



## BULLETIN

[www.ibpa.com](http://www.ibpa.com)

### Honorary Chairman

ZHU Qingfeng (China)

[1546340545@qq.com](mailto:1546340545@qq.com)

### Chairman

Per JANNERSTEN (Sweden)

[ibpa@jannersten.com](mailto:ibpa@jannersten.com)

### President Emeritus

Tommy SANDSMARK (Norway)

[tommy@sandsmark.org](mailto:tommy@sandsmark.org)

### President

Barry RIGAL (USA)

+1 212 366 4799

[barryrigal@mindspring.com](mailto:barryrigal@mindspring.com)

### Executive Vice-President

David STERN (Australia)

[david.stern.bridge@gmail.com](mailto:david.stern.bridge@gmail.com)

### Organizational Vice-President & Bulletin Production Manager

Dilip GIDWANI (India)

+91 98214 53817

[dilipgidwani@hotmail.com](mailto:dilipgidwani@hotmail.com)

### Secretary

Elisabeth van ETTINGER  
(Netherlands)

+31 655 680 120

[e.ettinger@chello.nl](mailto:e.ettinger@chello.nl)

### Treasurer

Richard SOLOMON (NZ)

+64 9 232 8494

[rksolomon@xtra.co.nz](mailto:rksolomon@xtra.co.nz)

### Awards Secretary

Brent MANLEY (USA)

[brentmanley@yahoo.com](mailto:brentmanley@yahoo.com)

### Membership Secretary

Katie THORPE (Canada)

+1 519 981 9248

[thorpe.katie@gmail.com](mailto:thorpe.katie@gmail.com)

### General Counsel

Allan FALK (USA)

[falklaw@comcast.net](mailto:falklaw@comcast.net)

### Honorary Auditor

Vacant

## THE INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE PRESS ASSOCIATION

Editor: John Carruthers

*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.*

Bulletin No. 695

December 10, 2022

### Editorial

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

This is my last issue as editor of the IBPA Bulletin. Brad Coles and I will co-edit the January 2023 issue and then Brad will take over as editor in February. IBPA will be in good hands with Brad.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my time as editor, even the battles I've had with administrators who, regarding my criticism, said things to me like, "What you said is not good for bridge," (on the face of it, a pretty ludicrous statement, equating their administration to the 'good of bridge') and; "That's the worst thing to ever happen for U.S.-Canada relations." (The fact that the U.S. has unsuccessfully invaded Canada twice did not apparently rank.) Not to mention attempting to have me removed as editor on a couple of occasions – thanks to Henry Francis, Patrick Jourdain, Barry Rigal and Per Jannersten for their unwavering support over the years. Had they buckled under the pressure, my time as editor may well have been shorter.

My wife, Katie Thorpe, and one of my best friends in the bridge world, P.O. Sundelin, have been with me for every issue I've published. Phillip Alder joined them a little later but has been stalwart as well. Those three ensure that the Bulletin is as free from error as we can make it. All three will continue with Brad when he takes over. Thanks is also due to the contributors to the Bulletin over the years.

Twenty-twenty-two has been an incredible year for me: my book, "Bridge with Another Perfect Partner" was published by Master Point Press and has won the IBPA Book of the Year award; additionally, I was notified in Phoenix that I am to be inducted into the ACBL Hall of Fame next summer at the Chicago NABC as a recipient of the Blackwood award, for services to bridge.

Speaking of Phoenix, kudos to the ACBL and the organisers – this was the best venue I've ever experienced in 50 years of attending NABCs. The Convention Center is magnificent: spacious, high ceilings, and excellent lighting, and there were many hotels and fabulous restaurants within easy walking distance. I'd venture to say that the food in Phoenix was consistently the best in America. I'd go back to an NABC there if they held one every year and the WBF could not do better for a World Championship location.

What's in store for me in 2023 and beyond? Principally, more writing and less editing. I have at least two more books percolating in my brain, one bridge book and one non-bridge book. I'll still be available to IBPA to help out with contributions to the Bulletin and awards administration. It's not good-bye, it's *au revoir*.

Address all IBPA Bulletin correspondence to: JOHN CARRUTHERS  
1322 Patricia Blvd., Kingsville, Ontario, N9Y 2R4, CANADA  
Tel: +1 519 733 9247 email: [ibpaeditor@sympatico.ca](mailto:ibpaeditor@sympatico.ca)

# WBF President-Elect Jan Kamras Interviewed by Per Jannersten



**(1) Congratulations on the election result and good luck with the job! “A new broom sweeps clean, but an old broom knows all the corners.” Please name the four corners where you will start.**

JK:

- Prudent finances
- Transparency in government
- Relevance to all stakeholders
- Support of youth projects

...but there are many more corners needing sweeping...



**(2) OK, let’s take them in that order. What are the costs that you will cut first?**

JK: Any recurring costs, be they for meetings, services or officials, that are not essential for the efficient administration of the WBF.

**(3) Do you mean that no costs except administration will be cut?**

JK: No – it means that recurring costs, such as that of running the organization, will be cut *first*. The reason is simple – variable costs occur mainly during championships and other events, which we will not have for a while. Once there, we will cut the non-essential variable costs as well, without compromising the quality of the event for the participants.

**(4) So we can expect to have Vugraph in the future? Will it be broadcast? And will it be combined with a Bridge Plaza as on Madeira?**

JK: All such matters are dependent upon the local circumstances and layout of each venue. We will aim to have some form of “Plaza” where participants and visitors can gather, and some form of “VuGraph” with commentary, possibly similar to what we had in Madeira. There is unlikely to exist a “one size fits all” solution.

**5) How will you make WBF more transparent?**

JK: Externally by communicating better and more frequently in various media. Internally by sharing information, and including the whole Executive Council more in the decision-making process, more frequently.

**(6) Have you considered using IBPA as your news media agency?**

JK: One problem is the infrequency of its bulletins, i.e. actualities and news may be stale by the time it reaches its readers. Certainly the IBPA could be included as one of the media outlets receiving press releases and similar oriented towards future events, however real “news” is probably better published elsewhere, unless the IBPA has another news channel apart from its Bulletin.

Another problem of the IBPA being ‘our’ news agency is of course that it wouldn’t be independent if it had to publish whatever the WBF instructed it to, even if it had a regular ‘live’ news service.

**(7) IBPA has solutions to the problems you mention. I conclude that we need to keep you better informed and move on to next question: Who, other than NBOs and sponsors, do you count as stakeholders?**

JK: Principally the participants at our events, but also our employees.

**(8) What costs at your events do you deem to be non-essential?**

JK: It varies from event to event, but limiting invitations to official functions and abandoning costly production of movies are examples. I have also for a long time wondered why we are the only sport where the organizer of a championship pays all costs of broadcasting to the public. I hope we can remedy that.

**(9) What are your selling points for the broadcast rights?**

JK: Thousands of viewers sitting glued to the screen for hours every day. Advertisers should like that fact, and that their advertisements are on the screen during the whole viewing period rather than only when there is a break in the live action as in many other sports. In case of a partnership with the WBF, the chosen broadcasting company may have an edge over its competitors in its own marketing. I am sure experts in the field of online marketing could give a more complete answer.

**(10) I again conclude that IBPA might help. Next question: How do you intend to reach your goal of one million bridge players?**

JK:

(i) I have never expressed any numerical goals. Where do you have that from?

(ii) There are already more than a million bridge players – the problem is that the NBOs have not been able to sign them all up as members of the NBO.

**(11) It was mentioned in the Wroclaw Daily Bulletin #15, page 3. Do you expect the NBOs to solve the problem that you describe, or do you have other ideas for how to expand the total membership?**

JK: The one million number was mentioned as a goal by Gianarrigo Rona, not by me. All stakeholders need to work together to increase the popularity of tournament bridge. The WBF has a Development Committee that will study the matter. As to membership numbers in

the NBOs that is a subset which only the respective NBOs can solve but, obviously, the WBF will assist them in any way possible. The situation varies from country to country, therefore there is not “one size that fits all”. In Sweden, the country I know best, virtually all tournament players are registered members of their NBO, some 20,000. Why, you may ask? The SBF owns the popular scoring software most clubs want to use, and membership is compulsory to play there and gain master points. At the other end of the spectrum we have China, where there are millions of players but only some 40,000 registered members of the NBO (and most being juniors, who do not count against the annual dues). One way the WBF can help the situation is through the sharing of ‘best practices’ and facilitating dialogue among the NBOs.

**(12) Do you have a goal for the number of registered players that you expect to reach during your (first) term? And, if so, how do you intend to go about it?**

JK: No specific goal but, in the most extreme cases, I can foresee us providing some ‘political’ incentives.

**(13) One of the four pillars that you will build your presidency on is support of youth bridge. What does that entail?**

JK: I do not want to anticipate what may come out of the WBF Development and Youth Committees that will be tasked with discussing these matters but, as a general point, I believe in encouraging and supporting, financially and otherwise, local projects. This does not preclude the committees from coming up with more ‘generic’ ideas that can be implemented on a global scale.

**(14) How is it that you do not task these committees to see that we get an app that we can put in the hands of our grandchildren and others who know exactly nothing about bridge? (If they know something, it is that bridge is very difficult to learn, which is not a sales argument.)**

JK: Because we do not have the resources to develop apps, software or whatever. There are specialized companies working in that field.

**(15) Don’t you think that you should put the question: “HOW should we act to get an app that hooks those who do not yet play?” to yourself and the committees?**

JK: Maybe not everyone agrees with you that such an app is the best way to promote the game.

**(16) Of course not, but more important is what would appeal to the youth. Have you investigated, or will you investigate that?**

JK: The Development and Youth Committees will work on related issues. They will report regularly and hopefully come up with some concrete ideas that could be passed on to our member federations.

**Thank you for your time and good luck with your new job!**



### Nils Kvangraven, Kristiansand, Norway

The Faroe Islands is a place you ought to plan to visit. It is about a two-hour flight from Copenhagen in the direction of Iceland. I visited the Torshavn Bridgefestival back in 2020 and had a very good time. The playing venue is a nice hotel, the people are friendly, and the landscape is different from what I’m used to in Norway. If you go there, plan a couple of days to do something else other than playing bridge.

The main event is a big pairs tournament of three sessions. It’s what they call a “Faroe Weekend”, starting with the welcome event on Thursday evening. They play an evening session on Friday and two sessions on Saturday. On Saturday there is also an evening dinner where you get to sing local songs and enjoy good food with all the fine people. On Sunday you can rest, join an excursion and even play an evening tournament if you stay another night in Torshavn.

This year the festival did not fit my schedule, but I could kibitz on BBO. It seemed to be a well-organised event: 68 pairs from the Nordic countries in these COVID-troubled times was impressive. I’m sure the festival will be a good event for many years to come. The event has its own Facebook page; look it up and book your tickets to attend the 2023 edition, March 23-26.

The top Faroes player, Bogi Simonsen, won the event for the third time, partnering the top Icelandic player Bjarni Einarsson. Results can be viewed at:

<https://resultater.bridge.dk/template/resultater.php?filename=71011/MT25GT29.xml&tournament=25&section=3>

Let’s have a look at some boards from the tournament. First, you have this little case to solve.

Problem 1. As East, you hold:

**Dealer East. Neither Vul.**

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

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
—	<i>Einarsson</i>	1♦	5♥
Pass	Pass	?	

In first seat, you open one diamond with neither side vulnerable. LHO, Bogi Simonsen, leaps to five hearts. Your partner and RHO both pass. What do you bid?

**Problem 2.**

Next, you find yourself defending three diamonds...

**Dealer North. Both Vul.**

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

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Einarsson</i>		<i>Simonsen</i>	
—	Pass	Pass	1♠
Pass	INT	2♣	2♦
3♣	3♦	Pass	Pass
Pass			

West leads the ten of clubs. As East, you win with the king and continue with the ace, South following with the two and queen, West the seven. How do you defend from here?

While you think about how to proceed with those problems, here's how Bjarni Einarsson, a top-class player, found his way home on this deal, when it looked too difficult...

**Dealer South. NS Vul.**

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

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
—	<i>Simonsen</i>	—	<i>Einarsson</i>
Pass	—	Pass	2♣ <sup>1</sup>
Pass	2♦ <sup>2</sup>	Pass	2NT <sup>3</sup>
Pass	3♥ <sup>4</sup>	Pass	3NT <sup>5</sup>
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. Strong, artificial, forcing
2. Waiting
3. 22-24 balanced HCP
4. Transfer to spades
5. Denies 3-card support

West did well to lead the ten of hearts; that was allowed to win the trick. Another heart was won by South with the queen. A club to the jack was won by East with the queen, letting him play yet another heart, won by South's ace.

Einarsson was in trouble, but did his best by cashing the clubs before playing the ace of spades and another spade.

The position after West won with the king of spades was:

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

West led the five of diamonds: four, king, ace. Bjarni read the cards accurately and continued with the queen of diamonds and another diamond. West came in with the jack of diamonds but then had to give dummy the ninth trick in spades.

On the second round of spades, East should have discarded a heart instead of a diamond. Then, West could have: (a.) simply exited with the jack of diamonds to defeat the contract. Or (b.) more complicatedly, exited with a low diamond. Then, East must play the nine unless declarer plays the ten from dummy, then East covers with the king. If the latter happens, West must unblock the jack under the queen to make East's nine the master.

Back to the problems:

**Solution 1.**

At the table, East passed five hearts, giving the winners a top when the cards looked like this:

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

Five hearts was a perfect bid by Bogi Simonsen. East

didn't have many points, but might have bid five spades with such a distributional hand.

West led the queen of spades, which held the trick. Who can blame West for playing the jack of spades next? Simonsen ruffed high, took his ace of hearts, then tried to set up clubs. When West stopped the clubs, declarer had to give the defence a diamond in the end, but still made his contract for a big plus 450.

Had Simonsen bid only four hearts, West would certainly have doubled for takeout and East would then have bid spades, losing just one club and, perhaps, one spade.

### Solution 2.

Bogi Simonsen was not in doubt. The seven of clubs had to be a suit-preference signal for spades. Simonsen ignored South's opening bid and returned the ten of spades! That was the killer when the full deal was:

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

Einarsson cashed the ace-king of spades and played a third spade, promoting a trump trick for East since he had the eight of diamonds, giving declarer only losing options. Down one was a 60% score to the winners.

I hope you consider putting the 2023 Torshavn Festival on your schedule. I'm sure you will have a great time. You will find an event with both world-class and less-experienced players but, most importantly, you will meet a lot of nice people.

The organiser, Jakob Sorensen, is looking for journalists to come to next year's event to promote it abroad. He can be reached at jakupsoerenen@gmail.com. Reach out to him, he can offer a good journalist deal.



The winners (l. to r.), Bogi Simonsen and Bjarni Einarsson, being presented their prizes by Arne Mikkelsen.



## Anklesaria and Tewari Wave Their Magic Wand

COVID had not yet loosened its grip on physical movement, so the 63<sup>rd</sup> Winter Nationals Championships were conducted online. FORMIDABLES (Keyzad Anklesaria/Rajesh Tewari, Kiran Nadar/Bachiraju Satyanarayana, Jaggy Shivdasani/Sandeep Thrakal) lifted the Ruia Gold Trophy. In the final, they defeated a star-studded Polish team, 117-71 IMPs.

The following deal from the final generated a lot of interest.

### Board 41. Dealer North. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Shivdasani</i>	<i>Starkowski</i>	<i>Thakral</i>	<i>Kwiecien</i>
—	Pass	INT	Pass
4♦ <sup>1</sup>	Pass	4♥	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. Transfer to hearts

Michal Kwiecien led the queen of clubs against Sandeep Thakral's four-heart contract. Thakral won with the ace, cashed the ace-king of diamonds, discarding a club from dummy, and ruffed the diamond ten, felling the queen. Getting back to the closed hand with the ace of hearts, he next played the jack of diamonds. Kwiecien ruffed with the queen of hearts, declarer discarding dummy's last club, and considered his next move for some time. We can see that a spade switch would be disastrous for the defence. Kwiecien did indeed switch to the jack of spades. Sandeep had no problem after that switch and the contract made easily.

West	North	East	South
Seligman	Anklesaria	Pszczola	Tewari
—	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♠ <sup>1</sup>	Pass	2♥	Pass
3♥ <sup>2</sup>	Pass	4♥	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. Transfer to hearts
2. Invitational

The first six tricks went just as they did in the other room. Tewari, too, ruffed with the queen of hearts and considered his options. After giving it long hard thought, Tewari came up with a trump continuation; he had found the winning defence, or rather, had avoided the obviously losing defence.

Tewari said afterwards, "The spade-jack play by Kwiecien was certainly not a mistake. If North had held the ace-ten-three of spades instead of the ace-six-three that he actually held, it might have been important to make that deceptive switch to the spade jack. If South did not switch to spades, declarer would have played a round of trumps, and not having any two-way option in spades, would have used the spade king as an entry to the closed

hand to reach the winning fifth diamond. The guess of the position of the jack of spades was not at all the issue, the entry to the closed hand was."

But then, how on earth did Tewari and Anklesaria manage to prevent the declarer from reaching the closed hand to cash the diamond winner? Well, that was the key of the deal, pun intended, Key being Keyzad Anklesaria's nickname.

Tewari played a trump after ruffing the fourth diamond with the queen of hearts. Anklesaria won and exited with the club king. Declarer, Jacek Pszczola, ruffed in the dummy and played the queen of spades, looking to induce a quick grab of the ace. He was out of luck there. The queen was ducked in tempo. Pszczola next played a low spade. Anklesaria ducked again ever so smoothly that Pszczola was convinced that the spade ace was with Tewari. He let the spade run to South. Tewari produced the jack and, on the next round of spades, Anklesaria, the magician, produced the ace. Down one and 12 well-deserved IMPs to FORMIDABLES was the result. It was the most exciting moment of the 2021 RUIA trophy final.



The site for 2022 HCL was Gurugram, just southwest of the National Capital Region of New Delhi. Forty-six teams entered the flagship event, the Gold Teams. They played a 10-board, 10-round Swiss to qualify 16 teams for full-day knockout matches.

### Round 5. FORMIDABLES vs. MAVERICKS

The following deal illustrated how close high-level competitive decisions can be.

#### Board 16. Dealer West. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Shivdasani	Anklesaria	Thrakal	Tewari
1♦	Pass	1♥	3♠
4♠	5♠	6♣	Pass
6♥	6♠	Double	Pass
Pass	Pass		

The result was down two for plus 300 to MAVERICKS.

West	North	East	South
Satya-narayana	Korbel	Nadar	Mahmood
1♥	Pass	2♣	3♠
4♦	4♠	5♥	5♠
Pass	Pass	Double	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Here, North/South played in five spades doubled down one. Note that, played from the West hand, only nine tricks are available in a heart contract on diamond ruffs, whereas ten are available from the East side. Only a thin line must have separated South's five-spade decision from the option of a pass.

On the principle that it is better to take out cheap insurance by way of a one-or-two-down penalty rather than hand the opponents a doubled contract at the four or five level when both sides have a massive fit, it seems right for North/South to bid as many spades as necessary to buy the contract. That number was different in the two rooms based on the way the bidding started: 5 IMPs to MAVERICKS.

**Board 20. Dealer West. Both Vul.**

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Shivdasani</i>	<i>Anklesaria</i>	<i>Thrakal</i>	<i>Tewari</i>
1♠	Pass	Pass	Double
2♠	3♣	Pass	3♥
Pass	4♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			

The meat of this deal was in the play – witness Tewari handle this tricky one in the Open Room. West led the king of spades. Tewari won and played the ten of clubs. Shivdasani won with the king and continued spades. Tewari ruffed low and ruffed a low club, the key step. That brought down the club ace from the West hand, making Tewari’s task somewhat easier. He ruffed another spade, this time with the heart eight, overruffed by Thrakal with the ten.

East pushed back a club. Tewari ruffed with the heart jack and cashed the heart ace. Everyone followed. Tewari had the heart queen-six remaining while the king and seven were still out. Would those two cards be divided? Tewari suspected that East might hold both. He played a diamond to dummy’s jack. When West followed with the diamond deuce, it appears that Tewari placed West with four diamonds, based on that signal. He cashed just one of dummy’s club winners and cashed two more diamonds ending in the dummy. When he next played a club from the dummy, East’s king-seven of hearts were neutralized and East was powerless to stop declarer from taking one more trick. That was yet another deal played well by Tewari.

West	North	East	South
<i>Satya-narayana</i>	<i>Korbel</i>	<i>Nadar</i>	<i>Mahmood</i>
1♠	Pass	Pass	2♥
2♠	3♥	Pass	4♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Satya led the king of spades and the first two tricks were the same as in the Open Room. When Satya played the queen of spades at trick three, Zia ruffed with the nine of hearts and ran the queen of clubs, discarding a spade from hand. It seemed that he had placed the ace of clubs with East right from the beginning. That wasn’t the case and the fate of the contract was almost sealed. Satya continued with another spade, Nadar overruffed dummy and there weren’t enough trumps left in the North hand to take care of East’s king-third. One down was the result – 13 IMPs to FORMIDABLES.

**Round 6. TEXAN ACES vs. FORMIDABLES**

**Board 28. Dealer West. NS Vul.**

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Mukherjee</i>	<i>Sridharan</i>	<i>Majumder</i>	<i>Dalal</i>
Pass	1♦	2♣	Double
2♠	Pass	Pass	3♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Mukherjee led the spade queen and Majumder cashed the ace and king and led a trump. After three rounds of trumps, on the nine of clubs from South, West ducked and the declarer let it run to East. East won with the jack and shifted to the three of diamonds: jack, queen, king. Dalal finessed the nine of diamonds on the way back to the closed hand, losing to the ten. West cashed a spade for the setting trick; plus 100 East/West.

West	North	East	South
<i>Padhye</i>	<i>Anklesaria</i>	<i>Venkatesh</i>	<i>Tewari</i>
Pass	1♦	2♣	2♥
2♠	Double	Pass	3♦
4♣	Pass	Pass	4♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Both four clubs and four hearts have four losers, but the play took an interesting turn at the table. Had Anil Padeye, West, led a spade, the defenders would likely have won the first four tricks. However, West led the ace of clubs, the bid-and-supported suit. Venkatesh was eager to guide a spade shift, but in doing so, he followed to trick one with the queen of clubs, exposing his club holding to the possibility of an endplay. Accurate defence was now required to manufacture a fourth trick. West alone guarded the third round of both spades and diamonds and a squeeze was a distinct possibility.

A club continuation would neutralise the threat of an endplay and, subsequently, Venkatesh had to push diamonds through declarer twice when in with his spade honours to break the squeeze. As the play went, Padye switched to spades and East cashed his top spades to play a trump. When West discarded on the second trump, the hand was an open book: East was known to have two spades, three hearts and at least five clubs, so could hold at most two diamonds. No further play was required. A squeeze claim was made and accepted at the next trick; North/South plus 620 and 12 IMPs.

### Round of 16, Set 1. RAMPAGE vs. BRIDGE24PL

The top eight teams from the qualifiers picked their opponents from the bottom eight. TEXAN ACES got to choose from among eight teams, HOPE'n PREY then chose a team from the remaining seven, and so on. RAMPAGE and BRIDGE24PL, playing on the Vu-Graph, began with a somewhat unusual result at both tables.

#### Board 3. Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Himani	Chalupec	Rajeev	Chmurski
Khandelwal		Khandelwal	
—	—	—	3♣
Pass	Pass	3NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		

On Board 3, both RAMPAGE pairs played in three notrump! Usually not a good policy.

In the Open Room, Bartosz Chmurski led the jack of spades. Rajeev Khandelwal won with the queen and led the four of hearts, drawing the five from South. The next card would decide the fate of the contract. Had declarer played the nine, or any low heart for that matter, he would have made ten tricks. If he played heart king, he would make only six. He chose to play the king. Perhaps if he had cashed two top diamonds before taking a view in hearts, he would have discovered South's singleton diamond and played the heart suit in a different manner. Igor Chalupec won with the ace of hearts and switched to a club: down three and plus 300 to North/South.

West	North	East	South
Tuczynski	Srinivasan	Sielicki	Venkatesh
—	—	—	3♣
Pass	3NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

In the Closed Room, Gopal Venkatesh also opened three clubs but, this time, it was the pre-emptor's partner North, Arvind Srinivasan, who bid three notrump. That was a thoughtful bid. If South had held the ace-jack or ace-king to seven clubs, three notrump would have been a great spot. With 17 HCP, including the ace of clubs, and a good diamond suit, East, Tomasz Sielicki, decided to pass, perhaps leery of five clubs. He led a top diamond and cashed a second one. He could have continued with two more diamonds to knock out the ten and ensure the defeat of the contract, but he switched to a speculative spade. West covered dummy's jack with the king and declarer won to play a club. Upon winning the ace, Sielicki cashed out for down one, plus 50 to North/South. That was an 8-IMP swing in favour of BRIDGE24PL.

### Round of 16, Set 1. TEXAN ACES vs. AMANORA

As I entered the lobby outside the playing arena, I was flanked by a triumphant pair from the AMANORA team who had managed to bid seven diamonds on Board 14 of Set 1 against TEXAN ACES. The bidding sequence was quite interesting...

#### Board 14. Dealer East. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Venkatesh	Deshmukh	Padhye	Chandrasekhar
—	—	2♦ <sup>1</sup>	Double
Redouble <sup>2</sup>	Pass	2♠	3♠ <sup>3</sup>
Pass	4♦	Pass	7♦!
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. 5/5 in a major/minor
2. Bid your major
3. Strong two-suiter

North had merely bid his longest suit to keep the auction open after the forcing three-spade bid. That was like getting to listen to the entire opera with one single bid, for South's eyes and ears. Seven diamonds



was a cinch after that. Well done, Ravindran Chandrasekhar.

### Round of 16, Set 4. TEXAN ACES vs. AMANORA

Board 13. Dealer North. Both Vul.

<p style="text-align: center;">♠ J 6 3 2 ♥ Q 9 7 ♦ 9 3 ♣ K 9 8 3</p> <p>♠ Q 9 8 7 ♥ A 4 ♦ A Q 10 6 2 ♣ 5 4</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">♠ A K 5 4 ♥ K 8 6 2 ♦ 8 7 ♣ A Q 6</p>
--	--

<p style="text-align: center;">♠ 10 ♥ J 10 5 3 ♦ K J 5 4 ♣ J 10 7 2</p>	
---	--

West	North	East	South
Khare	Ravindran	Tolani	Bhosale
—	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♠	Pass
3♥ <sup>1</sup>	Pass	4♣	Pass
4♦	Pass	4♥	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♦	Pass
6♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. Slam try in spades

This was a slightly hopeful slam.

Bhosale led the jack of clubs. Tolani won North's king with the ace in the closed hand. Declarer played a diamond to dummy's queen, winning the trick. That was good news but, when he next played a trump to the king, South followed with the ten. That was a warning that the spades could be four-one.

Tolani embarked on a cross-ruff. He played another diamond to dummy's ace and played a third diamond. If the diamonds had divided three-three, a bad trump break would have been easy to overcome. That, however, was not the case. North discarded a club on the third round of diamonds. Declarer ruffed, played the ace and king of hearts, then ruffed a heart, got back to the closed hand with the queen of clubs and ruffed another heart, this time with the queen of spades. Ten tricks were in the bag and this was the three-card ending.

<p style="text-align: center;">♠ J 6 3 ♥ — ♦ — ♣ —</p> <p>♠ 9 ♥ — ♦ 10 6 ♣ —</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">♠ K 5 ♥ — ♦ — ♣ 6</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ — ♥ — ♦ K ♣ 10 7</p>
--	--

Declarer pulled a diamond from the dummy. What could North do? If he ruffed with the three of spades, East would overruff with the five and get one more trick with the king of spades. If North ruffed with the six, Tolani would again overruff, this time with the king, and ruff a club with the nine of spades. Either the nine or the five of spades would have been the game-going trick.

That was 13 IMPs to TEXAN ACES. TEXAN ACES eventually won the four-set match by a mere 7 IMPs, so you can judge the importance of this 13-IMP swing. Well-played by Tolani.

### Final. FORMIDABLES vs DHAMPUR SUGAR

The first session started with a grand slam. Two grand slams in first 10 boards were bid and made in both rooms. Here they are:

Board 1. Dealer North. Neither Vul.

<p style="text-align: center;">♠ A Q 5 2 ♥ A K 7 6 4 ♦ — ♣ Q 9 8 7</p> <p>♠ 9 3 ♥ J 8 5 ♦ K Q J 6 4 ♣ K 10 4</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">♠ J 4 ♥ 10 3 2 ♦ 10 9 7 5 3 ♣ 6 5 3</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ K 10 8 7 6 ♥ Q 9 ♦ A 8 2 ♣ A J 2</p>
--	--

West	North	East	South
Bendre	Anklesaria	Kushari	Tewari
—	1♥	Pass	1♠
Pass	3♠	Pass	4NT <sup>1</sup>
Pass	5NT <sup>2</sup>	Pass	7♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. RKCB
2. 2 key cards and a void

In the Open Room, after North double-jumped to three spades, Tewari asked for key cards and got a reply showing two key cards and a void.

West	North	East	South
Mukherjee	Roy	Majumder	Nandi
—	1♥	Pass	1♠
Pass	3♠	Pass	3NT <sup>1</sup>
Pass	4♦ <sup>2</sup>	Pass	4NT <sup>3</sup>
Pass	5NT <sup>4</sup>	Pass	7♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. Serious slam try
2. Diamond control; denies club control
3. Key-card ask
4. 2 key cards and a void

In the Closed Room, there was an extra round of bidding when Kaustabh Nandi bid a Serious Three Notrump to

wait for a control-bid. As a result, South knew that North's void was in diamonds. Tewari hadn't cared to find that out. Both bid the grand slam in high spirits. If North had had the king of clubs instead of the queen of spades, South would have lost a few heartbeats in the play. Souths chose not to ask about the queen of spades but let us not quarrel with success.

**Board 9. Dealer North. EW Vul.**

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

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

♠ A J 4  
♥ K 7 6 5 3  
♦ 2  
♣ K J 3 2

West	North	East	South
Bendre	Anklesaria	Kushari	Tewari
—	1♥	1♠	2♠
3♠	4NT <sup>1</sup>	Pass	5♠ <sup>2</sup>
Pass	5NT <sup>3</sup>	Pass	7♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. Key-card ask
2. 2 key cards and the heart queen (or, as here, extra length)
3. Grand slam try

West	North	East	South
Mukherjee	Roy	Majumder	Nandi
—	1♥	Pass	3NT <sup>1</sup>
Pass	4NT <sup>2</sup>	Pass	5♠ <sup>3</sup>
Pass	5NT <sup>4</sup>	Pass	7♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. Strong heart raise
2. Key-card ask
3. 2 key cards and the heart queen (or, as here, extra length)
4. Grand slam try

The essence of the bidding was the same at both tables.

**Board 26. East Dealer. Both Vul.**

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

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

♠ J 8  
♥ Q J 6 2  
♦ 9 7 6 2  
♣ Q J 4

West	North	East	South
Desai	Satya-narayana	Goel	Nadar
—	—	1♣ <sup>1</sup>	Pass
1♦ <sup>2</sup>	2♥	Double	3♥
3♠	4♣	4♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. 17+ HCP
2. 0-7 HCP

In the Open Room, the massive spade fit was under-appreciated.

West	North	East	South
Mukherjee	Roy	Majumder	Nandi
—	—	2♣ <sup>1</sup>	Pass
2♦ <sup>2</sup>	2♥	2♠	3♥
3♠ <sup>3</sup>	4♥	Pass	Pass
5♠ <sup>4</sup>	Pass	6♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. Strong, artificial, forcing – 22+ HCP
2. Waiting
3. Forcing
4. General invitation to slam

13 IMPs to FORMIDABLES.

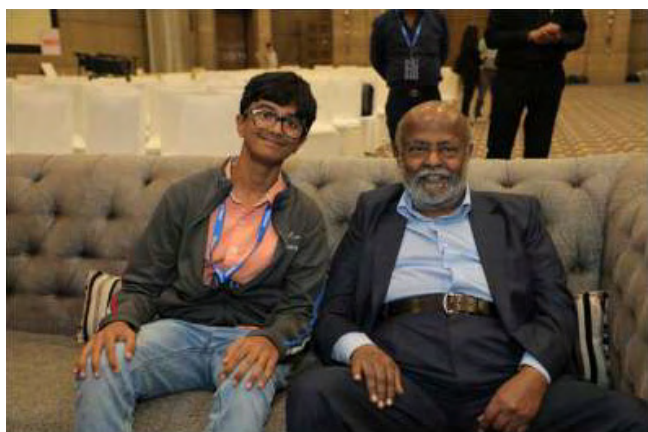
DHAMPUR SUGAR MILLS won the final, 121-98.



The winners of the 2022 Ruia Gold Trophy, DHAMPUR SUGAR MILLS:  
(Left to right): Kiran Nadar, Patron of the HCL 2022 tournament, Sandeep Thakral, Organizing Secretary of HCL 2022, Gokul Tandon, presenting the prize, five members of the winning team: Ashok Kumar Goel, Kaustubh Bendre, Sayantan Kushari, Sagnik Roy, and Kaustabh Nandi; and Laurie Kelso, Chief Tournament Director. Not present: Vinay Desai.

The youngest participant in the HCL International Bridge Tournament 2022 was Anshul Bhat, 13. Anshul won gold medals in the recently concluded World Youth Transnational Bridge Championships in Wroclaw. The eldest participant was Dr. K. K. Vahalia, 92 years young. Dr. Vahalia has many different types of bridge achievements to his credit apart from his contributions to the

field of medicine. He has greatly contributed to bridge in organisation, direction, scoring, and other fields. Here they are:



## 14<sup>TH</sup> EUROPEAN SMALL FEDERATION GAMES

**Lanarca, Cyprus**  
**1-3 November, 2022**  
**Brian Senior, Nottingham, U.K.**

### Round I

## ESTONIA vs. SLOVAKIA

**Board 4. Dealer West. Both VI.**

	♠ 10		
	♥ A 6 3 2		
	♦ 10 6		
	♣ K 10 8 7 4 2		
♠ K Q 9 4		♠ A J 8 2	
♥ Q J 9 5 4		♥ —	
♦ Q 8		♦ K J 7 3	
♣ 9 6		♣ A Q J 5 3	
	♠ 7 6 5 3		
	♥ K 10 8 7		
	♦ A 9 5 4 2		
	♣ —		
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Kvocek</i>	<i>Oja</i>	<i>Vodicka</i>	<i>Maripuu</i>
Pass	Pass	1♣	1♦
1♠	2♣	4♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		

I don't have access to their system, so I don't know why it was right for Juraj Kvocek to respond one spade rather than one heart, but this worked well as Vodicka could raise to game, encouraged no doubt by the natural two-club bid on his right. Oja led the ten of diamonds, Maripuu winning with the ace and continuing with a suit-preference two. Kvocek won with the

queen and led a spade to the jack, followed by a second spade to the king. Seeing the four-one split, he next led a club to the queen, which was ruffed, and a heart return went to the queen, ace, and a ruff with the spade ace. Kvocek led dummy's last spade to his queen and repeated the club finesse. The ace of clubs and king-jack of diamonds took care of three heart losers, so there was just one heart to be lost at the end; ten tricks for plus 620.

West	North	East	South
<i>Toomere</i>	<i>Velecky</i>	<i>Nigul</i>	<i>Lohay</i>
Pass	Pass	1♦	Pass
1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♣	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Lohay led a trump to the ten and ace. Nigul led a diamond to the queen, followed by a second diamond to the king and ace. Back came a second trump. Nigul won the king and took the club finesse, but that was ruffed, and yet another trump was returned. Nigul won on table and repeated the club finesse, after which he had the club ace and the diamond jack, plus one ruff in each hand, so was a trick short; down one for minus 100 and 12 IMPs to Slovakia.

**Board 8. Dealer West. Neither Vul.**

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Toomere</i>	<i>Velecky</i>	<i>Nigul</i>	<i>Lohay</i>
Pass	1♥	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♥	Pass	3♥
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♣
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♥
Pass	6♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			

With the heart king offside, slam appeared to be all about the opening lead. Nigul led the eight of spades to the ten and ace. Velecky played three rounds of clubs to get rid of his spade loser, but the third round was ruffed by Nigul, who tried the king of spades, but declarer ruffed that. Velecky crossed to the ace of diamonds to lead the jack of hearts and run it, and when that lost to the king, he was down one for minus 50.

**Continued on page 16...**



# IBPA Column Service

**Tim Bourke, Canberra**



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

## 1121. Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
—	—	—	1♠
Pass	INT	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

This deal is from a team game. The queen of hearts was led at both tables. After dummy appeared, both declarers counted six tricks in trumps and four in the side suits.

At the first table, declarer won the opening lead with the ace of hearts and quickly cashed the ace of trumps. Disaster struck, as the five-zero trump break was revealed. Declarer gamely ruffed a heart next then cashed his minor suit winners and exited with a diamond to West's jack. West did not make the mistake of playing a heart, which would have given declarer his tenth trick. Instead he exited with a low club to East's king. Declarer took East's ten of a trumps with the jack and played a club to West's queen. When East discarded his king of hearts, declarer had to concede a trump trick to East for a one-trick set.

At the other table, the declarer was more circumspect. After realising that he would always have ten tricks if the trumps were no worse than four-one, declarer saw that he would have a good chance of making his contract even if trumps proved to be five-zero provided he could score two of his low trumps by

ruffing hearts, a trump elopement. So, at trick two, he called for dummy's four of hearts and ruffed it in hand with his two of trumps. Next, declarer cashed the king of spades. When West showed out, declarer took his minor-suit winners as a precaution, then led a low trump to dummy's ace. Another heart ruff meant ten tricks.

If both defenders had followed to the first spade, declarer would have drawn trumps and claimed the ten obvious tricks.

## 1122. Dealer North. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
—	1♦	Pass	1♠
Pass	INT	Pass	2♦ <sup>1</sup>
Pass	2♠ <sup>2</sup>	Pass	4♣ <sup>3</sup>
Pass	4♦	Pass	4NT <sup>4</sup>
Pass	5♥ <sup>5</sup>	Pass	6♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. Artificial game-force
2. 3-card support
3. Splinter
4. Key-card ask
5. 2 key cards, no spade queen

Declarer decided to reverse the dummy by ruffing three clubs in hand. After winning the first trick with his queen of trumps, declarer led a club. West rose with the king of clubs and exited with a second round

of trumps, taken by dummy's nine. When East followed to the second trump, declarer put his plan into motion by ruffing a club in hand. Next he led a diamond to dummy's king to ruff a second club. This process was repeated: a diamond to the ace, and a third club ruff brought declarer's trick total to seven – two trumps, two diamonds and three club ruffs.

All that remained for declarer was to cross to dummy with a heart to the ace and then draw West's remaining trump with dummy's jack, while throwing a diamond from hand. Declarer then claimed the rest by showing his three heart winners.

Had East discarded on the second round of trumps, declarer would have tried to ruff a diamond in dummy.

**1123. Dealer South. EW Vul.**

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

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

West began proceedings with the ace and king of hearts. Declarer ruffed and drew two rounds of trumps with dummy's king and jack. The four-one break put the contract in jeopardy. Declarer could not afford to draw East's trumps because when West won with the ace of diamonds, he'd have had four heart tricks to cash.

Instead, declarer led the five of diamonds to his queen, which was allowed to win. When declarer continued with a low diamond, West rose with the ace, noting East's signal that he had begun with an even number of cards in the suit. So, West exited with his remaining diamond, which was ruffed by East for a one-trick set.

South moaned, "That was a bit unlucky, wasn't it?"

"Nonsense" said North. "You needed diamonds to be three-two (or West to have a singleton ace) to make ten tricks. So, no matter what you did at trick two, you would always have a club loser. The simplest way to make the contract on this layout was to discard a club from hand at trick two. If West continues with another heart, you can ruff it in dummy. It's the best play for the contract since it would protect you against

a four-one break in trumps. On this layout, no matter what West had played at trick three, you would have been able to win the trick, draw trumps and then play on diamonds to make three tricks in the suit and ten tricks in all."

**1124. Dealer West. Neither Vul.**

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

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

North's raise to two spades over the double promised four-card support for spades. (Three-card support would have been shown by redoubling instead of making a simple raise.)

West led the king of clubs. After dummy went down, declarer counted nine tricks and saw that the contract might depend on the king of hearts making a trick. However, West's double at his second turn suggested to declarer that the ace of hearts was more likely to be on his left than his right. Declarer saw that the only extra chance available for a tenth trick was for diamonds to be three-three. This posed the problem of minimising the chance of East gaining the lead for a heart through.

As a way of achieving this, declarer played low from dummy at trick one. At trick two, West made the accurate shift to the ten of diamonds. Declarer took this with dummy's king and drew trumps. Next, declarer led the jack of clubs from hand. West covered with the queen but declarer was ready for this and called for dummy's seven of clubs instead of playing the ace.

West continued the attack of diamonds, by leading the nine of the suit. Declarer won with dummy's ace and pitched his last diamond on the ace of clubs. Now, declarer reaped the benefit of his two avoidance plays in clubs when he ruffed a diamond in hand, for the suit proved to be three-three. Finally, declarer led a low trump to dummy's ten and discarded his five of hearts on dummy's established diamond. Declarer had ten tricks: six trumps, three diamonds and a club.



## Life on the Road

Larry Cohen  
Delray Beach, FL

### Hold Your Breath

This was the 96<sup>th</sup> and final deal in all three (Open, Women's Seniors) semifinal matches in the World Championships in Shanghai, 2007. In the USAI (women) versus China, it would decide the match. USAI held a 9-IMP lead.

Dealer South. NS Vul.

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

At one table, the USA East/West pair achieved a great result, scoring plus 420 in four spades. It would seem that with a 9-IMP lead and plus 420 in the bank, there was no way to lose. That was until this scary auction unfolded at the other table:

West	North	East	South
China	USA	China	USA
—	—	—	1♣
Pass	Pass	Double	3♣
Pass	3♥!	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Double	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Oh-oh. North was mighty aggressive with her flat three-count to look for a game. Without a double, all would be well. Once East doubled and South passed, all eyes were on West for her opening lead. With a spade lead, declarer would take the first eight tricks and actually do better than the minus 420 that the Chinese North/South incurred at the other table. No. West led the jack of hearts. Devastating. Declarer ducked in dummy and West played another heart to East's king. Now what? A

diamond switch would give the defense the first eight tricks for plus 1100 and a berth in the final. But no, East switched to spades and declarer gratefully took the ace and cashed out for down one and a 6-IMP gain for USA. The American hearts could start beating again. They went on to the final and won convincingly against Germany to capture the gold medal.



### Correspondence

The Editor reserves the right to abridge and/or edit correspond-

Hi John,

I'm sure others have pointed this out already, but just in case: in the November issue, page 8 report from Brian Senior, board 19, the analysis fails to point out that declarer had an easy route to 9 tricks by winning the opening jack of hearts lead and returning a heart.

All the best, Bob Jones, Hypoluxo, FL

On the deal in question,

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

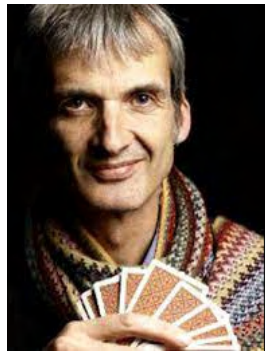
declarer had eight certain tricks. The first trick went jack of hearts, two, queen and declarer ducked! Then he had to strip-squeeze his LHO to make it. Bob is absolutely correct. We all missed it in our editing and proofing. We could not see the forest for the trees. And Bob was indeed the first to point it out. – Ed.

### Robson continued...

led the ace of hearts at trick two. Yes, West could have ruffed his partner's ace to give him a club ruff – but would he have? If East's ace of hearts had been allowed to win trick two, then the ace of spades would have been the only other defensive trick and the doubled game would have been made.

# Country Life

Andrew Robson  
London



We are looking at those bluffs and smokescreens that lead a hapless opponent down a false trail. Our first deal comes from Canada.

**Dealer South. Neither Vul.**

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

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

At every table, West led the ace or king of clubs, eminently the correct choice, as it allowed him to cash the clubs if the suit were running or, otherwise, switch to partner's hearts. Where the first trick saw East and South play low clubs, West sensibly assumed declarer's queen-knave-low for his notrump bid and switched to hearts. Declarer tried dummy's queen and ducked East's king, winning the knave-continuation with the ace.

Being a trick short, declarer had to guess whether to force out West's king of clubs, hoping he had no heart left (and that East began with seven), or to guess which player held the queen of spades and finesse accordingly. Some declarers made it; some went down.

Let's go back. There is an almost surefire way for declarer to succeed. He should drop a club picture under the ace at trick one (key play). West is now almost certain to try the king of clubs, playing declarer for queen-knave doubleton, and now declarer has his ninth trick via his other promoted club picture. Game made – a lovely little subterfuge.

West might try a little subterfuge of his own if declarer does not follow to trick one with an honour card: shift

to the deuce of hearts, feigning three or more. That way, declarer might well try to guess the location of the spade queen instead of forcing out the high club.

Our second deal, from the English Premier League, has a similar theme with an added twist of subtlety.

**Dealer South. Neither Vul.**

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

West	North	East	South
—	—	—	1♠
3♣ <sup>1</sup>	Pass <sup>2</sup>	3♥	Pass
Pass	4♠ <sup>3</sup>	Double <sup>4</sup>	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. Weak jump overcall
2. Tough choice, with 3♠ a sound alternative. North planned to pass his partner's reopening double to play for penalties.
3. Penalising hearts looks unattractive, given his major-suit holdings – 3♠ would be inadequate at this juncture.
4. Intended to mean, "Lead your suit, partner, not mine". East can envisage a defensive cross-ruff, with his ace of spades a huge card, giving him control of the defence.

West naturally led his singleton heart, the subtlety of his partner's double lost on him (as I think it would have been on me). East won with the king and declarer followed low. East knew that West's heart had to be singleton – he'd have led the top one with a doubleton. At trick two East found the clever defence of leading the two of hearts (not the ace), as he wanted his partner to win the trick. West ruffed and duly reflected on the situation, made even clearer by the fact that partner's two of hearts was a suit-preference signal for the lower-ranking clubs. West switched to a club, East ruffing and the ace of spades took the setting trick. Down one.

"Sorry – if I'd led a club at trick one, we'd have got it two down", apologised West. True. South kept quiet, but he'd seen his missed opportunity. Have you?

Say South had dropped the knave (or queen) of hearts under East's king at trick one. Then, East would not have known his partner's seven was singleton, as opposed to the seven from seven-six doubleton. He'd hardly have risked the underlead and would likely have

**Concluded at bottom of page 14...**

West	North	East	South
Kvocek	Oja	Vodicka	Maripuu
Pass	1♣	2♠	3♣
Pass	3♥	Pass	3♠
Double	3NT	Pass	4♦
Pass	4♥	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♠	Pass	6♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Oja opened a strong club and Vodicka made a weak-jump overcall on a rather empty five-card suit. This did not prevent his opponents from bidding the heart slam but, along the way, Kvocek had taken advantage of an opportunity to double a three-spade asking bid to show something in spades. That made it easy for Vodicka to also find the spade lead. Oja too won the spade lead with the ace, but there was one crucial difference to his line of play – at trick two he cashed the ace of hearts. Next, Oja played three rounds of clubs for the spade discard but, when Vodicka ruffed the third round it was with the king of hearts, so Oja had the rest for a well-played plus 980 and 14 IMPs to Estonia.

That board helped Estonia to a 29–20 IMP win, which converted to 13.14–6.86 VPs.

### Round 6

#### FAROE ISLANDS vs. UKRAINE

Board 27. Dealer South. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Nyemtsev	Jokladal	Rybnikov	Mouritsen
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	1♦	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♥	Pass	6♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	
West	North	East	South
Dam	Rovyshyn	Mohr	Saposnicov
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	1♦	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♥	Pass	4♣
Double	Redouble	Pass	4♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Both Souths judged it best to pass as dealer, hoping to be able to show their hand better at a later stage in the

auction. That worked out very nicely when the North players opened one diamond, then reversed into hearts. Mouritsen now just blasted six hearts, while Saposnicov preferred a four-club splinter. However, though Rovyshyn redoubled to show first-round club control, Saposnicov now thought he had done enough so signed off in game and that ended the auction – understandably, as Rovyshyn had a near minimum for his reverse with only moderate long suits.

Neither declarer had any reason to get the hearts wrong, so that was plus 480 to Ukraine, but plus 980 and another 11 IMPs to Faroe Islands.

### Round 7

#### LATVIA vs. LITHUANIA

Board 10. Dealer East. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Olanski	Bethers	V.Vainikonis	Balasovs
—	—	Pass	1♣ <sup>1</sup>
Pass	1♠ <sup>2</sup>	Pass	1NT <sup>3</sup>
Pass	2♣ <sup>4</sup>	Pass	2♦ <sup>5</sup>
Pass	2♥ <sup>6</sup>	Pass	2NT <sup>7</sup>
Pass	3♦ <sup>8</sup>	Pass	3♥ <sup>9</sup>
Pass	3NT <sup>10</sup>	Pass	4♦ <sup>11</sup>
Pass	4♠ <sup>12</sup>	Pass	4NT <sup>13</sup>
Pass	5♣ <sup>14</sup>	Double	6♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. Any 16+
2. Balanced 8+
3. Relay
4. 12+
5. Relay
6. 4 hearts
7. Relay
8. 4 diamonds
9. Relay
10. 2=4=4=3; 12-14, but intended as unlimited
11. Diamond control; no club control
12. Intended as 15-16
13. Slam invitational
14. Accepting invitation; 1 ace

A long artificial sequence saw Bethers/Balasovs reach the top spot. Vytautos Vainikonis led the ace and another



club and, when Olanski couldn't ruff, that was that; 12 tricks for plus 1430.

West	North	East	South
Andersone	Gierulski	Lavendelis	Skrzypczak
—	—	Pass	1♣ <sup>1</sup>
Pass	1♥ <sup>2</sup>	Pass	2♦ <sup>3</sup>
Pass	2NT <sup>4</sup>	Pass	4♥ <sup>5</sup>
Pass	4NT <sup>6</sup>	Pass	5♥ <sup>7</sup>
Pass	6♥	Pass	Pass

- (i) 12-14 balanced; (ii) 5+ clubs, 15+; (iii) any 18+
- 4+ hearts, 7+ HCP
- Artificial game-force
- Balanced
- Confirms hearts; balanced minimum for 2♦
- Key-card ask
- 2 key cards, no heart queen

Lavendelis led the jack of diamonds. Gierulski won with the queen, drew trumps and claimed 12 tricks; plus 1430 and no swing.

## Round 8 HUNGARY vs. SERBIA

Serbia topped the rankings going into their Round 8 clash with mid-table Hungary. The first board saw a game swing to Hungary.

**Board 11. Dealer South. Neither Vul.**

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

West	North	East	South
Gligorijev	Honyek	Stankovic	Vikor
Szabo	Vujcic	Tubak	Simic
—	—	—	1♠
2♣	2♠	3NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Expecting to be able to run the clubs, both Easts jumped to three notrump and played there.

Attila Viktor led the four of spades, Andras Honyek winning the ace and continuing the suit to the jack and queen. Viktor cleared the spades, and Aleksandar Stankovich rattled off the clubs. Viktor had to release two spades to retain the red suit guards, so came down to one spade winner, the king-queen of hearts and the ace of diamonds. Stankovich cashed the ace of hearts,

hoping to drop the king and queen together, but had then to concede the last three tricks to South, so was down one for minus 50. A diamond to the jack instead of the heart ace would have saved the day for declarer.

Olga Simic led the seven of spades and Veljko Vujcic, perhaps misreading it as indicating a poor suit, won with the ace but then switched to the ten of diamonds. That went to the jack and ace, and Simic continued with a low diamond to the queen and king. With the diamonds thus established, Daniel Tubak had the rest; 11 tricks for plus 460 and 11 IMPs to Hungary.

## Round 9 MALTA vs. SLOVENIA

**Board 24. Dealer West. Neither Vul.**

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

West	North	East	South
Penney	Orac	Marlin	Jesenicnik
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦
Pass	3NT <sup>1</sup>	Pass	6NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. Trick-taking hand

After a spade lead, there was time to take the club finesse for the overtrick, so plus 1020.

West	North	East	South
Rasula	Vella	Sadar	M. Ingloft
Pass	1♦	2♠	Double
3♠	4♦	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Vella's four diamonds looks inadequate with such a powerful hand. Ingloft might have raised facing a free bid at the four level, but probably didn't think her king of spades was going to be of much value in a diamond contract. Vella made a rather embarrassing 13 tricks for plus 190 and 13 IMPs to Slovenia.

## Round 15 FAROE ISLANDS vs. CROATIA

In the last round, the only match between two contenders was that between Croatia and Faroe Islands, lying fifth and sixth respectively. Leaders Serbia had their bye, so would collect 12 VPs and would have to sit and sweat it out as no fewer than five teams tried for the big win that



Photo: Arianna Testa

**The Winners – Serbia:** Marko Gligorijevic, Milorad Radojevic, Mihailo Simic, Olga Simic, Aleksandar Stankovic, Veljko Vujcic

out as no fewer than five teams tried for the big win that could take them past the Serbian total. Everyone but Serbia was hoping for a lively set of boards.

**Board 21. Dealer North. NS Vul.**

♠ 7  
 ♥ A K 10 3  
 ♦ A K Q  
 ♣ K Q 10 9 3

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

♠ A K Q J  
 ♥ 6 5 4  
 ♦ J 10 6 5 2  
 ♣ 4

West	North	East	South
Marinovski	Jokladal	Caric	Mouritsen
—	1♣	Pass	1♦
Pass	2♥	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

How do North/South get to six diamonds?

For Faroe Islands, slam was never a consideration. The opening spade lead caused some transportation difficulties. Hedin Mouritsen won with the king, cashed two top diamonds, then played the king of clubs, which was ducked, and continued with the queen. That lost to the ace and back came a heart, which Mouritsen ducked, losing to the queen, but now came a spade switch and he could win and discard the blocking diamond, releasing his three diamond winners and taking the rest for plus 660.

West	North	East	South
Simonsen	Sver	Mikkelsen	Zoric
—	1♣	Pass	1♦
1♠	Double	Pass	2NT!
Pass	3♠	Pass	3NT
Pass	4NT	Pass	?

Nikica Sver also opened one club. then doubled what must be a serious contender for the weakest overcall of the entire championship. Vedran Zoric could have passed and collected a substantial penalty, but eventually rested in four notrump. After a heart lead, Zoric could unblock the diamonds and make 12 tricks for plus 690 for 1 IMP to Croatia.

**The Top Finishers**

1	Serbia	176.27
2	Estonia	174.88
3	Faroe Islands	172.10
4	Lithuania	168.69
5	Croatia	164.44
6	Latvia	164.27

**The 25<sup>th</sup>**



**MADEIRA ISLANDS  
FESTIVAL**

**November 7-13, 2022**

**Mark Horton,  
Shrewsbury, Shropshire, England**

**Ceri Pierce,  
Wedmore, Somerset, England**

(All deals attributed to Mark Horton, except the last.)

All attendees seem to agree that this is the best bridge festival they have ever attended. For example, José Júlio Curado, Chief TD, was invited to direct the first Madeira Festival in 1998. He returned every year after that and, in 2005, moved here. Dana and Noga Tal played in the Israeli Women's Team in the European Championships here earlier in 2022. They are here to play again, this time bringing their parents.

**Board 10. Dealer East. Both Vul.**

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

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

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

West	North	East	South
Asgrimsson	Thiele	Bergsson	Verdegaal
—	—	1♦	Pass
1♠	2♥	2♠	3♣ <sup>1</sup>
3♠	4♣	4♠	Pass
Pass	Double	Pass	Pass
Pass			

### 1. Clubs and heart support

Our first offering is from the Warm-Up Pairs, where a deceptive play by a defender led to declarer's defeat.

North led a club. Declarer took the ace and played a diamond, North following with the queen! A spade to the king and ace saw North return the spade six. Given the bidding and North's play of the diamond queen, do you blame declarer for playing North for a 3=5=1=4 pattern and finessing?

It was a spectacular defence that netted Mark Thiele and Renee Verdegaal 98 of 102 matchpoints.

## The Pairs Championship

Another deceptive play led to declarer's being mesmerised here:

### Board 6. Dealer East. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Groot	Schipper	Wauters	Limmen
—	—	Pass	2♣ <sup>1</sup>
Pass	2♦ <sup>2</sup>	Pass	3♥ <sup>3</sup>
Pass	4♣ <sup>4</sup>	Pass	4NT <sup>5</sup>
Pass	5♠ <sup>6</sup>	Pass	7♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. Strong, artificial, forcing
2. Waiting
3. Sets hearts
4. Control
5. RKCB
6. 2 key cards and heart queen

Many pairs bid a grand slam, those scoring plus 1520 or plus 1510, collecting 182/10 and 168/24 respectively. However, a few went down. How should you play?

One option is to cash all your red winners. That makes if the diamonds come in (a 60.9% chance), and still leaves you with squeeze chances (on the actual deal, West is

helpless, being squeezed by the last heart). Note that a spade lead does not alter anything. (If East has both black kings and West four diamonds headed by the jack, the squeeze fails as East is discarding after dummy.)

You might leave the diamonds alone, cashing all your hearts, and then either take the club finesse or hope for four diamond tricks. At my featured table Nora Groot found the brilliant lead of the nine of clubs! Naturally, declarer took dummy's ace, cashed the queen of hearts, came to hand with a spade and cashed all his remaining hearts before taking a top diamond, crossing to dummy with the ace of diamonds, and then playing a third round of the suit. When East followed with the seven, declarer 'knew' East's last card was the king of clubs and confidently played the queen. West's devastating lead had netted 188/4.

## More from the Pairs Championship... the 100% Solution

### Board 26. Dealer East. Both Vul.

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

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

South's idiotic double of two diamonds backfired when North led the queen of diamonds! Declarer won, played the king of spades to South's ace, won the diamond return and cashed the clubs. This was the position when declarer played dummy's queen of spades:

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

As you can see, South had no answer; plus 1440: 100%!



Open Pairs Winners:  
Carlos Luiz (Madeira), Nuno Paz (Portugal)

### Moving Day

In many sports, the penultimate day of play is regarded as significant for those hoping to have a chance of victory. That is definitely the case on the Saturday of the Madeira Festival! In Round 8 of the Teams, Nuno Matos faced Resi:

#### Board 9. Dealer North. EW Vul.

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

#### Open Room

West	North	East	South
Schreckenberger	Teixeira	Engel	Brenner
—	1♥	Pass	1♠
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♥
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Declarer easily collected 12 tricks, plus 480.

#### Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Paz	Grömoeller	Luiz	Babsch
—	2♣ <sup>1</sup>	Pass	2♦ <sup>2</sup>
Pass	2♥ <sup>3</sup>	Pass	3♥ <sup>4</sup>
Pass	4♥ <sup>5</sup>	Pass	5♣ <sup>6</sup>
Pass	6♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Alert explanations at top of next column...

1. Strong, but not game-forcing
2. Relay
3. Natural, FIR
4. Game-forcing; support
5. Minimum for 2♣
6. Controls in both minors

Babsch's five clubs was enough for Grömoeller to jump to slam, plus 980 and 11 IMPs to Resi.

On the surface, six hearts depends on one of the diamond honours being onside, but declarer gave himself an extra chance by cashing the top spades at an early stage. He could then take advantage of the friendly lie in that suit to establish a third trick by ruffing a spade.

#### Board 14. Dealer East. Neither Vul.

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

#### Open Room

West	North	East	South
Schreckenberger	Teixeira	Engel	Brenner
—	—	INT	Pass
2♥ <sup>1</sup>	Pass	3♣ <sup>2</sup>	Pass
4NT <sup>3</sup>	Pass	5♣ <sup>4</sup>	Pass
5♦ <sup>5</sup>	Pass	5♠ <sup>6</sup>	Pass
7♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. Transfer to spades
2. Super-accept
3. Kay-card ask
4. 0 or 3 key cards
5. Queen ask
6. Spade queen, no side king

South led the seven of spades. Declarer won with dummy's jack, cashed the ace of spades and then played the king of clubs. When both defenders followed with a low card, declarer continued with the club three and claimed when North showed out.

Imagine South had played the nine of clubs on the first round of the suit. If that had been a singleton, it would have meant that North had started with jack-five-four-two and playing a low club to the ace would then have been fatal in terms of scoring four club tricks. This is a well-known situation and one way that (sometimes) avoids the problem is for declarer to start the suit by leading a low club from the ace-to-four. That way, South

might be reluctant to play the nine in case partner had the singleton ten. It would not have been an issue here, with the ten on view in dummy.

We know that, elsewhere, Anne Gladiator saw South drop the club nine, but did not fall into the trap. However, had she done so, the diamond king onside would have come to her rescue!

#### Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Paz	Grömoeller	Luiz	Babsch
—	—	1NT	Pass
2♥ <sup>1</sup>	Pass	2NT <sup>2</sup>	Pass
3♥ <sup>3</sup>	Pass	3♠	Pass
4NT <sup>4</sup>	Pass	5♣ <sup>5</sup>	Pass
5♦ <sup>6</sup>	Pass	5NT <sup>7</sup>	Pass
7♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. Transfer
2. 4 spades, maximum
3. Retransfer
4. RKCB
5. 0 or 3 key cards
6. Queen ask
7. Yes

Here, declarer started clubs by playing low to the ace, so dropping the nine would only have given him an anxious moment for a second.



### IntoBridge Best Play Award

Bridge writers are not usually attracted by low-level contracts. Not least because they frequently contain many potential twists and turns that can be hard to analyse with limited time at one's disposal. However, they can contain instructive points as, for example, this deal from Round 5 of the teams:

#### Board 4. Dealer West. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
	Sørensen		Randrup
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♣
Double	1♥	1♠	1NT
Pass	2♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Looking briefly at all four hands, it appears that declarer a spade, three trumps, a diamond and a club.

East led the three of spades. West took the ace and switched to the seven of diamonds, East winning with the ace and returning the diamond two to dummy's queen. Declarer cashed dummy's top spades, discarding a club and a diamond, and then ruffed a spade, splitting the suit out four-four. He cashed the king of diamonds and played a club to the king, followed by the queen of clubs, East taking the ace. These cards remained:

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

Whatever East did next, West could only score two trump tricks, declarer's nine of hearts being the key card.

How did Flemming Bøgh Sørensen appreciate that it was best to leave the trump suit well alone? The clue came from West's double, suggesting that he would be short in clubs. If East had also appreciated that, an initial club lead would have set up an unavoidable ruff to defeat the contract. After the initial spade lead, it was already too late.

### The Muiderberg Double – Ceri Pierce

Aris Verburgh came to the Bulletin Room to present me with this deal:

#### Board 22. Dealer East. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Janssens	ten Cate	Verburgh	ten Cate
—	—	Pass	1♠
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♥
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♣*
Pass	3NT	Pass	Pass
Double!	Pass	Pass	Pass

\* After long thought



Open Teams Winners: Matthias Schueller, Andrea Reim, Anne Gladiator, Ralph Retzlaff (Germany)

Put yourself in West's place for a moment. He had seen his RHO bid all of his suits. Additionally, the three-club bid from South was made after some seriously long thought so, when the three-notrump bid from North came around to him, Janssens (aged 81 and nicknamed The Grumpy Old Man, and the inventor of the Muiderberg convention) doubled, even though he had only 7 HCP.

After the two-of-diamonds lead, declarer never attacked the spades, assuming from the double that they would behave badly and the contract plummeted three down for minus 500. So here is an entry for the best bid or, if you like, the best sniff (as something fishy was up), which came from Aris Verburgh who nominated his partner Onno Janssens. Janssens thought his double was the best bid he had made in his 60-odd year bridge career.



European Bridge League

**20<sup>th</sup> EUROPEAN CHAMPIONS' CUP**  
Helsinki, Finland • 10-12 November, 2022

**Jos Jacobs, Maarn, Utrecht, Netherlands**  
**Marc Smith, Southampton, Hants., U.K.**  
**Marjo Chorus, Maarn, Utrecht, Netherlands**

Belgium's Team RIVIÈRA, with (left to right at the top of the next column) Geert Arts, Bert Geens, Steve De Roos, Alon Amsel, Daniel De Roos and Steven De Donder, won the 20<sup>th</sup> European Champions' Cup.

In the Final, they defeated team CONTACT I of Switzerland, with Sjoert Brink, Bas Drijver, Piotr Gawrys, Michal Klukowski, Fernando Piedra and Pierre Zimmermann.



**Jos Jacobs, Round I**  
**FINNISH CHAMPIONS v.**  
**RIVIÈRA (Belgium)**  
**BERGEN AKADEMISKE (Norway) v.**  
**STUDENTENES BK (Norway)**

**Board 3. Dealer South. EW Vul.**

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Helgemo	Bakke	Grude	Charlsen
—	—	—	1♥
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

In the Open Room, North/South became the victim of their system agreements. Two notrump showed a game-forcing hand with clubs. When South then did not bother to introduce his diamonds, the damage was done. Down one, Studentenes BK plus 50.

*(I respectfully disagree that the system agreements were at fault. South's judgement was completely to blame: He bid three notrump with an unbid five-card suit, a singleton in his partner's suit and two low in spades, the most likely lead against three notrump. Had he instead bid a routine three diamonds, North would have bid three hearts and the doomed three notrump would have been avoided. As it was, South unwarrantedly gambled that North had a spade stop. – Ed.)*

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Berset	Bogø	Ekren	Kristoffersen
—	—	—	1♥
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♦
Pass	4♦	Pass	4♥
Pass	5♦	Pass	Pass
Pass			

In the other room, the North/South pair had an entirely natural auction and thus reached a better game contract which was dependent on the fortunate diamond position. That was plus 400 and 10 IMPs to the Studentenes BK.

**Marc Smith, Round 2**  
**BC 't ONSTEIN (Netherlands) v.**  
**ISRAELI CHAMPIONS**  
**ASD IL BRIDGE (Italy) v.**  
**CONTACT I (Switzerland)**

**Board 15. Dealer South. NS Vul.**

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

**Netherlands v. Israel**

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Altshuler	De Wijs	Aviram	Muller
—	—	—	Pass
1♣	Pass	1♥	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♦ <sup>1</sup>	Pass
3♣	Pass	4♣	Pass
4♦	Pass	4♥	Pass
4♠	Pass	5♦	Pass
6♣	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. Fourth-suit forcing

Declarer won the opening heart lead with dummy's ace, played one round of trumps to hand and ruffed a spade in dummy. He then ran the queen of hearts, discarding a spade from hand. North won with the king, but declarer could draw trumps and claim the rest with a heart ruff to set up another winner there. East/West plus 920.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Van Lankveld	Roll	Van den Bos	Levin
—	—	—	Pass
1♣	Pass	1♥	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♦ <sup>1</sup>	Pass
2♥	Pass	2NT	Pass
3NT	Pass	6♣	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. Fourth-suit forcing

The Dutch auction started in similar fashion, but their methods then diverged from anything standard. Whatever the auction showed, Berend van den Bos's jump all the way from three notrump to six clubs does seem particularly wasteful of all that bidding space that could perhaps have been put to some more-productive use.

North led a diamond at this table, solving declarer's problems in that suit. Joris van Lankveld ruffed two spades in dummy in the process of drawing trumps and then took a heart finesse for an overtrick. East/West plus 940 and 1 IMP to 't ONSTEIN.

Could Switzerland's Polish Club contingent do better?

**Italy v. Switzerland**

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Klukowski	Duboin	Gawrys	Madala
—	—	—	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♠	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♦	Pass	4♣	Pass
4♦	Pass	6♣	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Michal Klukowski started with a natural and limited two-club opening, showed his spades at his second turn, and then bid out his shape with three diamonds. Piotr Gawrys set the suit with four clubs and jumped to six clubs when Klukowski control-bid in diamonds.

North led a trump. Declarer won in hand, ruffed a spade, played a second trump to his hand and took a heart finesse. With the king of hearts coming down third, declarer now had an easy 13 tricks: East/West plus 940.

The Dutch were the only North/South pair to get into the auction. Would it help their cause?

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Lauria	Drijver	Versace	Brink
—	—	—	Pass
1♣	Pass	1♥	1♠
Pass	2♠	Double	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♠	Pass
3NT	Pass	4♣	Pass
4♦	Pass	4♥	Pass
4NT	Pass	5NT	Pass
7♣	Pass	Pass	Pass

After the same start, Sjoert Brink came in with a one-spade overcall on the South hand. Lorenzo Laura passed and Drijver raised to two spades. Alfredo Versace doubled for takeout and Lauria confirmed that he had real clubs. When Versace then forced with a three-spade cue-bid, Lauria essayed three notrump, and news of spade values opposite is surely bad news for Versace's hand.

However, Versace was not yet ready to give up, and he kept the ball rolling and set the suit with four clubs. An exchange of red-suit control-bids now enabled Lauria to involve Blackwood on the West hand. When Versace showed three key cards and a spade void, Lauria decided he had heard enough and jumped to the grand slam.

Having bid and supported the suit, North led a spade. (An interesting footnote is that, at each of the four tables, a different suit was led against West's club slam.) Lauria ruffed the spade in dummy and immediately cashed the ace of hearts and ruffed a heart. He then ruffed a second spade, cashed the club ace, and took a second heart ruff. The appearance of the king from North meant that declarer now had the rest of the tricks with no finesses taken. East/West plus 1440 and 11 IMPs to ASD IL BRIDGE.

#### Board 19. Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

#### Netherlands v. Israel

Closed & Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Van Lankveld</i>	<i>Roll</i>	<i>Van den Bos</i>	<i>Levin</i>
<i>Altshuler</i>	<i>De Wijs</i>	<i>Aviram</i>	<i>Muller</i>
—	—	—	1♥
Pass	4♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Van Lankveld led a diamond to his partner's ace and the club switch enabled the defenders to take two tricks in that suit. There were still two major-suit aces to be lost: North/South minus 100.

In the other match, the auction and the play were exactly the same as this, producing a flat board.

However, in the Open Room in this match, Altshuler was the only West player not to lead a diamond. Instead,

he chose to attack with the jack of spades. Aviram won with the ace and declarer followed with the king, as he would from perhaps all of the possible holdings. Knowing that he still had an entry with the ace of diamonds, Aviram saw no urgency to play a club through declarer and instead, not unreasonably, tried to give his partner a spade ruff with the seven of spades. Both declarer and West followed, so declarer won in dummy and played a trump to the queen. West won with the ace and was now faced with a decision – did his partner hold the ace of diamonds or the king of clubs? He cashed the ace of clubs to mark time: eight – four – three.

When West 'guessed' wrong, continuing the suit, not only had the second undertrick escaped, but so too had the contract. A spectacular North/South plus 420 and 11 IMPs to 't ONSTEIN.

Both defenders were equally at fault. Firstly, the only missing spade spot was the three. True, either South or East could have held it but, if it were East, the seven was a suit-preference signal for diamonds. Secondly, what was East doing not playing the queen of clubs under West's ace, instead of encouraging with the four? The loss was well-deserved.

### Marjo Chorus, Round 11 SZLEM GDANSK (Poland) v. ASD IL BRIDGE (Italy) CONTACT 1 (Switzerland) v. BC 't ONSTEIN (Netherlands)

#### Board 20. Dealer West. Both Vul.

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

In the Contact-'t – Onstein match, both Souths played in five clubs doubled and made it. Another wash. BC 't Onstein won 13 – 0 IMPs (14.28 – 5.72 VP) and both teams went to the semifinals.

The Italians took their last chance to gain some IMPs:

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Vinci</i>	<i>Kwiecien</i>	<i>Hugony</i>	<i>Starkowski</i>
1♥	Pass	1♠	3♣
Double	5♣	Double	Pass
5♦	Pass	Pass	Pass

Vinci was not keen on defending five clubs and right he



was. Five diamonds went two off when Vinci drew all four outstanding trumps, followed by a spade. Starkowski ducked the ace of spades twice. After the spade ace, he switched to hearts. Kwicien took the queen and ace and exited with a low heart. Well done. He later got another heart trick for two off, minus 200 to East/West.

#### Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Zatorski	Duboin	Zmuda	Madala
1♥	Pass	1♠	4♣
Pass	5♣	Double	Pass
6♣	Pass	6♠	Pass
Pass	Double	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Zatorski also didn't fancy defending five clubs doubled but he had more ambitious plans, hoping his partner's values were in the other three suits. Duboin was happy to double six spades and Italy gained 500 and 7 IMPs, winning the match 25-13 imps (14-6 VP). Szlem Gdansk could afford this loss and went on to the semifinals. The fourth semi-finalist was Rivièra from Belgium who had a huge win over the Irish Champions.

### Jos Jacobs, Semifinals, First Half SZLEM GDANSK (Poland) v. RIVIÈRA (Belgium) BC 't ONSTEIN (Netherlands) v. CONTACT I (Switzerland)

#### Board 12. Dealer West. NS Vul.

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

You are in four hearts as North after West has opened the bidding with one spade and your partner has shown a game-going heart raise. East leads the queen of spades. How should you proceed?

From the opening bid, you can be pretty sure that West is looking at the ace of clubs, so the successful line would be to guess right in diamonds, if at all possible. You thus win with the ace of spades, draw trumps in four rounds and lead a diamond up. East inserts the queen, of course, but you win the ace, get back to hand later on by ruffing the third club, and then try another diamond. If you put in dummy's nine, West has to take the king and you have created a parking place for one of your spade losers.

Playing like that, Piotr Gawrys made his contract for plus 620 to Contact I.

In the replay, on the same lead, again won with the ace, on the fourth round of trumps, Simon de Wijs had had to make an uncomfortable discard from dummy and had thrown the obvious club. When de Wijs then played a club to the king rather than a diamond, Fernando Piedra won with the ace and returned the ten of clubs to the jack and queen. Declarer ruffed a club and led a diamond. This was the situation:

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

When East put up the queen of diamonds, declarer was left stranded in dummy when he had to win with the ace. Declarer apparently was playing for the king-queen of diamonds in West, with the ten in East, in which case the nine would lose to the queen and West would be end-played. When declarer won with the ace of diamonds, he tried the jack, hoping to pin the ten in West, but that was not to be, so Contact I scored another 100 and added 12 IMPs to their tally.

In the other match, the board was a push at plus 620 to North/South.

### Marc Smith, Semifinals, Second Half SZLEM GDANSK (Poland) v. RIVIÈRA (Belgium) BC 't ONSTEIN (Netherlands) v. CONTACT I (Switzerland)

#### Board 19. Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

## Contact v. 't Onstein

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>De Wijs</i>	<i>Gawrys</i>	<i>Muller</i>	<i>Klukowski</i>
—	—	—	Pass
1♦	Pass	1♥	Pass
INT	Pass	4♥	Double
Pass	Pass	Pass	

The Dutch pair overreached, bidding to a game that had no chance with the bad trump break, and Michal Klukowski expressed his doubt in the customary way.

Klukowski led his singleton diamond. Bauke Muller won with the ace, crossed to the ace of clubs, and led a second diamond towards dummy. Klukowski could not gain by ruffing, so he pitched a spade and the king won. Muller ruffed dummy's second club, eliminating that suit, before eventually starting on trumps, leading the queen from his hand and getting the bad news. From here, there was no way to avoid the loss of a diamond and a spade in addition to three trump tricks: North/South plus 500.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Brink</i>	<i>Verbeek</i>	<i>Drijver</i>	<i>Molenaar</i>
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	3♣	3♥	4♣
4♥	Double	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Perhaps the only surprise in the auction was that it was Verbeek who produced a red card.

Declarer won the club lead, crossed to dummy with a high diamond, and played a trump to the queen and king. At first glance, it may not appear to matter what Molenaar does now but, as he was soon to discover to his cost, a spade switch is essential to break up the strip-squeeze on his partner. When Molenaar exited with a second round of clubs, it gave Bas Drijver a chance to display his expert declarer play.

Drijver ruffed and played a low trump, South winning with the ten and switching to spades, but it was too late. Declarer won with the king and played a third round of trumps to South's ace. He won the spade continuation with the ace and drew South's last trump. North could afford to discard a diamond on this trick but, when declarer then cashed his last trump, there was no winning option. If he discards his club, declarer exits with a spade and North is endplayed to lead away from the queen of diamonds at trick 12. Verbeek did as well as he could, discarding the queen of spades in the hope that his partner

held the ten, but it was not to be; North/South plus 200 and 7 IMPs to Contact 1.

## Szlem v. Riviera

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Geens</i>	<i>Kwiecien</i>	<i>Amsel</i>	<i>Starkowski</i>
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	2♣	2♥	Double
3♣	Pass	4♥	Double
Pass	Pass	Pass	

At this table, North also got to open after two passes, and Michal Kwiecien chose a natural, limited two clubs. Undeterred, the Belgians also climbed to four hearts and Włodzimierz Starkowski duly wielded the axe. Could the Poles extract the maximum?

The first four tricks were the same as at the previous table, with South continuing clubs when he took his first trump trick. Here, though, Alon Amsel gave the defence a second chance by playing a diamond rather than a trump at trick five. South discarded a spade, so declarer won with the king and exited with a third round of diamonds, North winning with the queen.

It may appear that Kwiecien was now endplayed, but playing a fourth round of diamonds forces declarer to ruff, reducing his trump length to the same as South. This meant that South was able to force declarer's last trump when he took his third trump winner, and thus the defence scored a fourth trump trick to beat the contract by two tricks. When, instead, Kwiecien exited with the jack of spades, declarer took his only chance, winning with the king and playing a spade back to his ten. The Belgians had escaped for the loss of just one diamond and three trumps: North/South plus 200.

Not that the deal was a total loss for the Poles...

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Zatorski</i>	<i>De Donder</i>	<i>Zmuda</i>	<i>D. De Roos</i>
—	—	—	2♥
Pass	2♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

I'm sure that this Belgian pair has gained plenty of IMPs over the years with this two-heart opening, which showed 3-10 HCP with at least four-four in the majors. The effect here, though, was to keep East out of the auction and thus out of trouble. Steven de Donder managed to scramble eight tricks in the Moysian spade fit to restrict the loss on the deal: North/South plus 110 and 3 IMPs to Szlem Gdansk.

**Jos Jacobs, Final and Playoff, Second Half**  
**BC RIVIÈRA (Belgium) v.**  
**CONTACT I (Switzerland)**  
**BC 't ONSTEIN (Netherlands) v.**  
**SZLEM GDANSK (Poland)**

**Board 23. Dealer South. Both Vul.**

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

In the playoff for the bronze medal:

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Zatorski	Verbeek	Zmuda	Molenaar
—	—	—	4♣
Pass	6♣	Pass	Pass
Pass			

The Dutch auction was short and effective. Molenaar could quickly write down plus 1370.

At the other table, the Poles stayed on firmer ground.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Van Lankveld	Kwiecien	Van den Bos	Starkowski
—	—	—	3♣
Double	3NT	Pass	4♣
Pass	5♣	Pass	Pass
Pass			

One overtrick, but 13 IMPs to 't Onstein.

In the final, there also was a swing:

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Brink	S. De Roos	Drijver	Arts
—	—	—	3♣
Double	Pass	3♥	Pass
Pass	Double	Pass	Pass
Pass			

A very aggressive and slightly premature sacrifice against the possible slam. Down five, plus 1400 to the Belgians.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
D. De Roos	Gawrys	De Donder	Klukowski
—	—	—	3♣
Pass	3NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

A quiet auction in the other room, nowhere near a slam investigation. Two overtricks, but 13 IMPs to Riviera.

## RESULTS

### Semifinals

RIVIÈRA (Belgium) 76	SZLEM GDANSK (Poland) 19
CONTACT I (Switzerland) 86	BC t' ONSTEIN (Netherlands) 28

### Final

RIVIÈRA (Belgium) 91	CONTACT I (Switzerland) 69
----------------------	----------------------------

### 3<sup>rd</sup>-Place Playoff

BC t' ONSTEIN (Netherlands) 80	SZLEM GDANSK (Poland) 53
--------------------------------	--------------------------



[www.ibpa.com](http://www.ibpa.com)

**This Bulletin:** You can access an electronic copy of this Bulletin at: [www.ibpa.com/695jc.pdf](http://www.ibpa.com/695jc.pdf)

**Subscriptions:** You can apply to join the IBPA or renew your subscription on the website by clicking on the appropriate button on the top of the homepage.

**Members' Addresses:** You can find fellow members' contact details at: [www.jannersten.org](http://www.jannersten.org).

If you have forgotten your access code, contact: [thorpe.katie@gmail.com](mailto:thorpe.katie@gmail.com)

**The 2020 Handbook:** To access the electronic version of the Handbook, go to the IBPA website: [www.ibpa.com](http://www.ibpa.com)

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



**Confessions  
of a Bridge  
Addict (9)**  
**Joseph Silver**  
**Hampstead,  
Québec**  
*(from Bridge Winners)*

As a criminal lawyer, it was important to learn who the enemy was, and I learned early on that the enemy was THE CLIENT! All too often they were the authors of their own disasters, most often upon their arrest, by talking to the police without benefit of counsel. Everyone has the right to remain silent, and the right to a lawyer, but very few accused exercised that right and, usually, the more they tried to explain, either by confessing (often the most-important evidence the prosecution had), or by trying to explain their way out of trouble (which, most times, only dug them into a deeper hole). Their words all too often led to their own conviction.

Of course, that was not the only way they sabotaged their own case. For example, I once had a client, a prize-winning architect; I had managed, on cross-examination, to throw doubt on the victim's identification of my client, only to have the client interrupt the court proceedings to deny that he had made the statement that the victim had said he had made, in effect admitting the veracity of the victim's identification and undermining my defence of non-identification! (Luckily for me, and my client, the judge was a bit tipsy that afternoon, and missed my client's incriminating statement, so I still won the case despite my client's best effort to lose it). *(Was the prosecutor also tipsy? Why did he/she not point this out to the judge? – Ed.)*

In Montréal law courts, both English and French are official languages, so I had the policy of proceedings in English with French clients, and in French with English clients. At another time, a client came to my office and told me he expected to be arrested soon for fraud. We discussed his case, and I told him to phone me when the police came, and to say nothing to the cops until I got there! A few days later, the phone call came, so I rushed downtown to the police station. As I entered the room for the fraud squad, I was met by the lead detective in my client's case, a twinkle in his eye, and a large smile on his face, waving a piece of paper and saying, "Too late, too late!" The enemy had struck again; of course the paper the detective was waving was my client's full confession. The less "THE CLIENT" understood, the less likely he could harm his own case! (Apropos of this, someone once came up to one of my confrères, and started to ask about his case. When asked

who his lawyer was, he answered, "Maitre Silver." "So ask him," the man was told. He replied that every time he asked a question, Mr. Silver told him to shut up. I did not mind supplying free legal advice BUT lessons were extra.) I wanted to win badly, and certainly didn't want my clients to screw up MY chances of winning, so I told them to sit quietly in the courtroom and try to look innocent!

During my law career, relations among the police, the prosecution and the defence were very good, and a promise given to them or by them was nearly always a promise kept. In my 50-year career, I was only double-crossed once! His name was Malboeuf, a Crown Prosecutor for the federal government. We had struck a deal before my client's bail hearing but when we were in court he had gone back on his word, and the deal we had made, and to boot he was now in favour of denying bail and was trying to convince the judge to do so – the son-of-a-bitch had double-crossed me! I was outraged. To say I was angry would be an underbid! I completely lost it. I stood up in court and started in on Malboeuf, calling him every name in the book. This went on for several minutes until the judge, trying to regain order in his courtroom, said, "Maitre Silver, calm down." In my anger (well-justified by my lights), I turned to the judge, pointed at him, and said, "YOU KEEP OUT OF THIS" (which, to his credit, the judge did), and continued my harangue, until Malboeuf raised the white flag and agreed to bail. (For those of you who are French-challenged, mal boeuf means bad beef in English, a very apt description of both Malboeuf's personality and his appearance.)

To Be Continued (If I find the patience).



## Discover IBPA

IBPA's strength is its members. In our ranks you find media people of all sorts, top management, and professional teachers. The combined force of the membership can achieve more than you can imagine.

Being a member, you have access to your fellow members' contact details and you can use the IBPA *Forum* if you want to have a private conversation with a selected group of our members.

The well-structured IBPA web site is a gold mine packed with copy of lasting value. In the web archive you will also find useful tools.



**OZ BRIDGE**  
 Ron Klinger,  
 Northbridge, NSW  
[www.ronklingerbridge.com](http://www.ronklingerbridge.com)

The 120-board final of the 2023 Australian Open Team Selection was won by DALLEY (Paul Dalley – Tony Nunn, Rob Fruewirth – Jamie Thompson, Paul Gosney – Tony Leibowitz) by 305 IMPs to 256. This deal was the board of the match:

**Board. 28. Dealer West. NS Vul.**

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

West	North	East	South
Gosney		Leibowitz	
3♣	Double	4♣	Pass
Pass	Double	Pass	4♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

With the strong hand on his left, West led a deceptive nine of spades: four – queen – five. East returned the spade eight: jack – king (surprise!) – ace. After the king of hearts, then then the five to the jack and queen, West exited with the five of clubs, taken by the ace. Declarer drew the missing trump and played the ace, king and a third diamond. There was also a club to lose, two down, East/West plus 200.

West	North	East	South
Harrison	Dalley	Hung	Nunn
Pass	1♦	1♠	Double
2♣	2♠	Pass	3♦
Pass	4♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			

East led the six of clubs. North took the ace, cashed the ace of diamonds and king of hearts, and finessed the ten of hearts. West won and returned the seven of clubs. East won and played the eight of hearts, taken by the ace. Declarer led a diamond to the jack and cashed the king of diamonds. He led the ace and another spade, endplaying West.

North had ten tricks, plus 620 and 13 IMPs.

**NEWS & VIEWS**



**ACBL Admin**

Joann Glasson has been re-elected as ACBL President.

Joe Jones, the ACBL Executive Director, has resigned, effective December 31, 2022. Joe had worked for the ACBL for 12 years, initially as Chief Financial Officer, and had been Executive Director since 2018.

Paul Cuneo has been appointed as interim Executive Director while the search for a new Executive Director goes on.

**Major Winners at the Phoenix NABC**

**Soloway Knockout Teams**

Simon Cope, Ishmael Del'Monte, Finn Kolesnik, Kevin Rosenberg

**Reisinger BAM**

Sjoert Brink, Sebastiaan Drijver, Piotr Gawarys, Michal Klukowski, Fernando Piedra, Pierre Zimmermann

**Keohane Swiss Teams**

Nikolaos Delimpaltadakis, Giovanni Donati, Franck Multon, Giacomo Percario, Vasileios Vroustis, Kiki Ward-Platt

**Mitchell Open BAM**

Sveinn Eiriksson, John McAllister, Jovanka Smederevac, Alexander Wernle

**Kaplan Blue Ribbon Pairs**

Jacek Kalita, Michal Klukowski

**Nail Life Master Pairs**

Kevin Dwyer, Shan Huang

**Whitehead Women's Pairs**

Brenda Bryant, Pamela Nisbet

**Senior Mixed Pairs**

Alan Schwartz, Annie Schwartz

**Super Senior Pairs**

Bruce Ferguson, Brenda Keller

**Hall of Fame Inductees**

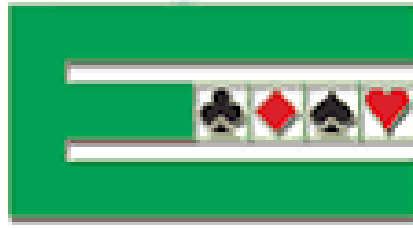
Chuck Burger, Matt Smith, John Swanson, Ron Von der Porten

**Sydney Lazard Jr. Sportsmanship Award**

Dennis Bilde

**Honorary Member of the Year**

Betty Starzec



# European Bridge League

**4th European Winter Games**  
**Tignes - Le Lac 21000, France**  
**April 21-27, 2023**

## **Format of the Championships**

These Championships include Les Etincelles Cup (Transnational Teams)  
and the GCK Trophy (BAM Teams)

**All events are transnational. Detailed information about registration, payment of fees, hotels, transportation, awards and more is available at**

**<http://db.eurobridge.org/repository/competitions/23tignes/microsite/Information.htm>**

## **Schedule of play**

**21 April:** Les Etincelles Cup (Qualification, Swiss)

**22 April:** Les Etincelles Cup (Qualification, Swiss)

**23 April:** Les Etincelles Cup (KO, Round of 32)

GCK Trophy (BAM Qualification)

**24 April:** Les Etincelles Cup (KO, Round of 16)

GCK Trophy (BAM Qualification)

**25 April:** Les Etincelles Cup (KO, Quarter finals)

GCK Trophy (Semi Finals A & B)

**26 April:** Les Etincelles Cup (KO, Semi finals)

GCK Trophy (Semi Finals A & B)

**27 April:** Les Etincelles Cup (KO, Final)

GCK Trophy (Finals A & B)



## 3<sup>rd</sup> TRANSATLANTIC SENIORS CUP

Julian Klukowski Memorial Trophy

Jan. 23<sup>rd</sup> - Feb. 9<sup>th</sup> 2023



## 3<sup>rd</sup> TRANSATLANTIC SENIORS CUP 2023 INVITATION

In late January and early February 2023, the Polish Bridge Union and the Canadian Bridge Federation invite senior teams to participate in the third edition of the **Transatlantic Seniors Cup**. Previous editions, played in 2021 and 2022 proved that TSC is the greatest seniors tournament in the world, giving an opportunity to play against the brightest bridge stars. It has also shown that this tournament has been played in a very friendly atmosphere, with the highest standards of fair play. Once again, we want to encourage you to compete in this tournament. Below is the most important information.

1. **TOURNAMENT NAME:** *3<sup>rd</sup> PBU & CBF Transatlantic Seniors Cup Julian Klukowski Memorial* (a great Polish player, long-time No 1. in the world senior ranking list).
2. The tournament will be played on the Bridge Base Online platform.
3. **TIME:** from Monday, Jan. 23<sup>rd</sup>, until Thursday, Feb. 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023. We play each week from Monday until Thursday, leaving weekends for other face-to-face games.
4. **TEAMS:** only seniors (born 1960 and earlier), national (membership of the appropriate National Bridge Organization is necessary), teams should be submitted by NBO. Each NBO can submit 4 teams. Each team can register up to 12 players.
5. **FORMAT:** First stage (23.01-31.01.2023) is a Swiss Qualification – 12 rounds of 10 boards each; the top 16 teams advance to the playoffs. Those who do not qualify for the playoffs continue in a Swiss for 3<sup>rd</sup> place (6 rounds x 20 boards each). Losers of the playoff also join the 3<sup>rd</sup>-Place Swiss. So each team has the chance for a medal until the last board. Playoff matches (1/8, 1/4) will play 3 x 10 boards, semifinal and final, 4 x 10 boards played over two days.
6. **HOURS:** In the first stage we will start at 8 p.m. CET (New York 2 p.m., Los Angeles 11 a.m., Buenos Aires at 4 p.m., Istanbul and Cape Town 9 p.m.) and we will play 20 boards. 1/8 and 1/4 matches will start at 6.30 p.m. CET.
7. **PRIZES:** Victor Markowicz – former partner of Julian Klukowski has established the *Julian Klukowski Trophy* for the winners of the *Transatlantic Seniors Cup*. The top three teams will be awarded Polish Bridge Union medals.
8. **ENTRY FEE:** 300 € or 300 USD for the whole tournament. Transfer details are available at the website <http://r.pzbs.pl/2023/tsc/web/>

All questions and entries should be sent by e-mail to [transatlantic@pzbs.pl](mailto:transatlantic@pzbs.pl) until Jan. 17<sup>th</sup> 2023. Then, login data will be sent to the captain, who should register the team on the website of the tournament. All useful information will be submitted to the website before tournament.

*Marek Michalowski – President of the PBU*

*Kathie Macnab – President of the CBF*

*Wlodek Starkowski*

*Marek Wójcicki*

# World Bridge Calendar

## 2022

Dec 16-18	Polish Grand Prix Pairs Final	Starachowice, Poland	pzbs.pl
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 8-14	Uzdrowiskowy Congress	Plczyn-Zdroj, Poland	pzbs.pl
Jan 9-18	81 <sup>st</sup> International Bridge Festival	St. Moritz, Switzerland	bridgestmoritz.ch
Jan 10-15	8 <sup>th</sup> National Day Bridge Festival	Dubai, UAE	bridgewebs.com/4jacks
Jan 10-22	Summer Festival of Bridge	Canberra, Australia	abf.com.au
Jan 26-29	Reykjavik Bridge Festival	Reykjavik, Iceland	reykjavikbridgefestival.com
Jan 27-29	Winter in Vienna	Vienna, Austria	bridgeaustria.at
Feb 1-7	EBU Overseas Festival	Kyrenia, Cyprus	ebu.co.uk
Feb 17-25	61 <sup>st</sup> 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 10-12	SBU Peebles Congress	Peebles, Scotland	sbu.org.uk
Mar 14-19	Abano Bridge Festival	Abano Terme, Italy	federbridge.it
Mar 17-19	Fuengirola International Tournament	Costa del Sol, Spain	fuengirolabridge.com
Mar 18-19	Watanabe Cup	Tokyo, Japan	jcbl.or.jp
Mar 23-26	Tasmanian Festival	Hobart, Tasmania, Australia	abf.com.au
Mar 23-26	Torshaven Bridge Festival	Torshaven, Faroe Islands	bridge.fo/bridgefestival2023
Mar 23-26	Contra Cup	Bucharest, Romania	cupacontra.ro
Mar 24-28	Cyprus Bridge Festival	Germansogeia, Cyprus	cyprusbridge.org
Mar 27-31	Bridge Festival of Puerto de la Cruz	Puerto de la Cruz, Spain	aebridge.com
Apr 7-10	Easter Festival	London, England	ebu.co.uk
Apr 12-16	Palace Cup	Warsaw, Poland	pzbs.pl
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 20-23	Hotel Senator Meeting	Starachowice, Poland	pzbs.pl
Apr 21-27	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 6-7	Swiss Open	Opfikon, Switzerland	fsbridge.ch
May 6-13	23 <sup>rd</sup> German Bridge Festival	Wyk-auf-Föhr, Germany	bridge-verband.de
May 9-15	SBU Overseas Congress	Rhodes, Greece	sbu.org.uk
May 12-21	70 <sup>th</sup> Festival Juan-les-Pins	Antibes, France	ffbridge.fr
May 18-21	3 <sup>rd</sup> Gümüslük Bridge Festival	Gümüslük, Turkey	gumusluksporbric.com
May 25-29	Graz Bridge Days	Graz, Austria	bridgeaustria.at
Jun 3-17	10 <sup>th</sup> Euro Transnational Championships	Strasbourg, France	eurobridge.org
Jun 8-12	Victor Champion Cup	Melbourne, Australia	abf.com.au
Jul 8-15	Danish Bridge Festival	Svendborg, Denmark	bridgefestival.dk
Jun 16-18	Annecy International Festival	Annecy, France	ffbridge.fr
Jun 22-Jul 1	Slawa Bridge Congress	Slawa, Poland	pzbs.pl
Jun 30-Jul 11	International Bridge Festival	Biarritz, France	ffbridge.fr
Jul 8-20	Australian National Championships	Perth, Australia	abf.com.au
Jul 12-16	Salzkammergut Bridge Days	Ohlsdorf, Austria	bridgeaustria.at
Jul 13-23	ACBL Summer Nationals	Chicago, IL	acbl.org
Jul 28-Aug 5	Sopot Bridge Festival	Sopot, Poland	pzbs.pl
Jul 28-Aug 6	27 <sup>th</sup> Swedish Bridge Festival	Örebro, Sweden	svenskbridge.se
Jul 29-Aug 3	Chairman's Cup	Örebro, Sweden	svenskbridge.se
Aug 6-12	International Bridge Festival	Tulln, Austria	bridgeaustria.at
Aug 11-20	72 <sup>nd</sup> International Bridge Festival	La Baule-Escoublac, France	festivalbridgelabaule.com
Aug 18-27	Warsaw Grand Prix	Warsaw, Poland	pzbs.pl
<b>Aug 20-Sep 2</b>	<b>World Team Championships</b>	<b>Marrakech, Morocco</b>	<b>worldbridge.org</b>
Sep 1-3	International Women's Tournament	Augsburg, Germany	bridge-verband.de
Sep 22-24	Vilnius Cup	Vilnius, Lithuania	bridgescanner.com
Sep 29-Oct 2	Canberra in Bloom	Canberra, ACT, Australia	abf.com.au
Sep 30-Oct 7	NZB National Congress	New Zealand	nzbridge.co.nz
Oct 6-8	Città di Bologna	Bologna, Italy	federbridge.it
Oct 18-27	Sydney Spring Nationals	Canterbury, Australia	abf.com.au
Nov 9-12	Hütteldorf Trophy	Vienna, Austria	bridgeaustria.at
Nov 23-Dec 3	ACBL Fall Nationals	Atlanta, GA	acbl.org