



BULLETIN

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Editorial

While looking through the daily bulletins at the Chicago NABC, I noticed a deal where defenders were cashing a suit of ♠AK86 opposite ♥Q109 (plus an outside ace) against 3NT. According to the report, the defender led the heart ace, followed by the eight to partner's hand, then cashed the king out of turn (a major penalty card). Declarer chose to waive the lead penalty and let the defenders cash their tricks unimpeded. Declarer could have complicated the defence by prohibiting a heart lead, but, in the words of the reporter, "Who wants to win that way?"

After my previous editorials, where I disapproved of the practice of deliberately playing slowly to trigger a time penalty, some people may assume that I am also against taking advantage of other penalties, such as revokes and leads out of turn. This is not the case (although I do admit that the penalties for revoking sometimes seem unfair). Being able to play the correct card is perhaps the most important skill in the game, and if you get it wrong – for whatever reason – it can affect your results. The Laws make an allowance for mechanical errors, such as a slip of the tongue or a fumbled card, but not for basic carelessness. Lapses of concentration are the cause of many decisive errors at all levels of the game.

Recently, for at least the fifth time in my life, I lost an important match because my mind wandered. After planning out the 100% line of play (which was not at all complicated), I lost focus for a moment and played a card several tricks earlier than intended. Just for good measure, flying in the face of all elementary bridge advice, I then let that error cause me to second-guess myself on the next board.

After the event, I spoke with Kim Frazer, author of 2020 book of the year *Gaining the Mental Edge at Bridge*, and told her how frustrating it was to lose because of an error that had "nothing to do with bridge." She reminded me, quite correctly, that these errors are very much a part of bridge. Different players have different weaknesses, and lack of concentration is one of the more common ones.

Sometimes you lose because a contract is beyond your card play skills. Sometimes you lose because of a moment of youthful recklessness in the bidding. Sometimes it's because you forgot to look at partner's count signal. Sometimes it's because your eagerness caused you to act too quickly, so you led the wrong pip, or led out of turn. All of these shortcomings can reduce your chances of success.

Not knowing who is on lead is no less of an error than not knowing how many trumps are out, failing to notice a suit is blocked, or momentarily forgetting that you recently agreed to play 3♣ as forcing. You don't get to play out of turn and then say, "Obviously my partner was going to return a heart." You have to wait for him to return the heart. Of course, declarer is within his rights to waive the penalty by accepting the lead out of turn, which is what appears to have happened in Chicago. However, declarer is also within his rights if he expects you to take responsibility for your own mistakes, and there is nothing unsporting about that.

You may remember an incident from a few years ago where a professional was watching from dummy while his partner struggled with a basic endplay position. Eventually he lost his patience and told his partner what card to play. Obviously this is a far more serious offence than an innocent lead out of turn, but the result is the same. Saying, "He was always going to find the right play on his own," is not an adequate defence in either case. No matter how experienced you are, you still have to find the correct play, on your own, to get credit for it.

18th World Youth Teams Championships

Never too young

Fearghal O'Boyle, Sligo

There was a fine example of ethical play from a young player on this deal from the WBF U16 Teams.

Board 22. Dealer East. East-West vulnerable.

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

This was Board 22. Before this board was played, West and South called the Director to ask for a ruling on Board 21. In an attempt to be helpful, both West and South managed to accidentally expose the North hand of Board 22 (thinking they were looking at the North hand from Board 21). Both players instantly realised their mistake, and they quickly returned North's cards to Board 22.

The Director gave his ruling on Board 21, and now West and South asked what they should do about Board 22. Directors are trained to try and 'save' boards – they do not like to cancel or withdraw boards – and with that objective in mind the Director spoke to West and South to see what exact extraneous information they might have. West (Itamar Herbst of Israel) said that he had seen enough to know that North held only one picture card but he said he would not use that information.

So the four players sat down to play the board and Itamar finished as declarer in 5♥. He won the spade lead in dummy (discarding the queen of diamonds from hand) and finessed in hearts at trick two, losing to North's king. North switched to a diamond. Declarer ruffed in hand and played a club to dummy's ace. Declarer ruffed another diamond in hand and led a second club towards dummy's king-jack and, when North followed with a small club, Itamar finessed the jack, even though he knew it was going to lose. Respect!

A perfect lesson to us all by a young U16 player in how to "carefully avoid taking any advantage of unauthorised

information." When we find this level of high ethics among our younger players then the future of bridge is bright. Bravo Itamar Herbst.

Nice duck

Brian Senior, Nottingham

Anders Brogeland of the Norwegian U21 team found a neat ducking play which was overlooked by his counterpart at the other table.

Board 18. Dealer East. North-South vulnerable.

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

West	North	East	South
	<i>Saetre</i>		<i>Brogeland</i>
		1♦	1♥
1♠	Pass	2♦	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

At the other table there was no 1♥ overcall, but North led the three of hearts anyway, West having bid spades then clubs before admitting to a heart stopper. South won the ace at trick one and continued with a low heart to declarer's ace. It would not have been clear to declarer, Christian Johnsen, who had the heart length, only that they might be five-two, if the defensive carding to these two tricks was to be believed. However, declarer picked up the diamonds successfully, leading low to the ace then back to the king, and came to ten tricks for +430. Magnus Saetre also led the three of hearts, but Brogeland followed with an encouraging four, playing for the heart layout to be exactly as it was. Not only did this keep defensive communications open, but it also seems to have convinced declarer that it was North who held the heart length. That being the case, South rated to have the diamond length, so he won the ten of hearts, led a diamond to the ace, and back to the jack, losing to the doubleton queen. Saetre duly led his remaining heart, and Brogeland cashed four of those to defeat the contract.

Double or nothing

Mark Horton, Shrewsbury

Travelling back home from a family party in Wiltshire I switched on the car radio, which was tuned in to BBC Radio 4. I was just in time to hear an interview with Kim Sherwood the author of the latest James Bond spin-off novel, Double or Nothing. The timing was perfect, as I had been pondering a title about a deal from the World Youth Teams Championships.

In Round 15 of the U26 Championship, USA 2 met Poland.

Board 9. Dealer North. East-West vulnerable.

<p>♠ 10 2 ♥ 9 7 3 ♦ Q 9 8 6 5 2 ♣ 8 3</p> <p>♠ A Q 7 ♥ A K 6 5 ♦ K 10 ♣ A Q J 10</p>	<p>♠ K 8 6 4 ♥ J ♦ A 7 4 3 ♣ K 7 4 2</p> <p>♠ J 9 5 3 ♥ Q 10 8 4 2 ♦ J ♣ 9 6 5</p>
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In the Closed Room Jakub Bazyluk opened the North hand 3♦ and when Brent Xiao bid 3NT as West his partner Richard Jeng decided to let matters rest, +660.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Cichy</i>	<i>Wan</i>	<i>Kopka</i>	<i>Duffie</i>
Double	Pass	Pass	1♥
4NT ¹	2♥	4♠	Pass
5NT ³	Pass	5♥ ²	Pass
7♣	Pass	6♦ ⁴	Pass
7NT	All Pass	Pass	Double

1. RKCB.
2. Two keycards.
3. Asking.
4. One king.

Opposite a passed partner Cornelius Duffie decided to open 1♥ – a tactical move designed to persuade the opponents that he held some of their cards!

Nevertheless, EW managed to navigate their way to the excellent 7♣, one of only three pairs to do so.

However, Cornelius now produced a rabbit out of the hat by doubling 7♣! From West's point of view, it was clearly a Lightner Double, indicating that South was void in spades. It was enough to convince West to look elsewhere, only to discover that he had been hoodwinked.

Had Cornelius passed 7♣, it would have been a huge swing to Poland, enough to give them a 20-0 VP win. His psychic double meant USA 2 managed 0.17 VP – it had literally been a case of Double or Nothing!

Nice switch, but...

Brian Senior, Nottingham

Carlos Pellegrini, npc of the Argentina U21 team, provided this deal from his team's match against England.

Board 7. Dealer South. Both sides vulnerable.

<p>♠ A Q J ♥ Q 9 6 ♦ A K 4 3 2 ♣ Q 5</p> <p>♠ 4 ♥ A K 10 7 5 2 ♦ Q J 6 ♣ K 10 3</p>	<p>♠ 9 8 7 5 ♥ 8 4 3 ♦ ♣ J 8 7 6 4 2</p> <p>♠ K 10 6 3 2 ♥ J ♦ 10 9 8 7 5 ♣ A 9</p>
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West	North	East	South
<i>Popowsky</i>	<i>Hutton</i>	<i>Feintuch</i>	<i>Sanderson</i>
1♥	1NT	Pass	2♥
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♦
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
<i>Winter</i>	<i>Etchepareborda</i>	<i>Anoyrkatis</i>	<i>Guerra</i>
1♥	Double	3♥	Pass
Pass	4♠	All Pass	3♠

Both Wests opened 1♥.

For England, Aaron Hutton overcalled 1NT and Liam Sanderson transferred to spades then showed his diamonds, and the partnership were soon in 4♠.

Clara Feintuch led a heart and Tomas Popowsky won the king and switched to the six of diamonds, a nice play. Hutton put up the ace and Feintuch ruffed – and the contract was doomed, all thanks to that nice low diamond switch. There simply hadn't been enough EW bidding for declarer to be sure of the diamond layout.

At the other table, Baltazar Etchepareborda, for Argentina, doubled the opening bid and Sam Anoyrkatis added to the list of manic preemptive bids we have seen in the last ten days with a jump to 3♥ on his three small. 3♥ did not prove to be sufficient to silence South, Francisco Guerra, who competed with 3♠ and was raised to game by Etchepareborda.

Daniel Winter led the king of hearts and, on seeing dummy and partner's count card, also made the same nice switch to the six of diamonds – but Guerra made an even nicer play, when he called for a low card from dummy! Anoyrkatis got his ruff, but there was just one club to come and declarer was home with his vulnerable game. Very well played.

We will have more deals from the World Juniors in the next issue



Smart defence

From the NABC Bulletin

Italy's Aldo Gerli and New Jersey's John Overdeck combined on defence to win 13 IMPs on this deal from Sunday's Top-Flight Swiss Teams:

♠ Q 8 3
♥ K Q J 10 6 2
♦ A K 8
♣ 7

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

♠ K 10 7 5 4
♥ A 3
♦ J 10 4 2
♣ 8 2

West	North	East	South
Gerli		Overdeck	
	1♥	3♣	Pass
4♣	Double	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

Gerli, West, decided the best defensive chance against 4♠ was to hope that East started with short diamonds. Because he held the trump ace, he hoped he would have the timing to attempt his plan.

On a low diamond lead, declarer won the ace in dummy and played a low trump to the king. Gerli won the ace and played another low diamond. When declarer called for dummy's king, Overdeck ruffed and underled his club holding to put West on lead again.

Gerli cashed the diamond queen and played a fourth round of the suit, creating an additional undertrick for declarer: If he ruffed with dummy's queen, West's jack would be promoted, but if he ruffed with the eight, East would overruff with the nine.

In the replay, 4♠ made on a club lead and diamond switch. Against that line, the defence gets just a single diamond ruff and no diamond trick.

Meckstroth takes 16 from 21

Mark Horton, Shrewsbury

Stiefel, representing District 25 (John Stiefel, Franklin Merblum, Mark Aquino, Geoffrey Brod, Douglas Doub, Allan Graves), and Wolfson, District 9 (Jeffrey Wolfson, Kevin Bathurst, Jack Zhao, Jerry Stamatov, David Berkowitz, Jeff Meckstroth) faced off in the last match of the 2023 Grand National Teams.

Dealer South. North-South vulnerable.

♠ 7 6 5
♥ Q J 9 5 4
♦ 8 7 5 4
♣ 10

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

♠ Q 10 8 4
♥ K 6 3
♦ A Q J 3
♣ Q 6

West	North	East	South
Zhao	Brod	Stamatov	Aquino
			1♦
2♣	Pass	2♦	Double
Pass	3♦	5♣	All Pass

North led the eight of diamonds. South took the ace and returned the queen, declarer winning with the king. He played a club to the king, a club back to the ace and a third club to dummy's seven. He then pitched a heart on the diamond nine, but South exited with the heart three and declarer had to lose a spade at the end, -100.

There is a winning line, predicated on the knowledge that South almost certainly has the diamond jack and probably has the spade queen. If declarer cashes the spade king and all his trumps, the last of these will force South down to a single heart. Declarer crosses to the heart ace and exits with a diamond, forcing South to lead into dummy's spade tenace.

In the other room:

West <i>Merblum</i>	North <i>Berkowitz</i>	East <i>Doub</i>	South <i>Meckstroth</i>
2♣	3♦	3♠	1♦
4♠	Pass	5♣	Pass
			All Pass

North led the queen of hearts, and declarer won with dummy's ace and played a diamond. South took the ace (essential), cashed the heart king and carefully exited with a heart, killing the menace in dummy and ensuring one down. Failing to remove dummy's heart ten would allow declarer to run all his trumps. In the four-card ending, North would have to pitch a spade to keep the heart jack and then South would have to part with a spade to look after dummy's diamond nine – a perfect simultaneous double squeeze.

Wolfson edged a quiet set 19-18 to win 107-70. It is the 16th time Jeff Meckstroth has been on the winning team (and he has been a losing finalist on five occasions).

Tough way to get an average

From the NABC Bulletin

In the first final session of the von Zedtwitz Life Master Pairs, Peter Weichsel, whose new autobiography, "Bridge's First Hippie" is down at the bookseller's table, brought this deal to our attention.

Board 25. Dealer North. East-West vulnerable.

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

West <i>Hamman</i>	North <i>Samuel</i>	East <i>Weichsel</i>	South <i>Rothstein</i>
1♥	2♠ ¹	All Pass	1♦

1. Fit-showing.

North's bid of 2♠ was natural, showing spades and a diamond fit. "The opponent's bidding made it impossible to get a good result," said Weichsel. "It knocked us out of the box. If North bids 1♠ or makes a negative double, I can stretch with 2♥. We can make 3♥ or get them up to the three level in spades.

"I led the four of hearts. In my book, I write a lot about underleading aces; I am prone to do that.

I wasn't happy to see the king in dummy. I worried declarer might not have a choice but to play it, but he played low because he had the jack. Hamman won with the queen and returned the ten – suit preference, knowing North-South have an eight-card diamond fit

– and I won the ace and returned the diamond seven. Hamman took the queen-ace and gave me a ruff. We got the club ace for down one. All this to get an average."

Swan Games vs Into Bridge

From the NABC Bulletin

In the Karen Walker Top-Flight Swiss Teams on Sunday, a friendly battle between bridge-tech emerged at the table. Team "Swan Games" (Adam Parrish, Greg Humphreys, Tom Carmichael, Christian Jolly, Arthur Gong and Nathan Gong) sat down against Team "Into Bridge" (Rumen Dimitrov, Zhivko Draganov, Dian Petrov, Stefan Skorchev, Stefan Thorpe and Sveinn Eiriksson).

Both companies have developed online platforms for playing duplicate bridge.

Nathan Gong, sitting North, declared and made 4♠ on a 5-1 fit, the only making game. The other table was in 5♦ North-South, down one.

Dealer East. Both sides vulnerable.

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

West	North	East	South
	<i>N Gong</i>		<i>A Gong</i>
		Pass	1♦
1♥	1♠	Pass	2♦
Pass	2♥	Double	3♦
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

"I suspected we were losing three heart tricks, so 5♦ wasn't making. Since West probably had five hearts, 3NT wasn't making either," said Nathan. "If Arthur had the ♠Ax, I thought 4♠ had a good chance of making."

Arthur thought – or maybe hoped – Nathan had six spades and raised on his stiff ace.

The defence started with three rounds of hearts. If they play a fourth heart, declarer could go down if he ruffs with the nine, but they switched to a club. Gong was able to win with the ace, unblock the spade ace and come to hand with the diamond queen. He pulled trump and ran dummy's good diamonds for ten tricks and 12 IMPs.

"I want to give a shout-out to Into Bridge (Stefan says to try the ranked games), even though they were our opponents," said Nathan. "They're fun and nice, but I am technically supposed to support Swan Games. Go, Swan Games!"

Partnership defence

Daniel Gullberg, Stockholm

The most impressive defences are those where both defenders collaborate to give declarer a losing option. This happened on the following deal from the first segment of the von Zedtwitz Life Master Pairs, where Zia Mahmood and Ola Rimstedt managed to set an unsettable contract.

Board 22. Dealer East. East-West vulnerable.

♠ 7 5 ♥ A Q 8 5 2 ♦ Q J 5 ♣ A Q J			
♠ K Q 10 9		♠ 6 3	
♥ J 9 6		♥ 7 4	
♦ 10 8		♦ A K 9 6 2	
♣ K 10 9 4		♣ 6 5 3 2	
♠ A J 8 4 2 ♥ K 10 3 ♦ 7 4 3 ♣ 8 7			
West	North	East	South
<i>Zia</i>		<i>Ola</i>	
		Pass	Pass
1♣	1NT	Pass	2♥
Pass	2♠	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

It looks like Ola has a very natural diamond lead to set up his long suit. This is what happened at most other tables where 3NT was played, and from there, declarer took ten easy tricks via the club finesse. Ola thought more deeply about partner's shape. Because the opponents are not playing in a major, chances are partner has four of both of them. If partner also has four clubs for his opening bid, that means he only has one diamond, and leading the suit will only help declarer. This time, partner had three hearts and two diamonds, but a diamond lead was still wrong. He could also see from the number of high-card points he held that Zia must have opened light. Light, third-seat openings often have an element of lead-direction to them, apart from being obstructive. After this analysis, Ola lead a club to the king and ace.

Declarer has nine easy tricks, but this is Matchpoints, where every trick counts. If West, who opened the bidding, has a diamond honour, declarer can set up a trick in the suit by leading twice from dummy toward his honours. Therefore, declarer played a heart to the king and a diamond from dummy. Zia followed with the ten and declarer covered. Ola won and continued clubs.

After the club continuation, declarer wants to get to dummy to play another diamond. The only entry is the spade ace, but playing it would set up too many tricks for defence. However, there is a chance that the jack of hearts could drop, making the ten an additional entry. We can see that this is not the case on the actual

layout, but when declarer played the ace of hearts, Zia devilishly jettisoned his jack!

The unsuspecting declarer took the bait and played a heart to dummy to lead another diamond. Ola could now run his diamonds, and with no entry left to hand, declarer ended up going two down. This beautiful defence resulted in a top for Zia and Ola, who went on to win the event.

Chicago Larceny

Barnet Shenkin, Glasgow

Our team, three Norwegians, Steve Levinson and myself were fighting for qualification for the final of the Swiss teams at the American National. We had to play another team on the edge of qualifying and on my left was a young Italian bridge professional playing with a decent amateur player. This was Board 3 of a seven-board match. For this set I partnered Nils Kvanengren.

Board 3. Dealer West. North-South vulnerable.

West	North	East	South
<i>Nils</i>	<i>American</i>	<i>Barnet</i>	<i>Italian Pro</i>
1♦	Double	Pass	1♥
2♦	4♥	All Pass	

My hand was

♠ 10 9 6 ♥ J 3 ♦ 10 3 2 ♣ J 10 5 3 2 .

Nils led the queen of spades and dummy tabled

♠ K 8 4 2 ♥ A K Q 2 ♦ K 4 ♣ A Q 8

Declarer thought awhile before contributing a low card from dummy and I followed with the ten. Next came the spade jack, which also held the trick. Then the diamond ace and the spade ace.

The full deal:

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

Of course this was a brilliant opening lead by Nils and continuation. Perhaps the young pro early in his career had not encountered this steal before. However, it would seem that there is no reasonable alternative to make the hand than playing the king from dummy. We won 12 IMPs and this helped our team into the final day. Unfortunately our opponents were eliminated. Perhaps a book play – it is seldom displayed and kudos to Nils for finding it.

The report on the Spingold has been held over to the next issue



Owen Lien had this nice hand in a regional KO match with Billy Miller in Long Beach this July.

An aggressive auction, affected by the state of the match, led to a pushy 6♣ after a 2NT opening.

♠ A 5 3
 ♥ 9 5
 ♦ 10 4
 ♣ K 9 8 7 4 3

♠ K 9 8
 ♥ A K Q 6
 ♦ K Q 9 3
 ♣ A 10

The opening lead was the ace of diamonds, and East followed with the eight (standard signals). West shifted to the queen of spades without much thought, and now you have to bring it in.

Owen thought that it was very likely now that diamonds were 6-1 and took a line that would allow him to make on a trump coup, or if West had queen-jack doubleton of clubs, provided East also had three hearts.

He won the spade ace in dummy and proceeded to cash three hearts to discard the ten of diamonds from dummy. After those survived, he played the diamond king as West and dummy both discarded spades. Now a low diamond was ruffed in dummy as West discarded another spade. Now came a club to the ace as East played the jack, a welcome sight, and ran the club ten, which won the trick.

Still in hand, and needing to shorten dummy's trumps once more, he ruffed the last heart to leave dummy with king-nine of trumps and a small spade. It was now a simple matter of crossing to hand in spades to trump coup West. This scored 920 which was crucial to advance to the next stage of the event. The full deal:

♠ A 5 3
 ♥ 9 5
 ♦ 10 4
 ♣ K 9 8 7 4 3

♠ Q J 6 4
 ♥ 10 7 4 2
 ♦ A
 ♣ Q 6 5 2

♠ 10 7 2
 ♥ J 8 3
 ♦ J 8 7 6 5 2
 ♣ J

♠ K 9 8
 ♥ A K Q 6
 ♦ K Q 9 3
 ♣ A 10



The odds of a 15-year-old being a top player on the world bridge stage must be very slim, but Nicolai Heiberg-Evenstad from Tromsø is an exception.

At the age of 13 he won a silver medal in the Norwegian Pairs Championships, and since then he has had the opportunity to partner competent players in major tournaments around the world – often with excellent results.

In May he played in WBT Masters in Sopot, Poland. His Skeidar team won the qualification by a solid margin and went all the way to the final where they lost by the slenderest of margins – 1 IMP – to Roy Welland's team, Apres-Bridge Champs.

On this board Nicolai got a chance to shine against the Polish team Nowrat:

Dealer North. East-West vulnerable.

♠ K 10 9 6 4
 ♥ Q 6 5
 ♦ 8 4
 ♣ K 9 3

♠ A 5 3
 ♥ 9 2
 ♦ J 7 6 2
 ♣ J 5 4 2

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

♠ Q 7 2
 ♥ J 8 7 4
 ♦ K Q 10 5
 ♣ 7 6

Nicolai was East and the bidding went:

West	North	East	South
	Pass	1♣	1♦
Pass	1♠	Double	Pass
3♣	Pass	3NT	All Pass

The seven of spades went to the king, followed by a spade to the queen, ducked. The ace of spades won the third trick, Nicolai discarding a heart. The knave of clubs was covered by North and four tricks in the suit was cashed. A low diamond went to the queen, and South was endplayed. He tried a heart, taken by the ace, and after the ace of diamonds and a diamond he was endplayed again. A second heart gave Nicolai three tricks in that suit and the contract.



The final of the Australian Interstate Teams was held over five sessions, 60 boards in all, from 13-14 July. South Australia appeared in all four finals, winning every category except the Youth Teams.

Open final

South Australia 161.5 defeated ACT 132

Board 50. Dealer South. Neither side vulnerable.

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

At one table, Brad Coles played 4♠ from the North seat. East led the diamond jack, won by the ace. Declarer drew trumps and cashed the diamond king, discarding the heart six from hand. Next came the jack of clubs. West won with the queen, played the club king, and shifted to the heart three to the king and ace. East cashed the ace of clubs for one down, EW +50.

At the other table, Phil Markey played 4♠ from South. West led the three of spades. South won with the ace and crossed to the spade jack to lead the four of clubs. The jack lost to the queen, and West returned the spade ten, won by the king. Declarer continued with the club ten! East rose with the ace, crashing West's queen. South won the diamond six switch, ditched a heart loser on the ace, and had ten tricks, +420 and +10 IMPs. An excellent example of creating an illusion.

Youth final

Victoria 218.6 defeated vs South Australia 114

Board 53. Dealer North. Neither side vulnerable.

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

South Australia's North opened 3♣. East passed and South bid 3NT, all pass. West led the heart three: four - queen - ace. South played the club nine: four - king - eight. South made one more trick, six down, EW +300. It is rare for six light to show a profit, but it did this time.

At the other table a more imaginative auction led to South Australia declaring again, with Lincoln Davey playing 4♥ from West after club bids from North.

North led the club king. Davey took the ace and played the diamond four to the jack. After the heart three (nine - queen - ace), South switched to the spade two (five - seven - eight). Declarer continued with the heart two (six - ten - four) and cashed the king of hearts. This was the position:

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

What next?

Declarer exited with the ten of clubs! North won and South discarded the spade nine. North had only clubs left, and this allowed West to score the heart seven en passant (club queen - spade three - diamond nine - heart seven). Then came spade ace, spade king, and West's last spade was a winner. South ruffed and was endplayed in diamonds, East-West +420 and 3 IMPs to South Australia.

As it happens, it would have worked equally well in the diagram position for West to play spade ace, finesse the spade jack, cash the king and exit with the heart seven. That would not have been so good if South had a second club.

Senior final

**South Australia 143 defeated
New South Wales 120.8**

Board 32. Dealer West. Both sides vulnerable.

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

West	North	East	South
Harms	Lavings	Nagy	Rosendorff
1♣	1♦	1♠	2♥
2♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass

South led the ace of hearts, ruffed. East crossed to the club ace, returned to the spade queen and played a club. North ruffed with the spade ten. East overruffed with the ace and played the spade six to the king, drawing trumps. After a club ruff, East exited with the ten of hearts! In with the heart queen, South could not afford to play the club king, and exited with a heart to East's king.

East's play in hearts had stripped North to diamonds only. East played the diamond two to the jack and queen. Whatever North returned, East would lose only one more diamond. East lost a heart and two diamonds, making 4♠, East-West +620.

At the other table:

West	North	East	South
Zets	Lange	Buchen	Eddie
1♣	2♦	2♠	3♥
4♥	Pass	4♠	Pass
Pass	5♦	Double	5♥
Double	All Pass		

West led the spade king. East overtook with the ace, cashed the club ace and switched to the two of diamonds. South pitched the spade seven and West won with the diamond ace. West played the club nine, ruffed with the three, overruffed by the nine. East reverted to the spade five. South ruffed with the two and cashed the heart ace. South had lost to the three aces and had suffered an overruff. The defenders still had the heart king to come for three down, East-West +800. Despite Nagy's fine play, it was 5 IMPs to the opposition, New South Wales.

From the Sydney Sun-Herald

2023 Yenova China Youth Elite

Liao Yufan, Beijing

Unexpected Drop

The 2023 Yenova China Youth Elite Championships were held in Sanya, Hainan, a beautiful tourism city known as China's Hawaii, and famous for its coconuts. There are eight teams in both the U25 and U15 categories, and most of the teams were winners or runners-up in the recent national youth championships. Before the penultimate board of the semi-final, Beijing Yenova was leading the match by 17 IMPs, 56-39:

**Beijing Yenova vs Hangzhou Mind Sports School.
U25 SF. Board 13. Dealer North. Both vulnerable.**

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

West	North	East	South
Ding Yuanzhe	Xie Yichen	Zhao Fangchen	Yu Zhaolun
Pass	2NT	1♣	1♥
All Pass		Pass	4♥

The bidding was straightforward. South may have sensed that he needed to do something different to twist the match, so he chose to play 4♥ rather than the routine 3NT. West led the ten of clubs (three - ace - nine). Zhao continued with the spade ace, and saw the eight from his partner (encouraging). If West led from a singleton club, he would have discouraged spades, so there was little chance that partner could ruff a club. Zhao led another spade, which was won by declarer's king.

South then played a small trump to dummy's ace (West following with the five) and... Zhao dropped his queen of hearts!

What could happen if he didn't unblock his queen? North could lead a second trump and let East win. Then the defenders can't cash the second spade trick – declarer can win any return, draw trumps, and discard spade losers on clubs. This is a reasonable line for South, as East is likely to hold doubleton spades on the play. Zhao thought through this line and decided to prevent it from happening by unblocking his queen! In Zhao's view, South must have the king, so it would make no difference if he followed with the queen a little earlier.

Now, South could never prevent West from getting on lead. West would eventually get the trump winner and cash the queen of spades before declarer can pitch his spade losers. Down one and +100 for Yenova.

Interestingly, declarer can make this contract by playing dummy's heart six instead of the ace, but that could be a losing play if East was holding ♥Q7xx.

This board turned out to be a push, as South played 3NT down one in the other room. On the final board, Zhao's team lost 10 IMPs. The final score was 56-49. So, his extraordinary unblock prevented 4♥ from being made and ensured that he made it to the final.



IBPA Column Service

**Tim Bourke,
Canberra**

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

1153. Dealer North. Both sides vulnerable.

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

West	North	East	South
	1♦	Pass	1♠
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♠	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

After the new-minor forcing bid of 2♣, North's rebid promised three cards in spades while denying four hearts. South knew what to do.

West led the queen of clubs, and that held the trick when dummy followed low. The jack of clubs was continued (rather than a contract-killing heart). Declarer again called for a low club, which was essential as the cards lay because it left East with guards in both hearts and clubs.

After ruffing the club continuation, declarer saw that he had only nine tricks. Rather than rely on the hearts being favourable, declarer decided to try and make a tenth trick by reversing the dummy, ruffing two diamonds in hand. So, at trick four declarer made the essential play of a low diamond to dummy's king and East's ace (ducking would not have been a sound move because the ace would then be ruffed out). East exited with a trump. Declarer won this in hand with the ace then led a diamond to dummy's queen and ruffed a diamond with the king of trumps. Declarer now crossed to dummy with a low heart to dummy's king to ruff a second diamond in hand.

Declarer now led his nine of trumps to dummy's ten. When both opponents followed, he drew West's remaining trump with dummy's queen, throwing the five of hearts from hand. That was declarer's eighth trick and he claimed the last two tricks with his ace and queen of hearts.

If West had shifted to a heart at trick three, declarer would win in hand with the queen and play a diamond

to dummy's king and East's ace. After taking the heart exit in dummy with the king, declarer plays the queen of diamonds and ruffs a diamond high. Then, after cashing the king of trumps and leading a low trump to dummy's ten, declarer ruffs a second diamond in hand to reduce everyone to three cards. Then when the jack of trumps is led to dummy's queen poor East cannot keep both the ace of clubs and two hearts. Whichever suit East abandoned would provide declarer his tenth trick.

Finally, declarer might also survive if trumps proved to be 4-1 as long as three rounds of hearts survive.

1154. Dealer South. Both sides vulnerable.

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

West	North	East	South
			1NT ¹⁵⁻¹⁷
Pass	6NT	All Pass	

West led the king of diamonds. Declarer counted eleven top tricks and saw that the twelfth would have to come from the heart suit. As he had to lose one trick no matter how he played, declarer followed the general principle of doing so early: he let West win the first trick.

After winning the next diamond with his ace and noting East's club discard, declarer set about gaining information about how the black suits lay before touching hearts. Declarer began by cashing dummy's ace and king of spades. Next he played three rounds of clubs ending in hand, noting that West began with only two clubs. Now the queen and jack of spades were cashed. When West followed to all four spade winners, declarer now knew that West had four spades, five diamonds and two clubs – marking him with an original 4=2=5=2 shape.

Declarer now cashed dummy's ace and king of hearts. When he called for the eight of hearts to be played next, East covered this with the nine. Since South knew that West had no more hearts, declarer covered this with

his ten of hearts. When that held the trick, he claimed his twelfth with his queen of hearts.

The point of the play here was to delay the play in the crucial suit (hearts) as long as possible while gathering information about how the other suits lay. This approach would also win when West had four hearts headed by the jack, for in the two-card ending he would not be able to keep both his diamond winner and two hearts. Declarer would then make his twelfth trick in whichever suit West abandoned.

1155. Dealer East. North-South vulnerable.

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

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

This deal came up in a team game. The auction was the same at both tables, with 3♥ indicating a good raise at least to 3♠. Both West players began by leading the king of hearts. This was overtaken with the ace at both tables. The five of clubs was returned by each East player.

At the first table, the club was taken in dummy with dummy's queen. The declarer saw that there was a danger of East ruffing a club, so he played ace and another trump. East took the latter with his king of trumps and then led the five of hearts to his partner's queen, suggesting a club return. When that hint was taken, East's club ruff was the fourth defensive trick.

At the other table, declarer paused to think about the bidding and play to date. West was marked with the king and queen of hearts and not much else. Unless East had opened on a nine or ten count, he had to have the king of trumps and the king and queen of diamonds. The play to tricks one and two suggested to declarer that East was looking for a club ruff, with West's queen of hearts as the entry. The only way to foil this was to cut the link between the defenders' hands.

So, after winning the club shift with dummy's queen, declarer cashed the ace of diamonds and then led the jack of diamonds. When East covered this with the queen of diamonds declarer threw the jack of hearts from his hand. After ruffing East's heart exit, declarer played ace and another trump to East's king. That was

the last defensive trick: declarer had made his contract via five trumps, a diamond and four clubs.

Also, in the unlikely event that West had turned up with a diamond honour and given East a club ruff, declarer would cash the ace of trumps and make his contract as long as East had begun with a 2=5=5=1 shape.

1156. Dealer South. East-West vulnerable.

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

West	North	East	South
2♦	2♥	Pass	1♥
All Pass			4♥

West began with the ace, king and a third diamond. East ruffed dummy's queen with the seven of trumps. Declarer overruffed this with his nine of trumps and then led his two of spades to dummy's king. Next he ran dummy's eight of trumps to West's king. After winning the trump return with dummy's jack, declarer drew West's remaining trump with his queen. Next declarer cashed the ace, king and queen of clubs and was disappointed to see that East had four clubs. Declarer now led a spade to his jack and West's queen for down one.

"That was unlucky," wailed South. "East began with five spades so it was 5 to 2 that the finesse would win."

"Luck had nothing to do with the case" riposted North. "All you had to do was play your last trump, throwing a spade from dummy, before touching clubs. Then you cash the ace, king and queen of clubs learning that East still has a club winner. Now it's a two-card ending and when you lead a spade from dummy you know East's remaining card is a club. So you have no option but to play the ace of spades. As it happens, the queen of spades would fall under the ace, and the jack of spades would be your game-going trick."

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Rafal Gardzielewski topped the field of almost 2300 players in the Summer 2023 NABC Robot Individual. Here are two deals from the NABC Daily Bulletin that show the winner in action:

Board 19. Dealer South. East-West vulnerable.

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

West	North	East	South <i>Rafal G.</i>
Pass	2♥	Pass	1NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	2♠

Matchpoint winners are aggressive: Gardzielewski decided to upgrade his 14-count and open 1NT. The risky Matchpoint decision to play in notrumps instead of the 5-3 major-suit fit paid off here.

3NT, of course, is not a great contract, especially after a diamond lead from West (the seven). Dummy's ace of diamonds won, and Gardzielewski took stock.

Assuming the spade suit could be picked up for five tricks, declarers in 4♠ would have an easy time taking ten tricks (a club can be ruffed in the closed hand before trumps are completely drawn) or 11 if the ace of hearts is onside. So, Gardzielewski needed to find a tenth trick at notrump to get any matchpoints on the board.

He took the best approach in the spade suit by finessing West for the queen of spades. This would allow him to take five tricks if the suit was 3-2 or 4-1 with West having the length. So, after a spade to the ace, he successfully took the spade finesse and cashed the spade king, East pitching a low diamond. On the next spade, East let go of a club, and West pitched the two of diamonds. Gardzielewski took an inference: It looked as if West had started with a doubleton diamond. If the suit was 5-2, that meant that West may have started with a 3=4=2=4 pattern. If West held the club queen, the robot could be endplayed in clubs to force a heart lead.

Gardzielewski cashed the remaining spade and played dummy's club jack. Who knows – if East held the queen,

he (it?) might cover, giving declarer an easy tenth trick with the ten of clubs. But East played low, so declarer won the ace, cashed the king and crossed to the king of diamonds, West showing out and confirming Gardzielewski's suspicion about the opening lead.

This was the position:

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

When declarer exited with the ten of clubs, West won and cashed the last club, but was then forced to give declarer a heart trick at the end. Making four for +430 was worth 94.8% of the matchpoints.

Board 3. Dealer South. East-West vulnerable.

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

West	North	East	South <i>Rafal G.</i>
2♣	Double	2♠	1NT
All Pass			Double

2♣ showed a single-suited hand. East bid 2♠ to indicate a strong preference for its own suit.

Gardzielewski said, "Most players bid simply 3♥ directly over 2♠, not realising that double is takeout showing four hearts. Double is best, as North might even hold four spades. But North's pass of the double, even with just three spades, was fantastic. Now I only had to take my seven tricks for down two at this vulnerability."

Gardzielewski started with the ace of hearts and switched to a low club. North won the ace and returned the seven of diamonds. He believed that this switch had to show a singleton, so he won the diamond ace and gave North a ruff. The spade ace was next, taking care of any possible ruffs in dummy, and the precise jack of hearts exit meant that East had to lose two more hearts. The defence took the first seven tricks for down two, plus 500, and a cold top.

Achilles heel

Barnet Shenkin, Glasgow

World Champion bridge players spend countless hours going over their bidding agreements and defensive signalling, but perhaps there is one area that does not get enough attention. From the 2022 European Championships:

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Duboin</i>	<i>Levinson</i>	<i>Versace</i>	<i>Shenkin</i>
Pass	2♥ ^{spades}	Pass	1NT
Pass	7NT	Double	2♠
			All Pass

Here we have two many-time world champions sitting East-West. Versace doubled 7NT, knowing that the double would carry a lead-directing implication. West led a diamond, and when clubs broke declarer claimed +2490.

There then followed an animated conversation in Italian, discussing whether the double asked for a heart (the actual suit bid by North) on the grounds that declarer could not possibly have 13 tricks without spades.

Here's another example, from the 2023 USBC Teams Trials final:

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

When Eric Greco sat East he heard this auction:

West	North	East	South
	1♦	Pass	1♠
Pass	3♦	Pass	4♥ ^{RKCB}
Pass	5♦	Pass	6♦
All Pass			

West passed 4♥, declining the opportunity for a lead-directing double, so Greco tried a club. But look what happened in the other room:

West	North	East	South
<i>Grue</i>	<i>Levin</i>	<i>Moss</i>	<i>Weinstein</i>
	1NT	Pass	2♥ ^{spades}
Pass	2♠	Pass	4NT
Pass	6♦	Pass	6NT
Double	All Pass		

Once again East-West are two world champions, whose partnership is to be admired in all aspects of the game. But what did double mean?

Moss thought partner wanted the lead of dummy's suit, and led a spade, so declarer wrapped up all the tricks for 1330 and 16 IMPs. Using the Versace reasoning, the double should ask for a heart, not a spade.

Perhaps taking this even further, if West passes 6NT, East might find the club lead (since West did not ask for a heart lead, and there is no reason to lead dummy's suit). Perhaps it is not so simple defending a small slam, as declarer might find a way to just 12 tricks without dummy's suit, so a spade lead might be necessary. It is not easy to know what to do. My guess is this area is unlikely to have been discussed before.

This doubling problem is not a new one. Here is an example from the final of the Bermuda Bowl in 2009:

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Zia</i>	<i>Semanta</i>	<i>Hamman</i>	<i>Duboin</i>
	1♥	Double	3♣ ^{heart raise}
4♠	5♥	Pass	6♦
Double	6♥	Pass	Pass
Double	All Pass		

When Hamman (East) led a club, Semanta made his contract with the diamonds onside. Was Zia's double asking for a diamond, or cancelling his first double? Had they even discussed it? Unlikely. In the other room Versace also doubled both 6♦ and 6♥, and Lauria led the ♣K.

In my early bridge days I read a book by Bob Ewan on opening leads. He looked at this auction and said that the final double asks for a club lead. However, there was an asterisk and a footnote. The footnote said, "If you are going to play the methods in this book, make sure your partner has read it too!"



2023 European Championships – Part Three

The great bridge swindle

Mark Horton, Shrewsbury

*By the pricking of my thumbs,
Something wicked this way comes.*

Macbeth, Act 4 Scene 1

On this deal from the first session of the Open Pairs the Artful Dodger appeared, neatly picking the opponent's pockets.

Board 21. Dealer North. North-South vulnerable.

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

West	North	East	South
	1♦	Pass	2♦ ¹
Pass	2♥ ²	Pass	2♠ ³
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

1. Inverted.
2. Heart stopper.
3. Spade stopper.

When East did not lead a spade declarer decided to run for home. When both the rounded suit queens appeared, all 13 tricks fell into declarer's lap.

*All's well that ends well, still the fine's the crown;
Whate'er the course, the end is the renown.*

All's Well that Ends Well, Act 4 Scene 4

Postscript

One eagle-eyed reader did some detective work and concluded that the pair sitting North-South must be Emile Huybrecht and Tom Wauters, the current Open Pairs champions of Belgium. He went on to remark (with his tongue firmly in his cheek) that it might not be a good omen as Tom oversees the Federation's finances!

A real gem

Jos Jacobs, Maarn

This was a beautiful example of declarer play by Sabine Auken.

**Mixed Teams QF. Sparkling Vintages v Otra Vez.
Session 3. Board 10. Dealer East. Both vulnerable.**

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

West	North	East	South
Nilsson	Welland	Palma	Auken
1♠	Double	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♥
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

She was in 4♥ as South after West had overcalled 1♠. The lead was the five of clubs and Sabine passed the first test by calling for dummy's jack rather than falling for the hidden seducer in her hand (the nine). The club ace-king were cashed next, dummy discarding a diamond. On a diamond from hand, West jumped in with the ace to return the suit and avoid being endplayed. Dummy, on lead with the diamond queen, tried the king of hearts, which was correctly allowed to hold the trick. East also ducked the heart queen continuation, and now declarer had to play spades herself (low to her queen and West's king). West returned a spade, but Sabine put up dummy's ace and ruffed a spade in hand, East shedding a diamond. As a result, Sabine was down to the bare jack of hearts in her hand, but this did not bother her at all. She simply ruffed a diamond in dummy, East having to follow suit, and then treated East to a spade from dummy, this way promoting her lone trump into the game-going trick. A real gem to watch!

When North-South tried 3NT at the other table for a pretty inevitable one down, Sparkling Vintages thus got 12 more IMPs.

The only slam

Marc Smith, Southampton

Open Teams Final. France Green v Vinciguerra.
Board 15. Dealer South. North-South vulnerable.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Lorenzini</i>	<i>J. Rombaut</i>	<i>Bessis</i>	<i>L. Rombaut</i>
			Pass
Pass	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♦	Pass	2♥	Pass
2♠	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♥	Pass
3♠	Pass	3NT	Pass
4♣	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♦	Pass	6♥	All Pass

Thomas Bessis opened with his system's strong bid in fourth seat. His 2♥ bid was Kokish (hearts or strong balanced) and 2NT over the forced 2♠ response showed 23+ balanced.

Stayman uncovered the 4-4 fit and Cedric Lorenzini's 3♠ was a slam try agreeing hearts.

After Blackwood revealed zero or three keycards, there was no room to ask about the trump queen, but it didn't really matter at that point. The 4-1 heart break meant that even 5♥ was too high, and the extra 50 mattered little: EW -100.

So, ten tricks is the limit in hearts, and eleven can be made in diamonds. However, there is still one denomination in which slam is possible...

In the other room:

West	North	East	South
<i>Bernard</i>	<i>Soulet</i>	<i>Lhuissier</i>	<i>Vinciguerra</i>
			Pass
Pass	Pass	1♦	Pass
1♥	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♠	Pass	5♥	Pass
6♣	All Pass		

Once the auction begins 1♦-1♥, it is difficult to see how you can end up playing in any other denomination, but the French pair managed to do so. Exactly how much they knew exactly what they were doing, and how much was landing-on-their-feet luck, I'll leave you to

decide for yourself. By hook or by crook, arrive in the only making slam they duly did.

6♣ is destined to make on any defence, via two hearts, five diamonds and five trump tricks. South opened the ace of spades and continued with a second spade, forcing declarer to ruff. Nicolas Lhuissier ruffed high, and cashed four rounds of trumps, throwing the low hearts from his hand, just in case either defender had started with five diamonds and at least three hearts. No squeeze was needed. A magnificent EW +920 and 14 IMPs to France Green to open the second stanza.

The only lead

Mark Horton, Shrewsbury

The third round of the opening day of the Open and Women's Teams delivered an interesting deal:

Board 22. Dealer East. East-West vulnerable.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Volhejn</i>	<i>Anklesaria</i>	<i>Macura</i>	<i>Majumder</i>
		2♣	2♠
3♦	4♠	5♠	Pass
6♦	All Pass		

North led the ace of spades, so declarer could ruff and play diamonds for a painless +1370. That was worth 9 IMPs against the 5♦ doubled with an overtrick in the other room.

6♦ was bid at five more tables. It made easily when North led the eight of hearts. At two tables North led a low spade and when declarer ruffed in dummy North could duck the first two rounds of diamonds for one down.

Only one player (Slovakia's Karol Lohay) found the essential lead of the ♣5, and he could then duck two diamonds, win the third and lay down the ace of spades. Dummy could ruff, but there was no way to get to hand to draw the outstanding trump. It was worth 9 IMPs when North-South saved in 5♠ doubled for -300.

In the Women's Teams the only pair to attempt 6♦ were the Swiss Women, Vreni Waelti & Erna Cheng. It was a 13-IMP pickup against 5♦ making an overtrick.



The Norwegian Teams Championships were played in Kristiansand in late May, and resulted in a convincing victory for Studentene, Trondheim, miles ahead of their opponents. The peak performance of the Championships was this one from Christer Kristoffersen from the gold medal team:

Dealer West. Neither side vulnerable.

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

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	1♠	1NT
Pass	2♥	Pass	3♥
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

West led a spade to the ten and queen, and Kristoffersen played the ace of clubs and a club to the king. West shifted to the diamond ten taken by the ace, and three more rounds of clubs followed. Before the last one, this was the position:

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

On the last club East was caught in situation he could not escape from. If he discarded a spade, Christer could establish his ninth trick in that suit, and if he discarded a heart, Christer would duck a heart to the ace. He chose to discard a diamond, but then Christer cashed his king and played the ace of spades and a spade. East could cash two spade tricks and the ace of hearts but had to surrender the ninth trick to dummy's king of hearts.

It is often vital to lay a trap as early as possible, before the opponents can smell a rat. Erik Dahl from Kristiansand successfully did that on this board.

Dealer North. Neither side vulnerable.

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

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

East led the knave of clubs to the queen, and Erik could see four apparently certain losers, since East had to possess the rest of the high cards to justify his double. He therefore immediately played a second club to the king and ace. West did not realise that this was the crucial point of the game and played a third club, ruffed. The rest was plain sailing for Erik. He cashed three rounds of diamonds and played a trump to the ten and queen. East could cash his ace of hearts but had to surrender a trick to the queen of spades or return a diamond for a ruff and discard.



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Winter Fours

Mark Horton,
Shrewsbury

Snowed Under

I'm not saying I'm overworked, but it's almost the end of July and I have only just spotted these deals from the Scottish Bridge Union's Winter Fours in January where in Round 3 Seligman (Martin Seligman, Wlodzimierz Starkowski, Jacek Pszczola, Michal Kwiecien) faced off against Pritchard (Alison Pritchard, Angelos Agathangelou, Patrick Shields, Jack Armorgie, Roger Miles, Tom Jarman, Peter Waggett, Ben Ritacca). The first half of the match contained two explosive deals:

Dealer North. North-South vulnerable.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Starkowski</i>	<i>Jarman</i>	<i>Kwiecien</i>	<i>Miles</i>
Pass	Pass	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♦	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♥	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

On the lead of the diamond queen South took all the tricks, +710. In the other room:

West	North	East	South
<i>Ritacca</i>	<i>Pszczola</i>	<i>Waggett</i>	<i>Seligman</i>
Pass	Pass	Pass	2♣ ¹
Pass	2♦	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♣ ²	Pass	4♦ ²
Pass	4♥ ²	Pass	4NT ³
Pass	5♣	Pass	5♦ ⁴
Pass	5♠	Pass	7♠
All Pass			

1. Artificial, game forcing.
2. Cue.
3. RKCB (5♣ shows zero keycards).
4. Asking for the trump queen (5♠ says no).

Treating South's spade suit as 'solid' is a matter for the individual conscience.

West led the diamond queen to the king and ace, declarer ruffing. He cashed the club ace, ruffed a club, returned to hand with a heart and cashed the top spades. The 53.13% chance of avoiding a trump loser had paid off and delivered 17 IMPs.

Ten pairs bid 6♠, while the other twelve stopped short of slam.

Dealer West. Neither side vulnerable.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Starkowski</i>	<i>Jarman</i>	<i>Kwiecien</i>	<i>Miles</i>
3♣	Pass	4♣	Double
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

South must have been tempted to make a try with 5♣.

In the other room:

West	North	East	South
<i>Ritacca</i>	<i>Pszczola</i>	<i>Waggett</i>	<i>Seligman</i>
1♣	1♠	2♣	5♣
7♣	7♠	All Pass	

South's jump to 5♣ was Exclusion Blackwood, the idea being to find out if partner's spades were headed by the ace-king.

If West had bid 6♣, a pass from North would show an odd number of keycards (and 6♦ two) but when West bid 7♣ North decided to go 'all in'.

East led the eight of clubs and declarer ruffed in dummy. He cashed the spade queen and diamond ace, overtook dummy's spade jack, drew trumps, and ran the diamond ten for a majestic +1510 and 14 IMPs.

One pair reached 6♠, another played 6♦, and three pairs did not bid game.

WANTED

The IBPA need to recruit a new treasurer as Richard Solomon wants to retire after many years of service. There are not many transactions per year, so it is not an onerous a task. You should know the basics of accounting, however.

Please send your questions and application to the secretary, thorpe.katie@gmail.com.

A midnight delight

Elena Ström, Stockholm

Every time you log in on BBO to watch or play bridge, you will inevitably notice that every other player you come across is (according to a self-evaluation level) an expert. Let me now introduce a true and humble expert from Turkey, one of my regular partners, Cagtay.

Recently we registered for a midnight Pairs tournament. Here is a deal with undramatic bidding and a final contract which was at first sight doomed to failure.

Board 7. Dealer South. Both sides vulnerable.

	♠ A 6 ♥ J 7 4 ♦ 9 7 2 ♣ A K J 4 3		
♠ Q 9 8 2		♠ J 10 5 4	
♥ 10 6 3		♥ K Q 8	
♦ K Q 10		♦ A J 6 5 4 3	
♣ 9 6 2		♣ —	
	♠ K 7 3 ♥ A 9 5 2 ♦ 8 ♣ Q 10 8 7 5		
West	North <i>Elena</i>	East	South <i>Cagtay</i>
Pass	1♣	1♦	1♥
2♦	2♥	3♦	4♥
All Pass			

Was there a safe way for declarer to bring home 4♥ on the lead of the king of diamonds? The defence continued with a second diamond, ruffed in hand.

What now?

Cagtay played a small heart to the three, seven and eight. East returned a third high diamond, which was ruffed with the nine. A low club to the ace was ruffed by East with a trump honour, leaving this position:

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

A fourth round of diamonds would have destroyed declarer's trump holding, but East was convinced that South would have five hearts for the 1♥ bid. (*West's failure to play high-low in trumps probably contributed to this misconception. – Ed*).

Instead of continuing the forcing defence, East played a spade. By that time Cagtay had got a clear picture of the layout. He won in dummy with the ace, played a small heart to his ace (dropping East's king), crossed to dummy with a club, cashed the heart jack to draw West's last trump, and claimed the remaining tricks.

"That was a pure delight!" was my spontaneous comment on the play.

"Sorry, partner, I could do better," Cagtay wrote in the chat window, "but I could not fully concentrate at this late hour."

NEWS & VIEWS



The American Bridge Teachers' Association (ABTA) announced the winners of the 42nd annual Book of the Year contest, which recognizes excellence in instructional resources for bridge players and teachers of all levels. Awards were presented at the ABTA national convention in Chicago, on July 13.

Winner in the Advancing Beginner category was **Step by Step: Playing Notrump Contracts** (Master Point Press) by Robert Berthe and Norbert Lébely. Translated from French, the book teaches declarer play by involving the reader in a series of questions and answers about example deals and practice problems.

Winner in the Intermediate category was **Twelve Important Bridge Lessons on Declarer Play** (Master Point Press) by David Bird. The book focuses on common card-play techniques, offering illustrative deals, play problems and recap questions and answers.

Winner in the Intermediate/Advanced category was **Insights on Bridge: Bid, Play and Defend** (Baron Barclay) by Mike Lawrence. This is the third instalment – and third Book of the Year Award – for the author's **Insights on Bridge Series**, which features practical tips and mini-lessons for advancing players.

Correspondence



The Editor reserves the right to abridge and/or edit correspondence.

Email: editor@ibpa.com

Brad, your arguments in opposition to IMP penalties for slow play are well-expressed and persuasive. I for one agree with you.

Frank Stewart

I was on time-monitoring duty for the Australia-New Zealand Bermuda Bowl playoff in 1985.

I discovered that players think their pauses are shorter than they are, and that those by the opponents are longer than they are, and that you annoy all four players at your table.

Phillip Alder

I read your editorial and your closing comments, but I'm not persuaded. A 15-minute "grace period" is a randomising factor – inevitably, someone will complain that, in THIS session, he/she faced multiple complex problems that required two, three, or more such grace periods. And why 15 minutes? Why not 14 or 16 or some other number?

You also give no consideration to the opponents' rights; they are entitled to the scheduled decompression, rest, feeding, bathroom and socialising time between sessions. Giving slow opponents license to cut into that time is unarguably unfair to their faster opponents. And why only semi-finals and finals? There are numerous exemplars of earlier matches being nail-biting affairs that turn on the slightest misstep, so the logic of your argument precludes having any effective time limits throughout a KO competition.

Your position involves a fundamental underlying hypothesis – bridge is better if everyone has all the time they desire to complete a round of play. I don't find this hypothesis sustainable – the Laws make clear that duplicate bridge is a game to be played within an allotted time. Law 80(B)(2)(c) provides the Tournament Organiser (TO) "shall establish the date and time of each session." 80(B)(2)(f) says the TO has authority to "announce regulations supplementary to, but not in conflict with, these Laws." Law 81C1 vests the TD with authority to "ensure the orderly progress of the game", and has a footnote indicating that Law 81 gives the Director authority to make Conditions of Contest when the Tournament Organiser has failed to do so (or failed to do so relevantly to a particular issue). Law 90A says the TD can assess procedural penalties for any offense that "unduly delays the game", and 90B2 specifies that "unduly slow play" is grounds for a procedural penalty. 91A provides the TD may impose disciplinary penalties "in points or suspend a player," with no right of appeal.

Now, Law 8C does say a round or session ends only when all the boards scheduled to be played are completed. So it would be improper to remove a board the first time a pair is late to finish; but thereafter, the number of boards may be reduced and penalties assessed per Law 90 and/or 91, particularly if the Conditions of Contest so provide.

Those who consider time limits anathema thus need to repeal or amend a panoply of existing Laws; until those existing Laws are amended, criticism of TOs whose Conditions of Contest provide time limits and consequences for violating those limits is ill-conceived. Admittedly, you could lobby TOs to allow three or four hours for 15-16 boards, and wait to see what effect that would have on the number of teams entered, or the quality of the field or of the play. But once a time allotment per session is determined, everyone has to live with it. And according each pair at a table half that time is as fair as anything else – to do otherwise risks having the faster pair accused of impropriety if, late in a session, it begins using more of its own allotment of time. You brush off as readily resolved by astute directors or expert committees whether a faster pair playing more slowly near the end of a session reflects undesirable gamesmanship, but I don't think it is as easy as you suggest, and I don't see the wisdom of creating yet other reasons and opportunities for appeals and committee hearings, which drain both time and energy.

The WBF, which promulgates the Laws and updates them every five years, institutionally remembers when Pierre Ghestem and Rene Bacherich caused chaos with their Guinness-record slow play in the 1963 Bermuda Bowl, once taking five minutes to play to trick 13 (in 1954, Ghestem took so long to consider a bid that his opponent, Billy Rosen, fainted and had to be revived). I'll note that I'm 76 years old; I don't want to waste the time remaining to me waiting unnecessarily for a session to end. The Laws clearly recognise that duplicate bridge is played in things called "sessions" that have a start time and a concluding time, so bridge IS a timed event, and timing is measured by the clock, not the calendar.

A final note: Alfred Sheinwold, writing for Playboy in 1964 about the 1963 Bermuda Bowl, noted that the session time for 16 boards was 3½ hours, and compared that with the 90 minutes then allowed in North America for the same number of boards! North America is now up to two hours for 15 boards, so more time has been allotted in the modern era. I for one don't see a good case for expanding the allowed time further still (and I'm not a fast player; my regular partner is a slow player, but his decisions after ten minutes "in the tank" don't seem statistically superior to those made in a much shorter time interval).

As always, my disagreement with you in principle is no reflection on the quality of your work as editor – top notch unquestionably.

Allan Falk

World Bridge Calendar

2023

11-20 Aug	72nd International Bridge Festival	La Baule-Escoublac, France	festivalbridgelabaule.com
18-27 Aug	Warsaw Grand Prix	Warsaw, Poland	pzbs.pl
20 Aug - 2 Sep	World Team Championships	Marrakech, Morocco	worldbridge.org
29 Aug - 3 Sep	International de Bridge du Touquet	Le Touquet, France	ibpa.com
1-3 Sep	International Women's Tournament	Augsburg, Germany	bridge-verband.de
20-21 Sep	Baltic Cup	Vilnius, Lithuania	ibpa.com
22-24 Sep	Vilnius Cup	Vilnius, Lithuania	bridgescanner.com
23-30 Sep	NZB National Congress (new dates)	Mt Maunganui, NZ	nzbridge.co.nz
27 Sep - 1 Oct	BK Istanbul Open	Istanbul, Türkiye	www.worldbridge.org
29 Sep - 1 Oct	Italy Open Pairs Championship	Salsomaggiore Terme, Italy	ibpa.com
29 Sep - 2 Oct	Canberra in Bloom	Canberra, ACT, Australia	abf.com.au
6-8 Oct	Città di Bologna	Bologna, Italy	federbridge.it
7 Oct	IBPA awards	Sanya, China	ibpa.com
7-8 Oct	Latvia Open Pairs Championship MPs	Riga, Latvia	lvbridge.lv
7-8 Oct	Gold Cup Finals	London, UK	ebu.co.uk
8-22 Oct	Hainan Bridge Festival	Hainan, China	wangjj_bridge@yahoo.com
13-14 Oct	Open de Galicia	Santiago de Compostela, Spain	agbridge.es
16-20 Oct	WBT Masters Copenhagen	Copenhagen, Denmark	wbresults.org
18-27 Oct	Sydney Spring Nationals	Canterbury, Australia	abf.com.au
21-28 Oct	Brazilian Bridge Festival	State of Bahia, Brazil	bridge.esp.br
28-29 Oct	Germany Pairs Championship	Bad Soden, Germany	bridge-verband.de
31 Oct - 6 Nov	HCL International Teams	New Delhi, India	hcl-bridge.com
2-13 Nov	XXVI Madeira International Bridge Open	Funchal, Portugal	www.bridge-madeira.com
9-12 Nov	Hütteldorf Trophy	Vienna, Austria	bridgeaustria.at
9-19 Nov	Red Sea Festival	Eilat, Israel	worldbridge.org
23 Nov - 3 Dec	ACBL Fall Nationals	Atlanta GA, USA	acbl.org
24-25 Nov	Torneo de Bridge Ciudad de Oviedo	Oviedo, Spain	aebridge.com
24-26 Nov	Krakowska Jesien Brydzowa	Kraków, Poland	mzbs.pl
1-3 Dec	Babenberger Bridgetage	Klosterneuburg, Austria	bridgeaustria.at
1-9 Dec	Festival de Mar del Plata	Mar del Plata, Argentina	ibpa.com
7-9 Dec	Torneo de Bridge Lanzarote	Lanzarote, Spain	aebridge.com
8-10 Dec	Cupa Unirii	Alba Iulia, Romania	cupaunirii.albabridge.ro
11-17 Dec	Palm Springs Regional	Rancho Mirage, USA	d22acbl.com
27 Dec - 2 Jan	Myrtle Beach New Year Regional	South Carolina, USA	ibpa.com

2024

5-7 Jan	Waterford Bridge Congress	Waterford, Ireland	ibpa.com
8-17 Jan	International Bridge Tournament	St Moritz, Switzerland	www.worldbridge.org
9-21 Jan	Summer Festival of Bridge	Canberra, Australia	www.abf.com.au/yearly-calendar
25-28 Jan	Reykjavik Bridge Festival	Reykjavik, Iceland	www.reykjavikbridgefestival.com