

BULLETIN

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Editorial

We wish all members and their loved ones a healthy, happy and prosperous 2013. Please renew your memberships now if you've not already done so.

We sometimes indulge in a silly exercise we call 'If I Were Czar of All Sports' and could change some of the odder rules that each sport embraces, which would we choose to change? Prime examples are:

- Football:The one-referee system and the disinclination to police 'embellishment', that unlovely euphemism for diving, need to be changed. Further, even popes are no longer infallible; why should referees be required to be so? Get them some video replay help for goal-line decisions and red-card offences. And introduce an offence somewhere between the yellow and red cards perhaps orange whereby a player is expelled for say, I 5 minutes. That would reduce the referees' reluctance to penalize blatant infractions that now go unpunished because the consequence (a red card) is so severe.
- Golf: Standardization of the golf ball in professional golf is necessary to rein in prodigious driving distances and save the 'classic' courses from obsolescence. Each manufacturer could still produce its own balls and the players could still play the ball of their choice, but they'd have to meet official specifications, as does the ball in any other sport. Penalize slow play, the bane of golf rules are in place, but never enforced.

Naturally, when it comes to bridge, there are rule changes I'd like to apply. One of these is a return to national eligibility requirements in the Rosenblum Cup and McConnell Cup. The first Rosenblums specified national teams but allowed multiple entrants from each nation based on membership of the NBO. This was a great idea and a departure from the Olympiad and Bermuda Bowl restrictions of one team per country (except for USA in the Bermuda Bowl and Venice Cup). Subsequent Rosenblums eliminated the quota and in 2002, the event became transnational, eliminating the need for team members to be from a single country. Since the WBF has implemented some form of Transnational Team event at all World Championships, there is no need for the Rosenblum (and the World Open Pairs for that matter) to be transnational as well. Furthermore, let's return to the full knockout format rather than the round-robin-followed-by-a-knockout format. I understand the desire to guarantee more than one day's play for the competitors, but there are other ways this can be done while retaining the World Knockout Championship ethos. A couple of these are (i) some form of double or triple knockout or (ii) répéchage.

My other pet project would be to make the Bermuda Bowl (now played in odd-numbered years) alternate between board-a-match one year and IMPs the next time. We could at least try it for one or two events. The 21 matches now played in the round robin would remain intact, but the scoring, and thus the strategy, would be impacted: 16 points would be available in each match. The top eight teams would still qualify for knockout play - the team winning the most boards would win the match - as simple as that. What could be more appropriate?

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I

ANDREW MICHAEL ROBSON, OBE



IBPA member Andrew Robson has been appointed an Officer of the Order of the British Empire in the Queen's 2013 New Year's Day Honours List for his services to bridge and charity. The investiture will be on February 13.

Robson obtained a B.Sc. at the University of Bristol in 1985, and a Cert. Ed. the following year. In 2001 he suffered serious injuries when he slipped on ice when hill-walking in the Lake District and fell thirty feet. He broke many bones, spent two months in hospital and was in a wheelchair for much longer. Robson was able to return to the bridge table five months after the accident, the speed of his recovery astonishing his doctors. As a result, he received the IBPA Sportsmanship Award in 2002 "for his spectacular recovery from adversity". Robson also has the distinction of receiving the IBPA award for Best Defence of the Year both as a player (1999) and as a journalist (2002).

As well as his current daily bridge column for *The Times* of London and weekly columns for *Country Life* and *Money Week* magazines, Robson has also written for *The Oldie*, *The Spectator* and *The Express on Sunday*. He has written books on bridge, produced instructional CDs and DVDs and, in 1995, opened his own bridge club, *The Andrew Robson Bridge Club*, in London. Robson has put his training as a schoolteacher to good use by heading many instructional seminars around the UK, as well as hosting master classes and charity bridge events and teaching at his club.

Robson is married and has two daughters.

Phillip Alder's New York Times article, published on January 2, is presented here...

ANDREW ROBSON GIVEN ORDER OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE Phillip Alder, Hobe Sound, FL

(From The New York Times)

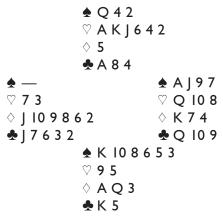
Each January I, the reigning British monarch announces an honours list. British and Commonwealth subjects are recognized for especially meritorious achievement in almost any field. This year the English bridge personality Andrew Robson has become an Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire for services to bridge and charity.

At the table, Robson won the World Junior Teams and Junior Common Market Teams in 1989 and the European Teams in 1991. He has also captured three Reisinger Board-a-Match North American championships, five Gold Cups (the most prestigious event in Britain) and several top-ranked pair titles, including the Cap Gemini and the Sunday Times-Macallan. Robson will represent England in Bali in the Bermuda Bowl next September.

But Robson has earned the O.B.E. for his work away from the top level of the game. In 1995 he opened the Andrew Robson Bridge Club, which is now one of the largest in the world, with over 2,000 members. He stresses zero tolerance (no bad behaviour) and teaches lots of classes, especially for beginners and the inexperienced. He learned the game when he was 10 from his parents, who now sometimes attend his classes. He also runs about 50 so-called Bridge Days each year, usually raising money for charities — over 60 so far and counting. These typically attract more than 100 people.

Robson has accomplished all this, the columns, the instructional media, the bridge club, the teaching, the enormously successful playing career, the books and the charity work, in only 48 years.

Dealer South. Neither Vul.



West	North	East	South
	Shugart		Robson
_		_	♠
Pass	2♡	Pass	2♠
Pass	4 ♦	Pass	4♡
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♡
Pass	6♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Robson is known for his accurate card play. The diagrammed deal occurred during an online practice session some years ago. His partner was Rita Shugart of Pebble Beach, Calif., with whom he won his three North American titles. Her four-diamond rebid was a splinter, showing spade support, at most a singleton diamond and slam interest. Four hearts was Last Train, indicating that Robson's hand was suitable for slam, but not strong enough to take control. Four notrump was Roman Key Card Blackwood, the five-heart reply promising two key cards (an ace and the spade king, or two aces) and denying the spade queen.

Against six spades, West led the diamond jack. Robson (South) took the trick with his queen and played a spade to dummy's queen, getting the news about that suit. East won with his ace and returned a diamond. Needing dummy's trumps to pick up East's remaining spades, South won with his ace (discarding a heart from dummy), crossed to the heart king, played a spade to his eight, returned to dummy with a heart and ruffed a heart in his hand, setting up dummy's suit. Going back to the dummy with a club, declarer led the heart jack.

If East had thrown the diamond king, South would have pitched his diamond, drawn trumps with the aid of another finesse and claimed. When East ruffed, declarer overruffed, trumped the diamond three in the dummy and led the last heart. After East ruffed, South overruffed and took the last two tricks with his remaining trump and club king. Against that perfect timing, there was no defence.

Congratulations, Andrew Robson O.B.E.

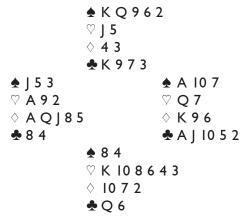


Reversal of Fortune

With neither side vulnerable partner opens two hearts, weak, and there is a pass on your right. What would you do with this hand:

After 80 boards, with 16 to go, in the final of the Open Team Playoffs, BEAUCHAMP (David Beauchamp – Ian Thomson, Bill Jacobs – Ben Thompson, Andy Braithwaite – Ian Robinson) led BROWN (Terry Brown – George Bilski, Avi Kanetkar – Matthew Thompson, Robert Krochmalik – Paul Lavings) by 140-128. BROWN narrowed the gap on this deal:

Board 81. Dealer South. Neither Vul.



West	North	East	South
Brown	I. Thomson	Bilski	Beauchamp
_	_	_	2♡
Pass	Pass	3♣	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Lead: Heart jack - queen - king - two

South returned the eight of hearts, taken by the nine. West cashed the jack of diamonds and played the four of clubs: three – jack – queen. South switched to the eight of spades: three – queen – ace. Declarer ran the diamonds and cashed the ace of hearts, North discarding three spades and the seven of clubs, while South threw two hearts. West finessed the ten of clubs and had II tricks for plus plus 460. Perhaps West might have settled for nine tricks if South had played a third heart when in with the queen of clubs.

West	North	East	South
B. Thompson	Kanetkar	Jacobs	M. Thompson
_	_	_	2♡
Pass	3♡	Pass	Pass
Pass			

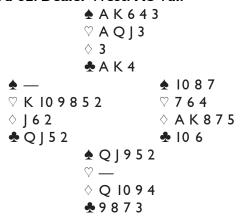
Lead: Club eight - three - five - queen

Kanetkar's raise kept East-West quiet. Declarer went three off, minus 150, but won 7 IMPs. The margin was now 5 IMPs.

On the board that followed (see top of next page), West found the killing club lead. He began with the club queen, won with the ace. On the diamond three from dummy, East won with the ace and returned the ten of clubs. Declarer cross-ruffed the red suits, but there

was nothing he could do about the club loser, minus 100.

Board 82. Dealer West. NS Vul.



West	North	East	South
Brown	I. Thomson	Bilski	Beauchamp
2◊1	Double	Pass	2♠
Pass	4NT	Pass	5 ♦²
Pass	5♡³	Pass	6♠ ⁴
Pass	Pass	Pass	

- I. Weak two in hearts or in spades
- 2. No key cards for spades
- 3. Do you have the queen of spades?
- 4. Yes, but no outside king

However, at the other table...

West	North	East	South
B. Thompson	Kanetkar	Jacobs	M. Thompson
3♡	Double	4 ♦	4♠
5♦	6♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Lead: Diamond two - three - king - four

East returned the eight of spades and South's play was card-perfect. He won with the nine of spades, ruffed a diamond, cashed the ace of hearts and ruffed a heart. He continued with a diamond ruff with the spade ace, heart ruff, diamond ruff with the spade king and the six of spades to the queen. West was down to the king of hearts and the queen-jack-two of clubs; dummy had the queen of hearts and the ace-king-four of clubs; South was left with the jack of spades and the nine-eight-seven of clubs; and East had two clubs, the ace of diamonds and ten of spades.

When South led the jack of spades, West was squeezed in hearts and clubs. He threw the two of clubs and declarer pitched the queen of hearts from dummy. Then came the club ace, club king and the four of clubs was South's twelfth trick, plus 1430 and 17 IMPs. Thanks to this fine declarer play by Matthew Thompson, BROWN had taken the lead for the first time in the match:

BROWN was in front by 12 IMPs, 152 to 140, with 14 boards to go.

Playing the Opponents

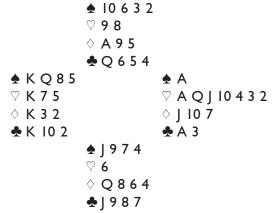
Try this problem:

West	North	East	South
			l 🏚
Double	2♠	Pass	4♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

West leads the jack of spades: three – four – ace. You cash the king of spades and, playing low encourages, West discards the seven of diamonds. What would you play next? While you consider your play...

After 83 boards of 96, BROWN led BEAUCHAMP 152-141. A well-timed lead-directing double by Avi Kanetkar averted a significant loss on Board 84:

Dealer East. Both Vul.



West	North	East	South
Brown	1.Thomson	Bilski	Beauchamp
_	_	4♣¹	Pass
4♡	Pass	Pass	Pass

I. Very strong 4♥ opening

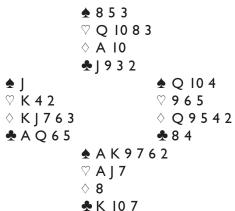
Lead: Club four; 13 tricks, EW plus 710.

West	North	East	South
B.Thompson	Kanetkar	Jacobs	M.Thompson
_		Ι♡	Pass
2♣¹	Pass	3♡	Pass
3 ♠²	Pass	4♣ ²	Pass
4 ♦²	Double!	Pass	Pass
4♡	Pass	Pass	Pass

- 1. Strong hand, multi-meaning
- 2. Cue bids, first- or second-round control Lead: Diamond queen; 12 tricks, EW plus 680.

One is normally reluctant to double a cuebid without two top honours in the suit, but without North's double of four diamonds, East/West might well have sailed into six hearts, which would normally succeed. Here East's pass denied help in diamonds and as North might easily have had the ace-queen of diamonds, West sensibly signed off in four hearts. Kanetkar gained I IMP, but saved 12.

Board 85. Dealer South. NS Vul.



West	North	East	South
Brown	I. Thomson	Bilski	Beauchamp
_	_	_	♠
Double	2♠	Pass	3♣¹
Pass	3♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

1. Seeking help in clubs

Lead: Spade jack; 9 tricks, NS plus 140.

At the other table, Matthew Thompson was in four spades after the auction at the start of the column. West led the jack of spades, taken by the ace. South cashed the king of spades and took stock. The risky lead meant West had no safe start, such as king-queenjack or even king-queen in diamonds. East therefore began with the queen of spades and the queen of diamonds. Given the takeout double, all the other significant high cards figured to be with West. In that case it looked as though South would lose a spade, a heart and two clubs.

Thompson went for a subterfuge: he played the seven of hearts. West ducked and the ten won. The rest was easy: two of clubs to the ten and queen, three of diamonds taken by the ace, ten of diamonds, ruffed and the king of clubs. There was nothing West could do. He took the ace of clubs and South claimed ten tricks, plus 620. That meant 10 IMPs to BROWN, who led 163-141. In 12 boards, numbers 74 to 85, the BROWN team had amassed 71 IMPs to their opponents' 7.

Looking at all four hands, it is easy to see that West should rise with the king of hearts. At the table, West thought his only chance was that East had the heart jack and that South would misguess.

Swings Both Ways

Try this problem:

Dealer North. EW Vul.

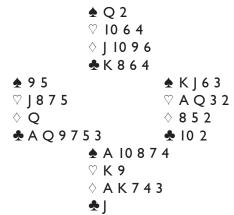
West	North	East	South
	♠	Pass	?

What would you do as South with this hand:

Answer later.

After 86 boards, BROWN led BEAUCHAMP by 22 IMPs, 163-141. On Board 87 BEAUCHAMP recorded plus 200 defending against two notrump and lost 100 in two spades, plus 3 IMPs, then picked up 10 more IMPs here:

Board 88. Dealer West. Neither Vul.



West	North	East	South
Bilski	Beauchamp	Brown	1.Thomson
Pass	Pass	Pass	l ♠
2♣	Pass	Pass	2♦
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Lead: Heart seven - four - ace - nine

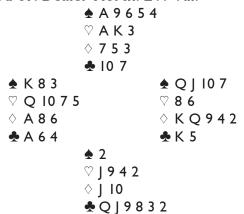
South won the two of hearts return with his king and played the jack of clubs. West took the ace and played a third heart, ruffed by South. South cashed the ace of diamonds and led a spade to the queen and king. South lost a spade, a heart and a club but had ten tricks, plus 130.

West	North	East	South
Jacobs	M.Thomps	on B.Thompson	Kanetkar
2♣¹	Pass	Pass	Double
Pass	2♦	Double	4♣
Pass	4♡	Pass	5♦
Double	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. 5+ clubs, unbalanced, 10-14 points Lead: Club ten – jack – ace – four

North/South appear to have had a misunderstanding here. South intended four clubs as a splinter, a strong diamond raise with at most one club. North seems to have taken it as a huge major two-suiter, hence four hearts. Declarer finished two down for minus 300 and a loss of 10 IMPs. The IMPs went back right away:

Board 89. Dealer North. EW Vul.



West	North	East	South
Bilski	Beauchamp	Brown	1.Thomson
_	♠	Pass	Pass
INT	Pass	3NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Lead: Heart ace - six - two - seven

North continued with the king of hearts and a third heart. There was no defence to three notrump and declarer made ten tricks, plus 630.

West	North	East	South
Jacobs	M.Thomps	son B.Thompson	Kanetkar
_	I♠	Pass	INT!
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Lead: Heart five - three - eight - nine

Declarer made two more hearts and the ace of spades for three down, minus 150, but plus 10 IMPs. This was the second time in this session that Avi Kanetkar had taken a bid where his counterpart had passed. In both cases the bid had silenced the opponents. Kanetkar had gained 7 IMPs on Board 81 and 10 IMPs here.

With just 5 HCP, responding one notrump is attractive, partly to shut out the opponents because of the vulnerability and partly because you might find a better spot than one spade. Of course, one notrump has risk attached. You do not like risk? Then bridge is not your game.

With seven boards to play it was BROWN 173, BEAUCHAMP 154.

Following the Leader

Try this problem. What would you lead as West from this hand...

Dealer South. Both Vul.

- **★** 10 8 5
- ♡ K J 5
- \Diamond 10 8 7 5
- ♣ A K 10

... after this auction?

West	North	East	South
_	_		INT
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♠
Pass	2NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Make up your mind before reading further.

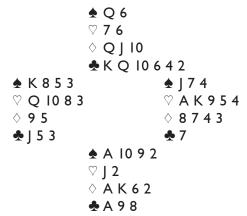
Suppose you have chosen to lead the ace of clubs. This is the dummy:

★ J 3♡ 8 6 3 2◇ K Q♣ Q 9 5 3 2

Partner plays the eight of clubs on your ace. What do you play at trick two? (Answer later)

On the next deal, cover all but the West cards. The opponents bid one notrump-three notrump. What would you lead as West?

Board 90. Dealer East. Both Vul.

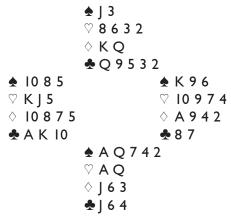


West	North	East	South
Bilski	Beauchamp	Brown	I. Thomson
Jacobs	M.Thompson	B.Thompson	Kanetkar
_	_	Pass	INT
Pass	3NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

The auction calls for a major suit lead, but which major? Following two principles: (i) 'Prefer a suit with two honours to a suit with one honour' and; (ii) 'The higher honour might be an entry to the suit with lower honours', George Bilski and Bill Jacobs both began with the three of hearts. They struck gold with partner. East won with the king and returned the five, catering for queen-third or jack-third with partner. West won with the queen and returned the ten. The defence had five tricks, plus 50, no swing.

After the auction given at the top of this column, both Souths were in two notrump here (see *top of next page*):

Board 93. Dealer South. Both Vul.



Ben Thompson led the five of diamonds, king, ace, and East returned the two of diamonds to the queen. Declarer gave up a spade and the defence cleared diamonds. The defence came to one spade, one heart, two diamonds and two clubs for one down, plus 100.

At the other table Terry Brown led the ace of clubs: two – eight – four. That was not immediately fatal, but the switch to the king of hearts was. South won and played the jack of clubs, ducked, and another club. Declarer made one spade, two hearts, two diamonds and three clubs for plus 120 and a win of 6 IMPs.

To beat two notrump, West has to shift to a diamond, preferably the eight, at trick two. East takes the ace of diamonds and must switch to a heart to the queen and king. West returns the jack of hearts. Now the defence can take two clubs, one diamond and three hearts for one down.

What did East's eight of clubs mean at trick one? If it is not a singleton, should the eight be simply discouraging clubs (then switch to a diamond) or suit-preference (asking for a heart shift)?

With three boards to go, the score was 174-160 to BROWN. Would the lead change again?

Drama on BBO

Try this problem. As West, you lead the ace of hearts:

Dealer East. Neither Vul.

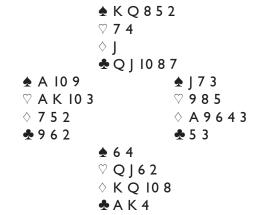
West	North	East	South
_	_	Pass	INT
Pass	2♡¹	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♣	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. Transfer to spades

The play continues: four - five - six of hearts. What would you play at trick two? (Answer below)

After 93 boards (three to play), BROWN led BEAUCHAMP 174 IMPs to 160. Over the next two deals, things took yet another dramatic turn:

Board 94. Dealer East. Neither Vul.

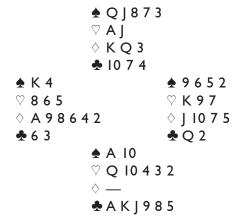


At both tables the bidding went as at the start of the column. Both Wests began with the ace of hearts, but then their paths differed. George Bilski continued with the king of hearts and a third heart. South won and played the eight of diamonds to the jack and ace. After a spade to the ace, South had nine tricks, plus 400.

At the other table, Bill Jacobs continued with the three of hearts at trick two. South took the eight with the jack and played the eight of diamonds to the jack and ace. East, returned the nine of hearts, queen, king. West cashed the ten of hearts and the ace of spades for one off, plus 50 and 10 IMPs.

Two boards left, 174-170 to BROWN. The second-last board produced a double-figure swing, which could have gone the other way on a different lead:

Board 95. Dealer North. NS Vul.



West	North	East	South
B.Thompson	Kanetkar	Jacobs	M.Thompson
_	♠	Pass	2♣
2♦	2NT	Pass	3♡
Pass	3NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Lead: Diamond jack – heart two – two – queen

Declarer played the ace and king of clubs, good news, and the three of hearts to the jack and king. East returned a diamond to West's ace. South ditched the ten of spades and had 11 tricks, plus 660.

West	North	East	South
Brown	I. Thomson	Bilski	Beauchamp
_	I ♠	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♡
Pass	4♣	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♡	Pass	6♣
Pass	Pass	Pass	

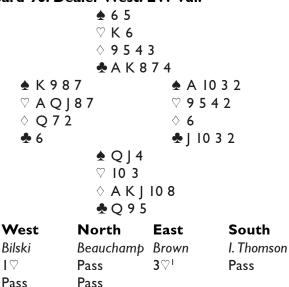
It is hard to argue with Terry Brown's lead of the ace of diamonds: it was the unbid suit. The result was disastrous. South ruffed and cashed the ace and king of clubs. A heart went to the jack and king. South could pitch the ten of spades on a diamond winner and had 12 tricks for plus 1370 and 12 IMPs.

On a passive heart or club lead, the slam can be defeated as long as the defence is careful. That would have been plus 13 IMPs instead of minus 12. It was now BEAUCHAMP 182, BROWN 174. Would there be one final twist on the last board? Need you ask?

It's Not Over Even When It's Over

After trailing 154-174 with four boards to go, BEAUCHAMP had racked up 28 IMPs on Boards 93, 94 and 95 to lead 182-174 with one board to go against BROWN (Terry Brown – George Bilski, Avi Kanetkar – Matthew Thompson, Robert Krochmalik – Paul Lavings). This was the final deal:

Board 96. Dealer West. EW Vul.



I. Pre-emptive raise

Lead: Club king - two - nine - six

The pre-emptive raise to the three-level is generally played as 0-5 HCP with four or more cards in support. The East hand certainly fits this description, but even opposite that minimum opening, game is a very reasonable proposition.

At trick two North switched to the six of spades: two – jack – king. West led the queen of diamonds to the king and South returned the five of clubs. West ruffed this and ruffed a diamond. The four of hearts went to the queen and king and North came back the five of spades. Declarer rose with the ace, played a heart to the ace, ruffed his last diamond and conceded a spade for nine tricks, plus 140.

West	North	East	South
Jacobs	M.Thomps	on B.Thompson	Kanetkar
I♡	Pass	4♡	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Lead: Club ace - two - five - six

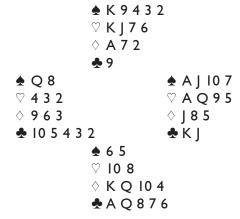
With nine losers, the East hand is not up to a four-heart raise. Perhaps one heart-two hearts would have been enough.

North switched to the six of spades at trick two and play followed allong the same lines for the same nine tricks. But here, that was one down and 6 IMPs away.

East-West could consider themselves unlucky on this deal. Swap the North-South cards and four hearts would have made. Still, the loss was only 6 IMPs and it left BEAUCHAMP in front by 182-180. To tie the score Kanetkar – Thompson had to take four hearts two down (not possible) or double four hearts for penalties (not feasible).

The match was over but for a 30-minute correction period. Ben Thompson wrote to me: 'The two teams were outside having a beer with each other when Avi (Kanetkar) spotted that he had to score a trick in the endgame on Board 87 and was therefore one off.' (Rather than the two off recorded at the time.) This was the deal:

Board 87. Dealer South. Both Vul.



West	North	East	South
Bilski	Beauchamp	Brown	I. Thomson
Jacobs	M.Thompson	B.Thompson	Kanetkar
_	_	_	♣
Pass	I♠	Double	INT
Pass	2♣¹	Pass	2♦
Pass	2♡2	Pass	?

I. Puppet to 2♦

2. Game invitation with 5+ spades and 4+ hearts

At one table, lan Thomson bid two spades, passed out. East led the five of diamonds and in due course declarer lost two hearts and four spades for one off and minus 100.

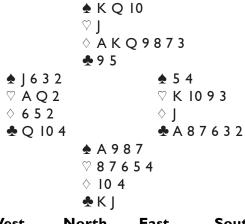
At the second table, Avi Kanetkar bid two notrump, passed out. West led the six of diamonds to the jack and king. After the ten of hearts to the queen, East returned a diamond to the queen. The eight of hearts went to the jack and ace. East shifted to the king of clubs, ace. South cashed the queen of clubs, dumping the ace of diamonds in order to cash the diamond ten and four. With six tricks in, South played the five of spades: eight – king – ace and made the king of hearts at the end. The board was incorrectly entered as minus 200, but the right score was minus 100, a flat board. That was a 3-IMP difference and so BROWN had won, 180-179!



The final of the 2012 Gold Cup between Allfrey and de Botton saw Tony Forrester equal the record number of eleven wins set by Boris Schapiro. Boris's victories spanned 52 years, whereas Tony's have come in only 29 - I for one won't be betting against him adding to his total.

On this deal from the final, Tony was the victim of a brilliant piece of defensive play by Artur Malinowski and Thor Erik Hoftaniska:

Dealer North. Neither Vul.



West	North	East	South
Robson	Sandqvist	Allfrey	Burn
_	I ♦	Pass	Ι♡
Pass	3NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

East led the two of clubs, putting declarer on the spot. It looks as if it is a straight guess, but suppose declarer puts in the jack and West wins with the ace? It will be obvious to switch to hearts and the contract must go down. So declarer put up the king of clubs and was plus 460.

Given the gambling nature of the three notrump bid, strongly suggesting a running diamond suit, there is a case for leading the ace of clubs.

At Forrester's table...

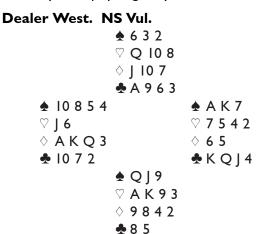
West	North	East	South
Hoftaniska	Gold	Malinowski	Forrester
_	I 💠	Pass	2◊¹
Pass	3♦	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. 4+ spades and 5+ hearts, 4-10 HCP

West led the four of clubs; East won with the ace and saw declarer follow with the jack. Realising that even if declarer had started with the queen-jack alone in clubs, the suit would be blocked, East switched to the king of hearts, catering for various situations where declarer might hold the queen. West overtook that with the ace, cashed the queen and then played the two for a brilliant one down, plus 50 and 11 IMPs for de Botton.



Susy (susina 8) from Monaco hosts several daily team matches on BBO with top players from around the world. Benito Garozzo, Sabine Auken, Roy Welland, Steen Møller, Mats Nilsland, Gunnar Hallberg, Jimmy Cayne and Dano De Falco are just a few among more than fifty who play regularly.



Continued on page 12...

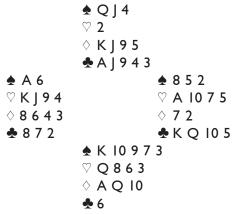


IBPA Column Service

Tim Bourke, Canberra

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

549. Dealer South. Both Vul.



West	North	East	South
_		_	♠
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♡
Pass	4♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

West began in inspired fashion, leading the ace and another trump. Declarer saw that he was unlikey to be able to ruff a heart in the dummy and so decided to play on clubs, hoping initially for the king and queen of clubs to fall in three rounds.

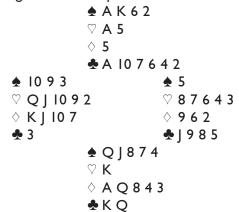
After winning the second trump in dummy with the jack, declarer cashed the ace of clubs and ruffed a club, After crossing back to dummy by overtaking the queen of diamonds with the king, declarer played another club and when West played the queen of clubs, instead of ruffing this card, declarer threw a heart. This enabled him to retain trump control.

With East on lead, no return could harm declarer - the defence had the unpalatable choice of allowing him a heart ruff in the dummy, obviating the need for an extra club trick, or letting him set up the clubs. Declarer had his ten tricks either way.

650. Dealer North. EW Vul.

On this deal (see top of next column), North/South bid to a pretty decent grand slam and declarer looked for his safest route to 13 tricks.

After the splinter bid of four diamonds, South used Roman Key Card Blackwood. North's response promised one or four key cards with spades as trumps. On the bidding it had to be the latter and South leapt to the grand slam in spades.



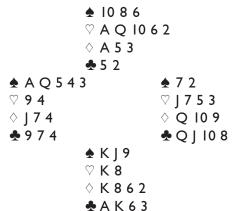
West	North	East	South
_	l 🚓	Pass	I♠
Pass	4 ♦	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♦	Pass	7♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

West led the queen of hearts, taken in hand by declarer with his singleton king. Declarer counted eleven top tricks and saw that the most likely source of the other two was in dummy's club suit. If the suit broke 3-2 then there would be tricks to burn. Also, if the trumps were 2-2 and the clubs were no worse than 4-1 then again there would be sufficient entries to set up the clubs.

Thus declarer turned his mind to coping with trumps 3-I and clubs 4-I; if trumps were 4-0 he would need clubs to be at worst 4-I and the defender with four trumps to hold at least two clubs. His first move was to cash the queen of trumps. When both defenders followed to the first trump, the trumps were then known to be at worst 3-I, and declarer put the next part of his plan into action by cashing the king of clubs.

Declarer then crossed to dummy with the king of trumps and discarded the queen of clubs on the ace of hearts. After a low club was ruffed with the jack of trumps, declarer drew West's last trump with dummy's ace and then ruffed a second low club. After cashing the ace of diamonds and ruffing a diamond, declarer cashed the ace of clubs and claimed the last two tricks with dummy's established club winners.

651. Dealer South. EW Vul.



West	North	East	South
	_		INT
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♡
Pass	3NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

After the transfer sequence, West led the five of spades and declarer counted eight sure winners. He saw that the best chance for an extra trick was in hearts, as long as he could prevent East from gaining the lead. The best way to do that was to start the heart suit from dummy, intending to finesse the eight if East followed low. So declarer called for dummy's ten of spades and, when it held, he led a low heart to the eight and West's nine. West exited with a diamond but declarer was in control; he took this in hand with the king of diamonds, unblocked the king of hearts and, when all followed, he could claim nine tricks.

Note that if declarer had played low at trick one, he could no longer have made a ninth trick.

652. Dealer South. Both Vul.

West	North	East	South
_	_		♠
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

After a simple limit-raise auction, West led the queen of hearts. Declarer's thoughts turned to an elimination - he saw that an essential part of such a plan was to prevent East from gaining the lead in hearts. Declarer called for the six of hearts from dummy and, after East played an encouraging seven, he ducked.

After winning the second heart with the ace, declarer drew trumps in two rounds. Next, he played the ace, king and another diamond. This eliminated the diamond suit and gave each defender a poisoned option. If West won the trick, he would either have to concede a ruff-and-discard or lead into declarer's club tenace.

In fact it was East who won the diamond. If he had shifted to a low club, declarer would have played low from hand and West would have been endplayed. In practice, though, East shifted to the ten of clubs, which was covered by the queen and West's king. West took his best shot by exiting with a low club. Declarer now took his best second chance by calling for dummy's nine of clubs. When this held, he had made his game.

Note that if East had played the king of hearts at trick one, declarer would have won the first trick with the ace of hearts. Then, after drawing trumps, he would have exited with a heart. As West held both the jack and ten of hearts he would have had to win the trick and, after regaining the lead, declarer would have played similarly.



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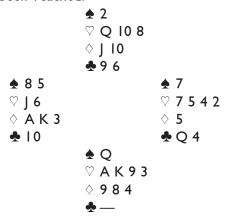
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West	North	East	South
Nilsland	Seligman	Wald	Hallberg
Pass	Pass	l 💠	Pass
♠	Pass	Pass	Double
Redouble	Pass	Pass	INT
Double	Pass	Pass	Pass

The featured deal illustrates that even a lowly contract of one notrump can be of interest, although David Bird, one of BBO's regular Vugraph commentators, claims that these contracts are so boring that he prefers to take a shower when they appear on the screen. However, this one was not at all boring when the Scandinavian defenders squeezed declarer in three suits.

On the surface, it seems like Gunnar Hallberg from England (formerly Sweden) has six tricks in his doubled contract, either four hearts, a spade and a club, or four hearts, a club and a long diamond, but Roland Wald from Denmark/England and Mats Nilsland, Sweden, had other ideas and made one of declarer's tricks vanish.

Nilsland led the queen of diamonds, asking for attitude. When he got the six (discouraging) from Wald, he switched to the two of clubs (third- and fifth-best). East won with the jack and cashed a top spade. Nilsland discouraged with the ten (upside-down attitude). The king of clubs came next, and Hallberg won with the ace in dummy. He played a spade up, and when East went in with the other spade honour, this position had been reached:



The four of clubs to West's ten squeezed Hallberg. He either had to pitch a winner in one of the majors or, alternatively, unguard the diamond suit. He chose the latter, and the contract went two down for 500 to East/ West. That was worth 8 IMPs, when East/West at the other table made two overtricks in one notrump.

Squeezes executed by declarer are quite common, but only rarely does the defence manage to squeeze declarer. One notrump contracts may not be so boring after all.

It might have been different had declarer cashed his hearts when in with the ace of clubs. West has difficulties discarding.

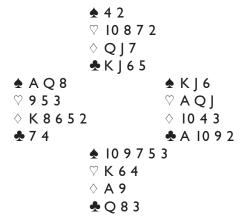


In the Junior Channel Trophy, played in London in late December, The Netherlands were uncatchable with one match remaining. Although France beat them in their final-round encounter by 24-6 in VPs, the Dutch were easy winners. They were represented by Berend van den Bos, Joris van Lankveld, Aarnhout Helmich, Gerbrand Hop, Ernst Wackwitz, and Chris Westerbeek, with NPC Agnes Snellers and coach Wubbo de Boer.

Runaway winners in the Girls' Junior Channel were also The Netherlands (Red team) of Judith Nab, Laura Dekkers, Sigrid Spangenberg and Magdaléna Tichá. The Youngsters' event featured a much more tightly-bunched field. The Netherlands missed their chance of a clean sweep when England were victorious: Freddie Illingworth, Chris Huber, Toby Nonnenmacher, Michael Alishaw, Chris Derrick and Will Roper with NPC Michael Byrne.

A Suit Preference Signal?

Board 14. Dealer East. Neither Vul.



This deal is from the round six match between France and The Netherlands. The auction had been an uninformative one notrump-three notrump and a spade was led by South at both tables. East, declarer, won in hand, continued with a diamond to the king and another diamond.

Both Souths reasoned that declarer might be coming to a quick nine tricks unless they switched and both tried a heart. After all, North might have held ace-jack-eight-seven-two in hearts. That did not trouble declarer and the game was made at both tables.

In fact, the game should still fail on either a spade continuation or a club switch. The question is what North's alternative diamond plays should suggest. If we assume that high-low does not ask for a spade

continuation, then it would normally suggest a heart switch. However, North would not want to signal with a potential winner, so with either queen-jack-seven or jack-ten-seven, he would start with the seven. But the second play of the suit should be suit preference.

There is a similar position when partner leads a singleton against a suit and you have either ace-queen-jack-ten-two or ace-jack-ten-nine-two and need to return a high card while signalling for a side suit. A popular treatment is for the queen or ten to ask for the high suit and the jack for the low suit.

It is not too fanciful to apply the same logic here. So North might play the diamond jack, as he did, to suggest a club switch and the queen or ten to suggest a heart switch. Nothing works all the time though, for if North were desperate for a heart switch and had doubleton queen of diamonds, he would have to guess that South also had a doubleton and play the queen under the king.



BBO has been a boon to bridge journalists as well as providing countless hours of entertainment to bridge fans all over the world. A number of deals have caught my fancy over the past couple of months - here are a few of them from the recent final weekend of the Gold Cup...

The Gold Cup is Britain's most-prestigious event. The trophy was donated by *Bridge Magazine* to the British Bridge League in 1932 - it was valued then at 100 guineas (a guinea being 21 shillings in the days of pounds/shillings/pence). Since the pound sterling has multiplied approximately 20 times in value since 1932 and gold has increased in value 80-fold, one hopes that today, Bridge Great Britain has the Gold Cup insured for a very large sum!

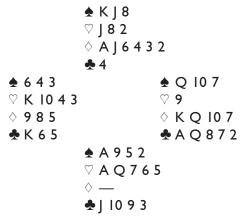
The Gold Cup is a knockout teams event open to members of the 'Home' unions (i.e., England, Scotland and Wales). The early rounds are arranged by the competitors themselves, 32 boards in Round I, 48 in rounds 2-5 and 64 from the quarterfinals onward, with provision for longer matches by agreement. The last eight (or four, also by agreement) meet on a single weekend in early December to do battle. This year, 154 teams competed.

The ALLFREY team (Alexander Allfrey-Andrew Robson, David Gold-Tony Forrester, Peter Crouch-Derek Patterson) defeated the DE BOTTON team

(Janet de Botton-Artur Malinowski-Thor Erik Hoftaniska, Nick Sandqvist-David Burn) by just 13 IMPs in a closely-contested final. This after ALLFREY had staged a stunning comeback to win its semifinal match against COPE (Simon Cope-Andrew Murphy, Sally Brock-Barry Myers, Nicola Smith-Chris Dixon) by 4 IMPs, having been down 52 with 16 boards to play.

For Tony Forrester, this was his eleventh Gold Cup victory, equalling Boris Schapiro's all-time record. Here is Forrester in action on a few boards from the semifinal and final that illustrate why he is still in the England team after three decades or so...

Semifinal. Board 3. Dealer South. EW Vul.



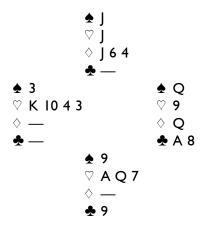
West	North	East	South
Crouch	Brock	Patterson	Myers
Dixon	Gold	Smith	Forrester
_	_	_	10
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♡
Pass	4♡	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Crouch led the three of spades and Myers lost two hearts, two clubs and a spade for two down, minus 100.

Dixon also led a spade, but the more revealing top-ofnothing six. Forrester won with the ace in hand over Smith's ten and led the club jack. It appeared to West that there might be some value in winning this and leading a second spade before declarer could set up discards. Furthermore, had he ducked and declarer turned up with the queen-ten, he'd have exposed his king to a ruffing finesse.

Accordingly, Dixon rose with the king of clubs and continued with the four of spades. Forrester wasted no time over this, winning the king, then cashing the ace of diamonds for a spade discard. He then ruffed two diamonds in hand and two clubs in the dummy to reach the ending diagrammed on the next page.

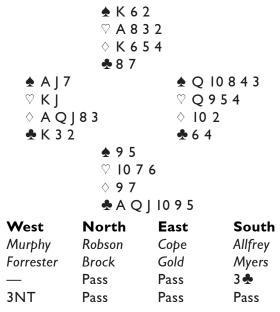
When declarer led a diamond from the dummy, it was revealed that East had the defence's last card in the suit. Forrester thus ruffed the diamond queen with the ace of hearts, Dixon discarding his last spade - he was then down to all hearts.



When declarer next led his last club, West had to ruff and declarer overruffed with the jack. Forrester now very carefully played the not-good jack of spades from the dummy (rather than one of the good diamonds) to prevent East ruffing in. When West was forced to ruff his partner's queen of spades and concede a trick to the queen of hearts, Forrester had made his game, plus 420 and 11 IMPs in.

Dixon could have defeated four hearts with the unusual ploy of underruffing twice and retaining the three of spades as an exit card. When Forrester ruffed Smith's queen of diamonds with the ace of hearts, he had to play the three or four of hearts, then play the other low heart on the nine of clubs, ruffed with dummy's jack. Then East would be on lead at the critical juncture, trick 12, with West still holding the king-ten of hearts over declarer's queen-seven.

Semifinal. Board 9. Dealer North. EW Vul.



If the defence leads clubs and withholds the ace at trick one, thus forcing declarer to duck as well, the success of three notrump revolves around declarer's ability to shut out one of North's kings. Complicating his task is the fact that declarer needs a dummy entry to his second heart trick if North wins his ace the first or second time the suit is played. Against that is the fact that the ten of hearts will drop on the third

round of the suit, setting up the nine. Could it be a deal on which North must take a trick at the first opportunity, each time one is offered?

Allfrey did put in the nine of clubs at trick one and Murphy ducked the king. South continued with the ace and another club, both North and dummy discarding low diamonds. Now declarer played the king and jack of heart; Robson could see that either declarer had the ten or it was falling from South, so he ducked both hearts. Murphy continued with the jack of spades, ducked (winning is no better), then the ace and a third spade. Robson was cooked - he had to give declarer the dummy to make the winning (but marked) heart play at trick twelve or concede all five(!) diamonds in declarer's hand.

In practice, Robson took his best shot at that point, cashing the heart ace and exiting with a diamond, hoping South could beat dummy's ten. No joy there: minus 600.

With no entry to the clubs, even if set up, Myers made a more effective continuation at trick two, the nine of diamonds. Declarer ducked and Brock won the king and continued the suit to sever a link between the declarer's and the dummy's hands. Declarer won the diamond with the ten in dummy and tried a spade to the jack, Brock ducking (she could not be sure who had the ace and who had the king of clubs at this point).

Declarer cashed one high diamond then tried the king of hearts - North won and continued hearts. The ace and another spade put North on play again and a club to the ace defeated the contract, plus 100 and 12 IMPs to COPE.

This helped COPE build a big early lead, but this was shattered by ALLFREY in the last 16 boards. In the final versus DE BOTTON...

Final. Board 58. Dealer East. Both Vul.

♠ J 7	
♡ A	10 7
♦ A 0	Q 10 9 8 4
♣ 10	5
♠ A K 9 8 5 3	♠ Q
♡ K 5 2	♡ Q 8 6 3
♦ 3 2	♦ J 7 6 5
♣ K J	♣ Q 9 8 6
★ 10	6 4 2
♡] 9	4
♦ K	
♣ A 7	7 4 3 2

West	North	East	South
Sandqvist	Allfrey	Burn	Robson
_	_	Pass	Pass
♠	2♦	Pass	Pass
Double	Pass	2♡	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Robson led the king of diamonds and, when it held, shifted to a low club. Burn won the king in dummy, played a heart to the queen, cashed the queen of spades and led a second round of clubs. Robson took the ace and shifted accurately to the heart jack. Thereafter, the defence took two hearts and the ace-queen of diamonds to defeat the contract one trick.

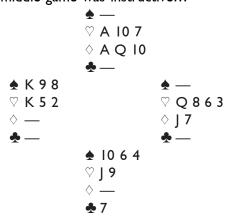
In the other room:

West	North	East	South
Forrester	Malinowski	Gold	Hoftaniska
_	_	Pass	Pass
l ♠	2♦	Pass	Pass
2♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

Forrester preferred to rebid his suit rather than chance a three-club response from Gold. This looked to be headed for one off as well, for a boring push, but...

Malinowski led the ten of clubs, six, ace, king and Hoftaniska returned the deuce to the jack, six and queen. With the clubs in dummy now high, Forrester led the club nine and pitched away one of his diamonds. As South had signalled emphatically for diamonds, North underled his honours to South's king. When South continued the club attack, it still appeared that one off was the impending result. However, Forrester ruffed the club high and led a trump to dummy's queen. The appearance of the jack of spades from North gave him hope. He ruffed a diamond back to hand (South discarding a heart) and led a heart to dummy's queen, then ruffed another diamond. He'd taken six tricks and still had the king-nine of trumps over South's tensix-four. He exited with a heart and made eight tricks for plus 110.

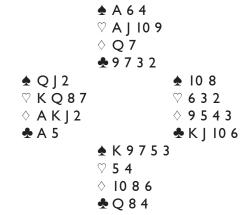
The middle game was instructive...



Had North won his ace of hearts when Forrester led one toward dummy, then played a high diamond, South could have discarded his third heart on it, denying declarer a heart trick and an entry to the dummy, thus upsetting the timing for the trump coup. However, declarer could have foiled this effort with a slight change in timing - leading a heart to dummy before a

spade to the queen, thus preventing South's discarding a heart too early.

Final. Board 59. Dealer South. Neither Vul.



West	North	East	South
Sandqvist	Allfrey	Burn	Robson
Forrester	Malinowski	Gold	Hoftaniska
_	_	_	Pass
2 💠	Pass	2♦	Pass
2NT	Pass	3NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		

With an unattractive collection to lead from, Allfrey chose the jack of hearts which Sandqvist won with the king, Robson having played the five. With winners in short supply, declarer essayed a spade to the ten and South's king. South continued hearts and North won the nine. Knowing from the carding that declarer had the queen-eight remaining, Allfrey shifted to the three of clubs, jack, four, five. That was an unfortunate turn for Sandqvist as it afforded him the entry to dummy he needed for the diamond finesse. Having three tricks in already when he won the diamond queen, Allfrey could see two more (the major-suit aces) and took them with alacrity. Down one, minus 50.

Forrester received the same jack of hearts lead from Malinowski. He won the king as well and went after clubs, playing the ace and a low one to the jack. Hoftaniska won the queen of clubs and returned his remaining heart. When North won the heart nine, he reflected that if he'd thought the opening lead unpalatable, his choices now were worse. Not certain of the pointed-suit layout, North cashed the ace of hearts and exited with the heart ten. Unfortunately for the defence, this denied declarer the entry to dummy he needed for the diamond finesse, so he banged down the ace and king. He soon had an entry to dummy's clubs with the nine of diamonds, taking two hearts, four diamonds and three clubs for plus 400.

These boards gained ALLFREY 5 and 10 IMPs respectively; they won the match by 13 IMPs.

NEWS & VIEWS



Zeng Peiyan Named President of WBF Congress

Zeng Peiyan, former Vice-Premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China, according to art. 3.2 of the WBF By-Laws, in consideration of the outstanding and distinguished services rendered to the World Bridge Federation and to the development and affirmation of bridge, has been appointed President of the WBF Congress. Zeng Peiyan replaces the late Ding Guangeng.

The title was awarded to Mr. Zeng by WBF President Gianarrigo Rona during a ceremony held in Beijing in the afternoon of Saturday, 8th December in the presence of the Chinese Ministry of Sport and Chinese Olympic Committee President, Liu Peng, the President of the Chinese Contract Bridge Association, Xiang Huaincheng, and other authorities representing the Chinese Government, the CCBA and the WBF. The ceremony was followed by a bridge match.

2013 European Open Championships Headed for Belgium

Ostend, Belgium is going to host the 6th edition of the European Open Championships, following the very successful hosting of the European Team Championships in 2010. The Mixed Teams and Pairs competitions will be held between June 15th and 21st, while the Open, Women, and Seniors will have their turn between June 22nd and 29th.

Although the tournament registration system is not yet activated, you can already book your hotel. The main hotel is Thermae Palace Hotel (www.thermaepalace.be), but you can also book your hotel using the online reservation system:

https://secure.cubilis.eu/portal/belgie/oostende/view_packages.aspx?pid=103&lang=en (The code is Bridge2013).

Eitan Levy Honoured by EBL

On the occasion of the 2012 European Champions' Cup, Eitan Levy, President of the Israeli Bridge Federation, was honoured with the EBL Silver Medal for his services to bridge over many decades.

ACBL Player of the Year

Zia Mahmood has won his fifth ACBL Player of the Year crown in 2012. The POTY is awarded to the player

who wins the most master points in NABC events with no upper master point limit. Zia won his first POTY in 1991. No one else has won it more than three times (Bob Hamman).

Sidney Lazard Jr. Sportsmanship Award

Bénédicte Cronier and Sylvie Willard, both of Paris, have been named co-recipients of the 2013 Sidney H. Lazard Jr. Sportsmanship award. "These women are the epitome of grace, good manners, cheerfulness and sportsmanship, making the bridge experience more pleasurable for everyone," says Sportsmanship Committee Chairman Sidney Lazard.

In memory of his late son, Lazard initiated the honour in 2001 to recognize and promote high standards of conduct among top-level players. Cronier and Willard have won several NABC team titles, numerous European titles, and have twice brought the gold medal in women's world team championship play home to France.

"This is the first time a partnership has been honoured with the sportsmanship award," Lazard explains. "Given this international pair's high level of conduct, the committee feels the selection is justified and appropriate."

The trophy presentation will take place at the Summer NABC in Atlanta.

2013 Zonal Championships

LXIII Campeonato Sudamericano de Bridge - Angra dos Reis, Brasil, May 25-June 1, 2013

African Zonal Championships - Saint-Denis de la Réunion, May 5-12, 2013

USBF Trials - Orlando, FL: Open: May 31-June 10, 2013; Women's and Seniors: July 10-19, 2013

49th Pacific Asia Championships - Hong Kong, June 7-16, 2013

Central American & Caribbean Championships - Panama, May 17-26, 2013

BFAME Championships - al Manamah, Bahrain, May 2013

The European Championships were held in Dublin in 2012, qualifying these six teams for Bali: Monaco, The Netherlands, Italy, England, Poland and Germany.



Correspondence

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

Dear John,

One should never forget that Jimmy Ortiz-Patiño was a great bridge player. Perhaps his greatest performance was at the 1964 New York Olympiad when, as part of the Swiss Team (with Pietro Bernasconi, Jean Besse and Jimmy Tait), he led the field for most of the Championship, only to fade at the end for want of a third pair.

Because Jimmy played at the top level he knew of the temptations to which a few players succumbed (or, just as bad, of the malicious gossip levelled at ethical experts). So, when Jimmy organised and hosted the 1979 European Teams Championships in Lausanne he introduced screens for the first time. The screens needed an operator at every table and consequently were expensive. Jimmy paid for the construction of the screens and the travel (mostly young English volunteers), accommodation and per diem of the screen operators.

The next event Jimmy hosted and organised was the 1990 World Championship in Geneva. For the first time a major international championship was played in the morning and afternoon, rather than the afternoon and evening. It was Jimmy's idea and as he said, "how could we expect bridge to be taken seriously by Government and the IOC when the game was associated with late nights in smoke-filled rooms?".

I don't know what Jimmy would most like to be remembered for, but for the *playing* of international bridge (rather than its administration), I believe the above are his greatest legacies.

Regards,

Bill Pencharz, Piegut Pluvier, France

Dear Friends,

Yesterday, with José, I attended Jimmy's funeral ceremony in Sotogrande, where we provided a wreath of flowers on behalf of the WBF and where we met his family, offering our deepest condolences from all Jimmy's WBF friends. Jimmy's son, Felipe, confirmed that another ceremony will be held in Paris and he will inform us about the date. Please see the information and my letter published on the WBF website.

Un abbraccio, Gianarrigo Rona, WBF President, Milan Dear Gianarrigo and Friends,

I want to express my sorrow about the loss of Jimmy Ortiz-Patiño, whom I admired a lot, both as a strong bridge supporter and as a great gentleman. I believe that his name will always be remembered by the bridge community all over the world. The news of his death was published in a prominent Turkish Newspaper (Milliyet). This is proof about his being known and respected all over the world. I express my gratitude for all he has done for us.

Kind regards, Sevinç Atay, Istanbul

Dear John,

Rosi Spinn has died at the age of 85 after long illness. She played successfully on the Austrian Ladies Team with Britta Widengren.

Best regards, Fritz Babsch, Vienna

Dear JC,

In the January issue of the ACBL Bulletin (*November IBPA Bulletin - Ed.*) you wrote up the Cavendish in Monaco. The last hand you showed is this:

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

You say that the seven-heart contract depends upon getting four spade tricks, which can be had if the suit is 3-3 or the jack drops doubleton or singleton - about a 54% chance. You go on to say that, "There are no viable squeeze opportunities."

I beg to differ. While I agree with this after LHO shows up with four hearts, when you started the hand there was a perfectly respectable chance that LHO had both spade and diamond length. In which case, after drawing trumps, declarer could test spades, cross back to the king of diamonds and cash the last trump.

Henry Bethe, Ithaca, NY

Quite right. I should have instead stated that, "Once South shows up with four hearts, there are no viable squeeze opportunities with North discarding after dummy." - Ed.

Dear John,

Ira Rubin died today (February 6). I'll have a column on Saturday, February 9 in *The New York Times*.

Regards, Phillip Alder, Hobe Sound, FL

Dear Bridge People,

I'm very happy and proud to announce that the first online university team championship organized by EUSA and EBL will start this month with 33 universities from 15 countries in Europe participating. Poland and Turkey lead the way with five entrants each and England has four. This number is a new record in Europe's university history beating the previous record of 32 teams. After 61 teams participated in the third online championships from FISU and WBF in 2012, this confirms that university bridge is "alive and kicking"!

Over the next two months, the teams will play in groups to determine the 16 finalists. Following that, there will be a knockout stage, with a round each month.

If everything goes well, the four semifinalists will be invited by EUSA and EBL to come to the EUSA games in Rotterdam. The EUSA games are the biggest European Sports Event, attracting between 2500 and 4000 athletes.

All information and results are available on www.unibridge.eu and on Facebook - "UNI Bridge".

Best Regards, Geert Magerman, Antwerp geert.magerman@telenet.be

Dear John,

Here is a fantastic opportunity. The 27th CACBF Championships and Ist International Open Bridge Festival will be held in Panama from May 17-26 this year. It will be a truly unique event in an exotic location. We spend four days in Panama City, a shopper's paradise and a chance to visit the Panama Canal. Then we switch locations and move over to Playa Blanca, one of the most beautiful beaches on the Pacific coast, to relax and enjoy the tropical sunshine for five more days. And of course there is plenty of bridge to be enjoyed along the way. We expect players not only from within the zone but players from every corner of the world, from Argentina to Australia, from the USA and Canada, from Europe to South Africa.

See our website at **www.bridgepanama.com** and if you need any further information please contact me on (**f_f_bridge@hotmail.com**) and I will be happy to help you make your plans. You will be looked after from the moment you arrive at the airport until you depart. We can promise you a perfectly planned, thoroughly enjoyable time, so come and meet old bridge friends and make new ones in a tropical paradise.

Cheers! Frankie Frontaura, Havana

Chris Diment Remembered

Long-time IBPA member Chris Diment died last year. Sean Mullamphy, Australia's Chief TD, penned this remembrance:

I worked with Chris Diment in every national bridge event I've directed since the late 1980s. This year will seem very strange. Over those years we shared accommodation, ate together, shared stories, and discussed ideas on improving the laws of bridge. Chris demanded nothing in others but always demanded perfection in himself. At any event where Chris was in charge, detail was the order of the day. Scorebooks were always pieces of art. Always in full colour, each new match was colour coordinated to the handrecord and colour-coordinated to the scores for that round on the scoreboard. As a director he had the ability to arrive at a volatile table and leave it in peace. Events will not be the same without him. Most importantly, he was my best friend in the world of bridge. I will miss him a lot.



JOURNALIST HEAVEN

Dutch players Frank van Wezel and Hans van der Konijnenberg have established a website to publish Daily Bulletins from tournaments around the world. Their plan is to publish as many as they can find, both from the digital era and before. They are currently in the process of building the site. They have WBF, EBL, and ACBL championship bulletins, as well as many from miscellaneous tournaments around the world. Their site is...

www.bridgedailybulletins.nl

The builders say, "We ask for your assistance. We are still missing bulletins; if you have bulletins, please contact us. We would like to receive the original bulletins via mail or scans via email. We are willing to give you a small compensation for the bulletins."

Contact details can be found on the website.



WORLD BRIDGE FEDERATION

41st WORLD BRIDGE TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS

Bermuda Bowl, Venice Cup, d'Orsi Senior Bowl 9th WORLD TRANSNATIONAL OPEN TEAMS CHAMPIONSHIP

BALI NUSA DUA CONVENTION CENTER

Kawasan Pariwisata Nusa Dua Lot NW/I Nusa Dua, Bali, Indonesia 16th – 29th September 2013

Bermuda Bowl, Venice Cup, D'Orsi Senior Bowl Timetable

- Teams Registration Monday 16th September (starting 10.00 hrs.)
- Captains meeting Monday 16th September at 17.00
- Opening Ceremony Monday 16th September at 20.00
- Round Robin 1st Match Tuesday 17th September at 11.00
- Round Robin Last Match Monday 23rd September at 17.10
- Captains Meeting Monday 23rd September at 19.45
- Quarter-final Tuesday 24th Wednesday 25th September
- Semi-final Thursday 26th Friday 27th September
- Final & Play-Off Saturday 28th Sunday 29th September
- Prize-giving & Closing ceremony Sunday 29th September at 20.30 hrs.

9th World Transnational Open Teams Championship

The 9th World Transnational Open Teams will take place during the second week, starting at 10.00 in the morning on Tuesday 24th September. The format will be Swiss Teams. It is normally played as 10-board matches (5 per day) for 15 qualifying rounds (150 boards). The Quarter Final will be played on Friday 27th September, the Semi Final on Saturday 28th September and the Final on Sunday 29th September. If 120 teams or more enter the Championship, the KO stage (phase) will commence with a round of 16.

Hotel Accommodation & Booking

The Local Organising Committee (LOC) arranged special rates for the hotels indicated in the attached list. The booking has to be made contacting the hotels directly. Any hotels not within walking distance will provide return shuttles to the venue. We strongly recommend making your room reservations as soon as possible in order to ensure that you obtain the required accommodation.

Further Information

For further information, contact Judianto Hasan (LOC) judianto.hasan@yahoo.com Marina Madia (WBF Secretariat) secretariat@worldbridgefed.com

A list of hotels, with prices and booking information together with details of all competitions can be found at the WBF website www.worldbridge.org on the main page in the section entitled Bali ... at last!

World Bridge Calendar

DATES	EVENT	LOCATION	INFORMATION
2013	47th	T. A	11.6.6
Feb 9-15	47th Israel Bridge Festival	Tel-Aviv, Israel	www.ibf-festival.org
Feb 16-20 Feb 21-24	Tolani Summer Nationals	Pune, India	www.bfi.net.in
Feb 21-24 Feb 23-Mar 2	Copenhagen Invitational	Copenhagen, Denmark	www2.bridge.dk/DK.aspx?ID=6536
Feb 23-Mar 2 Feb 27-Mar 3	Gold Coast Congress International Festival	Surfer's Paradise, Australia Cannes, France	www.qldbridge.com/gcc www.festivalsdusoleil.com
Mar I-3	Lohia memorial Tournament	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	www.bfi.net.in
Mar I-3	Zurich Open	Kanpur, India Zurich, Switzerland	schoellkopf@inp.ch
Mar I-3	Camrose Home Internationals II	Republic of Ireland	www.ebu.co.uk
Mar 4-10	13 th Winter Festival	Biarritz, France	www.biarritz-hiver.com.
Mar 5-10	Mexican Regional	S. M. de Allende, Mexico	www.acbl.org
Mar 6-10	VII Torneo Internacional	Bariloche, Argentina	www.csbnews.org
Mar 14-24	Spring NABC	St. Louis, MO	www.acbl.org
Mar 17-22	White House Junior International Teams		keestammens@gmail.com
Mar 19-24	Kitzbühel Bridge Week	Kitzbühel, Austria	www.bridgeaustria.at
Mar 18 & 20	WBF Simultaneous Pairs	Clubs	www.ecatsbridge.com
Mar 21-24	Tasmanian Festival of Bridge	Hobart, Tasmania	www.abf.com.au
Mar 26-31	118th Canadian Nationals	Toronto, ON	www.unit166.ca
Apr 16-21	18th NEC Festival	Yokohama, Japan	www.jcbl.or.jp
Apr 18-21	14th Hotel Senator Bridge Meeting	Starachowice, Poland	www.h-s.pl/brydz-meeting
Apr 22-26	Yeh Brothers Cup	Yokohama, Japan	pat_hwang2002@yahoo.com.tw
Apr 26-May 5	Lambourne Jersey Festival	Jersey, Channel Islands	www.ebu.co.uk
Apr 27-29	55th International Mixed Pairs	Warsaw, Poland	www.pzbs.pl; latala@pzbs.pl
Apr 30-May 3	26th Iternational Teams Championship	Warsaw, Poland	www.pzbs.pl; latala@pzbs.pl
May I-4	56 th International Open Pairs	Warsaw, Poland	www.pzbs.pl; latala@pzbs.pl
May 3-16	International Festival	Juan-les-Pins, France	www.festivalsdusoleil.com
May 5-12	African Zonal Championships	Saint-Denis de la Réunion	www.district-bridge-reunion.fr
May 8-10	International German Teams Trophy	Bad Godesberg, Germany	www.bridge-verband.de
May II	Bonn Cup (Pairs)	Bad Godesberg, Germany	www.bridge-verband.de
May 14-19	Grand Prix of Portugal	Estoril, Portugal	www.fpbridge.com
May 17-26	27th CACBF & 1st Int'l Open Festival	Playa Blanca, Panama	www.cacbf.com
May 20-26	XXVITorneo Costa Calida	Murcia, Spain	www.aebridge.com
May 24-26	34 th Oder River Blue Ribbon Neeting	Wroclaw, Poland	www.dzbs.com.pl
May 25-Jun I	LXIII South American Championships	Angra dos Reis, Brazil	www.confsudbridge.org
May 30-Jun 2	53 rd Poznan Bridge Congress	Poznan, Poland	www.kongresbrydz.wlkp.pl
Jun 6-9	Midsummer Bridge Tournament	Helsinki, Finland	www.bridge.fi
Jun 7-8	World Wide Bridge Contest	Clubs Everywhere	www.ecatsbridge.com
Jun 7-16	49th APBF Championships	Hong Kong, China	www.hkcba.org
Jun 9-16	15th German Bridge Festival	Wyk / Fohr, Germany	www.bridge-verband.de
Jun 15-29	Open European Championships	Ostend, Belgium	www.eurobridge.org
Jun 28-Jul 10	International Festival of Bridge	Biarritz, France	www.biarritz-bridge.com
Jul 5-14	56th Slawa Bridge Congress	Slawa, Poland	www.kongres-slawa.pl
Jul 15-28	Deauville Bridge Festival	Deauville, France	www.deauville-bridge.fr
Jul 17-30	19th Maccabi Games	Jerusalem, Israel	www.maccabiah.com
Jul 19-27	53rd Baltic Bridge Congress	Sopot, Poland	www.bridge.gda.pl/mkb
Jul 26-Aug 4	19th Swedish Bridgefestival	Örebro, Sweden	www.svenskbridge.se/festival
Jul 27-Aug I	Chairman's Cup	Orebro, Sweden	www.svenskbridge.se/festival
Aug I-II	Summer NABC	Atlanta, GA	www.acbl.org www.ebu.co.uk
Aug 9-18 Aug 9-18	Summer Meeting 23 rd Solidarity Bridge Festival	Brighton, England Slupsk, Poland	www.bridgefestival.hg.pl
Aug 19 & 21	WBF Simultaneous Pairs	Clubs	www.ecatsbridge.com
Aug 23 Sep I	41st Grand Prix of Warsaw	Warsaw, Poland	www.warsbrydz.pl
Sep 6-8	Isle of Man Congress	Douglas, Isle of Man	www.ebu.co.uk
Sep 7-15	52 nd International Festival	Pula, Croatia	tihana@pilar.hr
Sep 16-29	41st World Team Championships	Bali, Indonesia	www.worldbridge.org
Sep 20-29	Guernsey Congress	Guernsey, Channel Islands	www.ebu.co.uk
Sep 23-28	9th Transnational Teams	Bali, Indonesia	www.worldbridge.org
Sep 28-Oct 5	30th New Zealand National Congress	Hamilton, New Zealand	www.nzcba.co.nz
Oct 9-15	EBU Overseas Congress	Lake Garda Italy	www.ebu.co.uk
Oct 17-19	25th International Teams Tournament	Monte Carlo, Monaco	www.cavendishmonaco.com
Oct 21 & 23	WBF Simultaneous Pairs	Clubs	www.ecatsbridge.com
Oct 21-25	Cavendish Invitational	Monte Carlo, Monaco	www.cavendishmonaco.com
Nov 28-Dec 8	Fall NABC	Phoenix, AZ	www.acbl.org
Dec 13-15	Città di Milano Internazionale Squadre	Milan, Italy	www.federbridge.it
Dec 16 & 18	WBF Simultaneous Pairs	Clubs	www.ecatsbridge.com