ ¹	3♦	3♥
Pass	4♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			
I. Multi-purpose game-forcing response			

After the nine-of-diamonds lead to the king, then the ace of diamonds, East exited with the eight of hearts. Stephen Fischer of Canberra played the ace and king of hearts, a spade to the ace, ruffed the six of spades and exited with a third heart. West was endplayed and had the choice of playing a spade to set up a spade winner in dummy or to lead a club into declarer's king-jack-six tenace.

A Major Decision

This deal arose in the qualifying rounds of the Autumn National Open Teams. As South you hold:

Round 6. Board 27. Dealer North. EW Vul.

♠ Q 10 8 7
♥ A K Q 9 2
♦ 6 4
♣ 10 6

West	North	East	South
—	1♠	2♦	?

What would you do?

This was the full deal:

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

Most Souths supported spades in some way or other. Options include one spade : (two diamonds) : three diamonds – limit raise or better in spades; or one spade : (two diamonds) : three hearts – fit-showing; or one spade : (two diamonds) : three spades (or two notrump) – limit raise, if that is available as such.

The deal is fascinating because North/South have a nine-card spade fit and a nine-card heart fit, but the limit in spades is 11 tricks, while you can make 12 tricks with hearts as trumps. With the instant support for spades, it is no great surprise that the vast majority were in a spade contract, but it was mildly surprising that only one pair, Bill Nash and Jim Wallis, found their way to six hearts.

West	North	East	South
—	Nash		Wallis
—	1♠	2♦	2♥
Pass	4♦ ¹	Pass	4NT ²
Pass	5♥ ²	Pass	6♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. 4-plus hearts, 0-1 diamond
2. RKCB
3. 2 key cards, no heart queen

That was worth 11 IMPs against four spades, plus 450, at the other table.

No Way Out

This deal arose in the 2022 Australian Open Team Playoffs.

Round Robin 2. Round 4

Board 23. Dealer South. Both Vul.

	♠ 8 7 3	
	♥ A 3	
	♦ Q 10 7 6	
	♣ A Q 10 2	
♠ J 10 9 4 2		♠ —
♥ 2		♥ K J 9 8 7 6 5 4
♦ A J 5 3 2		♦ 8 4
♣ 8 5		♣ 9 7 3
	♠ A K Q 6 5	
	♥ Q 1 0	
	♦ K 9	
	♣ K J 6 4	

West	North	East	South
—	Dalley	—	Nunn
Pass	2♣ ¹	4♥	Pass
Pass	4♠	Pass	Pass
Double	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. Artificial, some game-force

West led the two of hearts, taken by the ace. A spade to the ace revealed the trump position. South continued with the four of clubs: five-queen-nine. After the two of clubs to the jack, the nine of diamonds to the queen and the six of diamonds to the king and ace, West switched to the spade jack, won by South, who played the king of clubs: diamond two-ten-three. This was the position after trick eight:

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

South had seven tricks so far and needed three more. He led the five of spades: nine-eight-heart seven. West was endplayed: a spade exit would give South two spades plus the ace of clubs; playing the five of diamonds would allow the ten to win and South would discard the heart queen; the jack of diamonds fares no better: South ruffs, cashes the queen of spades and plays the ace of clubs. If

West ruffs, dummy's ten of diamonds is South's tenth trick. North/South plus 790.

Helpless

This deal is from the qualifying rounds of the 2022 Interstate Teams:

Round 13. Board 1. Dealer North. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
—	<i>Buchen</i>		<i>Kanetkar</i>
—	Pass	Pass	1♣
Double	Redouble	1♥	1♠
Pass	2♠	Pass	4♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

West led the king of hearts, taken by the ace. Declarer played the five of spades: two–nine–jack. West continued hearts. South ruffed and started on the clubs. If West ruffs with the queen of spades, dummy discards a heart and South can remove trumps easily for ten tricks.

In practice, West discarded and South played four rounds of clubs. West pitched two hearts and a diamond and dummy let a heart and two diamonds go. This was now the position:

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

Declarer had taken six tricks (the ace of hearts, a heart ruff and four clubs). Now Kanetkar played his diamond to the ace, ruffed a diamond, and played another club. West was helpless. If he ruffed with the queen of spades, dummy would pitch the last diamond; if not, dummy would ruff and a diamond ruff with the king of spades would be South's tenth trick.



TURKISH BRIDGE

Erdal Sidar, Istanbul

The 2022 Turkish U-31 Youth Trial was won by Ali Can Ustunboyacioglu/Cagatay Birben, Can Erdem Tukenmez/Emre Can Akkaya and Eren Imdat/Arda Kabaca.

The winners did not do so well on this deal.

Board 18. Dealer East. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>E. Imdat</i>	<i>A. Aydogdu</i>	<i>A. Kabaca</i>	<i>E. Aydogdu</i>
—	—	Pass	1♥
Pass	1♠	2NT ¹	Pass
3♣	4♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			
1. Minors			

When leading an unsupported ace against a suit contract, it's sometimes difficult to sort out whether partner's signal is attitude or suit preference. Such was the case here when West led the ace of diamonds, East following with the deuce (UDCA), and continued with the diamond three. Had East been certain that West would take his deuce as encouraging, he'd have played the seven, or perhaps the jack. Declarer, Erkmen Aydogdu, having avoided the killing club lead or shift, was now in with a chance.

South won the second trick with the king of diamonds and led the king of hearts. West took that with his ace, East discarding the five of diamonds, and shifted to the club nine. Declarer hopped up with the ace and ran the jack of spades. He returned to hand with the ace of spades and led the two of hearts to the eight and queen. When the queen of

spades fell under the king, he could discard his two club losers on the spades as West helplessly followed suit. That was a very good plus 620 for North/South. Four hearts went down one at the other table for 12 IMPs.

Here are a couple of well-bid deals from the Alt Midi Swiss Teams III, won by DONNER. The first is from the semifinal match between DONNER and ULI...

Board 1. North Dealer. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Percario	C. Rimstedt	Gondoglia	Donner
—	Pass	1♣	1♥
Double ¹	Pass	2♥	Pass
3♥	Pass	4♣ ²	Pass
4♦ ³	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♣ ⁴	Pass	6♣	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. 4+ spades
2. Sets clubs as trump
3. Diamond control
4. 1 key card

Gondoglia sensibly reasoned that Percario would not have bid three hearts and four diamonds without at least one ace, so he was not worried about receiving a five-diamond response (no key cards) to four notrump. At the other table, three notrump made three overtricks and ULI had won 10 IMPs.

The second deal is from the DONNER-SCORWAY final...

Board 4. Dealer West. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Cullin	Kvangraven	Michielsen	Arild
Pass	Pass	1♣ ¹	1♥ ²
Pass ³	Pass ⁴	2♦	Pass
3♦	Pass	3♥ ⁵	Double
Pass ⁶	Pass	5♦	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. 16+ HCP
2. Spades
3. 0-4 ZZ points (A=3, K=2, Q=1)
4. Hearts
5. Asks for heart stop
6. Half a stopper (e.g., queen-doubleton or jack-third)

Arild led the jack of spades. Kvangraven ruffed but, when the diamond finesse worked, the defence manged only a club trick after that. At the other table, South bid two spades over one diamond and no one saw fit to disturb that contract. South made six tricks and won 9 IMPs for DONNER.

Finally, here is a lead problem from the Danish First Division. You are South.

Board 6. Dealer East. EW Vul.

♠ 10 8 4 3
♥ K 8 7
♦ J 10 2
♣ K Q 10

West	North	East	South
Lars Lund	Mads	Kasper	Thomas
Madsen	Eyde	Konow	Vang-Larsen
—	—	1♦	Pass
2♥ ¹	Double	3♦	3♠
4♦	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. Weak

What do you lead as South?

If you lead a trump and, after taking the first round of clubs, lead another trump, you would be able to defeat four diamonds by winning one spade and three club tricks.

The full deal:

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

At the table, the defence never played trumps, so four diamonds was made by Kasper Konow.

At the other table, two spades by North/South went down one, so KONOW won 2 IMPs.

PAKISTAN 

VS.

CANADA 

Neil Kimelman
Winnipeg, MB, Canada

In late March, two high-level teams, one representing Pakistan and one Canada, met for a series of online friendlies.

During one of these sessions, I had a front-row seat for a well-played deal by Khalid Mohiuddin of Pakistan.

This was the problem faced by Mohiuddin:

Dealer West. Both Vul.

♠ 7 5 2
♥ K Q
♦ A K J 10 9
♣ 5 3 2

♠ A Q 10 6 4
♥ A 10 4 3
♦ 8 7 3 2
♣ —

West	North	East	South
Pass	1♦	3♣	Double
4♣	Pass	Pass	4♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

West led the six of clubs. Khalid ruffed East's ace of clubs and led a heart to dummy's king for a spade play: two, three, ten, jack.

West returned the king of clubs (nothing else is better), ruffed by declarer. Declarer played a diamond to dummy's ace (all following low) and a second spade, finding out the bad news as East shed a club. Declarer won with the ace; that left him with a stiff queen of spades and West with the king-nine. No matter.

Declarer crossed to the heart queen, ruffed his third club with the spade queen, all following, and led a second diamond. This was the end position:

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

Declarer had scored seven tricks and the defence one. There was nothing West could do to prevent declarer making his contract. At the table, West pitched a heart. Declarer simply won with the diamond king, and led dummy's spade. At trick 12, West had to lead away from the heart jack-nine into declarer's ace-ten!

The full deal:

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

That was very clever. Where was my front-row seat? I was West.



FOURS

Mark Horton, Shrewsbury, Shrops., UK

The Four Tops

If you are anticipating an exposition about the American pop quartet, I fear you are going to be disappointed. My title simply refers to the fact that at the end of qualifying play, the top four teams from the OCBL 2 event advanced to the semifinals. Mind you, I do recall that

one of the group's later hits was entitled 'A Simple Game', which might easily be used in a bridge context.

The runaway leaders, FREDIN, met YELLOW CAP here. Would they find things simple?

Board 8. Dealer West. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Johansson	Fredin	Hallqvist	Apteker
3♣	Pass	Pass	Double
Pass	4♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			

East led the ace of clubs and continued the suit. West won with the king and returned the jack, covered by declarer's queen and ruffed by East. Declarer overruffed in dummy, played the queen of hearts to his ace, took three rounds of spades, ruffing in hand and exited with a heart. East won with the king, but then had to lead a diamond into the tenace or give declarer a ruff and discard. A well-played plus 420.

I expect you have spotted that (on this layout) East should have either ruffed the third round of clubs with the king of hearts or declined to ruff. Then declarer would not have been able to avoid the loss of a diamond. However, either of those would have looked foolish had declarer had three low spades and the king-doubleton of diamonds.

West	North	East	South
Bennet	I. Grönkvist	Andersson	Övelius
Pass	1♥	Pass	2NT ¹
3♣	Pass ²	Pass	4♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. Stenberg: 3+ trumps, limit-raise-plus strength
2. Denies extra values

The first three tricks were more or less identical to those in the other room but, at trick four, declarer ran the queen of hearts and, when East won and exited with a trump, declarer had to go one down; minus 50 and a 10-IMP swing. The timing and nature of West's three-club bid were critical.

The Big Four

From the semifinals of the OCBL September Cup...

Board 4. Dealer West. Both Vul.

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

SCORWAY vs. NEW AMATEURS

West	North	East	South
Falk	Levinson	Pettis	Shenkin
1♣	INT	Pass	2♥ ¹
Pass	2♠	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	
1. Transfer			

Bill Pettis led the four of clubs. Having won with dummy's king, declarer, Steve Levinson, played on spades, Allan Falk withholding the ace. North led a heart to the ace, a diamond to the jack and then tried the hearts, cashing three more tricks in the suit. That got him up to eight tricks but, when he exited with the eight of clubs, West won with the queen and cashed the ace of spades in this position:

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

The ace of spades squeezed declarer, who threw a club. West exited with the ten of clubs and that was one down, minus 100.

West	North	East	South
Brekka	Gu	Kvangraven	Lo
1♣ ¹	Pass	Pass	1♠
Pass	3NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			
1. 2+ clubs			

Here, East, Nils Kvangraven, led the two of hearts. Declarer, Jiang Gu won with the king and played the queen of spades, Geir Brekka taking the ace and returning the five of hearts. Declarer won with the

Continued on page 15...



IBPA Column Service

Tim Bourke, Canberra



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

1113. Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

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

1. 25-27 HCP

West led the jack of spades, which was covered by the queen, king and ace. Declarer saw that if East held the king of diamonds, he could make his contract by taking four diamond tricks. As the club suit had the only entries to dummy for the diamond finesse, declarer cashed his king of clubs and then led the queen of clubs.

When West followed to the second round of clubs, declarer recognised that it was now safe to overtake the queen with the ace. Then he led a diamond and finessed the ten. Declarer continued with a low club to West's eight and dummy's nine to take a second diamond finesse. When West threw a heart declarer's foresight in overtaking the queen of clubs with dummy's ace bore fruit. Declarer continued with his remaining club to dummy's jack for a third diamond finesse. Declarer had 12 tricks: one spade, three hearts, four diamonds and four clubs.

Once West followed to the queen of clubs, it was completely safe for declarer to overtake it with dummy's ace.

1114. Dealer North. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
—	1♥	Pass	INT
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♦
Pass	3NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Both North/South pairs in a team game reached three notrump on the lead of a fourth-highest five of spades. After winning the first trick with dummy's king of spades, the declarers' approaches diverged.

At the first table, declarer cashed the ace of diamonds and led a low clubs to his ten, reasoning that he needed two entries to his hand to set up and enjoy the diamonds. Alas, West produced the queen of clubs and continued with a low spade to dummy's now-bare ace.

Declarer saw that, as the spades appeared to be five-three, his only hope was that East had started the deal with queen-third of spades. So, declarer crossed to his hand with a low club to the jack to lead the queen of diamonds, throwing a heart from dummy. East won with his king of diamonds and led his third spade to West, who cashed three spades to set the contract.

At the other table, declarer found a clever play that guaranteed at least nine tricks. After cashing the ace of diamonds, this declarer led a club to his king to play the queen of diamonds, discarding dummy's ace of spades. After winning trick three with the king of diamonds,

East exited with a spade to declarer's jack and West's queen.

West judged that South had the ten of spades remaining as well as some good diamonds. So, instead of continuing with a spade, he shifted to the queen of hearts. Declarer won with the ace and led a low club to his jack and West's queen. Declarer then claimed nine tricks, conceding a heart, which was the defenders' fourth and last trick.

1115. Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

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

North's two-notrump response was Jacoby, promising a game-going hand with four-card spade support. South showed a non-minimum and denied any shortage by bidding three spades and North continued with a non-serious slam try by control-bidding his king of diamonds, denying a club control. South then drove to the spade slam via a key-card enquiry.

West led the jack of hearts. Declarer saw that he had two potential losers in trumps and another in clubs. The question declarer faced was which black suit he should play first. A trump to the ace would succeed if the king of trumps were singleton. Otherwise, declarer would need to play the clubs without losing a trick.

Consequently, declarer took the first trick with dummy's queen of hearts and then led a low club to his queen. When that held, declarer could almost ensure twelve tricks by playing the king of hearts to dummy's ace to lead a low trump toward his hand. When East followed with the five of trumps, declarer played the ten. When that held, declarer claimed 12 tricks.

This was a classic case of combining one's chances: if the club finesse was successful, declarer could afford to take the safety play in trumps. If it lost, he would need the king of trumps to be singleton.

1116. Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

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

Both North/South pairs in a team game bid to six spades on similar auctions. At both tables, West led the jack of hearts and both declarers won with dummy's ace. At the first table, declarer continued with a low spade to his ace, thereby discovering that he had a trump loser. Eventually, this declarer took a diamond finesse and was one trick short of his contract.

At the second table, declarer ruffed a heart at trick two as a matter of general principle. Next, he cashed the ace and king of trumps, getting the same bad news as the declarer at the other table. Declarer led a diamond to the ace and ruffed a third heart. Then he cashed the ace and king of clubs and led the eight of clubs. West saw that if he ruffed, declarer would discard the fourth heart from dummy and he'd be endplayed, so, West discarded a diamond.

Now declarer was in a good position: he ruffed the club and ruffed dummy's last heart, reducing everyone to three cards. When both defenders followed to the fourth round of hearts, declarer counted West for an original 3=4=4=2 shape. This meant that West had the queen of trumps and two diamonds remaining. Declarer remained with a trump and the king-jack of diamonds. So, declarer led his last trump to West's queen and claimed the last two tricks as West had to lead a diamond into his king-jack tenace.

You should note that, once the first declarer failed to ruff a heart at trick two, he no longer had the entries to eliminate hearts from West's hand. Also, when the second declarer decided to ruff a third heart instead of taking the diamond finesse, he played with the odds: an original 3=4=4=2 or 3=3=5=2 shape was, in combination, more likely than a beginning 3=5=3=2 distribution. If that had been the case, the diamond finesse would have been declarer's best play for a twelfth trick.



Life on the Road

Larry Cohen
Delray Beach, FL

In 2007, I played in a regional in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, with Steve Weinstein. Early in the tournament, I faced a most-unusual situation late in the bidding. This was the deal and the bidding:

Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

West	North <i>Cohen</i>	East	South <i>Weinstein</i>
—	—	—	1♥
Pass	2NT ¹	Pass	3♥ ²
Pass	3♠ ³	Double	Pass ⁴
Pass	Redouble ⁵	Pass	4♦ ⁶
Pass	4NT ⁷	Pass	5♣ ⁸
Pass	5♦ ⁹	Pass	6♥ ¹⁰
Pass	? ¹¹	Pass	Pass

1. Game-forcing, 4+ hearts
2. No shortage, non-minimum
3. Spade control, slam interest
4. No spade help
5. 1st-round spade control
6. Diamond control, no club control
7. RKCB
8. 0 or 3 key cards
9. Asks for heart queen
10. Heart queen, no side king
11. What to do?

I thought the North hand was too good for an initial splinter bid. Maybe two clubs is the right call, but I thought that might make it easy for the opponents to eventually find the killing opening lead. So, I withheld any information about my hand and instead asked about

partner's. Steve did not bid four hearts to show a dead-minimum hand. Slam was still in the picture, so I made a control-bid of three spades. My LHO doubled for the lead, and this was passed back to me. I redoubled to promise first-round control. Partner bid four diamonds, showing a control there, but denying one in clubs.

I decided he had shown enough slam interest that it was time for Blackwood. Steve's responses revealed that he had the ace-king-queen of hearts and the ace of diamonds, but no side-suit kings. What should I have bid?

Partner had no singletons or voids and I knew a spade lead was coming. Picture the play. He'd be able to ruff some diamonds in dummy and draw trumps, but then what? He'd need to take a club finesse. If it lost, he wouldn't make even a small slam (the opponents would then cash their spade trick or tricks). What if the club finesse wins? In that case, partner would probably take all 13 tricks.

Have you ever heard someone say it is a "five or seven" hand? Well, this was it. (It might even have been a "four or seven" hand.) There was no good reason to play in six hearts (12 tricks exactly were not in the picture). So, as the saying goes, "in for a penny, in for a pound," I bid seven hearts.

After the expected spade lead (or any other lead), there was nothing to the play. With the club finesse onside (thank you!), Steve took an easy 13 tricks for plus 2210. Had the club finesse lost, we'd have been down 200. Yes, six hearts would have been down only 100 in that case, but surely the risk/reward for being in seven was well worth the gamble.

We had another fun deal at the same tournament. On it, I had a hand with eight-five distribution.

Dealer North. Both Vul.

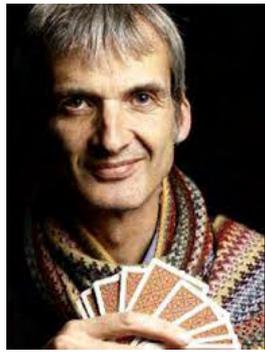
<p>♠ J 9 7 3 ♥ A K J 4 ♦ 9 3 2 ♣ A 4</p> <p>♠ A K Q 10 6 2 ♥ Q 10 9 ♦ A 10 7 4 ♣ —</p>	<p>♠ 8 6 5 ♥ 8 7 6 5 3 2 ♦ 6 ♣ Q 8 3</p> <p>♠ — ♥ — ♦ K Q J 8 5 ♣ K J 10 9 7 6 5 2</p>
--	--

There was lots of excitement in the bidding. My partner, Steve Weinstein, opened one diamond! With both vulnerable, I responded two clubs, game forcing. I figured the opponents might get in our way, and sure enough, LHO entered with two spades, doubled (for penalty) by my partner. RHO passed, and it was up to me.

Continued on page 14...

Country Life

Andrew Robson
London



Ruffing in the short trump hand, setting up a suit, drawing trumps, crossruffing... Those are four of the most common declarer-play strategies in trump contracts.

Don't overlook the dummy reversal, however. This is a process whereby you ruff sufficient times in the long trump hand to make it into the short trump hand, gaining a trick in the process. Typically, you need three good trumps in dummy to draw the opposing trumps – take our first deal.

Dealer South. Neither Vul.

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

This reverse bid typically shows extra values, although there is a practical school of thought that is happy to bid out the shape without extra values after a two-level response. With four prime cards, North made an optimistic slam invitation and South accepted, having good trumps and the unbid suit controlled.

West led the king of clubs. Declarer counted ten top tricks – an eleventh could come from a third spade should the suit split three-three or East hold the queen. But a twelfth?

Declarer can score a sixth trump trick by ruffing three clubs in hand and using dummy's trumps to draw the opposition's. At trick two, ruff a club high; cash the ace of trumps, cross to the nine (pleased to see the –

necessary – three-two split) and ruff a third club. Cross to a top spade and ruff a fourth club. Now cross to the other top spade and cash the queen of trumps, drawing West's third trump, discarding the low diamond from hand.

At trick ten, lead dummy's third spade towards your knave-low. Let East rise with his queen for, with no clubs left, he must lead to your ace-king of diamonds or the promoted knave of spades; twelve tricks and slam made – a beautiful dummy reversal.

Our second deal comes all the way from Indonesia. Could South chalk up six spades once the defence had failed to find a diamond lead?

Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

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

1. Limit-raise or better in spades
2. Likes his shape
3. Decidedly pushy key-card ask
4. Two key cards plus the queen of spades

Heeding the advice of the American, Barry Crane ("God dealt you the king-queen-jack of hearts so you wouldn't have to guess what to lead."), thankfully for declarer, West led the king of hearts. Declarer won with the ace and ruffed a heart, a possible dummy reversal in mind. He cashed the ace of trumps and noted West's ten. The Principle of Restricted Choice made East twice as likely to have the adjacent knave (with both, West might have played the knave).

Abandoning trumps, declarer crossed to the queen of clubs and ruffed a third heart. He crossed again in clubs, to the king, noting the fall of West's knave. He was about to ruff a fourth heart – in following his dummy reversal plan – when he reflected that East would throw a club on the trick (keeping West's overcall in mind). Instead declarer led to his ace of clubs, then cashed the ten, East following suit, and West (unable to trump the club,

Continued overleaf..

...Robson (continued from page 13)

as was suggested by his first-round ten of trumps) discarding. Away went a diamond from dummy; a diamond was conceded.

East won the diamond and led a second trump, but declarer could win with the nine in dummy, ruff his fourth heart with the queen of spades, ruff a diamond and score the last trick with dummy's king of trumps, beating a frustrated East's knave. That was 12 tricks and slam made. It was brilliantly played, if not brilliantly bid.

...Cohen (continued from page 12)

Surely, I wasn't sitting for this one. I really wanted to know about the minor-suit aces, but there was no bid to ask for them. Exclusion Blackwood wouldn't help – I needed "double-exclusion!"

Anyway, I bided my time by raising to three diamonds to await developments. Partner bid three hearts, presumably showing some heart values. Not much help there. I continued my stalling process by bidding four clubs. Partner raised to five clubs. This was getting me nowhere. I had no idea if he held the right cards for me, so I just guessed to bid six clubs, doubled by LHO. This was passed back to me. I considered running to six diamonds or redoubling, but eventually passed.

The opening lead was the ace of spades, which I ruffed. I led the jack of clubs (you never know when somebody might cover) and LHO showed out. I won with the ace, threw my low diamonds on the high hearts, and took the club finesse for plus 1540. West had chosen the wrong opening lead: the ace and another diamond beats the contract.

At the other table, South drove to six diamonds after the one-diamond opener. This was doubled and beaten one trick, and our team won 17 IMPs.



Reverse
Scramble

Frank Stewart,
Fayette AL

In a 'reverse scramble' golf format, a player must hit every shot twice – and play the worse of the two. Pars are rare, birdies rarer. I've sometimes wondered whether declarer could score extra points for making a contract, then having to make it again in a different way.

This deal is a classic example of timing. I first saw it, or one like it, long ago in one of Don Von Elsner's Jake Winkman novels.

Dealer South. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
—	—	—	1♥
Double	2NT ¹	Pass	4♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. Limit-raise or better in hearts

West leads the king, ace and a third spade. Declarer ruffs with the king of trumps and draws trumps with the queen and ace. Next, placing West with the missing honours, he leads a low diamond. West must play low. When dummy's queen wins, declarer leads a trump to his hand, discards a diamond from dummy on his jack of spades and exits with the king of diamonds to endplay West.

That is elegant play, but declarer also succeeds by running the trumps to reach:

♠ — ♥ — ♦ 8 2 ♣ Q J ♠ — ♥ — ♦ A J ♣ K 9	♠ — ♥ — ♦ 9 7 ♣ 10 7 ♠ — ♥ A ♦ K ♣ A 8
--	---

The last trump strip-squeezes West. It appears that the endplay is better; declarer need not guess West's distribution.

Dealer South. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
—	—	—	1♥
Double	4♣ ¹	5♣	6♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. Splinter in support of hearts

West leads the king of diamonds. South takes the ace and places West with the king of spades for his double. South gets to dummy three times with trumps to ruff diamonds. He takes the club ace, ruffs a club and leads dummy's last diamond at the tenth trick, pitching a spade. West, who has had to keep king-jack-seven of spades and a diamond, wins and must lead a spade from his king.

A trump lead breaks up that loser-on-loser endplay. Can South still make the slam?

He can take the ace of diamonds, lead a trump to dummy, ruff a diamond, cash the ace of clubs, ruff a club and lead a diamond, pitching a spade to rectify the count. West wins and leads a diamond, and South ruffs and runs the trumps. Then the last trump squeezes West between spades and diamonds.

Dealer South. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
—	—	—	1♥
Double	2♥	Pass	4♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

When I used this deal in my syndicated column, I wrote that it's a mystery why vices are more habit-forming than virtues – and why many declarers are in the habit of playing, then thinking. I should have followed my own counsel.

Against four hearts, West led the jack of spades. South took the ace, drew trumps and led a diamond to dummy's queen. He next led the king and a third spade. East won and shifted to the ten of clubs; West took the ace and jack. South also had to lose a diamond and went down one.

I wrote that declarer succumbed to haste. He can plan to endplay West, but must eliminate West's safe exits, so South must let West's jack of spades win. He takes the next spade, draws trumps, cashes his other high spade, leads a diamond to the queen, takes the ace of

diamonds and leads a third diamond. When West wins, he must give South his king of clubs or concede a fatal ruff-sluff.

But South can still succeed if he wins the first spade. Let him cash five rounds of trumps next. (Experience has taught me that running a long suit to force discards can have a magical effect). As declarer leads his last heart, West must discard in this position:

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

A diamond or club pitch is no good, and if West lets go a spade, declarer continues with the king and another spade. East wins, but no matter which minor he shifts to, West will be endplayed in the other minor.

"Never" and "always" are dangerous words, and so is "must". If you find yourself writing that declarer "must" do such-and-such to succeed, take a second look. There might be another way.

...Horton - 4s - Continued from page 9.

queen, unblocked the king of spade, played a heart to dummy's ace and cashed the spades. West pitched the ten of clubs on the fourth spade and East the four of clubs. The defenders were still on track but, when the last spade was played, West discarded another club. That allowed declarer to play a diamond, establishing a trick in the suit to go alongside the thirteenth heart, plus 600 and 12 IMPs.

It was SELIGMAN and SCORWAY in the final.

Board 3. Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Brekka	Starkowski	Saur	Kwiecien
—	—	—	Pass
1♦	Pass	1♥	1♠
Double ¹	Pass	2♠ ²	Pass
3NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. Three-card heart support
2. Asking for a spade stopper

Włodzimirz Starkowski led the eight of spades: four, two, jack. Brekka played a diamond to the queen, ducked by South. Declarer continued with a diamond for the ten and jack. North led his other spade to South's queen and declarer's ace. When declarer led the king of diamonds, South won with the ace and cashed three spades. It was a brilliant defence by Kwiecien.

West	North	East	South
Lair	Kvangraven	Seligman	Shenkin
—	—	—	1♠
Pass	1NT ¹	Double	Pass
Pass	2♣	Pass	Pass
3NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. Semi-forcing

Kvangraven led the six of clubs: nine, jack, king. Declarer played the king of diamonds and, when it held, followed with the seven to the jack, queen and ace. South, Barnet Shenkin, exited with a diamond. Declarer won with the ten and played the nine of hearts for the queen and ace. His next move was to play dummy's low spade for the queen and ace, and a second spade. Declarer had the rest of the tricks, plus 630 and 13 IMPs.

Scaling the Heights

The second session of the Round of 16 Vanderbilt match between HILL and WOLFSON featured this deal:

Board 17. Dealer North. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
O. Rimstedt	van Prooijen	M. Rimstedt	Verhees
—	Pass	1♣ ¹	1♠
2♥ ²	Pass	3♠ ³	Pass
4♦ ⁴	Pass	4NT ⁵	Pass
5♠ ⁶	Pass	6♣ ⁷	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Alert explanations at top of next column...

1. Could be 2
2. 5 clubs
3. Splinter
4. Control
5. RKCB
6. 2 key cards and the club queen
7. 1 claim

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

South led the king of spades. Declarer claimed, plus 920.

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

That represented a loss of 11 IMPs.



**Confessions
of a Bridge
Addict (7)
Joseph Silver
Hampstead,
Québec**
(from Bridge Winners)

At the 1967 Summer Nationals, Montréal had beaten a team from California, which meant that Montréal would defend its title, the Congress Cup, against a team from New York City the following March at the Spring Nationals. An IMP-pairs trial was held to decide the Montréal team, with the top three pairs qualifying for an all-expenses-paid trip to New York. I played with Fred Hoffer and we qualified, along with Sam Gold–Ralph Cohen (who was CEO of the ACBL from 1984 to 1986) and Don Piafsky–David Saltsman. I don't remember much about the match (hey, this was 1968, over 50 years ago) except that we won, and one incident stands out in my mind. Fred and I were riding the bench, and I was watching our team on the Bridge-O-Rama. Ralph Cohen was playing a slam that he and Sam had overbid to. "No way can he make it," intoned the commentators. Before the words were out of their mouths, Ralph was claiming 12 tricks. It was an impressive display of dummy play that the so-called 'experts' (Charles Goren and Richard Frey, among others) had not been able to imagine, despite having

seen all 52 cards! (It is not for nothing that these two players are in the Canadian Bridge Hall of Fame.)

Nineteen sixty-eight was the first year that the Bar held open-book exams, so all it took to pass was moderate intelligence and a good index and, fortunately for me, I had both. (Previous years' students had to do a lot of memorizing: the Civil Code, the Code of Civil Procedure, the Criminal Code—published in thick books of four or five hundred pages—among other laws. If one wanted to pass, one had to go through hell, studying at least 14-16 hours a day, every day, for about six to eight weeks before exams. I had timed my return to Montréal perfectly!) Despite my ignorance of the law, I had little trouble with the exams. Afterward, I actively did NOT look for legal employment; all I wanted to do was play bridge, and felt that being a member of the Québec bar gave me license to follow my heart for the near future. I made a living of sorts from rubber bridge and poker and, of course, the allowance my parents gave me.

In early June 1968, I drove down to NYC to play the Reisinger Knockout at their annual Regional. Having to kill time during the day on Friday (the KO started that night) I decided to check out *The Bridge World's* office. I knocked on the door, to be greeted by Edgar Kaplan (he published from home). I introduced myself and we began to talk about bridge in general, my two years in Paris, and the respect the French had for him and Kay (this latter subject caught his interest). The hours flew by and, before I knew it, Betty and Edgar had invited me for cocktails, followed by a sumptuous dinner served with lots of wine. Afterwards, I staggered out to drive to the tournament hotel. (This was over 50 years ago, when driving inebriated was not treated the way it is more-correctly treated today). I found an open parking spot on some street, and went to play. I don't remember if my team won or lost that night, but what I do remember is wandering the streets of New York looking for where I had parked. As it turned out I had been towed, the realization only coming to me after several hours of futile searching. That day was one of the highlights of my bridge career: I had been befriended by Edgar and Betty, friendships that lasted a lifetime. (In my 80-plus years of life, Edgar is the man I have respected most in both the bridge world and out of it. I loved that man.)

On May 19, 1969, I won my first Regional, the Board-a-Match teams held at the Can-Am in Montréal. I had been playing bridge for 10 years, and had been a Life Master for five years. In olden times, the typical Regional was a five-day affair, with just five two-session events, a Master Pairs, a Mixed Pairs, an Open Pairs, a Men's and Women's Pairs and a BAM team game. (This was before Swiss Teams had been introduced.) Occasionally, there was also a Knockout Teams event. In those days, Montréal only got to hold one Regional every two years. Unlike today, there just weren't that many Regionals around.

At the time, set games were a lucrative part of my income. This incident stands out in my memory: one night, I was challenged to a set game by two brothers who had a lot of money but little bridge ability. Visions of sugar plums danced through my head. I looked around for a partner and came up with Boris Baran, who was standing around doing nothing. The match started at significant stakes (for me in those days). As expected, the brothers misbid, misplayed, and went for numbers; in general, they played their part. I, of course, was full of sympathy for them, complimenting their play, and commiserating with them on their bad luck. BUT Boris was another matter, laughing, chortling, and ridiculing them. After an hour they had had all they could take of Boris's antics, and quit us. They never played me again. I never forgave Boris for queering my action that night, and have never partnered him again.

After our rocky start, Eric and I gradually became fast friends and bridge partners. We often played set games against all comers. We frequently played against Ralph Cohen and Buddy Marsh, two of Montréal's leading players in the late 40's and 50's. They were good players but, frankly, I thought the game had passed them by. Against them, our results were 100% – we NEVER beat them. At the time, I wondered how those 'obvious has-beens' could have been so successful against us in the dozen or so matches we played against them. I was glad to see the last of our 'pigeon' when Ralph left Montréal in 1971 to work full time for the ACBL!

I remember a deal from around that time: Eric and I played the Open Pairs at the Cleveland Nationals in the late 60's. Eric opened one heart; I held a 3=0=5=5 with fewer than 10 points so I responded one notrump; he then rebid two hearts, and I had a problem. I didn't want to pass with my heart void, I couldn't bid two notrump, invitational, with no spade stopper, and didn't want to guess which five-card minor to bid at the three level. Suddenly, after much thought, the light bulb flashed and it came to me: since, on the auction, I could not hold a four-card spade suit, therefore two spades must ask for partner to bid his better minor. So, two spades said I. Eric, who intuited my problem, bid three diamonds with a big grin on his face. He was so pleased with himself and excited with our 'clever' auction that he misplayed the contract, turning a top into a bottom!

All good things must come to an end. In late fall of 1969, my mother said to me, "Joey, dear, now that you're 28 years old, don't you think it is time your father and I stopped supporting you?" I remember thinking to myself, "What took them so long?" Four and a half years after graduating from law school, the free ride was over and the time had come for me to look for a job, maybe even in the legal profession.

TO BE CONTINUED (POSSIBLY)



Correspondence

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

Hi John,

I believe that the information about the Indian boy is not correct (that Anshul Bhatt is the youngest-ever World Champion). Christian Lahrman from Denmark won the same event (World Youth Pairs Under-16) in 2015, when he was 11 or 12 years old. I'm not sure that Lahrman is the youngest World Champion ever, but for sure, the Indian boy is not!

Best regards, Francesca Canali, Padova

Andrew Robson explains what was really going on in their auction in last month's Bulletin: Marc Smith's, "The stage was then set for another edition of the Alexander Allfrey Show." This was the deal:

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
Korbel	Allfrey	Robinson	Robson
—	—	—	1♥
1♠	2♠	Pass	3♥
Pass	4♣	Double	4♥
Pass	6♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Marc wrote: "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."

Andrew replies: "Alexander's two spades was forcing to game; two notrump would have been a heart invite, so my three hearts was stronger than four hearts would have been. I think that changes things somewhat. I agree it's tough to write these things up without knowing fully the partnership agreements."

All the best, Robbo, London

Dear John,

On page 7, you show board 43 from the Rosenblum Round of 32.



AGM Notice

The 2022 IBPA Annual General Meeting and Awards Presentation will be on Zoom (link to be sent later):

**Saturday, December 10
at 14:00 hours GMT.**

That is Saturday at:

06:00 in Los Angeles

09:00 in NYC & Toronto

14:00 in London

15:00 in Amsterdam, Paris, Oslo,

Rome & Warsaw

19:30 in New Delhi

22:00 in Beijing

And Sunday the 11th of December at:

01:00 in Sydney and Canberra

03:00 in Auckland

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
Jassem	Zatorski	Patreuha	Pachtman
—	—	—	1♥
Pass	1NT	2♣	Double
Pass	2♦	2♠	3♦
Pass	3NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Without detracting in any way from the fine play by East, an astute declarer might realise from the bidding that there was some danger of the diamonds splitting four-zero, four in the West hand, as East surely had ten cards in the blacks. He should therefore take the first trick in dummy with the king of spades and lead the eight of diamonds to the jack. This ensures four diamond tricks on any three-one split. When East pitches the queen of hearts, declarer has kept his second chance of the queen-jack of hearts with East. He can now keep West off lead by simply leading a heart from hand, ducking if the jack appears. If not, declarer can try again by returning to hand with a spade and leading another heart.

Regards, Barnet Shenkin, Glasgow

...Editorial (continued)

to a draw through nine boards; on the tenth board there's a slam on a finesse. If one team bids the slam and the other doesn't, 8.5 VPs more go to the successful team than to the unsuccessful team. In Wroclaw, that 8.5 Victory Points would have been the difference between finishing thirty-second, qualifying for the knockouts, and forty-sixth, in the sewer. Such was the fate of some very good teams, such as SPECTOR (34th), who'll be USA I in the next Bermuda Bowl, and MORAN (44th), representing Ireland in the next Bermuda Bowl.

There are many better ways to qualify 32 teams out of 79 in such a short qualifier. For example...

- (i) eight seeded groups of Round-Robin play, each group qualifying four teams (one group has Team BYE, which scores 8.0 VP in every match). Another might be a:
- (ii) head-to-head knockout to go from 79 to 40 (one bye), then to 20. The remaining 12 teams can be from some kind of repechage. However, if one insists upon a ...
- (iii) Swiss Qualifying, a 1.0–0.75–0.50–0.25–0.0 win system would be similar to the VP scale used in Wroclaw, but much easier to follow. Say, 0-3 IMPs is a draw (0.5 wins), while 4-10 IMPs is 0.75 to 0.25, and plus 11 IMPs is a full 1.0 to 0.0 win. Ties could be broken by IMP quotient or IMP margin. Or, run a:
- (iv) Swiss with IMP differential or IMP quotient being the determinant (with duplicated boards).

Any of those methods would be a more-accurate representation of which teams had played better over two or three days – the qualifying stage was just too short for that Victory Point scale to be an effective identifier of the top teams. Of course, if the goal is to give every team a chance to qualify, the process must be adjudged a success.

NEWS & VIEWS



Kamras



As expected Jan Kamras of Sweden was elected President of the WBF, to begin his four-year term on January 1, 2023.

Koach

Eric Kokish notes that he is still the coach of the Nickell team. Investigation reveals that Norberto Bocchi's official title with the Nickell team was Team Manager, not Coach, as was erroneously reported in the September IBPA Bulletin and the Daily Bulletins from Wroclaw, although this misstatement was later clarified.

Vintage Systems 2

Robert Munger wants to thank everyone, especially Tim Bourke and Dave Wilson, who made contributions to the second edition of his vintage systems work, called *Vintage Bidding Systems, 1920 – 1970*.

Munger has now documented 695 vintage systems, up from 628 in the first iteration. He expects to produce a third edition in about a year, then call it quits.

Munger will send his working papers to anyone who wants to take over at that point. You may also contact him to receive the finished product at: robertmungerbridge@gmail.com



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World Bridge Calendar

2022

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 15-16	II Open Festival da Covilhã	Covilhã, Portugal	fpbridge.pt
Oct 15-16	Czech Bridge Tour Praha	Prague, Czechia	czechbridge.cz
Oct 19-22	Datça Bridge Festival	Mugla, Turkey	datcabridge.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 24-27	Merit Autumn Bridge Festival	Kyrenia, North Cyprus	bridgemerit.com
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 Federation Games	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 11-13	Golden West Congress	Greenfields, Australia	abf.com.au
Nov 24-Dec 4	ACBL Fall NABC	Phoenix, AZ	acbl.org
Nov 25-27	Badenberger Bridgetage	Vienna, Austria	kbc.at
Dec 2-4	Torneo de Bridge Lanzarote	Lanzarote, Spain	aebridge.com
Dec 2-4	Torneo de Bridge Lanzarote	Arrecife, Spain	aebridge.com
Dec 2-10	Festival de Mar del Plata	Mar del Plata, Argentina	aba.org.ar
Dec 3-4	Nintendo Cup	Osaka, Japan	jcbl.or.jp
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 7-9	Asahi Shimbun Cup	Tokyo, Japan	jcbl.or.jp
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 17-19	Fuengirola International Tournament	Costa del Sol, Spain	fuengirolabridge.com
Mar 23-26	Tasmanian Festival	Hobart, Tasmania, Australia	abf.com.au
Mar 23-26	Torshaven Bridge Festival	Torshaven, Faroe Islands	bridge.fo/bridgefestival2023
Apr 7-10	Easter Festival	London, England	ebu.co.uk
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 23-29	4 th European Winter Games	Tignes, France	eurobridge.org
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
May 18-21	3 rd Gümüslük Bridge Festival	Gümüslük, Turkey	gumusluksporbric.com
Jun 3-17	10 th Euro Transnational Championships	Strasbourg, France	eurobridge.org
Jun 8-12	Victor Champion Cup	Melbourne, Australia	abf.com.au
Jul 8-20	Australian National Championships	Perth, Australia	abf.com.au
Jul 13-23	ACBL Summer Nationals	Chicago, IL	acbl.org
Jul 28-Aug 6	27 th Swedish Bridge Festival	Örebro, Sweden	svensktbridge.se
Jul 29-Aug 3	Chairman's Cup	Örebro, Sweden	svensktbridge.se
Aug 20-Sep 2	World Team Championships	Marrakech, Morocco	worldbridge.org
Sep 22-24	Vilnius Cup	Vilnius, Lithuania	bridgescanner.com
Sep 30-Oct 7	NZB National Congress	New Zealand	nzbridge.co.nz
Oct 18-27	Sydney Spring Nationals	Canterbury, Australia	abf.com.au
Nov 23-Dec 3	ACBL Fall Nationals	Atlanta, GA	acbl.org