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THE INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE PRESS ASSOCIATION

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

Bulletin No. 664

May 10, 2020

Editorial

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

The World Bridge Federation's "Eligibility to participate in the Bermuda Bowl (hereinafter BB) and Venice Cup" (VC) regulations state:

Only NBOs participating in the World Bridge Games are eligible to qualify to participate in the Bermuda Bowl and Venice Cup Championships held in either of the two subsequent odd-numbered years.

In each case, an Open Team or at least one Open Pair must participate in the Games in order to be eligible for the Bermuda Bowl and a Women's Team or at least one Women's Pair must participate to be eligible for the Venice Cup. There are no such criteria for the d'Orsi Seniors Bowl or the Mixed Teams Championship.

Twenty-twenty is (or was) a World Bridge Games (WBG) year. The WBF has outlined a plan to hold the WBG early in 2021, then continue with its regularly scheduled events. This means that the BB, VC, d'Orsi Trophy, Wuhan Cup and concomitant Pairs Championships would be held later in the same year, necessitating a trip to Salsomaggiore for the WBG should an NBO wish to compete in the BB/VC.

Recognising that NBOs' revenue worldwide has been drastically reduced by the inability of bridge clubs to operate as they normally would, if at all, the Australian Bridge Federation and New Zealand Bridge Inc. (with a combined 50,000 members) have sent a joint, open, letter to the WBF Management Committee requesting that the WBF rescind that requirement for the coming two BB/VC events. They:

1. request greater transparency and open communication between the WBF and NBOs
2. express concern about a potentially congested 2021 bridge calendar
3. state that latterly scheduled WBF events may conflict with already scheduled NBO national championships
4. are leery of the financial burden of two World Championships in the same year
5. ask if the WBF has a plan to offer financial assistance to NBOs that are struggling to support their clubs
6. argue for the need for a waiver of the BB/VC participation requirement for 2021
7. wish to conduct their Zonal Playoff electronically and seek approval to do so.

I am wholeheartedly in agreement with all of the ABF and NZB requests. I disagree with the WBF's BB/VC eligibility requirement entirely anyway, believing it to be elitist, biased toward Europe and tremendously disadvantageous to the less-affluent and smaller member NBOs, who might have to travel at great expense to Asia or Europe to compete.

I'd go further than the suggestion of the ABF and NZB: I'd plump for the WBF simply delaying all of their events by a year – hold the WBG in 2021 and the next BB/VC in 2022, the Rosenblum/McConnell/World Open Pairs in 2023 and so on. I am certain that most, if not all, member NBOs would agree to that without demur. Let's hope the WBF consults them.

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3rd EUROPEAN WINTER GAMES

29 FEBRUARY - 8 MARCH 2020

**Under the auspices of the EBL : Zimmermann Cup & FMB Trophy
29 February - 6 March**

**Under the auspices of the FMB : TOP - The Open Pairs
6 - 8 March**



2020 Zimmermann Cup

Quarterfinals & Semifinals

Marc Smith, Southampton, Hants., U.K.
Maurizio Di Sacco, Pisa, Italy

We reported on deals from the Swiss Qualifying quarterfinals, and final of the Zimmermann Cup, the premier event of the European Winter Games, last month. Here, we present three more quarterfinal deals, from Marc Smith, and a few from the semifinals by Maurizio Di Sacco. The Swiss Qualifying standings and all knockout match scores were also reported last month.

The Quarterfinals

Board 6. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

**♠ 10 4
♥ A K Q 10
♦ 8 7 2
♣ A 7 4**

<p>♠ Q</p> <p>♥ 6 2</p> <p>♦ 6 5</p> <p>♣ K Q 10 9 8 6 5 3</p>	<p>♠ K 9 8 5 2</p> <p>♥ J 9 7</p> <p>♦ A J 9 4</p> <p>♣ A J 7 6 3</p> <p>♥ 8 5 4</p> <p>♦ K Q 10 3</p> <p>♣ </p>
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West	North	East	South
Kalita	Helgemo	Nowosadzki	Lorenzini
Rosenberg	Pszczola	Gupta	Kwiecien
—	—	Pass	1♠
3♣	3♥	Pass	4♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Both Easts led the two of clubs. Both declarers won with the ace and immediately played a second club, East ruffing with the nine of hearts in front of dummy and switching to a low spade. Geir Helgemo rose with the ace, drew the remaining trumps in two rounds, and advanced the ten of spades. East could make the king of spades and the ace of diamonds, but that was all; North/South plus 420.

At the other table, Pszczola played low from dummy on the spade switch. West won with the queen, returned a second club for his partner to ruff with the jack of hearts and, after the ace of diamonds, received a spade ruff in return. North/South was two off, minus 100 and 11 IMPs to GUPTA.

In the other match, the Irish bid uncontested to four hearts played by North and John Carroll duplicated Helgemo's line of play to make ten tricks; North/South plus 420.

West	North	East	South
Fitzgibbon	Drijver	Mesbur	Brink
—	—	Pass	1♠
3♣	Double	Pass	4♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Drijver was alone, preferring a negative double rather than the natural three-heart bid chosen at the other tables where West had intervened. The result was, therefore, that South declared at this table, and West led the six of diamonds. East won with the ace and returned a diamond to declarer's king. Although he had been warned to some extent of the uneven club break, Brink did not expect West to hold an eight-card suit. It looked safe enough to take one club ruff, didn't it?

It wasn't! East ruffed the second round of clubs too high for declarer. Unlike at the tables in the other match, though, declarer here was given no more chances: East delivered his partner's diamond ruff, and a third round of clubs enabled Adam Mesbur to take the setting trick with the jack of hearts; North/South minus 50 and 10 IMPs to MORAN.

Board 24. Dealer West. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Moran	Multon	Carroll	Zimmermann
1♣ ¹	1♦	1♥ ²	Pass!
3NT	Pass	Pass	Pass
1. 2+ clubs			
2. Spades			

The second stanza had plenty of relatively dull deals, but a couple of real doozies. This board from early in the set produced a big swing in both matches.

Multon led the ace of diamonds and, when that went three, ten, deuce, he continued with the king and a third diamond to declarer's queen. Moran could cash his seven club tricks but, with no entry to dummy's ace of spades, that was the end of the line for declarer. Multon scored the last three tricks with the ace of hearts and winning diamonds; East/West minus 100.

At the other table:

West	North	East	South
Klukowski	Hanlon	Gawrys	McGann
1♣ ¹	3♦ ²	3♠	Pass
4♣	Pass	4♦	Double
4NT	Double	5♣	Double
Pass	Pass	Pass	
1. Polish			
2. Intermediate			

Once Piotr Gawrys was unwilling to be shut out by Tom Hanlon's intermediate three diamonds, his side was in trouble. Yes, Klukowski might have bid three notrump but, despite his void, perhaps he had thoughts of slam facing a partner who had forced to game. Yes, Gawrys might have passed four clubs, but would you?

The defence started with three rounds of diamonds, South ruffing. McGann exited with a trump. Klukowski valiantly tried the king of hearts, hoping that the defender with the ace did not have the outstanding trump, but it was not to be, Hanlon won with the ace of hearts and played his club. Declarer made just his seven trump tricks: four down, East/West minus 1100 and 14 IMPs to MORAN.

In the other match:

West	North	East	South
Helgemo	Pszczola	Lorenzini	Kwiecien
1♣	1♦	2♥ ¹	Double
3NT	Pass	Pass	Pass
1. Spades			

Pszczola also led a high diamond but Helgemo, noting the appearance of the ten from South, unblocked the jack. Unable to continue diamonds without allowing declarer into dummy, it looks like North can exit safely with a club, as he can always then prevent declarer from reaching dummy in diamonds. However, the run of the clubs would have caused North acute discomfort and he would eventually find himself endplayed to give declarer a ninth trick in one of the majors.

One way of beating the contract is for North to lead the jack of hearts at trick two. South overtakes with the queen (or overtakes the seven with the eight), which forces declarer to take his king immediately. After cashing his clubs, declarer can try building a diamond trick but the defenders will have hearts to cash. Pepsi found the other route to success, the jack of spades. This allowed declarer to make a trick with the ace, but he had no diamond trick. Helgemo cashed his seven clubs but, when he then played a diamond, North had kept his high diamond, a spade and the ace-jack of hearts. The defenders took the last four tricks: East/West minus 100 here too.

At the fourth table, it was again East who was in the spotlight:

West	North	East	South
Kalita	Meckstroth	Nowosadzki	Zia
1♣ ¹	1♦	3♥ ²	Double
3NT	4♥	Pass	Pass
Double	Pass	Pass	Pass
1. Could have 2 clubs if 18-19 balanced with 5 weak diamonds			
2. Spades			

At this table, Nowosadzki avoided the large penalty that bidding four spades probably would have led to, but then had to find a lead against four hearts doubled, with 20 IMPs resting on this decision.

Would you have found the winning lead of the ace of spades? Had he done so, Nowosadzki could then have given his partner a spade ruff at trick two. Kalita would have cashed two clubs to beat the contract by a trick. With teammates plus 100 at the other table, East/West plus 200 would have been worth 7 IMPs to PEPSI.

Instead, Nowosadzki chose to lead his partner's suit. Kalita took his two club tricks and switched to the jack of diamonds. Zia took dummy's two top diamonds and ruffed the third round, establishing the suit. He then ran the ten of hearts and, when that won, he repeated the trump finesse and claimed his 11 tricks; East/West minus 990 and an exciting 13 IMPs to GUPTA.

Although all four North/South pairs reached the same contract on the next deal, there was still plenty of excitement.

Board 40. Dealer West. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Helgemo	Pszczola	Lorenzini	Kwiecien
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♥
Pass	3♠	Pass	7♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

With both majors breaking, there is no defence. East can remove the ace of clubs by leading that suit or the trump entry with a diamond lead, but he cannot dislodge both. Lorenzini led the king of clubs, so declarer won, cashed two top hearts and ruffed a heart. When trumps split 2-2 he was then able to claim: North/South plus 2210.

Astute readers will have noted that this was not the best play, as declarer can cater for a four-one heart break by ruffing a low heart at trick three. With two trump entries to dummy, he could then cross to dummy and ruff a second heart should he need to.

West	North	East	South
Kalita	Meckstroth	Nowosadzki	Zia
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♥
Pass	3♠	Pass	5NT
Pass	6♠	Pass	7♠
Double	Pass	Pass	Pass

After the same start, Zia thought for a very long time before eventually emerging with his jump to five notrump. It seems that Zia intended this as asking for two top trump honours, whereas Meckstroth thought he was being offered a choice of six-level contracts.

You may wonder why Jacek Kalita doubled: he surely didn't think his ace would stand up after this auction. This was that rare bird, in effect if not intentioned, a psychic Lightner Double: his hope was that by showing the ability to ruff something at trick one, one of his opponents might be persuaded to convert to seven notrump against which, of course, he would be on lead. An imaginative effort! Maybe.

Neither opponent had a hand suitable for conversion so they stood their ground. Michal Nowosadzki deliberated for a very long time, trying to work out which red suit his partner was most likely to be ruffing, before eventually trying his luck with a heart. With dummy's club entry still intact, Meckstroth now needed nothing more than East to follow suit at trick one. He won with the ace of hearts and ruffed a heart with a high trump. When everyone followed, Meckstroth simply drew trumps and claimed: North/South plus 2470 and 6 IMPs to GUPTA.

In the other match, both declarers got the lead of the king of clubs against their grand slam:

West	North	East	South
Klukowski	Hanlon	Gawrys	McGann
Pass	4♣	Pass	5NT
Pass	7♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Tom Hanlon won with the ace of clubs and looked no further than trumps breaking: top heart, heart ruff, king of spades and a trump to the ace. An easy thirteen tricks: North/South plus 2210.

West	North	East	South
Moran	Multon	Carroll	Zimmermann
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♥
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♥
Pass	4♣	Pass	7♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Bridge can be a most frustrating game sometimes. I really cannot argue with Franck Multon's reasoning that the diamond finesse offered better odds than the two-two spade break. He won with the ace of clubs and immediately ruffed a club to hand in order to lead the king of diamonds. The idea was to take the ruffing finesse and eventually ruff two diamonds in dummy. The fourth diamond would later go on dummy's second high heart. Of course, this plan failed spectacularly when West showed up with the diamond ace; North/South minus 100 and a massive 20 IMPs to MORAN.

The Semifinals

The semifinals of the 2020 European Winter Games featured four very powerful teams: every team fielded at least two world champions, with only RUSSIA lacking players with multiple world titles. One match had a favourite: GUPTA over RUSSIA, while SWISS TEAM (Zimmerman's new project) vs. LAVAZZA was too close to call.

Board 7. Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Khokhlov	Gupta	Dubinin	Rosenberg
—	—	—	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♣ ¹	Pass
2♥	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♦	Pass	3NT	Pass
4♣	Pass	4♣	Pass
6♣	Double	Pass	Pass
Pass			
I. Natural, GF			

West	North	East	South
Mahmood	Gromov	Meckstroth	Gulevich
—	—	—	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♥	Pass	2NT	Pass
3NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

Board 7 was uneventful in LAVAZZA vs. SWISS TEAM (1 IMP to the Swiss, both teams declaring in three notrump), but generated a big, spectacular swing in the other match. While Mahmood/ Meckstroth rested in three notrump, Khokhlov drove to six clubs and Gupta found a double, asking for a spade lead. Debbie Rosenberg, however, did not oblige, leading a trump instead. Had she led a spade, declarer would probably have found his way home.

However, the club lead offered Dubinin an alternative, and the rope with which to hang himself. He won the lead in hand with the king, cashed the king and ace of diamonds, ruffed the third diamond in dummy, then played a spade toward his hand. Gupta won it, and played a fourth round of diamonds, promoting the setting trick in trumps: South's eight.

Declarer had a few winning alternatives, but the one I fancy most starts with a second round of clubs. When North shows out, you place four clubs with South, together with, probably, two or three spades (she would certainly have led the suit with a singleton). Accordingly, you play a spade, and (a.) if North plays the ace and another, you have enough entries to set up the fifth spade; or (b.) if North ducks, you pull trumps and play another spade, eventually setting up the fifth card of the suit; or (c.) if North wins and plays a diamond (best defence), you win in hand, pull trumps, unblock the king of spades and proceed as before. The bottom line was that GUPTA won 13 IMPs, when RUSSIA might have collected the 13-IMP bounty.

Board 10. Dealer East. Both Vul.

♠ A K J 8 3

♡ A 3

♦ K Q 7 5

♣ A 8

♠ 5 2

♡ K Q J 10 8 5

♦ 9 2

♣ J 7 3

♠ 9 7 4

♡ 7 6 4 2

♦ A J 8 3

♣ 9 4

West	North	East	South
Klukowski	Bilde	Gawrys	Madala
—	—	Pass	Pass
2♦ ¹	Double	2♥ ²	Pass
Pass	Double	Pass	3♦ ³
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♦
Pass	4♥	Pass	4NT ⁴
Pass	5♣	Double	Pass
Pass	Redouble ⁵	Pass	5♦
Pass	Pass	Pass	
1. Weak 2 in either major			
2. Pass or correct			
3. Reverse Lebensohl			
4. Encouraging			
5. First-round control			

Board 10 passed under the radar of 1-IMP obscurity but, in fact, Madala found a fine play to hold the IMPs lost on the board to just one. Playing in five diamonds rather than four spades (played at all three other tables), which had a straight-forward ten tricks there for the taking, Madala had more work to do.

It is unclear who (if anyone) should be blamed for reaching the wrong spot: first of all, if you note that LAVAZZA play reverse Lebensohl in this situation: two notrump would have shown a stronger hand than an immediate three diamonds. Then, Bilde's three hearts, after two doubles, is probably a bit exaggerated, but Madala, who had certainly denied four spades, could have bid three spades to show a three-card suit. But, fair enough not to when he had reasons to think his partner could not have five of them.

As it was, Klukowski, guided by his partner's double of five clubs, led the jack of clubs against five diamonds. You may argue that hearts were solid, but Klukowski knew dummy to be very strong, and was certainly holding the ace of hearts, thus it makes sense that he went for the legitimate chance of trapping a hypothetical king-third of clubs. Had he led a heart, Madala would have had even more work to do, yet, he might still have succeeded.

Madala ducked the jack-of-clubs lead and won the heart shift with the ace. He cashed three top diamonds, the ace of clubs and the two top spades, then threw Gawrys in with the queen of spades to force a ruff-and-discard. Declarer had two handy clues not to finesse the jack of spades: (i.) the two-diamond opening, and (ii.) the jack-of-clubs lead could have been from jack-ten-to-length. Had West led a heart instead, to get home, at some point South would have needed to play a club to dummy's eight, keeping West off lead. I'm pretty sure he would have been up to the task.

Board 13. Dealer North. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Khokhlov	Gupta	Dubinin	Rosenberg
—	1♦	1♥	4♦
4♠	5♦	6♦	Pass
6♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

West	North	East	South
Mahmood	Gromov	Meckstroth	Gulevich
—	1♦	1♥	5♦
Pass	Pass	Double	Pass
Pass	Pass		

West	North	East	South
Khukowski	Bilde	Gawrys	Madala
—	1♦	1♥	5♦
Double	Pass	6♦	Pass
7♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

West	North	East	South
Sementa	Drijver	Bocchi	Brink
—	1♦¹	1♥	4♦
4♠	5♦	6♦	Double
Pass	Pass	Redouble²	Pass
6♠	Pass	Pass	7♦
Double³	Pass	7♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. 5+ diamonds, unbalanced, unless any 4-4-4-1 with 4 diamonds
2. First-round control
3. Encouraging

RUSSIA scored a huge pick-up when Gulevich's aggressive five-diamond bid won the pot, Mahmood taking a losing view in passing his partner's double, collecting a very-meagre plus 200. In the other room, Khokhlov, despite his powerful spade holding, did not accept his partner's invite and rested in six spades, probably wondering if he was about to lose 13 IMPs when dummy came down. He must have been relieved to learn his team had won 15, limiting his personal loss to 4 IMPs (had he bid the grand, his team would have made a 19-IMP gain).

In the other match, Sementa took exactly the same, very pessimistic view, but Brink came to the rescue: over his sacrifice, Sementa, probably regretting his

previous shy bid, doubled, suggesting action, and Bocchi was happy to bid seven. Flat at 2210 apiece, when Klukowski was the only one to give full value to his spade holding and his partner's six-diamond bid.

The first stanza ended with a 9-IMP penalty served to RUSSIA for slow play, making the score GUPTA 68–RUSSIA 38. The other match score was 40–27 in favour of SWISS TEAM.

Board 22. Dealer East. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Brink	Bilde	Drijver	Duboin
—	—	1♣¹	Pass
1♠²	Pass	2♦	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♣	Pass
4♦	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♣	Pass	6♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. 2+ clubs, natural or balance outside the INT range
2. 7+ HCP, 4+ spades

West	North	East	South
Sementa	Multon	Bocchi	Zimmermann
—	—	2♣¹	Pass
2♥²	Pass	2♠	Pass
3♣	Double	3♥	Pass
4♦	Pass	4♥	Pass
4NT³	Pass	5♦⁴	Pass
6♠	Pass	Pass	Pass
1. 18-19 balanced			
2. Transfer to spades			
3. RKCB			
4. 0 or 3 key cards			

Both teams stopped in game in GUPTA vs. RUSSIA, while both bid slam in the other match. Basically, where East/West stopped, West showed a splinter in hearts, and East was not enthusiastic about it. In the other match, the two Wests showed slam interest and East cooperated. The four declarers all scored the same 11 tricks, so the hand was flat all around, but Bocchi had a tiny, realistic chance to bring his slam home, because he had a piece of information Brink lacked: he knew Multon held at least five clubs, because of

the double of three clubs and the lead of the club seven.

Brink won the club lead in hand, cashed the king of spades, went to dummy with the king of hearts, then played a diamond towards his queen. Had the queen of diamonds held, he would have gone to dummy with a spade, discarded a diamond, then ducked a diamond, banking on either diamonds splitting three-three, or South holding the doubleton ace. No luck, down one.

At the other table, Bocchi won the club lead in hand, cashed the ace and king of spades, came back to hand with the king of hearts and cashed the ace of hearts, pitching a club, before seeing South follow suit. At that point, declarer could count two spades and at most two clubs in South, but he also knew something that was not shown on BBO, which I discovered when I interviewed him: South had taken more than two minutes before leading.

For that reason, Bocchi decided to credit him with a doubleton club and a likely very strong heart holding, such as queen-jack-ten-to-six. South was considering leading a heart rather than a club in response to his partner's double. In other words, he played for the following layout: North to hold a 2=3=3=5, with the ace of diamonds. Accordingly, he continued by cashing two spade winners ending in hand, then the ace of hearts and a heart ruff, then the next-to-last spade, hoping to come to the following ending:

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

On the last trump, North would have been fatally squeezed without the count: had he pitched a diamond, declarer would have played on diamonds, leading to the king and ducking on the second round; had North thrown a club instead, Bocchi would have cashed the king of clubs before playing a diamond. However, North originally held four hearts, and when declarer played a diamond North was able to win it and cash the queen of hearts.

Bocchi's line was brilliant, and came from dynamics at the table that a spectator online cannot appreciate. Obviously, he could have played for the actual layout: had he done so, his team would have scored 14 IMPs.

Board 25. Dealer North. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Brink	Bilde	Drijver	Duboin
—	1♣	3♥	Double
Pass	3NT	Pass	Pass
Double	Pass	Pass	Pass
West	North	East	South
Sementa	Multon	Bocchi	Zimmermann
—	1♣	3♥	3♠ ¹
Pass	3NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			I. Bid 3NT with a heart stop
West	North	East	South
Khiuppenen	Meckstroth	Kholomeev	Mahmood
—	1♣	2♥	3♥
Pass	3NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			
West	North	East	South
Helgemo	Khokhlov	Lorenzini	Dubinin
—	1♣ ¹	2♥	Double
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	
	I. Polish: (i) natural, (ii) strong, or (iii) a weak notrump		

Lorenzini and Bocchi led a low diamond, and both declarers ducked in dummy, eventually coming to eleven and ten tricks respectively, without breaking a sweat. However, Drijver – guided by his partner's enterprising double – and Kholomeev, on his own initiative, led the eight of spades, putting declarer to the test. Both ducked in dummy, winning West's jack with the ace, then played a diamond to dummy's queen, ducked. Here, their paths diverged. Meckstroth cashed the ace of clubs (already fatal), then the king of clubs, and played another diamond up:ten,jack,king,ace. West cashed his club winners, then played a heart. Kholomeev could have set the contract two tricks by playing a spade through but, afraid of finding North with the queen of spades, cashed his diamond nine, the setting trick.

Bilde, instead, went along the line suggested by Deep Finesse: he won the spade lead in hand, led a diamond

to the queen, holding the trick and, at trick three, ran the queen of hearts, losing to the king. He won the spade switch in dummy (ducking leads to the same outcome), cashed the ten of hearts, entered his hand with the king of clubs, and cashed heart winners, to come to:

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

In the above position, West still had to find a discard, but had nothing convenient to pitch: a club would have set up another winner in the suit; a spade would have allowed North to cash the seven of spades, repeating the squeeze-endplay, and a diamond – his choice at the table – allowed Bilde to unerringly duck a diamond. Plus 750 and 3, very-well-deserved, IMPs went to LAVAZZA.

You might say that Brink's double had given away the layout. However, after the spade lead, you know where the ace of diamonds is, and whether West has three or four clubs does not change the principle. This time, youth prevailed over experience, and kudos to Bilde: not many can tell their grandchildren that they outplayed Jeff Meckstroth.

Board 38. Dealer East. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Brink	Bilde	Drijver	Duboin
—	—	Pass	1♦
2♥	2♠	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♣	Pass	4◊
Pass	4♥	Pass	4NT ¹
Pass	5♦ ²	Pass	5♥ ³
Pass	6♠ ⁴	Pass	Pass
Pass			
1. RKCB			
2. 0 or 3 key cards			
3. Queen-ask			
4. Spade queen, no outside king			

West	North	East	South
Sementa	Multon	Bocchi	Zimmermann
—	—	Pass	1♦
3♥	Double	Pass	4♠
Pass	5♣	Pass	6♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

West	North	East	South
Khiuppenen	Meckstroth	Kholomeev	Mahmood
—	—	Pass	1♦
2♥	2♠	Pass	4♠
Pass	4NT ¹	Pass	5♦ ²
Pass	6♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

1. RKCB
2. 1 or 4 key cards

West	North	East	South
Helgemo	Khokhlov	Lorenzini	Dubinin
—	—	Pass	1♦
2♥	Double	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♥	Pass	3NT
Pass	4♣	Pass	4◊
Pass	4♥	Pass	4♠
Pass	4NT ¹	Pass	5♣ ²
Pass	5♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

1. RKCB
2. 1 or 4 key cards

Slam is not a brilliant proposition: if the king of spades behaves, you still need diamonds three-two, and if they aren't, your chances are small, yet three pairs reached it – Khokhlov/Dubinin the only ones to stay out. Dubinin received the six-of-diamonds lead and cashed the ace of spades. That led to 12 tricks the easiest way.

Zimmermann, also playing from South, received the same lead, but in six, the spade finesse is the percentage play: he ran the ten of spades and lost to the spade king and a diamond ruff; minus 100.

Now let's have a look at the protagonists of our story: the American won the heart lead with the king in dummy and ran the ten of spades. When that lost to the king, he pulled trumps, leery of East ruffing a heart in front of dummy, and relied on the queen-jack of diamonds falling: down one and 13 IMPs to Russia instead of – as Bilde proved – plus 13 to his side.

The Dane did much better: he led a low spade to the queen, won the heart continuation and ruffed a heart. He came back to hand with a trump and ruffed another heart. Back to hand with the ace of clubs, he cashed all of his trumps but one to come to the position at the top of the next column.

The last spade from North squeezed Brink in the minors.

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

That was a magnificent plus 1430 and an exceptional 17 IMPs to LAVAZZA. The match was even at 93 IMPs apiece. Dennis Bilde will have two tales for his grandchildren about having outplayed Jeff Meckstroth.

At the start of the third stanza, both matches were still very much alive. SWISS TEAM led by just a single IMP, and GUPTA was ahead by 16. That was far from decisive.

Sjoert Brink made a fine defensive play on the next deal to convince Antonio Sementa that things were different from what they really were.

Board 46. Dealer East. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Madala	Drijver	Sementa	Brink
—	—	1♡	2♠
2NT ¹	4♠	5♡	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. 3+-card limit raise in hearts

Three East/West pairs took the push to five hearts over four spades while Gawrys/Klukowski preferred to apply the axe. Right they were: plus 800. However, it looked like it would be only a small gain because, thanks to a friendly layout, five hearts had scored 12 tricks at both tables in GUPTA vs RUSSIA. Gulevich had received a heart lead to the king and ace. She'd led a spade and Helgemo had switched to a club to dummy's jack. Against Meckstroth, Kholomeev led the ace of spades and another spade. Declarer ruffed, finessed in hearts, finessed dummy's jack of clubs and, when it had held, played another heart.

Sementa, however, found an 'enterprising' line of play, which led to the contract going down after a smart play by Brink. Like Kholomeev, Brink started off with two rounds of spades. Sementa ruffed, and finessed his queen of hearts. At this point, declarer overtook his king of diamonds with dummy's ace and ran the jack of diamonds, pitching a club. South won and gave declarer a ruff-sluff by playing a third round of spades. That very clever move offered Sementa an attractive alternative: convinced that hearts were not splitting, he ruffed in hand, went to dummy with the king of clubs and cashed the ten of diamonds, banking on North holding at least three diamonds. South ruffed: curtains, and 14 IMPs to SWISS TEAM, now ahead by 119–98.

Board 54. Dealer East. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Madala	Drijver	Sementa	Brink
—	—	Pass	INT ¹
Pass	2♡ ²	Pass	2♠ ³
Pass	3♣ ⁴	Pass	3♦ ⁵
Pass	3♠ ⁶	Pass	4♦ ⁷
Pass	4NT ⁸	Pass	5♣ ⁹
Pass	6♣ ¹⁰	Pass	6♡ ¹¹
Pass	6♠ ¹²	Pass	7♣ ¹³
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. 15-17
2. Transfer, but could be a 4-card suit
3. Denies 4 spades
4. Natural
5. Relay
6. Short hearts
7. Natural
8. RKCB for clubs (South); for diamonds (North)
9. North: 0 or 3 key cards for diamonds; South: 0 or 3 key cards for clubs, both clearly impossible
10. To play, knowing something has gone off the rails
11. Oops, clubs? Oh yes, 4♡ would have agreed diamonds; now offering a choice (in his mind) of 7♣ or 7♦
12. Boy, am I confused. Who messed up here?
13. I did; I hope this is a playable contract or you can convert to one that is

Three pairs missed the grand slam in clubs, which is a fair bet: whenever you don't have a trump loser (roughly 74%) and you don't get a heart lead (which takes away one of your transportation links with dummy), you win when either spades or diamonds split no worse than four-two, or there's some squeeze (the most promising: if East controls diamonds, and West spades, there's an automatic double squeeze, with hearts as the middle suit).

If you do get the heart lead, you win when spades are no worse than four-two, or diamonds are three-three, or the queen and jack of diamonds are doubleton, or there's an unlikely squeeze in diamonds and spades. You can give it a total close to 70%. Alternatively, you can cash two clubs, then two rounds of spades, planning to ruff the third if they split five-one, hoping for the same player holding five spades and three clubs. My estimation says this line is inferior, but mathematicians are welcome to illuminate. So, kudos to Brink/Drijver for having reached the grand.

Sementa led the nine of diamonds against Drijver, who had enough entries to set up diamonds and come to the requisite number of tricks; 11 IMPs to SWISS TEAM, back to some more comfortable, though far-from-decisive, distance: 155–126.

The other three declarers received the dreaded heart lead, but only Lorenzini went for the spade ruff, winning an IMP for GUPTA.

Board 57. Dealer North. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Klukowski	Bilde	Gawrys	Duboin
—	Pass	1♥	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♥	Pass
4♦ ¹	Pass	4NT ²	Pass
5♥ ³	Pass	6♥	Pass
Pass	Pass		
1. Splinter			
2. RKCB			
3. 2 key cards, no trump queen			

West	North	East	South
Madala	Drijver	Sementa	Brink
—	Pass	1♥	Pass
1♠	2♣	2♥	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♦	Pass
4♣	Pass	4♦	Pass
4♥	Pass	4♣	Pass
6♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

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

1. Forcing
2. 6 hearts
3. RKCB
4. 2 key cards, no trump queen

West	North	East	South
Mahmood	Khiuppenen	Meckstroth	Kholomeev
—	Pass	1♥	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♥	Pass
4♦ ¹	Pass	4NT ²	Pass
5♥ ³	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. Splinter
2. RKCB
3. 2 key cards, no trump queen

Meckstroth and Mahmood were the only pair to miss the marginal slam; Gulevich misguessed trumps after the ace-of-diamonds lead and club switch; 11 IMPs to Gupta, ahead by 82, already home and dry.

Gawrys did guess hearts after the same start as Gulevich's, but Sementa, who received the five-of-clubs lead, had to earn his slam the hard way. He won with the queen of clubs, cashed the king of hearts, then the ace and king of spades. He entered dummy with the ace of hearts and, since the queen of hearts had not fallen, declarer had another string to his bow: he cashed ace-king of clubs, then the queen of spades and, when South followed, tabled another spade to dispose of his last club. Well bowled; flat at plus 980 apiece.

The stanza score was an enormous 83–43 in SWISS TEAM's favour, 177–136 overall. This match displayed a few brilliant plays on each side but, in the last stanza, SWISS TEAM outplayed and outbid LAVAZZA, ending as worthy winner.

SWISS TEAM defeated GUPTA for the gold medal.

TRIBUTE

George Retek,
Montréal

There are ordinary, ever-day deals that sometimes escape our attention until we realize the precision and extraordinary timing required to fulfil them. Alvin (Al) Levy, the First Vice-President of the World Bridge Federation, timed the following deal perfectly.

Everyone knows Al as the Chief Organizer of the World Computer Bridge Championships for over a decade, and Past President of the ACBL (recently retired from the Board of Directors after 24 years of service), who almost single-handedly convinced the ACBL Board of Directors to issue masterpoints for bridge games played online, thereby enriching the coffers of the organization by millions of dollars. Not



so many people know that Al is also an excellent bridge player, as demonstrated in a recent game played at Jourdan's Bridge Club in Delray Beach, Fla.

Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

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

After a mundane auction, Al, as East, became the declarer in four spades. He received a low heart lead. After winning the ace of hearts over North's king, declarer (realizing the problem in transportation) played a club, won by North's king. North might have interfered with Al's timing by returning a heart, if South had had the nine of the suit, but chose to play a club to his partner's ace. South continued with a third round of clubs, won by dummy. At trick five, Al ran the ten of spades, followed by the eight, overtaken by the nine. This crucial play extracted South's trumps and

set the stage, finally, for the diamond plays. First the king, then low to the ace set up a proven ruffing finesse against North's queen. The well-preserved king of spades was the crucial entry to the established diamonds, and declarer collected 11 tricks.

The full deal:

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

South probably did well to avoid leading his singleton diamond, which would have immediately solved many problems for declarer, not that it mattered in the end.



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IBPA Column Service

Tim Bourke, Canberra



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997. Dealer East. Both Vul.

♠ Q 9 4 3
♡ K 9 3 2
♦ A 4
♣ A Q 6

♠ —
♡ J 8 6
♦ K J 8 7 5 3
♣ 10 9 7 5

♠ 8 7
♡ A Q 10 7 5
♦ Q 9 2
♣ K J 2

♠ A K J 10 6 5 2
♡ 4
♦ 10 6
♣ 8 4 3

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

After a straightforward auction, West led the six of hearts. Declarer was a bit surprised that North had not bid three notrump; however, that could have been a bad move if South had held a minor-suit king instead of the ace of spades.

Declarer's first step was to cover the six of hearts with dummy's nine, to prevent East from ducking and leaving West on lead to shift to a club. East won the nine of hearts with the queen and found the excellent return of the queen of diamonds, guarding against declarer having the king-ten-eight or king-ten-nine, which declarer took with dummy's ace. Declarer expected East to have the king of clubs; consequently, he saw that his best shot would be to be endplay East with the fourth round of hearts, forcing him to lead a club into dummy's tenace or concede a ruff-and-discard.

In order to bring this to fruition, declarer realised that he had to stop West from gaining the lead in diamonds. As a result, he played dummy's king of hearts at trick three and discarded his remaining diamond from hand when East played the ace on the king. East could see that returning a red suit would assist declarer and so exited with a trump. Declarer played the five of trumps from hand and won the trick with dummy's nine in order to ruff a heart in hand with the ace of trumps. Next, declarer led the ten of trumps to dummy's queen and

ruffed dummy's remaining diamond with his king of trumps. All that remained was to lead the carefully preserved two of trumps to dummy's three to reach dummy for the last time.

Declarer then executed the final step of his plan: he led dummy's fourth heart and let East win the trick by discarding a club from his hand. East had two unappetising options: he could return a club into the ace-queen or give declarer a ruff-and-discard. Either way, declarer would make ten tricks.

998. Dealer South. EW Vul.

♠ A 8 4 3
♡ J 7 5
♦ 10 7 2
♣ Q 6 2

♠ 7 2
♡ 10 9 2
♦ K J 5
♣ J 9 7 4 3

♠ 6
♡ 8 6 4 3
♦ 9 8 6 4
♣ K 10 8 5

♠ K Q J 10 9 5
♡ A K Q
♦ A Q 3
♣ A

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

The auction had a small technical point for this pair: the jump to three notrump promised four spades, whereas a simple raise to three spades would have shown three of the suit, both responses being positive and encouraging. South checked for key cards and, on finding one, asked, with five notrump, for North to bid any suit in which he held the king.

West led the ten of hearts against six spades. This was taken in hand by declarer with his queen. Declarer counted eleven tricks, with a twelfth seemingly dependent on East holding the king of diamonds. Never one to rely on a simple finesse when there were other possibilities, declarer cashed the ace of clubs at trick two, then led the king of spades to dummy's

ace. Declarer continued by ruffing dummy's six of clubs with his nine of trumps. Then he cashed the queen of trumps and the ace-king of hearts before leading his five of trumps to dummy's eight. Declarer's next move was to call for dummy's queen of clubs.

If East had followed with a low club declarer's plan was to throw the three of diamonds from his hand. If West took the trick with the king of clubs he would be endplayed, forced to lead a diamond or concede a ruff-sluff – giving declarer his twelfth trick.

Alas for declarer, East played the king of clubs on the queen. Declarer found a neat counter-measure by ruffing in hand and leading a low diamond. This would have guaranteed a second diamond trick (or gained a ruff-and-discard) either if West had started with the jack of diamonds or East with the king of diamonds. As the cards lay, West had to play his jack of diamonds and the resulting endplay made sure that declarer had his twelfth trick.

Note that, instead of relying on the diamond finesse alone, declarer came up with a plan that would succeed if West had either the king of clubs or the jack of diamonds, and also when the king of diamonds was onside.

999. Dealer East. Both Vul.

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

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

At one table in a team game, South jumped insouciantly to game over the simple raise. In the other, South took a more thoughtful line in the auction and, as we shall see, in the play. The defenders at both tables began with three rounds of diamonds, with West ruffing the third round with his six of trumps.

The first declarer overruffed the six with dummy's ten and then led a low spade to his queen. When West discarded a heart, declarer had to lose a trump and a club for down one.

The second declarer expected East to have the king of spades. As declarer had a sure club loser, declarer thought it better to lose the club now and discarded the three of clubs from the table. West recovered from his surprise at winning the trick and exited with the queen of hearts. Declarer took this with his king of hearts and crossed to dummy with a low

club to the ace. Next, he led the jack of trumps from dummy and, when East played low, declarer played low from hand. A low trump to the nine and queen was followed by the ace of spades to draw East's last trump. All that remained was for declarer to cash the king of clubs and ruff a club for his tenth trick.

1000. Dealer West. NS Vul.

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

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

West's double was in the modern style, showing three-card heart support. East's double asked partner to do something intelligent. As it looked to West that his side likely had the non-spade suits well covered, he passed – which was a good decision up to a point, as five of either minor would have failed by at least two tricks.

Despite making a good decision in the auction, West made a not-so-good one by leading the king of diamonds to ask for count in the suit. East indicated an odd number of diamonds, probably three, and so West shifted to a low heart at trick two.

Declarer took this with the ace and deduced from the heart shift that West did not have a trump in his hand – otherwise, it was the obvious shift with such a dummy on display. Declarer saw that the contract would fail if East gained the lead and played the ace and another trump. So, declarer won the second trick with the ace of hearts and then led the ten of diamonds, intending to throw his remaining heart if East followed low. When East carefully played the queen of diamonds, declarer won the trick by ruffing in hand. After cashing the ace of clubs and ruffing a club, declarer called for dummy's nine of diamonds. When East could not cover, declarer threw the nine of hearts from hand – mission accomplished!

West won the diamond and tried a forlorn queen of hearts. Declarer ruffed, then trumped a club in dummy, a heart in hand and another club in dummy. East over-ruffed and returned a trump, but to no avail. Declarer made eight trumps on a crossruff and the round-suit aces, for a total of ten tricks.

Of note is that declarer would have failed if West had led a heart, a low diamond or one of his club honours. After any of these starts, East would have been able to win a trick and play the ace and another trump, thereby holding declarer to nine tricks.

3RD ALT INVITATIONAL

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The Rocky Horror Show by JvC

Round 1. ROSENTHAL v DeBOTTON

After the first five or six boards, I got so bored that I called my friend Toine van Hoof, arguably the best bridge journalist in The Netherlands. He is typically the kind of guy who cheers you up with funny stories or hot news. Not so this time; he sounded miserable and disappointed: 'Dull boards. Nothing is happening.' So I hung up.

Then came this deal...

Board 7. Dealer South. Both Vul.

♠ 7

♥ Q 10 8

♦ Q 7 3

♣ J 9 6 5 3 2

♠ A Q 10 8

♠ K J 6 4 3

♥ 3

♥ A 5 4

♦ A 10 9 8 5 4

♦ —

♣ K 8

♣ A Q 10 7 4

♠ 9 5 2

♥ K J 9 7 6 2

♦ K J 6 2

♣ —

After a Multi Two-Diamond opening by South, East/West succeeded in right-sizing the grand slam in spades. Against seven spades, South led a trump and declarer, Jan Jansma, went into the tank. That gave a Vugraph commentator the opportunity to quote a kibitzer: 'Chris is the better bidder, Jan the better player.' We shall see. Jansma won the spade lead in the dummy. He played a heart to the ace and ruffed a heart, crossed back to hand in spades and ruffed another heart. Then he ruffed a diamond in hand, drew the outstanding trump, played a club to the king and claimed the balance when South showed out. Declarer did well to avoid touching the clubs at an early stage. Rosenthal won 10 IMPs on the board because at the other table East/West rested in six spades.

It appears that declarer might set up the diamonds with three ruffs, but that is an illusion: he needs three entries back to the dummy and, of necessity, one of these must be a club. Declarer should, however, have ruffed a diamond at trick two. But, when he leads a second round of trumps and North shows out, ruffing any more diamonds becomes fraught with danger as South is by then known to possess just four minor-suit cards. Had South shown out on the second round of trumps or, had both defenders followed, ruffing the diamonds would have been a good plan.

Naïveté by JGC

Round 7. STREET v BLASS

With STREET leading 26-7 after the first 12 boards, a lineup change was in order: Sjoert Brink/Sebastian Drijver came in for Josef Blass/Jacek Pszczola. The BBO commentators wondered if B/D could staunch the flow of blood from BLASS' wounds. This was their first deal:

Board 13. Dealer North. Both Vul.

♠ —

♥ Q J 10 9 6

♦ J 10 9 3

♣ J 8 7 2

♠ A J 9 2

♠ Q 10 8 7 3

♥ 8 4 3

♥ 7 5 2

♦ K 6 5

♦ 7

♣ Q 9 4

♣ K 10 5 3

♠ K 6 5 4

♥ A K

♦ A Q 8 4 2

♣ A 6

West	North	East	South
Brink	I'Ecuyer	Drijver	Street
—	2♥ ¹	Pass	2NT ²
Pass	3♣ ³	Pass	3♦ ⁴
Pass	5♦	Pass	6♦
Double	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. 5+ hearts and 4+ either minor, weak
2. Enquiry
3. Clubs
4. Natural, forcing

It appears that Brink's double of six diamonds and lead of the spade ace were rather naïve for a player of his ability and experience. What did he think North held for his bidding? He'd promised five hearts and four clubs and had leapt to five diamonds.

It was soon over, Paul Street ruffed the ace of spades in the dummy and ran the jack of diamonds to West. West shifted to the four of clubs, but it was too late: declarer won with his ace, cashed one diamond and two hearts, then led a diamond to dummy, pulling West's last trump. There were three pitches on dummy's hearts for declarer's remaining losers.

Would an initial club lead have helped West's cause? No – declarer wins with the ace, cashes the ace and king of hearts, ruffs a spade and discards his club loser on the third heart. He then ruffs two clubs in hand and two spades in dummy to reach:

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

With the lead in dummy, declarer ruffs the jack of clubs with the ace of diamonds, then ruffs the king of spades with the jack of diamonds. He is left with the queen-eight of diamonds to take care of West's king-six.

So, the answer was no, Brink/Drijver could not plug the leaks in the dike.

Unanimous Acclaim by JGC

Semifinals. GUPTA v STREET

Cédric Lorenzini is one of France's, which means the world's, best players. Thomas Bessis recognizes this and has turned down lucrative offers to play elsewhere in order to continue his partnerships with Lorenzini and Frédéric Volcker for France. In the semifinal of the GUPTA team's match against STREET, with two boards to play, STREET led by 1.1 IMPs (6.1 IMPs carry-forward). Lorenzini was the only one of four top-class declarers, including his opponent at the other table, to make three notrump on the following deal.

Board 23. Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Pachtman	Lorenzini	Zatorski	Bessis
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	1♣	Pass	1♦
Pass	INT	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass

Bessis upgraded his hand after Lorenzini took another bid over one diamond; besides he had seen Lorenzini twirl the dummy before. Piotr Zatorski led the four of clubs to the five, jack and queen. As had the other three declarers, Lorenzini led the ace and eight of diamonds – it was a big disappointment when East discarded a heart and produced a couple of minutes thought. Finally, Lorenzini won with dummy's king, played the ace and a heart to the king, confirming that he had four heart tricks, then produced the master stroke: the ten of clubs. He hoped to build a second club trick or, if that failed, to sever the transportation between the East and West hands. And indeed it did: East won with the king of clubs and cashed the nine, letting his partner know the exact situation.

At that point, Zatorski could not afford to take the ace of clubs as that would have set up the eight in declarer's hand for his ninth trick. Unfortunately for East, that meant that the clubs were dead and gone. He shifted to the eight of spades: four, queen, ace. Declarer took his two heart tricks and led a spade from the dummy: nine, seven, jack, three. That was declarer's ninth trick and 12 IMPs, putting the match on ice when the last board was flat.

The BBO Vugraph commentators, the spectators, his partner and his opponents all said variations of "Well played."

It would have been anti-climactic to lose the final after that performance and indeed GUPTA (Huub Bertens/Naren Gupta, Thomas Bessis/Cédric Lorenzini, Bauke Muller/Simon de Wijs) won the final over RUSSIA (Alexander Dubinin/Yury Khokhlov, Andrey Gromov/Anna Gulevich, Vadim Kholomeev/Yury Khuppenen).



OZ BRIDGE

Ron Klinger,
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This was Board 4 in Session 4 in a long-running match on BBO between the Australian Open Team (Nabil Edgton – Andy Hung, Peter Gill – Sartaj Hans, Michael Courtney – Paul Wyer) and the New Zealand Open Team (Ashley Bach – Michael Cornell, Nick Jacob – GeO Tislevoll, Peter Newell – Martin Reid).

Dealer East. Both Vul.

♠ J 8 6

♥ 9 7 4 3

♦ K 7 4 2

♣ A 7

♠ K 10

♥ A K 6

♦ J 10 8 5 3

♣ Q J 4

West	North	East	South
Courtney	Reid	Wyer	Newell
—	—	—	1♣ ¹
1♠	Double	Pass	INT
Double	Pass	2♠	Pass
Pass	Double ²	Pass	3♦
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. Natural or balanced

2. Primarily for takeout

West leads the six of diamonds. Which diamond do you play from dummy?

Here was the full deal...

♠ J 8 6

♥ 9 7 4 3

♦ K 7 4 2

♣ A 7

♠ A Q 5 4 3

♥ J 8

♦ A Q 6

♣ K 10 8

♠ K 10

♥ A K 6

♦ J 10 8 5 3

♣ Q J 4

♠ 9 7 2

♥ Q 10 5 2

♦ 9

♣ 9 6 5 3 2

Before we look at the result of the lead problem, here's what happened at the other table:

West	North	East	South
Bach	Hans	Cornell	Gill
—	—	—	INT ¹
Double ²	Pass	2♣ ³	Pass
Pass	Double ⁴	Pass	2♦
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. 14-16 points
2. Suggests penalties
3. Clubs and another suit
4. Takeout

Bach led the jack of hearts 'round to declarer's ace, Cornell encouraging. South played the ten of diamonds. West rose with the ace, essentially telegraphing the diamond queen as well. With the ace-doubleton or -third, West would play low. West could tell that playing for a heart ruff was futile. South had 14-16 points, dummy had eight HCP and West had ten. That left at most two HCP for East.

At trick three, West continued with the eight of hearts – nine – ten – king. (East might have done better to play the queen of hearts, leaving the location of the ten in doubt to declarer.) Nevertheless, recognizing that he could afford to lose to the queen of diamonds, South played the diamond jack – six – king – club six, then the six of spades – seven – ten – queen. West cashed the queen of diamonds and the ace of spades, then exited with a spade to dummy's jack. South discarded the six of hearts on this, ruffed a heart and played the queen of clubs – king – ace – two, for nine tricks, North-South plus 110.

If one has decided to lead a trump from ace-queen-third, a common ploy is to start with the ace. If dummy turned up with the trump king, one continued with the low trump. Declarer, not expecting you to have led from the ace-queen-third, would place East with queen-doubleton and rise with dummy's king. That would give you two trump tricks, whereas on some other lead, declarer might finesse you for the trump queen.

Having led the trump ace, if the king is not in dummy, you switch to some other suit and await to collect your queen later. One advantage of leading the ace of trumps is that dummy is revealed. Then, if the trump king is with declarer, the sight of dummy might help with your switch at trick two.

However, leading the trump ace from ace-queen-third is not risk-free. It could become part of dinner conversation if partner's singleton king falls under your ace. Leading the ace would also cost you a trick if the trump layout is like this:

North (dummy)

9 8 7 3

West (you)

A Q 6

East (partner)

J 10

South

K 5 4 2

The defenders have three trump tricks but, if West leads the ace, East-West have only two tricks.

At the other table in the match, where Peter Newell was the dealer, the bidding went as diagrammed in earlier, and Newell declared in three diamonds. Michael Courtney produced a new wrinkle on this situation. He led the six of diamonds. This avoided crashing a singleton king or doubleton jack-ten with partner and it also misled declarer. Thinking West would not ever lead away from the queen of diamonds, but could lead low from the ace, South rose with the king. Now West had two certain diamond tricks, which he otherwise might not have got on the existing layout.

After the king of diamonds held, declarer played a second diamond. West took the diamond queen and ace, East discarding the two of spades and the two of clubs. West switched to the jack of hearts – three – queen! – ace. To declarer, it looked as though West had started with hearts headed by the jack-ten. South could have set up a spade trick, as declarer did at the other table. Instead, South played the queen of clubs – king – ace – three and the four of hearts – two – six – eight! Declarer won the ten of clubs return, cashed the king of hearts, but still had two spade losers, one down and 5 IMPs to Australia.

The following problem arose in a 20-board teams' match.

Board 8. Dealer North. Both Vul.

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

What would you do as West with:

♠ K
 ♥ A K 9 5 3
 ♦ A
 ♣ A 9 7 6 5 2

The question is whether you should run from three notrump to four hearts to show your 6-5 pattern. If two notrump is not forcing, then Responder has to bid three notrump on many balanced hand types and you should remove three notrump to four hearts. That does not come with guarantees, but it is your best shot. This was the full deal:

♠ 9 8 5

♥ 7 6 4 2

♦ J 10

♣ K Q 8 4

♠ K

♥ A K 9 5 3

♦ A

♣ A 9 7 6 5 2

♠ Q J 10 7 6

♥ —

♦ K Q 6 5 3 2

♣ 10 3

♠ A 4 3 2

♥ Q J 10 8

♦ 9 8 7 4

♣ J

At one table, after the auction given, West bid four hearts and East removed that to five clubs. All passed (although North might well have doubled). North led the jack of diamonds: two – nine – ace. West ruffed the three of hearts in dummy and discarded the spade king on the king of diamonds. Then came the queen of spades: two – heart five – spade nine, and the spade jack: three – heart nine – spade eight. Declarer continued with the ace of clubs and a second club. Had clubs been three-two, five clubs would have made. With the actual layout, the result was one down, East/West minus 100.

At the other table, it went...

West	North	East	South
—	Pass	2♠ ¹	Pass
3♣ ²	Pass	Pass	Pass
		1. Weak, 5+ spades and 4+ of either minor	
		2. To play unless East's minor is clubs	

West made ten tricks, plus 130 and plus 6 IMPs.

So, which game contracts can East/West make on that layout? Not five clubs, on any play, but you can make four hearts in the five-zero fit, four spades in the five-one fit, five diamonds in the six-one fit, but not five clubs in the six-two fit! Not only that, but East can make ten tricks in three notrump. Amazing.

One solution to cater for these six-five problem hands after a reverse is to play a two-notrump rebid by Responder as forcing and three notrump to show a total misfit. Using that method, after East bids three notrump, West can choose to pass or bid clubs or four hearts. However, the North/South hands will not always be so accommodating to allow three notrump to make.

The second match for a semi-final berth in the 2020 Gold Coast Congress Open Teams was between VAN DER VLUGT (Maurits Van Der Vlugt – Marshall Lewis, Chris Hughes – Kim Morrison), who had qualified fourth, and WARE (Michael Ware – Nick Jacob, Max Henbest – David Wiltshire, Terje Lie – GeO Tislevoll), the sixth qualifier.

When one team declares in notrump both as North/South and as East/West, one contract might make and the other one fail. Often, both contracts are defeated, but on the first board of the match, East/West made nine tricks in three notrump and North/South made eight tricks in two notrump. That is a great rarity.

Board 1. Dealer East. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
V. d.Vlugt	Wiltshire	Lewis	Henbest
—	—	2♦ ¹	Pass
2♥ ²	2♠	Pass	2NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	
1. Weak two in hearts or spades			
2. Pass or correct			

West led the four of diamonds. South won with the ten and played the queen of spades, ducked. Next came the nine of diamonds, winning, and the spade six. West won and switched to the four of clubs, king. Declarer continued with the jack of spades and made four spades, two diamonds and two clubs for plus 120.

West	North	East	South
Lie	Morrison	Tislevoll	Hughes
—	—	Pass	Pass
INT ¹	Pass	2♦ ¹	Pass
2♥	Pass	3♣	Pass
3NT	Pass	Pass	Pass
1. 15-17			
2. Transfer, 5+ hearts			

North led the jack of spades: five – six – ace. West played the club jack, king. North returned the three of spades and West captured South's queen. Next came the nine of clubs, ace. North continued with the ten of spades and the spade eight to West's nine. West made three spades, two hearts, one diamond and three clubs for plus 400 and 11 IMPs.

In the other semifinal match, the contracts were two hearts by East, plus 140, and three notrump by West, plus 400 and 6 IMPs.

Board 7. Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

Van der Vlugt (South) opened one diamond. Lewis (North) responded three clubs, natural and invitational, but not forcing, all pass. North made ten tricks for plus 130.

At the other table, Lie (South) opened one club (two-plus clubs). Tislevoll (North) raised to two clubs, forcing. South rebid two notrump and North rebid three spades, shortage. South bid three notrump, all pass. West led the three of spades. South won, played the three of clubs to the king, returned to hand via the ace of diamonds and played the club four. West took the ace and switched to the king of hearts and heart five. South made nine tricks for plus 600 and 10 IMPs.

Amazingly, notrumps was again played in both directions in the other match, with the contract being three notrump in both cases. West's three notrump went two off, minus 200, while at the other table, South made ten tricks in three notrump for plus 630 and 10 IMPs. WARE won Set 1 by 42-14, Set 2 by 37-29, and the match by 79-43.



London Club Legend

Howard Cohen passed away last month, aged 81. Condolences to wife Kat and family. Cohen had some tournament wins: the 1983 Spring Fours, two Eastbourne Bowls, and the 1998 Gold Cup. His first and real bridge love, however, was rubber in the London clubs, and the characters and great players to be found in them.

For Howard, rubber bridge (with the odd game of backgammon) was a flamboyant experience, not a technical chore. He wore loud patterned shirts and lived for coups, the higher the stakes the better. The less inspired did well out of his failed attempts.

Dealer South. Both Vul.

♠ A J 4 3 2

♥ A K 9 2

♦ K 5

♣ K 7

♠ 10 9 8 7

♥ 4

♦ Q J 10 9

♣ 10 8 3 2

♠ K

♥ 5 3

♦ 8 7 6 4 3

♣ Q J 6 5 4

♠ Q 6 5

♥ Q J 10 8 7 6

♦ A 2

♣ A 9

West	North	East	South
—	—	—	I ♥
Pass	4NT ¹	Pass	5 ♥ ²
Pass	7 ♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			
1. Ordinary Blackwood			
2. Two aces			

The most famous Howie hand was one he merely kibitzed. Richard Coe, club gardener, declared seven hearts in the £15 game at TGR's. The grand was poor, appearing to need West to hold doubleton or bare king of spades. Coe (South) went through the motions. He won the opening lead of the queen of diamonds, drew trumps and cashed winners. This was the ending:

♠ A J 4 3

♥ —

♦ —

♣ —

♠ 10 9 8 7

♥ —

♦ —

♣ —

♠ K

♥ —

♦ 8

♣ Q J

♠ Q 6 5

♥ 6

♦ —

♣ —

At trick ten, West threw a spade on the six of hearts. South thought nothing of it. He pitched from dummy and finessed the jack of spades. East made the rest for down three. "Sorry, partner," said Coe, or he might have done, "I should have got out for one off there. I owe you 30 quid. But did you have to go seven?"

"One off?" interjected Howard, who'd been waiting to cut in, "you should have made the damned thing! What's West discarding a spade from? Not three to the king. Your only chance was to drop it offside."

Years later, Michael Rosenberg discussed the deal in *Bridge, Zia and Me*. "It is my favourite of all time. Nobody I have ever presented it to has solved it. One world champion failed to solve it three times over a ten-year period." It's really something quite special – as was our friend Howard Cohen.

Days of Glory

Dealer South. NS Vul.

♠ A K 8 5 4

♥ 4

♦ 6 5

♣ K Q 7 6 5

♠ 9 2

♠ 7

♥ Q 10 9 3

♥ J 8 7 6 5 2

♦ A K Q 9 8 4 3

♦ 10 2

♣ —

♣ 10 8 4 3

♠ Q J 10 6 3

♥ A K

♦ J 7

♣ A J 9 2

West	North	East	South
—	—	—	I ♠
INT(!)	4 ♠	Pass	Pass
5 ♦	5 ♠	Pass	Pass

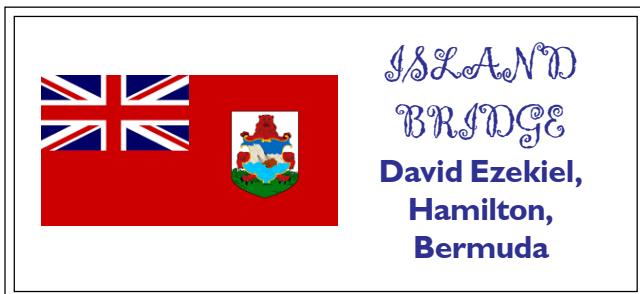
Commisserations to 'The Suits', bridge players Toby Nonnenmacher, Isi Bogod and Kyle Lam, who lost in the final of BBC2's *Only Connect*. They were brilliant, even in defeat. The show is free to view on BBC iPlayer. Dr Lam, ordinarily researching for a Ph.D. at Imperial College, has been drafted back onto the front line. He's now treating Covid-19 sufferers at St Mary's Hospital, Paddington. We wish Kyle and his patients and colleagues the very best.

Our deal of the day, formed from an outline supplied to me by David Carlisle, has a much-needed element of escapism. The year was 1981. Two geniuses crossed swords at "the Wood" – St John's Wood Bridge Club. West was the incomparable John Collings. He and Jonathan Cansino, granted good health, might have been Great Britain's greatest-ever bridge pair. Collings, alas, suffered a near-fatal heart attack at 33; Cansino, at 34, a malignant brain tumour.

Collings half-recovered, and played on with some success, but Cansino could no longer compute the cards to his old level. In latter years, he was often to be found in the television room at the Wood, watching *Countdown* and his favourite *Fifteen to One*.

John was a true card artist. You could never tell his hand from the bidding. Then, when he declared a close contract, he would routinely tease the poor defenders by playing that one card they really didn't want to see. South was Irving Rose, "The Great Rose", so dubbed by Bernard Teltscher. Rose was gifted too, charismatic, and almost as unpredictable as Collings.

The Comic Notrump was a bit unimaginative by Collings' standards. Pass, double, and any number of clubs were more-stylish alternatives. Rose's partner took the push to five spades. John underled his diamonds at trick one, the three to East's ten. He ruffed the four-of-clubs return, and could have cashed the ace of diamonds for one down. Looking for down two and the extra £10 at the stakes, Collings went on with the four of diamonds, to his partner's presumed jack. But Rose produced that card at the second time of asking, and claimed the rest of the tricks. John's initial reaction was unrepeatable; and the more irate he got, the more Irving laughed.



Here's a declarer-play problem from one of my columns:

Dealer South. Both Vul.

♠ K 8 5
♥ 8 4 3 2
♦ 8 7 6 3
♣ Q 9

♠ A Q J 9 3
♥ A 9
♦ A
♣ A K 7 5 2

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

North appreciated the value of his black-suit honours in leaping to five spades, at the same time denying a red-suit control.

West leads the heart queen. How would you plan the play?

To protect against trumps being four-one, you should draw two rounds with the ace and king, then start on clubs, leading the queen and another to hand. Next, lead a third club; if clubs are three-three, all is well; ruff, draw the last trump and claim 12 tricks.

What if clubs are four-two? Well, either of two good things may still happen – this is the full deal.

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

East shows out on the third club, but cannot overruff the eight of spades – you now ruff your third club with the eight of spades, come to hand, draw the last trump and claim.

The other good thing that might have happened is that the ten of spades might have fallen doubleton under the ace-king. That way, dummy's eight of spades would have been high and a player with a doubleton club and three spades would have been unable to ruff higher than dummy's eight of spades.

What if your third club is ruffed by the ten of spades? Well, you can now ruff your fourth club and go the same one down you'd have done if you had drawn trumps. The preferred line offers no loss for some potential gain.



One declarer was both astounded and annoyed at the sight of the dummy on this deal from a team event:

Dealer North. Both Vul.

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

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

Although East had a perfectly good one-spade overcall, both East players in the match jumped to two spades. At one table, this was followed by two passes, a double, and three more passes. South led his heart. North won, cashed the king of clubs and, upon receiving a discouraging three, led a diamond. South took the queen and ace, then led a second club to North's ace. With no spades to lead through declarer, North tried the ace of hearts. Declarer ruffed with the seven and was over-ruffed with the nine. These cards remained:

<p>♠ —</p> <p>♥ 10 5 4 2</p> <p>♦ 6 4</p> <p>♣ 7</p> <p>♠ 6</p> <p>♥ Q 9 8</p> <p>♦ 9</p> <p>♣ Q 10</p> <p>♠ K Q 5 4 2</p> <p>♥ —</p> <p>♦ 2</p> <p>♣ J</p>	<p>♠ A J 10 8 3</p> <p>♥ —</p> <p>♦ 10</p> <p>♣ 9</p>
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The defence had taken the first six tricks and could not be prevented from making two more; minus 800 for East/West. North/South could not have done better, even if North had led the other high heart earlier. East would have ruffed with a medium spade and South could have discarded a club or a diamond. South could then have received a ruff in whichever suit he'd discarded from, but declarer could then have trump-endplayed him.

At the other table, North was leery of his spade void, despite holding four quick tricks, and balanced with three hearts. Before the dummy's appearance, South was disappointed, but expected North to hold six or seven good hearts and a below-average defensive hand. Thus his astonishment at the dummy.

We can see that declarer can succeed by (i) winning the first trick (East put the ten of spades on West's lead of his suit) while discarding a heart from dummy, then (ii) entering dummy to finesse diamonds and (iii) splitting the suit out three-three. That 18% chance did not appeal to declarer, so he discarded a diamond on the spade lead and played on hearts. When he led his heart toward the ace-king, West split his honours, preventing declarer from putting in the ten. After declarer won with the king, West was relieved to see his partner follow to the heart,

meaning South had no more. Not yet knowing about the heart distribution, declarer tried the ace of hearts, drawing the discouraging nine of clubs from East. Declarer discarded a diamond. Seeking to extract another discard from East, declarer exited from dummy with a low heart, receiving the two of clubs. Declarer pitched a low spade. West won the heart with the eight and shifted to a descriptive, but revealing, nine of diamonds. That went to the ten and queen.

At that point, South could place East with 6=1=3=3 or 6=1=4=2 distribution (6=1=5=1 was highly improbable as East would not have discarded a singleton club). So, declarer took the ace of diamonds (king from East) and crossed to dummy on a high club. He cashed the other high club and exited with dummy's remaining diamond. As he did so, this was the ending:

<p>♠ —</p> <p>♥ 10 5 4</p> <p>♦ 7</p> <p>♣ 7</p> <p>♠ —</p> <p>♥ J 9</p> <p>♦ 8</p> <p>♣ Q 10</p> <p>♠ K 9 5 4</p> <p>♥ —</p> <p>♦ —</p> <p>♣ J</p>	<p>♠ A J 8 7</p> <p>♥ —</p> <p>♦ K</p> <p>♣ —</p>
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On the seven of diamonds, declarer discarded the jack of clubs; East was endplayed. He exited with the seven of spades to declarer's nine and was soon on play again with the eight of spades to allow declarer to make his king.

That was masterfully played at the end, but both South and East could have done better earlier. Firstly, as we saw, declarer should have discarded a heart from dummy rather than a diamond – he did not need five heart tricks. East should have hung on to all three of his clubs, discarding spades on the hearts. Had he done so, it would have necessitated declarer ducking a club before endplaying East. Note that it does no good for East to discard diamonds as that would have allowed declarer to endplay West rather than East.

Perhaps, East thought, he should have discarded diamonds after all. Better to endplay partner than to endplay oneself, he reflected.

South could not resist a gibe at North: "Would you have reopened with double had you had five quick tricks?"

West refrained from comment on his partner's two-spade overcall at this table, since his team had won 5 IMPs. Not so at the other: "What would you have bid had you held the ace-king-ten of diamonds instead of the king-jack-ten, three spades?" he asked, rather unkindly. There is no shortage of smart-arses in the bridge world.



The University of Stirling's "Keep Bridge Alive" initiative, led by Professor of Sociology and Scotland International Samantha Punch, has introduced a new wrinkle to its research. The programme wants to record and analyse the impact that the COVID-19 pandemic is having on bridge and bridge players. To that end, they are asking for volunteers to take part in expressing their views and concerns about how their lives (and bridge activities) have changed under the protocols of the pandemic and ensuing lockdown.

We urge IBPA members to participate. This is BAMSA's recruitment letter and information sheet to potential participants:



Bridge in the Time of Covid-19 Participant Recruitment Letter

In these extraordinary times of Covid-19, the Bridge: A MindSport for All (BAMSA) research team at the University of Stirling (led by Professor Samantha Punch) are looking for volunteers to document their experiences of bridge during the pandemic.

If you are a bridge player (amateur or professional), a bridge teacher, tournament director, manager/owner of a bridge club, bridge club committee member and/or part of a national or regional bridge organisation we are interested in hearing your views.

There are three ways you can participate:

- a) A one-off account of the ways in which Covid-19 has changed your participation and engagement with bridge.
- b) A weekly reflective diary documenting how your everyday bridging life has changed during Covid-19.
- c) A series of accounts during lockdown, coming out of lockdown and another when life returns to normal.

Your account can (but does not need to) cover the following:

- Challenges and problems that have arisen due to Covid-19 and your engagement with bridge (and if applicable, how you have addressed these or might address them).
- Positive opportunities and changes that have occurred due to Covid-19 and your engagement with bridge.
- Changes over time from early social distancing to peak lockdown through to post-lockdown and which lockdown changes might be incorporated longer-term.
- Anything else that you think is important due to Covid-19 and your bridging life.

If you are interested in participating in this project please read the guidance notes for participants and send your diary entries to bamsa@stir.ac.uk

Participant Information Sheet and Consent Form

Covid-19 has fundamentally changed the everyday lives of millions of people around the world. Bridge: A MindSport for All (BAMSA) research project wants your help to record your experiences of bridge during the pandemic. We are asking players, organisers and teachers of bridge to contribute their reflections on how and in what ways the pandemic has changed their involvement with bridge.

This information sheet is designed to support you document this extraordinary time and the impact it has had on your ability to engage in playing, organising or teaching bridge.

How to record your experience

Research has shown that writing a diary during distressing and unusual times can be profoundly therapeutic however, we are aware that participants may experience personal and familial loss and challenging circumstances due to Covid-19. Participants are reminded that they can document as much or as little of these experiences as they see fit and that participation can be stopped at any time without any explanation.

You are welcome to submit responses as writings or drawings. These writings or drawings can be in any style and there is no prescribed length. Please get in touch with us before submitting sound or movie files. No emphasis is placed on spelling or grammar. Please don't feel limited by notions of quality or be concerned with 'doing it right.' This project is for everyone involved in bridge (in whatever capacity).

Formats

We are able to accept the following formats: Rich Text Format (.rtf), PDF/UA, PDF/A or PDF (.pdf), OpenDocument Text (.odt), plain text (.txt), MS Word (.doc/.docx), MS Excel (.xls/.xlsx), JPEG (.jpeg, .jpg), GIF (.gif).

Please don't send us sound or video without contacting us first. We also welcome reflections in hard copy but ask that you don't send them to us at the Faculty of Social Sciences at the University of Stirling before the lockdown period is over.

Your identity

The BAMSA research project is not publicly accessible. It is based at the University of Stirling. Your entries will be viewed by researchers who work on the BAMSA project. Please be mindful of this while writing and protect your identity. You can write anonymously, but please make sure that BAMSA staff have your details so that they can contact you if needed. The BAMSA researchers will automatically change any identifying material (eg. names of players, clubs) as well as your own name so that all the material collected will be anonymous and not identifiable as far as possible.

Your copyright

We ask that you assign the copyright of this work to the BAMSA project so that we can enable your writing to be used for teaching, research, in the media and community engagement, as well as other researchers (outwith the BAMSA project) interested in the research. We are happy to discuss this with you if you would prefer to retain your copyright. Please get in touch.

Donating material

We prefer that you donate your writing/drawing, rather than it being a loan. Please get in touch if you would prefer to offer your work to us as a loan.

Statement

If you are happy with the advice offered in this information sheet, we welcome your reflections and ask you to please include the following statement in your work:

"I donate my bridge and COVID-19 reflections to the BAMSA project. I consent to it being made publicly available as part of project BAMSA and assign my copyright in this work to the BAMSA researchers so that it can be reproduced anonymously in full or in part on websites, in publications and in broadcasts as approved by the BAMSA researchers. I agree to the University of Stirling and BAMSA being responsible for the collection and processing of personal data and ensuring that such data complies with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)."

If willing for this to be included in our analysis and use of the data, please tell us your: Age (indicated as a decade range ie. 50-59 years), Gender, Nationality and Years playing bridge.

Please send your entries to bamsa@stir.ac.uk You are also most welcome to contact us if you have any questions.



Correspondence

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

Dilip Gidwani writes in response to Katie Thorpe's query about the Bulletin's hard-copy version:

Thanks, Katie, for writing about the print editions. It looks like a long lockdown here in Punjab province in India.

Our initial lockdown, scheduled up to April 14, got extended up to May 1. The announcement came an hour ago. Postal services are shut as of now. As soon as they open up, I shall be mailing hard copies to the recipients.

Until then, my best wishes to all our members, their families and friends. Look forward to seeing you, in Salsomaggiore, God willing.

Regards, Dilip

NEWS & VIEWS (Continued from page 24)

BBO

Until the COVID-19 world arrived, a busy day on BBO featured in excess of 20,000 participants. Double that is the new norm and 50,000 players are frequently online, occasionally putting a strain on the BBO servers.

IBPA World Bridge Calendar

We are suspending publication of the Calendar temporarily since most, if not all, tournaments are being cancelled or postponed. Members are even more strenuously advised to confirm in person that any bridge tournament they plan to attend is still going ahead.

IBPA Bulletin

Until further notice, India Post is not accepting packages for mailing. For us, this means that the handful of members who still receive hard-copy Bulletins will have to wait until such time as India Post eases its restrictions and Dilip Gidwani can mail them to us.

KUDOS

Special thanks to the various people making online bridge events available and easier to access for the bridge world. These people include Paul Street for the Alt Invitationals, Tom Reynolds for the Knockout Teams tournaments and Walter Schafer for the All-Star Pairs events.

NEWS & VIEWS



World Bridge Federation

The World Youth Bridge Team Championships and the World Bridge Games, both to be held in Salsomaggiore Terme, Italy, from 31st July to 9th August and from 21st August to 4th September respectively have been postponed to 2021, still to be hosted in Salsomaggiore Terme and retaining their names of 2020 Championships. The exact dates and the 2021 WBF Calendar of Events will be defined in due course.

European Bridge League

At its meeting in April, the EBL Executive Committee made the following decisions:

- ◆ The National Teams Championships in Madeira was postponed until June 2021, hopefully at the same location.
- ◆ The Transnational Championships, normally held in June of odd-numbered years, will not be staged in 2021. No decision was taken concerning the event cycle as of 2022.
- ◆ The National Youth Pairs Championships in Salsomaggiore was cancelled. A decision about which Youth event will be staged, and where, in 2021 will be made once the WBF has decided about the continuation of its Youth cycle as of 2022. That decision is expected to be made at the end of May 2020.
- ◆ The European Champions' Cup in Pezinok/Slovakia will, for now, take place as scheduled on November 12-14, but is dependent upon the further development of virus-related travel and meeting restrictions. This event involves only 12 teams and a limited number of staff, so it can be organised in a more controlled environment than the larger events.

North American Bridge League

- ◆ The United States Bridge Federation has postponed all four of its Trials, scheduled for May-June, 2020. The organisation is working with their venue in Schaumberg, Illinois to find a date compatible with the WBF's World Championships.
- ◆ The Canadian Bridge Federation has also postponed all of its major Championships scheduled for May-June, 2020. The CBF has announced plans to hold the Round Robin portion of all four Trials events online, with the knockout stages to be played in conjunction with an already-scheduled tournament later in the year.

American Contract Bridge League

- ◆ The Summer NABC in Montréal has been cancelled. The Fall NABC in Tampa is, for now, going ahead as scheduled.
- ◆ Both the North American Pairs and Grand National Teams events have been canceled for 2020.
- ◆ For the 2020-2021 North American Pairs, the qualifiers from the 2019-2020 season will play their final in St. Louis in March, 2021 and will receive their travel awards if they attend.
- ◆ For the 2021 Grand National Teams, each District has the choice of sending its already-qualified 2020 teams, or starting its qualification process anew.

Other WBF Zones and Tournaments

- ◆ The 70th South American Championship, scheduled for Lima in May have been postponed indefinitely.
- ◆ The Asia Pacific Bridge Congress, scheduled for Perth, Australia has been postponed indefinitely.
- ◆ It would be wise to assume that all currently scheduled tournaments have been cancelled or postponed before making any plans to play. For the remainder of 2020, ensure with the organisers that the tournament is going ahead before committing to it.

Awards

- ◆ The EBL Hall of Fame will induct Boye Brogeland, Cathérine d'Ovidio and PO Sundelin in 2020.
- ◆ The ACBL will induct Larry Cohen and Lynn Deas in 2020. Additionally, Matt Smith and Sol Weinstein will be inducted as winners of the Blackwood Award and Chuck Burger as the Von Zedtwitz Award recipient.
- ◆ Dennis Bilde was awarded the Sidney H. Lazard Jr. Sportsmanship Award
- ◆ Discussions between IBPA and the Hunan Bridge Festival are underway to determine how the 2020 IBPA Awards will be presented.

Yeh Chen Donation

Mr. Yeh Chen of Taiwan has donated \$100,000 to COVID-19 relief in the name of the World Bridge Federation.