



THE 7th ASIA PACIFIC BRIDGE CONGRESS FUKUOKA 2012



Sunday, August 25, 2012
Bulletin Number 1

Editors: Rich Colker, Barry Rigal

Welcome to the 2012 APBF Bridge Congress

Welcome to the 2012 APBF Congress, held this year at the beautiful Fukuoka Hilton Sea Hawk Hotel. There is something here for everyone: APBF Championship pair and team events in the Open, Women, Senior and Youth categories as well as pair and team side events for experienced or newer players. Hand records will be provided for the deals played in all events, and the Championship events will be covered live on BBO (see below). So may the force be with you — good fortune to all.

The Main APBF and Daily Bulletin Offices and Directors

We need your help to keep everyone informed of the exciting happenings at this congress. Please let us know about anything amusing, challenging, or skillful that happens at your table (bridge or otherwise). You can find us (most times) in the **Daily Bulletin Office/Editor Room**, located in the Nire Room near the playing area. If we're not in, leave a note on the table next to one of our computers (they're the two computers on the row of tables against the wall to the left as you enter). For most other questions or problems the **APBF Office**, located in the Kusu Room across from the Nire Room is the place to go. The APBF Office will be open each day at 9:00 am. You can contact us via house phone from the hotel or dial 092-822-2067 from outside the hotel. You may also contact the bulletin editors via e-mail at rcolker@gmail.com or barryrigal@mindspring.com. If you're trying to reach someone here at the congress that you can't find otherwise you may call or e-mail us with a message and we'll do our best to get it to them. The **Chief Director** of the **APBF Congress** is **Richard Grenside**; **Co-Director** is **Tadayoshi Nakatani**.

PCs with Internet access will be available for player use in the Navis A Room (where line-ups are submitted, opposite the playing area)

APBF Bridge Congress on the Web

Follow the action at the 7th APBF Bridge Congress by surfing to:

<http://www.jcbl.or.jp/apbf2012/tabid/264/Default.aspx>

Follow our featured matches on Vugraph each day at: www.bridgebase.com

Conditions of Contest

The General Conditions of Contest for the 2012 APBF Congress are on the JCBL website at:

[http://www.jcbl.or.jp/Portals/0/apbf2012/english/information/General Conditions of Contest 2012 APBF Congress.pdf](http://www.jcbl.or.jp/Portals/0/apbf2012/english/information/General%20Conditions%20of%20Contest%202012%20APBF%20Congress.pdf)

The Supplementary Regulations for the 2012 APBF Congress are on the JCBL website at:

<http://www.jcbl.or.jp/Portals/0/apbf2012/english/information/SupplementaryRegulations.pdf>

Special Notes

Self-Alerting Calls:

- All natural 1NT openings
- Stayman 2♣
- All Doubles
- All bids over 3NT except higher-level openings
- Cue-bids of the opponents' suit

Line Ups (very important):

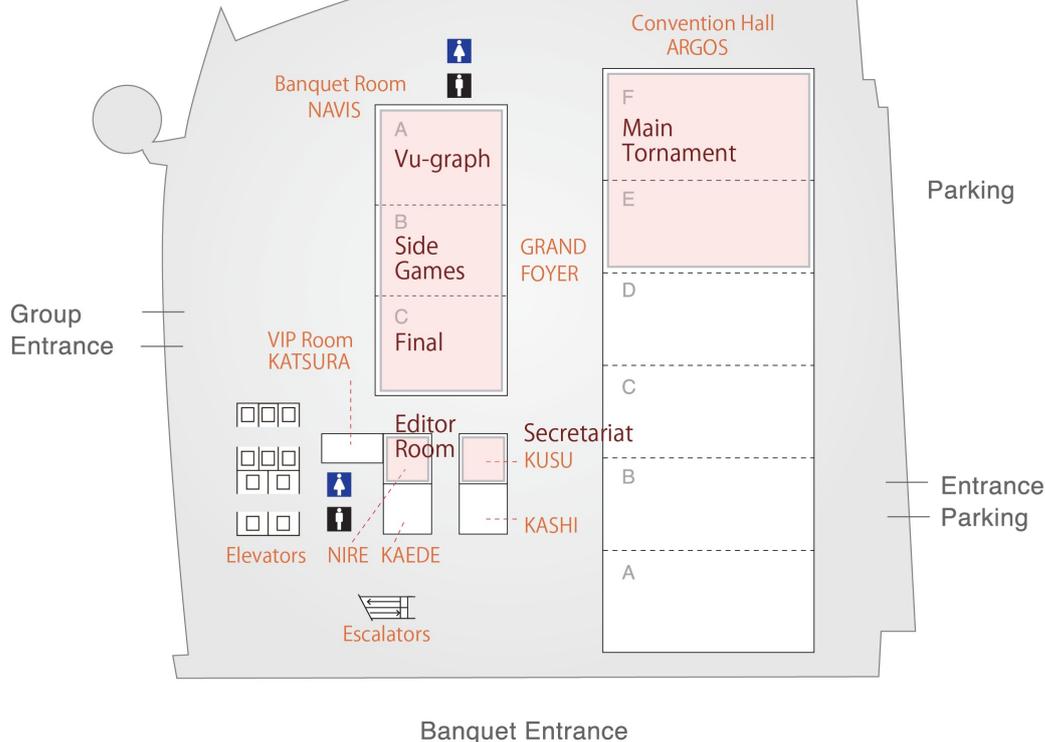
Line ups for the next match are due NO LATER than 10 minutes AFTER the end of the previous match

Smoking:

There is NO SMOKING in the Hilton Sea Hawk

APBF Area Floor Plan

LEVEL 1



APBF Congress: General Schedule of Events

APBF Congress Championships			Side-Games	
DATE	TIME	EVENT	TIME	EVENT
8/26 (Sun)	10:00-13:00	APBF Pairs (F1)		
	14:30-17:30	APBF Pairs (F2)	10:00-13:00	Beginners Cup (Δ 50MP/ Δ 20MP)
	10:00-17:30	Pairs (Consolation)	14:30-17:30	Beginners Cup (Δ 50MP/ Δ 20MP)
8/27 (Mon)	10:00-19:00	APBF Teams Qualifying (RR) (See next page for details)	10:00-17:30	Stratified Pairs Sectional (Open / Δ 1000MP)
8/28 (Tue)	10:00-19:00	APBF Teams Qualifying (RR) (See next page for details)	10:00-17:30	Stratified Pairs Sectional
8/29 (Wed)	10:00-19:00	APBF Teams Qualifying (RR) (See next page for details)	10:00-17:30	Even Chance Team Sectional
8/30 (Thu)	10:00-19:00	APBF Teams Qualifying (RR) (See next page for details)	10:00-17:30	Fukuoka Team Regional (Nintendo 3DS & Wii Cup) (Q1/Q2) [Open/ Δ 1000MP]
8/31 (Fri)	10:00-19:00	APBF Teams Qualifying (RR) (See next page for details)	10:00-17:30	Fukuoka Team Regional (Nintendo 3DS & Wii Cup) (F1/F2) [Open/ Δ 1000MP]
			10:00-17:30	Stratified Pairs [Open/ Δ 1000MP]
9/1 (Sat)	09:00-20:00	APBF Teams Semi-Finals (KO) (See next page for details)	10:00-17:30	Fukuoka Mayor's Cup (Q1/Q2) [Open Teams]
			10:00-17:30	Stratified Pairs Sectional (Δ 100MP / Δ 20MP)
9/2 (Sun)	09:00-17:30	APBF Teams Final (KO) (See next page for details)	10:00-17:30	Fukuoka Mayor's Cup (F1/F2) [Open Teams]
			10:00-17:30	TV Nishinippon Cup [Open Pairs]
			10:00-17:30	Team Sectional (Δ 100MP)
			18:30-22:00	Victory Banquet & Awards Ceremony



APBF Congress: Detailed Schedule (Championship Events)

Date/Time		Open	Women	Senior	Youth
Aug. 26 Sun.	10:00 13:00	APBF Open Pairs Final 1st			
	14:30 17:30	APBF Open Pairs Final 2nd			
Aug. 27 Mon.	10:00 12:20	Round 1	Round 1	1st Rd. 1	1st Rd. 1
	14:00 16:20	Round 2	Round 2	1st Rd. 2	1st Rd. 2
	16:40 19:00	Round 3	Round 3	1st Rd. 3	1st Rd. 3
Aug. 28 Tue.	10:00 12:20	Round 4		1st Rd. 4	1st Rd. 4
	14:00 16:20	Round 5	Round 4	1st Rd. 5	1st Rd. 5
	16:40 19:00	Round 6	Round 5	1st Rd. 6	1st Rd. 6
Aug. 29 Wed.	10:00 12:20	Round 7		1st Rd. 7	1st Rd. 7
	14:00 16:20	Round 8			
	16:40 19:00	Round 9		2nd Rd. 1	2nd Rd. 1
	19:00 21:00	Happy Summer Night !			
Aug. 30 Thu.	10:00 12:20	Round 10	Round 6	2nd Rd. 2	2nd Rd. 2
	14:00 16:20	Round 11	Round 7	2nd Rd. 3	2nd Rd. 3
	16:40 19:00	Round 12	Round 8	2nd Rd. 4	2nd Rd. 4
Aug. 31 Fri.	10:00 12:20	Round 13	Round 9	2nd Rd. 5	2nd Rd. 5
	14:00 16:20	Round 14	Round 10	2nd Rd. 6	2nd Rd. 6
	16:40 19:00	Round 15	Round 11	2nd Rd. 7	2nd Rd. 7
Sept. 1 Sat.	9:00 11:15	Semifinal 1			
	11:30 13:45	Semifinal 2			
	15:15 17:30	Semifinal 3			
	17:45 20:00	Final 1			
Sept. 2 Sun.	9:00 11:15	Final 2			
	11:30 13:45	Final 3			
	15:15 17:30	Final 4			
	19:00 22:00	Victory Banquet			

The 2012 European Championships

What would a daily bulletin be without some bridge hands? The 2012 European Championships were held earlier this year in Dublin, Ireland. Our intrepid reporters have provided us with a few of the more interesting hands from that tournament, as reported by those in attendance. We have edited them for these pages — hopefully with minimal loss to the original author's intentions.

The Dragon Roars by Patrick Jourdain (Wales)

Rested by sitting out Round 4 Team Wales followed with a draw against Poland and a win over France.

In the match against Poland Gary & Dafydd Jones (a father and son combination) were the only pair in either the Open or the Women to reach the right spot on this deal:

Bd: 2 North
 Dir: East ♠ 864
 Vul: N/S ♥ Q865
 ♦ 107
 ♣ K985

West
 ♠ J95
 ♥ KJ
 ♦ Q98652
 ♣ 73

East
 ♠ KQ103
 ♥ A10
 ♦ K4
 ♣ AQJ64

 ♠ A72
 ♥ 97432
 ♦ AJ3
 ♣ 102

West	North	East	South
<i>Gary</i>		<i>Dafydd</i>	
		1♣	Pass
1♦	Pass	2♠	Pass
3♥	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♥	Pass	4♠	All Pass

The universally popular contract was 3NT, sunk by a heart lead. When the defense was in with the ♠A a heart continuation set up the suit and declarer had no ninth trick before the defense enjoyed their hearts.

There might be a case for declarer winning the first heart with the ace and trying to sneak through a low diamond to the queen. If that wins the extra entry allows declarer to take two club finesses and set up the spades.

All that was academic when the Joneses reached 4♠. That proved a simple contract with 11 tricks

when the club finesse worked. That was worth 10 imps and the draw.

Senior Masterpiece by Micke Melander

On Tuesday evening, a real masterpiece arrived when Sweden and France battled out a hard fought contest in the seniors, the match finally ending 16-14 in favor of the French. Undoubtedly this hand will be one of the finest plays at these championships.

Bd: 9 North
 Dir: North ♠ KQ102
 Vul: E/W ♥ A63
 ♦ 73
 ♣ Q542

West
 ♠ 4
 ♥ KQJ1042
 ♦ J985
 ♣ 106

East
 ♠ AJ973
 ♥ 97
 ♦ Q102
 ♣ 987

 ♠ 865
 ♥ 85
 ♦ AK64
 ♣ AKJ3

West	North	East	South
<i>Piganeau</i>	<i>Morath</i>	<i>Leenhardt</i>	<i>Bjerregård</i>
	1♦(1)	Pass	2♣
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♦
Pass	3♠	Dbf	Pass
Pass	3NT	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♥	Pass	5♣
All Pass			
(1) Precision (could be short)			

Morath-Bjerregård play Precision with five-card majors and a 14-16 notrump. Therefore 1♦ was either a weak notrump in the 11-13 range or natural. A series of natural bids followed, but South was not sure at all that partner actually had a stopper in hearts on this sequence.

"Pass now for heaven's sake," was the comment from the Swedish NPC Tommy Gullberg when they were in 3NT since he believed that there would have been nine easy tricks on a spade lead. Looking at the hands Gullberg really couldn't work out how they were going to make 5♣. 3NT was a far easier contract provided declarer ducked precisely one heart and played East for queen-third in diamonds (if a heart was led). 4♥ was a cue-bid from North and 5♣ ended the auction, since Bjerregård certainly had no desire to aim for anything higher.

Bjerregård got a spade lead, which went to dummy's king and East's ace. Leenhard then gave declarer a chance when he returned the $\diamond 2$. He could have played any other suit and the defense would still have been in control. Bjerregård went up with the $\diamond A$, cashed the king and ruffed a diamond in dummy. Declarer continued with a trump to the king and another diamond ruff, this time ruffing with the queen to guard against being overruffed, as East discarded a spade. Two rounds of trumps followed, leaving the following position:

<p style="text-align: center;">♠ Q102 ♥ A6 ♦ --- ♣ ---</p> <p>♠ --- ♠ J97 ♥ QJ1042 ♥ 97 ♦ --- ♦ --- ♣ --- ♣ ---</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ 85 ♥ 85 ♦ --- ♣ 3</p>	
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On the last round of trumps declarer discarded a low heart from dummy and poor Leenhardt also had to discard a heart (since a spade discard would have given up control of that suit). When Bjerregård then played a heart to dummy's ace and a low spade East had no escape. He tried playing low, but when declarer had the eight he could claim his contract.

That was 10 imps to Sweden when the French pair at the other table went down in 3NT.

Last Board by Mark Horton

When the last board settles on the table it is all too easy to succumb to temptation to get the deal over and done with so you can rush out and compare scores with your teammates. Having spent more than 20 years covering Championships all over the world I could (and might) write a book about the number of matches that have been decided by the final deal.

(One of the best stories ever written on this theme is Ron Klinger's Last Board, which originally appeared in Bridge Magazine — and can also be found in Grand Slam: Thirteen Great Bridge Stories — which can easily be obtained on the Internet.)

This was the last board of England vs The Netherlands in Thursday's final match; no one was rushing, but it played a significant part in the outcome:

Dir: West	North	
Vul: Both	♠ 109	
	♥ A92	
	♦ K72	
	♣ QJ975	
West		East
♠ AK6		♠ J2
♥ 105		♥ KQJ87643
♦ AQ1094		♦ 3
♣ 1062		♣ A8
	♠ Q87543	
	♥ ---	
	♦ J865	
	♣ K43	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Brock</i>	<i>Michielsen</i>	<i>Smith</i>	<i>Dekkers</i>
1♣(1)	Pass	2♥	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♥	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♣	Pass
4♦	Dbf	4♥	Pass
4NT(2)	Pass	5♠(3)	Pass
6NT	All Pass		

- (1) 1+ clubs
- (2) RKCB (♥)
- (3) Two keycards plus the ♥Q

North's double of 4♦ was enough to persuade West to protect her diamond holding.

Had North led a club even 3NT would have been too high, but on the ♥2 lead declarer was still in the game. However, with the diamond finesse known to be wrong declarer had to rely on a defensive error. None was forthcoming and the contract was one down, -100.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Zwol</i>	<i>Senior</i>	<i>Arnolds</i>	<i>Dhondy</i>
1♦	Pass	2♥(1)	Pass
3♥	Pass	4♣	Pass
4♦	Pass	4NT(2)	Pass
5♥(3)	Pass	6♥	All Pass

- (1) Strong
- (2) RKCB (♥)
- (3) Two keycards, no ♥Q

South led the ♠5 and declarer spent a long time over this trick. No one likes to risk it all at trick one and eventually declarer put up the ace and played a heart to the king, South discarding the ♠3. Declarer continued with the ♥Q and North won as South parted with the ♠4.

North exited with the ♣Q. Declarer won with the ace and started trumps. South had to hold on to two

spades and also had to keep diamonds to prevent declarer ruffing out her partner's king.

This was the four-card ending:

<p>♠ K 6 ♥ --- ♦ AQ ♣ ---</p>	<p>♠ 10 ♥ --- ♦ K7 ♣ 9</p>	<p>♠ J ♥ 3 ♦ 3 ♣ 8</p>
	<p>♠ Q8 ♥ --- ♦ J8 ♣ ---</p>	

Declarer crossed to the ♠A and when she continued with the ♠6 North was in trouble. Forced to retain the ♣9 she parted with the ♦7. Declarer ruffed and played her diamond. South did her best by playing the jack, but declarer made no mistake, going up with dummy's ace to land her slam in spectacular style; +1430 and 17 imps.

A Debutant's First Board Adventure

by Jon Sveindal, Norway

The other members of the Norwegian Seniors Team have played for Norway before, but for Johnny Holmbakken this is his first international appearance. He rapidly placed himself in the hot seat against Italy in the first match — and on the very first board.

Bd: 1	North
Dlr: North	♠ 1073
Vul: None	♥ K1062
	♦ A3
	♣ KQJ2

<p>West ♠ K95 ♥ Q84 ♦ KJ872 ♣ 74</p>	<p>East ♠ AJ2 ♥ 95 ♦ Q1094 ♣ A1083</p>
	<p>South ♠ Q864 ♥ AJ73 ♦ 65 ♣ 965</p>

West	North	East	South
		<i>Holmbakken</i>	
3♦	1♣ All Pass	1♦	Dbl

On the ♣5 lead Holmbakken won North's jack with the ace and ran the ♦9 to the ace. North cashed a

club and exited with a diamond to the jack. A heart to the nine and jack was followed by the ace and another heart, which East ruffed. A club was ruffed in dummy and a diamond put declarer in hand with the queen. Holmbakken was sure South held the ♠Q and played accordingly, putting the jack on the table! South covered as dummy's king won. These cards remained:

<p>♠ 95 ♥ --- ♦ K ♣ ---</p>	<p>♠ 107 ♥ --- ♦ --- ♣ Q</p>	<p>♠ A2 ♥ --- ♦ --- ♣ 10</p>
	<p>♠ 86 ♥ 7 ♦ --- ♣ ---</p>	

The last diamond squeezed North in the black suits, declarer making the contract via two spade tricks when North kept his club. A menace transfer and squeeze — what a debut!

Bd: 8	North
Dlr: West	♠ J
Vul: None	♥ Q5432
	♦ 532
	♣ J1084

<p>West ♠ K10862 ♥ 8 ♦ KJ8 ♣ 6532</p>	<p>East ♠ 975 ♥ KJ9 ♦ 9764 ♣ A97</p>
	<p>South ♠ AQ43 ♥ A1076 ♦ AQ10 ♣ KQ</p>

West	North	East	South
<i>Willard</i>	<i>Brock</i>	<i>Cronier</i>	<i>Smith</i>
Pass	Pass	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♦(♥)	Pass	4♥
All Pass			
West	North	East	South
<i>Senior</i>	<i>Reess</i>	<i>Dhondy</i>	<i>Gaviard</i>
Pass	Pass	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♦(♥)	Pass	2NT(1)
Pass	3♦(♥)	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

Identical and normal contracts were reached and the opening leads were also identical, both Nevena

Senior and Sylvie Willard selecting the passive ♣5. Dhondy and Cronier each won the ♣A and switched to the ♦7. Now the contract can be made by winning the ace, cashing the ♣Q and ♥A, and playing ♠A, spade ruff, followed by winning clubs for diamond discards. But both Gaviard and Smith put in the ♦Q, losing to the king. Senior returned the ♦8 to declarer's ten and Gaviard cashed the ♥A — down one for -50. Willard switched to the ♥8 and now there was only one trump loser; ten tricks for +420 and 10 imps to England, leading 13-1.

A Rarity by Brian Senior

Bd: 16 North
 Dir: West ♠ KQ642
 Vul: E/W ♥ KQ8
 ♦ A2
 ♣ 642

West
 ♠ J1093
 ♥ J54
 ♦ KJ
 ♣ AJ107

East
 ♠ 87
 ♥ A3
 ♦ Q109876
 ♣ Q93

South
 ♠ A5
 ♥ 109762
 ♦ 543
 ♣ K85

West	North	East	South
<i>Fucik</i>	<i>Bakhshi</i>	<i>Purkarthofer</i>	<i>Townsend</i>
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♦(♥)
Pass	2♥	All Pass	

On this deal from Round 4 of the Open Series, England's David Bakhshi opened 1NT and played in 2♥ after a transfer response from Tom Townsend.

Austria's Gunther Purkarthofer led the ♠8. Bakhshi won the ace, led to the king, and continued with the queen, ruffed and over-ruffed. Bakhshi led a diamond and won the ace when Jan Fucik put in the king. A fourth spade was ruffed, East pitching a diamond, and declarer continued with a second diamond. Purkarthofer overtook his partner's jack to play another diamond, ruffed by declarer's eight. Now Bakhshi played the ♥K to the ace and Purkarthofer switched to the ♣3. Bakhshi went up with the king, losing to the ace, and Fucik returned the jack. This was the position:

♠ 2	♠ ---
♥ Q	♥ ---
♦ ---	♦ 98
♣ 64	♣ Q9
♠ ---	♠ ---
♥ J5	♥ 109
♦ ---	♦ ---
♣ J10	♣ 85

To defeat the contract East had to overtake, allow West to win the third club, then lead his low heart to the bare queen. When East failed to do so he had to win the third club himself and lead a diamond at trick twelve. When dummy ruffed with the nine West lost his trump trick whether he overruffed or not. Granted the defense could have done better but Bakhshi had pulled off that rarity, a Smother Play, to make his contract.

Iceland vs France by Brian Senior

Bd: 9 North
 Dir: North ♠ KJ109
 Vul: E/W ♥ A9
 ♦ AKQ84
 ♣ 52

West
 ♠ A7
 ♥ J843
 ♦ J107
 ♣ A874

East
 ♠ Q86542
 ♥ K52
 ♦ 953
 ♣ K

South
 ♠ 3
 ♥ Q1076
 ♦ 62
 ♣ QJ10963

West	North	East	South
<i>Einarsson</i>	<i>Rombaut</i>	<i>Jorgensen</i>	<i>Lorenzini</i>
Rdbl	1♦	1♠	Dbl
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♣
Pass	3NT	All Pass	
West	North	East	South
<i>Quantin</i>	<i>Ingimarsson</i>	<i>Bompis</i>	<i>Magnusson</i>
Pass	1♦	Pass	1♥
Pass	2♠	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♣	All Pass	

Jorgensen overcalled where Bompis did not and perhaps we should not be surprised that the East hand did not match a Frenchman's idea of what a vulnerable overcall looks like. The overcall, combined with Lorenzini's negative double, added momentum

to the N/S auction so that Rombaut was unwilling to stop short of game. In the uncontested auction, Ingimarsson could jump to show a strong but not necessarily game-forcing hand and now Magnusson requested that he bid 3♣ and when he did so, passed.

Against 3♣ Bompis cashed the ♣K, then switched to a diamond. There were ten tricks now for +130.

Jorgensen led a spade against 3NT. Einarsson won and returned the suit to the jack and queen. Jorgensen continued with a third spade while dummy pitched a diamond and a club and Einarsson a club. Rombaut won and ran the diamonds. This was the ending:

<p>♠ 9 ♥ A9 ♦ --- ♣ 52</p> <p>♠ --- ♥ J84 ♦ --- ♣ A8</p>	<p>♠ 65 ♥ K5 ♦ --- ♣ K</p>
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<p>♠ --- ♥ Q10 ♦ --- ♣ QJ10</p>	
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Rombaut cashed the ♠9, pitching a club from dummy, and Einarsson threw a heart. Now came a club to the bare king and Jorgensen cashed the spade winner. Dummy threw another club and, when Jorgensen now played the ♥2, Rombaut called for the queen and had his ninth trick for a well-played +400 and 7 imps to France; 34-19.

Neat Endplay
by Brian Senior

The Swedish Open team won its Round 6 match against Spain by 24-6 VPs, but on our featured deal it was Spain who gained an 11-imp swing.

(See top of next column)

In the other room Sweden stopped in game but Gonzalo Goded and Herve Vincent, for Spain, bid to the small slam when Goded was willing to cooperate with Vincent's slam try with a 4♦ cue-bid and now Vincent jumped to 5♥ to ask for good trumps, which of course Goded could supply.

Peter Fredin led the ♠5, third and fifth, and Goded ruffed in dummy. There was a possible line involving trying to ruff all four spades in dummy, but that needed a lot of good fortune so Goded discounted it.

Bd: 14
Dir: East
Vul: None

North
♠ A109752
♥ 63
♦ Q3
♣ J54

<p>West ♠ Q864 ♥ AKJ4 ♦ K98 ♣ 106</p>	<p>East ♠ --- ♥ 10987 ♦ A642 ♣ AK873</p>
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South
♠ KJ3
♥ Q52
♦ J1075
♣ Q92

West	North	East	South
<i>Goded</i>	<i>Fredin</i>	<i>Vincent</i>	<i>Fallenius</i>
1♥	1♠	1♣	Pass
Pass	Pass	3♥	Dbf
4♦	Pass	5♥	Pass
6♥	All Pass		

Instead, he played ace, king and a third club, ruffing with the four, then ruffed a spade. Fredin tried to hide the spade layout by following with the seven, but the auction plus the fall of the jack strongly suggested the actual 6-3 split.

Goded crossed back to hand with the ♦K and took a third spade ruff, then played ace, king and jack of hearts, pitching two diamonds from the dummy. Fallenius won the ♥Q but was down to only diamonds so had to put dummy in to cash the club winners; +980 and 11 imps to Spain.

The beauty of Goded's line was that it did not depend on the position of the queen of trumps, merely that South hold any three trumps or queen-doubleton, and only three spades. Neatly done.

Multon Magic

(See top of next column)

How would you like your chances of making 6♥ as West, on this deal? North leads the ♣7, ducked to South's queen. South switches to a trump. Play on.

Franck Multon faced the problem in Monaco's Round 8 match against Austria in the Open series. While it takes a bit of seeing, the contract is now unbeatable as there is a squeeze in which South is put to the sword in three suits and North in two. (Yes, South should perhaps have worked out to shift to a spade to break up the ending; as the cards lie, even a diamond is sufficient to destroy the timing.)

Bd: 3 North
 Dir: South ♠ J96542
 Vul: E/W ♥ J
 ♦ Q1072
 ♣ 74

West
 ♠ 7
 ♥ AK109653
 ♦ 4
 ♣ J983

East
 ♠ A108
 ♥ Q7
 ♦ AK85
 ♣ A652

South
 ♠ KQ3
 ♥ 842
 ♦ J963
 ♣ KQ10

Declarer draws trumps, North pitching spades, then plays a fourth round and South must discard either a spade or a diamond, leaving one of these two endings (this being the one achieved at the table):

♠ J96
 ♥ ---
 ♦ Q1072
 ♣ 4

♠ 7
 ♥ 965
 ♦ 4
 ♣ J98

♠ A108
 ♥ ---
 ♦ AK85
 ♣ A

♠ KQ
 ♥ ---
 ♦ J963
 ♣ K10

South has unguarded spades, so declarer cashes the ♣A, then plays ace and ruffs a spade. The last two hearts now squeeze North. On the last heart, to keep his spade guard, North has to come down to two diamonds. Dummy's ♠10 goes away, and now South is squeezed in the minors. If he keeps the club guard, the ♦8 makes the last trick.

This is the alternative position:

♠ J96
 ♥ ---
 ♦ Q1072
 ♣ 4

♠ 7
 ♥ 965
 ♦ 4
 ♣ J98

♠ A108
 ♥ ---
 ♦ AK85
 ♣ A

♠ KQ3
 ♥ ---
 ♦ J96
 ♣ K10

If South throws a diamond North is obliged, for the

time being, to keep all four diamonds. On the ♥9 North throws the club and dummy a spade. South can pitch a spade now but declarer continues with a club to the ace followed by three rounds of diamonds, ruffing in hand. Now the last heart is cashed and North, who threw a spade on the ♣A, must come down to a singleton spade to keep his diamond guard. Away goes dummy's diamond and now South must also throw a spade to keep the ♣K. So the ♠10 wins trick 13.

Multon thus earned his team a big swing. Yes, if South switches to either a spade or a diamond at trick two one of the above possible endings is eliminated and careful defense defeats the slam. But that does not detract from Franck's play.

(As a footnote, while South was contemplating his discard declarer explained the forthcoming squeeze to him and South responded blankly, "No squeeze!" He knows better now.)

Poland vs England (Open: Round 10)

by Brian Senior

Poland eked out a narrow win over England by 16-14 VPs in Round 10 of the Open series. The match featured two very interesting deals.

Bd: 2 North
 Dir: East ♠ AJ2
 Vul: N/S ♥ J43
 ♦ KQJ
 ♣ K942

West
 ♠ K3
 ♥ 8752
 ♦ 10763
 ♣ J87

East
 ♠ Q108765
 ♥ 6
 ♦ 954
 ♣ AQ10

South
 ♠ 94
 ♥ AKQ109
 ♦ A82
 ♣ 653

West	North	East	South
<i>Zmudzinski</i>	<i>Bakhshi</i>	<i>Balicki</i>	<i>Townsend</i>
Pass	4♥	2♦	2♥
		All Pass	

Cezary Balicki opened with a multi and Tom Townsend overcalled 2♥, raised to game by David Bakhshi. Adam Zmudzinski led the ♠K.

Townsend won the ace and drew trumps in four rounds, throwing a club from dummy as Balicki pitched two spades and a diamond. Now Townsend cashed two diamonds ending in hand and led a club

up. Had Zmudzinski played low, putting in the nine would have endplayed Balicki. But Zmudzinski correctly went in with the jack and that was one down for -100. As Poland reached 3NT, making two overtricks, in the other room that was 13 imps to Poland.

Declarer can always succeed if he reads the position correctly. Say that he cashes all his red winners, coming down to the ♠J2 and ♣K9 in dummy. East cannot come down to any combination which defeats the contract: if he keeps two cards in each black suit, a spade lead makes the ♣K at trick 13 while if he keeps three spades and one club, ducking a club wins. (Note that if West keeps all four diamonds he makes declarer's task rather harder.)

Barry Rigal suggested that it looks best to cash five hearts at once, pitching two clubs from dummy. If West pitches a diamond declarer cashes all three diamonds while if West keeps four diamonds he must let go a club. East similarly has to come down to three spades and either two diamonds and two clubs or one diamond and three clubs. Declarer cashes two diamonds and leads a club to the king. Now even if East wins the ace, unless he unblocked his club queen earlier, he will have to give declarer a spade in the ending.

Bd: 18 North
 Dir: East ♠ J9863
 Vul: N/S ♥ 975
 ♦ J943
 ♣ 9

West ♠ AKQ10 ♥ K104 ♦ A1075 ♣ J6	East ♠ 52 ♥ J86 ♦ KQ2 ♣ AKQ53
--	---

South
 ♠ 74
 ♥ AQ32
 ♦ 86
 ♣ 108742

Both Easts opened a strong notrump and declared 6NT on a spade lead. Balicki received the lead of the ♠7 He won in dummy, cashed the top diamonds and top spades, then tried to split the clubs. Though the missing heart honors were both onside, it was too late to attempt to establish a heart trick as South had a club to cash when he came in with the ♥A; down one, -50.

For England, David Gold received the lead of the ♠4, low from an even number. He won the ace and played the ♣J followed by a second club, seeing North discard a discouraging heart. Obviously the

signal did not need to be honest but a heart pitch will not all that often be from the queen here, so Gold's next play was a heart to the ten. When that won Gold played ♦A and a diamond to the king to see if the jack would put in an appearance. When it did not, he cashed the two club winners, throwing both hearts from dummy. North threw a spade and his last heart and Gold read the ending accurately. He cashed the ♦Q, crossed to the ♠K and exited with the ♦10 to North's jack, endplaying him to lead into the ♠Q10 at the end. Nicely done.

The notrump slam was made seven times in the Open and failed 23 times. In the Women, just two out of 11 declarers succeeded, Pony Nehmert for Germany and the English declarer once again, Nevena Senior.

Tor and his Hammer (Open: Round 10) by Ib Lundby

According to the Norse mythology, stormy weather and thunder is caused by Thor and his hammer Mjölir. I am sure that Tor Helness' parents had this in mind when he was given his name.

At the bridge tables in Dublin so far Tor has proved that every day is Thursday (Thor's day), though the deal I will show you is from Saturday's Round 10, the match between Monaco and Russia.

Bd: 13 North
 Dir: North ♠ 872
 Vul: Both ♥ Q62
 ♦ AK32
 ♣ AK4

West ♠ J6 ♥ AJ1087 ♦ Q106 ♣ 852	East ♠ KQ ♥ K54 ♦ J974 ♣ Q1063
---	--

South
 ♠ A109543
 ♥ 93
 ♦ 85
 ♣ J97

West	North	East	South
<i>Khiuppenen</i>	<i>Helness</i>	<i>Kholomeev</i>	<i>Helgemo</i>
	1NT	Pass	2♥(♠)
DbI	2♠	3♥	DbI
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

The lead from East was a low heart to the ace, and the jack was covered with the queen and king. The ♠K went to the ace and another spade from dummy was taken by the queen. Now East played a diamond to the queen and ace, after which declarer cashed

the ♠8 and ruffed his last heart.

With six cards left Tor swung his hammer:

	♠ ---	
	♥ ---	
	♦ K32	
	♣ AK4	
♠ ---		♠ ---
♥ 108		♥ ---
♦ 10		♦ J97
♣ 852		♣ Q106
	♠ 109	
	♥ ---	
	♦ 8	
	♣ J97	

The ♣4 disappeared on the ♠10 and East had to surrender. A classic trump squeeze.

In the Open Series 4♠ was only bid twice but Tor alone managed to take 10 tricks. Only a diamond lead and another diamond when East gets his trump trick will defeat this game.

The One That Got Away

by Patrick Jourdain

There is always some new potential in bridge awaiting discovery. The one below was doing the rounds but your intrepid journalist could not find a player who had actually achieved it. The deal was Board 4 of Open Round 12, Women Round 10, and Senior Round 3.

Bd: 4	North	
Dir: West	♠ 108	
Vul: Both	♥ 932	
	♦ Q975432	
	♣ 9	
West		East
♠ Q97632		♠ AJ
♥ 10		♥ KJ864
♦ ---		♦ AK8
♣ AJ8654		♣ KQ3
	South	
	♠ K54	
	♥ AQ75	
	♦ J106	
	♣ 1072	

Six Clubs by West occurred at a number of tables. A spade lead is best (though declarer can still succeed by winning the ♠A and taking the discard at once), but after West's bidding a heart lead was much more likely.

We found a table in the Women's event where,

against 6♣ by West, the ♥2 (3rd and 5th) was led. Declarer played low from dummy and South won the queen. A trump was returned. To avoid the spade finesse declarer has to dispose of five cards in the suit. Two can go on diamonds, so three must disappear on the hearts. Is this possible?

South is marked with the ace. If North has five you can only set up two hearts by felling South's bare ace. So you need North to have precisely three hearts. You use a trump entry to lead the ♥K, covered by South, and later set up three winning hearts when the nine falls. The spade finesse is not needed.

Sad to tell, declarer still went off, but the analysts were busy. Suppose South had won the first heart with the ace. That sets up the king at once but now declarer will surely place North with the queen and, at the crucial moment, will try to fell that by ruffing a low heart. When that fails there are at most two heart winners to dispose of spades and declarer has to rely on the spade finesse. One down.

Low Level Loss (Round 12: Women's Series)

by Maureen Dennison

When the opponents in the other room overbid to 3NT, failing by a trick, it is doubly satisfying to find a brilliant defense to take 800 from 1♠ doubled against their other pair. It included that rare bird, a squeeze on dummy.

Bd: 9	North	
Dir: North	♠ K105	
Vul: E/W	♥ Q8432	
	♦ 83	
	♣ Q84	
West		East
♠ A875		♠ 642
♥ J10976		♥ K
♦ KQ4		♦ J1092
♣ 3		♣ J10962
	South	
	♠ QJ9	
	♥ A5	
	♦ A765	
	♣ AK75	

This was the bidding in the Open Room in the match between Israel & France.

West	North	East	South
<i>Gaviard</i>	<i>N Tal</i>	<i>Reese</i>	<i>D Tal</i>
	Pass	Pass	1♣
1♥	Pass	Pass	Dbl
Pass	Pass	Rdbl	Pass
1♠	Dbl	All Pass	

North led the ♠5 to the jack, ducked, and South continued the trump attack. Declarer won with ace and Noga Tal unblocked the ♠K. Daniele Gaviard played the ♦K, ducked, and the ♦Q, taken by the ace, and Dana Tal led another diamond, ruffed by North. Next came the ♥2 to the king and ace and South drew dummy's last trump with her master ♠Q. Dana now cashed the ♣A and led another club. Declarer ruffed with her last trump and was allowed to win the next trick with the ♥10. North took the heart continuation and dummy was squeezed between her winning diamond and her club guard. That meant three down, 13 imps.

A Very Well Played Slam
by Jos Jacobs

This was Board 14 in Round 5 of the Open Series Final.

Bd: 14 North
Dlr: East ♠ Q86
Vul: None ♥ AKQ762
♦ 105
♣ K6

West
♠ AJ10
♥ 543
♦ J82
♣ 10852

East
♠ 52
♥ 109
♦ KQ9763
♣ Q43

South
♠ K9743
♥ J8
♦ A4
♣ AJ97

In the Russia vs Germany match, In the Open Room Gromov-Dubinin bid 4♠ and made 11 tricks, +450. In the Closed Room the Germans had higher aspirations.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Khiuppenen Fritsche</i>		<i>Kholomeev</i>	<i>Rohowsky</i>
		2♣	2♠
Pass	3♦	Pass	3NT
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♦
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♦
Pass	6♥	All Pass	

2♣ showed a weak two in diamonds and East led the ♦K. Jörg Fritsche won dummy's ace and started playing trumps. On the penultimate trump West was already in trouble. He could not discard any of his clubs so he had to throw either his last diamond or a spade. When he threw a spade to hold on to his diamond the rest was relatively easy: ♣K, club to the jack, ♣A for a diamond discard, a spade from dummy to pick up the suit for one loser. This was the position when Fritsche led the penultimate trump.

	♠ Q86	
	♥ 76	
	♦ 10	
	♣ K6	
♠ AJ10		♠ 52
♥ ---		♥ ---
♦ J		♦ Q97
♣ 10852		♣ Q43
	♠ K974	
	♥ ---	
	♦ ---	
	♣ AJ97	

Had West thrown a diamond the last trump would have finished him off. He then would have had to part with a black card, after which declarer either has an extra club trick to get rid of his second spade loser or can establish the spades for just one loser.

If there is a prize for the best played hand of the tournament, this certainly looks a worthy candidate to me. Congratulations to Jörg Fritsche on his very fine play

The 14th World Bridge Games

Our intrepid reporters have been working overtime for you this summer. Here are some deals from the World Bridge Games, held earlier this month in Lille, France. We have edited them for these pages — hopefully with minimal loss to the original author's intentions.

Brazil-USA by Brent Manley

This deal from the Brazil-USA match saw Brazil take the lead thanks to a nifty endplay by Miguel Villas-Boas.

Bd: 2	♠ 107		♠ 9632
Dlr: East	♥ KQ943		♥ A1085
Vul: N/S	♦ AK72		♦ 3
	♣ 82		♣ AK74
♠ J85			
♥ J			
♦ Q9865			
♣ 10953			
	♠ AKQ4		
	♥ 762		
	♦ J104		
	♣ QJ6		

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Branco</i>	<i>Rodwell</i>	<i>Barbosa</i>	<i>Meckstroth</i>
		1♣	Dbl
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

The bad trump split doomed this normal contract as Rodwell could do no better than eight tricks for -200. In the Closed Room a better contract was found.

West	North	East	South
<i>Zia</i>	<i>Campos</i>	<i>Hamman</i>	<i>Villas-Boas</i>
		1♣	Pass
1♠	Dbl	2♠	3NT
All Pass			

Zia led a low club to Hamman's king and Hamman, quite reasonably, switched to a spade (yes, he had a better option as we will see below). Villas-Boas won the ace and played a heart to dummy's king. Hamman won and persisted in spades. Now declarer played the ♦J, covered by the queen and ace, followed by a low club from dummy, Hamman ducking. (It might seem that winning and exiting with a club would have helped but Villas-Boas had his contract in hand at that point.) After winning the ♣J, Villas-Boas played a diamond to dummy's king and a diamond back to his hand, leaving this end position:

♠ ---	♠ 96
♥ Q943	♥ 108
♦ 7	♦ ---
♣ ---	♣ A
♠ J	
♥ ---	
♦ Q9	
♣ 109	
♠ Q4	
♥ 76	
♦ ---	
♣ Q	

He now cashed the ♠Q and followed with the ♣Q. Hamman could win and cash the ♠9, but at trick 12 he had to lead from the ♥108 into dummy's ♥Q9. Plus 600 was good for 13 imps to Brazil. Had Hamman taken his ♣Q and continued with a black suit he would have been squeezed out of his club on the play of the diamonds, suffering the same end play with a spade to the nine at trick 11.

Where There's Seven There's Always Nine

When Poland played the USA both declarers had the chance to test their mettle in 3NT. Here is the play at Eric Rodwell's table:

Bd: 28	♠ Q105432		♠ 76
Dlr: West	♥ 985		♥ J74
Vul: N/S	♦ J		♦ KQ10854
	♣ 752		♣ 83
♠ AKJ			
♥ AK6			
♦ 732			
♣ Q1094			
	♠ 98		
	♥ Q1032		
	♦ A96		
	♣ AKJ6		

Open Room

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

Rodwell got the good news at trick one when his ♠J scored at trick one. He now needed only to set up diamonds to have nine winners. But one must prepare for the worst. What if a defender has the doubly guarded ♦A? He tabled the ♦7 (to try to mess up his opponents' count signals) and when the ♦J appeared and dummy's queen held the danger signals started flashing. If he could only take two diamond tricks he would need to set up clubs, and

there was no time like the present. He'd need to find the ♣J inside — and maybe a little more. He started clubs by leading the eight from dummy (this would not jeopardize his contract if diamonds were two-two since he could revert to diamonds if clubs did not behave and lose no more than three clubs and a diamond.) South rose with the ace and shifted to spades. Rodwell won and led a diamond to the king, which held, as North pitched a spade.

With seven winners outside of clubs now Rodwell only needed to set up two club tricks or find an endplay. He played a second club and South won the ace and shifted to a low heart. Now declarer had two chances for his contract: South had been endplayed into leading from his ♥Q, or the ♣J was dropping. Since the defenders had no communication he could test both chances by first running the heart to dummy's jack. When that held he had nine tricks.

Technically, once Rodwell had finessed successfully in hearts he could have made an overtrick (he cashes his hearts and spades, then exits in diamonds to endplay South to lead clubs at the death. But naturally he was happy to settle for nine tricks — which could hardly be a bad score.

This was actually a flat board; both declarers made the club play at trick three and forced South to give up the extra tricks in the ending. Could the defenders have done better after the initial spade lead? No, but the most challenging defence might have been for South to win the first club and return his low diamond. He can win the next club, cash the ♦A, and then exit with a spade. Declarer can still prevail by cashing his spade winners and endplaying South in clubs to lead hearts (or vice versa).

Give Them Enough Rope...

Bd: 24 ♠ KJ1032
 Dlr: West ♥ K106
 Vul: None ♦ J
 ♣ Q876

♠ AQ65 ♥ QJ9 ♦ 984 ♣ 943	♠ 97 ♥ A53 ♦ KQ107532 ♣ A
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♠ 84 ♥ 8742 ♦ A6 ♣ KJ1052

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	1♦	Pass
1♠	Pass	3♦	Pass
3♥	Pass	4♣	Pass
4♦	Pass	5♦	All Pass

Bob Hamman was among the few to bid and make 5♦, the best game, and suggested the deal would make a good problem. As for the bidding, arguably the East cards are not worth a 3♦ bid. but bidding it that way keeps the opponents quiet and the controls may allow 3NT to make opposite very little. When partner suggests club weakness with his 3♥ bid your hand is golden for diamonds. Even facing a passed partner you might easily make slam. 4♣ was a cue-bid, likely based on shortness (with good clubs you would bid 3NT). When partner bids 4♦, enough is enough; if he can't cue-bid slam won't make.

The lead is the ♥7, and if hearts had to be played for no losers the right play would be the nine (playing North for the king and South for the ten). But here you may not need to make that desperate a move — given that *both* the king and ten are likely to be wrong. (Why would South lead from 10xxx and especially why would he lead the seven?) So playing the queen leaves more tension in the ending, whether North covers or not.

North covers with the king, reinforcing your opinion that the ♥10 is wrong, and you advance a high diamond. Now two very good things happen: the ♦J falls from North, giving you an extra entry to dummy, and the defenders play back a club instead of a major. Time to take advantage of their generosity. You win the club, cross to the ♦9, ruff a club, then cross to the ♥J, eschewing the finesse. When you ruff the third club and exit with a heart North is endplayed to lead a black suit, which takes care of your spade loser.

Had the defenders continued with a heart at trick three you would have needed to rise with the jack and play for a strip squeeze on North by running all the trumps. Had the defense shifted to a spade at trick three you would have had to rise with the ace and played for a different strip squeeze — not easy, but maybe the indicated line. Only a spade lead defeats the hand.

Good Duck

by Patrick Jourdain (Wales)

The England Seniors had not lost a match and had a clear lead at the head of Group H when they met their closest follower, Israel. The match was tight with this board being the key to Israel's narrow win (20-16; 16-14 in VPs):

(See top of next column)

At the other table Israel reached 3NT. On a diamond lead and the threat that the heart trick would come too late, declarer might have been tempted into a

Bd: 3 ♠ 94
 Dlr: South ♥ 42
 Vul: E/W ♦ A109873
 ♣ 862

♠ AKJ6 ♠ Q85
 ♥ QJ106 ♥ 8753
 ♦ KQ6 ♦ J4
 ♣ 107 ♣ AK95

♠ 10732
 ♥ AK9
 ♦ 52
 ♣ QJ43

West	North	East	South
Hallberg	David B	Holland	Daniela B
1NT	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass

double club finesse. But in practice declarer played on hearts and with the diamonds six-two and North having no entry, the game came home.

At the table where Gunnar Hallberg and John Holland faced David & Daniela Birman a Stayman auction (shown above) led to 4♥ by West. David B led a trump. Daniela won the king and switched to the ♦2 (low from doubletons).

David B drew two inferences: one, Daniella held the two top trumps; two, with a singleton diamond she would either have cashed both top trumps before playing the diamond or won the ace at trick one. Thinking that through David B ducked the diamond with an encouraging card. Now when Daniela won the next trump and led a second diamond he could win the ace and give her a ruff to set the game.

Get Out of My Way!

Bd: 9 ♠ 8642
 Dlr: North ♥ J106
 Vul: E/W ♦ A
 ♣ QJ1072

♠ J1073 ♠ AKQ
 ♥ A7 ♥ Q54
 ♦ J85 ♦ KQ9642
 ♣ AK86 ♣ 9

♠ 95
 ♥ K9832
 ♦ 1073
 ♣ 543

West	North	East	South
	Pass	1♦	Pass
1♠	Pass	3♦	Pass
3♥	Pass	4♠	Pass
6♦	All Pass		

There is no perfect rebid with the East cards. The raises to 2♠ and 3♠ are both clearly flawed (though if playing a weak notrump a 2♠ bid has some attraction) as are diamond rebids at the two and three levels. Reversing to 2♥ almost forces your side to game, which might make sense if, for example, the ♥Q were the ♥K. As it is, though, this seems too much of a good thing. At least the 3♦ rebid gets the invitational values across reasonably.

Now responder needs to temporize and 3♥ seems the only option, and opener's jump to 4♠ now seems a reasonable way to express very good trump support. (Since you are never going to play 3NT you can safely get your hand off your chest at one go.) Once you do that West can complete a fairly hit-and-miss sequence by jumping to 6♦.

How should you play the slam on a club lead? To protect against four-zero trumps and to preserve dummy entries you need to lead towards the ♦KQ rather than to start with the ♦J. When RHO wins and plays the ♥J you have a new problem. You might as well put up the queen now — you won't get any value out of it if you don't. Of course LHO covers so you win the ace and draw a second trump. Had trumps split two-two you would have been home free, but as it is you need to unblock spades (don't you?) before drawing the last trump. Time to think about how to do that...any ideas?

Did you spot the point of the deal? By cashing two spades you have left the suit temporarily blocked. But to the rescue comes...SUPER-UNBLOCK! You cross to the ♦J and pitch your ♠Q on the ♣K and you now have two homes for your heart losers — the ♠J10.

Although the majority of declarers who played 6♦ made it, many were treated to a low heart lead and so had no choice but to run it to their queen. Others received a trump lead followed by a spade shift and had no problems.

Tricky Trump Trivia by Barry Rigal

It is surprising how many ways you can utilize trumps. In today's deal from the match between Switzerland and Netherlands the opportunity for an elegant and unusual trump play presented itself.

(See top of next column)

In the other room the Swiss West was allowed to play 1NTx on the friendly lead of the ♠J. Declarer ran his spades and hearts after giving up a trick to the ♥K and made ten tricks for the unusual score of

Bd: 28 ♠ J1053
 Dir: West ♥ K2
 Vul: N/S ♦ K86
 ♣ AQJ8

♠ A7 ♠ KQ942
 ♥ AJ976 ♥ Q108
 ♦ 953 ♦ A104
 ♣ K32 ♣ 105

♠ 86
 ♥ 543
 ♦ QJ72
 ♣ 9764

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>De Wijs</i>	<i>Wildavsky</i>	<i>Muller</i>	<i>Piedra</i>
1♥	Dbl	2♦*	Pass
2♥	Pass	3♥	Pass
3NT	Pass	4♥	All Pass

* Heart raise, typically 9-11

+480. If De Wijs could make his ambitious game he would essentially flatten the board.

Wildavsky also led a spade but he selected the more effective small spade (the third-and-low five). De Wijs could have played him for the jack-ten and put up the nine, but he made the right theoretical play by ducking in dummy, playing North for the jack or ten with the eight. When South's eight forced the ace declarer played a second spade, rose with the king (North following low), and passed the ♥Q to North's king. Now the winning defense is almost impossible to find. When Wildavsky continued with his small heart declarer might have found the winning line if he assumed North was 4=2=3=4 or 4=2=4=3 with the three top clubs (by ruffing out the spades, preserving a trump entry to the board, and running the spades while leaving the ♦A in place). While this may not be sufficient, it certainly appears necessary.

So let's try it. Win the ♥8, ruff a spade high, cross back to the ♥10, and run two more spades pitching diamonds. This is the six-card ending, before the last spade is cashed.

♠ --- ♠ 4
 ♥ --- ♥ ---
 ♦ K86 ♦ A104
 ♣ AQJ ♣ 105

♠ --- ♠ 4
 ♥ --- ♥ ---
 ♦ QJ2 ♦ A104
 ♣ 976 ♣ 105

Since you need three tricks and have only a trump and a diamond winner to go with the spade, you need to make something of the clubs. How can you do that? When you lead the last spade and pitch a diamond, North is caught in an unusual position — a one-suit squeeze. (Yes, he might have done better to come down to a doubleton ♦K at the previous trick and now to discard a deceptive ♣J.) Assuming North has reduced to three clubs and two diamonds, you need him to have started life with the ♣AQJ. If he discards a diamond you cash the ♦A, ruff a diamond, then lead a low club from hand to endplay North in clubs. If he pitches a club honor, you duck a club, win the diamond return, then duck a second club to bring down the ♣A.

Just for the record, a diamond shift by Wildavsky when in with the ♥K breaks up the tension of the ending; North can simply keep two clubs and diamond winners and force declarer at every turn.

Endplayed Twice

by Micke Melander

Bd: 9 ♠ KQ10963
 Dir: North ♥ Q
 Vul: E/W ♦ 4
 ♣ AQ1032

♠ --- ♠ AJ7542
 ♥ J109432 ♥ K
 ♦ J85 ♦ K1062
 ♣ K754 ♣ J6

♠ 8
 ♥ A8765
 ♦ AQ973
 ♣ 98

West	North	East	South
<i>Hay</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Nakamura-</i> <i>Pinder</i>	<i>Madala</i>
	1♠	Pass	1NT
Pass	3♣	Pass	3NT
Pass	4♠	Dbl	All Pass

Nakamura-Pinder wisely decided to lead a trump, but only one particular trump could defeat the contract — the ace. So when he put the ♠4 on the table it was all over. Bocchi played a club to the queen and a diamond to dummy's queen. With two successful finesses in the bag he simply cashed the ♦A, discarding a club from hand, ruffed a diamond, played a heart to the ace and ruffed another diamond, leaving:

♠ KQ10	
♥ ---	
♦ ---	
♣ AQ10	
♠ ---	♠ AJ752
♥ 1094	♥ ---
♦ ---	♦ ---
♣ K75	♣ J
♠ ---	
♥ 8765	
♦ 9	
♣ 8	

Bocchi now played ace and a small club, endplaying Nakamaru-Pinder (who had only trumps left) forcing him to ruff the trick. This was repeated a second time, two tricks later, giving declarer his 10 tricks. A nice swing of 12 imps when the Scottish declarer at the other table went down two after not taking any finesses the right way.

(Note: Even if you lead the ♠A, you have to be careful to continue with either a heart or a diamond to dummy at trick two to defeat the contract. That removes a necessary entry declarer needs to ruff diamonds and shorten himself in trumps to achieve the endplay.)

Okay Ron, Well Done
by Micke Melander

A drama was played out in Group D of the Open Series when Turkey played Israel in the last qualifying match of the Round Robin with both of them close to the top of the group standings. In theory both Iceland and China could get into the race and take their qualifying places.

Bd: 7	♠ AK109542	
Dlr: South	♥ Q	
Vul: Both	♦ K6	
	♣ K104	
♠ 87		♠ QJ3
♥ 98754		♥ K102
♦ Q7		♦ A10982
♣ A976		♣ J2
	♠ 6	
	♥ AJ63	
	♦ J543	
	♣ Q853	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Liran</i>	<i>Gur</i>	<i>Fridlander</i>	<i>Yilmaz</i>
Pass	1♠	Pass	Pass
Pass	3♠	Pass	1NT
All Pass		Pass	4♠

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Kokten</i>	<i>Pachtman</i>	<i>Aker</i>	<i>Ginossar</i>
Pass	4♠	All Pass	Pass

East was almost endplayed on the opening lead. In the Closed Room Aker tried his best by leading the ♥2, the three and four followed and declarer won with the queen. Ron Pachtman wanted to create an entry to dummy to be able to collect his ♥A and tried the ♣K from hand. Aker unblocked his jack and Kokten smoothly ducked when dummy played low, allowing declarer to win the trick.

After two top spades declarer led the ♣10, which also stood up. Pachtman now realised that he wasn't really going to get any help from his defenders in getting a dummy entry so he started playing on trumps with the ♠10. That led to the following position with Aker (East) on lead:

	♠ 9542	
	♥ ---	
	♦ K6	
	♣ 4	
♠ ---		♠ ---
♥ 987		♥ K10
♦ Q7		♦ A10982
♣ A9		♣ ---
	♠ ---	
	♥ AJ	
	♦ J54	
	♣ Q8	

Aker was now forced to play diamonds (hearts would only have made things worse) and he had no better move than cashing the ace, giving declarer his tenth trick.

Meanwhile in the other room Fridlander had to kick off against the same contract. He put the ♣J on the table which went to the three, six and declarer's king. Okay Gur now played the ace and king of trumps discarding a diamond from dummy. A third trump threw Fridlander in again and he now exited with his last club, refusing to help declarer open up a red suit. Liran as East simply covered and allowed declarer to win the ten. Gur ran all his trumps to reach the following position:

(See top of next column)

Declarer now played the ♥Q from hand and when it wasn't covered won the ace in dummy to continue the suit, throwing poor Fridlander in again to lead away from the ♦A. Very well done by Ron and Okay.

♠ ---
 ♥ Q
 ♦ K6
 ♣ 4

♠ ---
 ♥ 8
 ♦ Q7
 ♣ 9

♠ ---
 ♥ AJ
 ♦ J5
 ♣ ---

♠ ---
 ♥ K10
 ♦ A10
 ♣ ---

♠ 1097
 ♥ ---
 ♦ ---
 ♣ ---

♠ ---
 ♥ Q5
 ♦ 6
 ♣ ---

♠ ---
 ♥ ---
 ♦ ---
 ♣ J96

♠ A86
 ♥ ---
 ♦ ---
 ♣ ---

Ireland's last significant swing came thanks to some expert play by Hugh McGann on the following deal. The auction was the same at both tables.

Bd: 12 ♠ 10973
 Dir: West ♥ K863
 Vul: N/S ♦ 1084
 ♣ KQ

♠ KJ ♠ A86542
 ♥ Q542 ♥ 1097
 ♦ AKJ63 ♦ 7
 ♣ 108 ♣ A74

♠ Q
 ♥ AJ
 ♦ Q952
 ♣ J96532

West	North	East	South
Zia	Fitzgibbon	Hamman	Mesbur
McGann	Rodwell	Hanlon	Meckstroth
1NT	Pass	4♥	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

Fitzgibbon led the ♣K, taken by Zia with the ace. Zia played a diamond to his jack at trick two, then cashed the two high diamonds, pitching hearts from dummy and pitched another heart on the ♦6. Mesbur won the queen and played a club to his partner's queen. A low heart from North was ruffed in dummy and when Zia cashed the ♠A, the contract could no longer be made. He played a spade to his king, but had to concede two trump tricks to Fitzgibbon to finish one down one, -50.

McGann played along similar lines, at least at first. He won the opening club lead with dummy's ace, played a diamond to his jack and discarded hearts from dummy on his ♦AK. Instead of pitching a heart on the fourth diamond, however, he ruffed the ♦3 low and played a club to Rodwell's queen. Rodwell played a heart to Meckstroth's ace and McGann ruffed the heart continuation in dummy. He ruffed dummy's club with the ♠J, cashed the ♠K, and this was the position with three tricks to go:

McGann played the ♥5 and when Rodwell put in the ♠9, McGann underruffed in dummy, leaving Rodwell to play from the ♠107 into dummy's ♠A8. Well done. Plus 420 was good for 10 imps in a match won by Ireland 36-13, 20 VPs. That left Ireland comfortably in qualifying position. Their next opponent: Germany.

Don't Mess with the Zohan (or John Schermer) by Barry Rigal

On the following deal North was faced with an opening lead problem.

Bd: 15 ♠ 985
 Dir: South ♥ K752
 Vul: N/S ♦ 74
 ♣ KJ82

♠ KJ7
 ♥ J83
 ♦ QJ102
 ♣ Q75

West	North	East	South
1NT*	Pass	3NT	Pass
*14-16+			All Pass

The opening lead with a hand like North's is very much open to discussion. What the experts suggest is that when in doubt, if you have a sequence you should fall back on that. So here, while some would lead a low club (fourth from your longest and strongest and all that), others would insist on a heart (majors over minors) while others, including me, would recommend the ♠9.

The spade lead would be especially clear on a limited auction (1NT-2NT; 3NT) but here, too, a spade is as likely to be right as anything else — and less likely to cost a trick. Say you lead the nine. Declarer puts up the king as partner follows with the three, and passes the ♦Q successfully. Next he repeats the diamond finesse, then leads a heart to the queen. Have you decided how you will defend? Now that you are in (this is surely not the right

moment to duck) are you going to press on with spades or shift?

Given partner's far from encouraging spade spot, if you *are* going to shift to clubs — which seems right — then the right card is surely the jack. If declarer has the ace and ten any club works, but if partner has the ace with the nine but not the ten then you need to pin the ten in declarer's hand, and a low club doesn't do the trick. Here is the full deal:

Bd: 15 ♠ 985
 Dlr: South ♥ K752
 Vul: N/S ♦ 74
 ♣ KJ82

♠ A102
 ♥ AQ94
 ♦ A863
 ♣ 103

♠ Q643
 ♥ 106
 ♦ K95
 ♣ A964

♠ KJ7
 ♥ J83
 ♦ QJ102
 ♣ Q75

The winning defence would be hard enough to find, but arguably the play at one table in the Seniors was even more dramatic. Eduardo Scanavino played 3NT on an uninformative auction against the USA Seniors. John Schermer led the ♠8 (promising the nine) which went to the jack, queen, and king. Scanavino decided to continue his deceptive approach and led a low heart from hand but Schermer was having none of this. He hopped up with the king and fired the ♣J through for down one and a fine example of telling the opponents "Don't try to screw with me!"

The Luck of the Draw

by Mark Horton

(This article is dedicated to Mary Kelly Rogers)

When you select a match to watch your fate is in the lap of the gods. You may get one with a series of dull boards and few swings or you may get the opposite, with wild deals and imps flying in all directions. What you are hoping for is top class play by both teams, but for some reason that is usually about as rare as hen's teeth. However, the third session of the match between Germany and Ireland featured some outstanding play by both sides on a terrific set of deals.

(See top of next column)

South led the ♥6 and declarer won with dummy's king and played the ♦9. When North covered with the

queen declarer took the ace, played a spade to the king, and when that held he played a spade to the

Bd: 1 ♠ J7652
 Dlr: North ♥ 8
 Vul: None ♦ QJ875
 ♣ 107

♠ K8
 ♥ KQ2
 ♦ 962
 ♣ A9543

♠ Q104
 ♥ 10743
 ♦ AK104
 ♣ Q8

♠ A93
 ♥ AJ965
 ♦ 3
 ♣ KJ62

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Fitzgibbon</i>	<i>Fritsche</i>	<i>Mesbur</i>	<i>Rohowski</i>
	Pass	1♦(1)	1♥
Dbf(2)	Pass	1NT	Dbf
3NT	All Pass		
???			

(1) Bal 17-20 jp with 2+♦ (about 11-13) or 11-16 hcp 4-4-4-1 or 5+♦ unbalanced or 4+♦/5♣ or 5♦/4♣

(2) T/O, values

ten. South won the ace and returned a spade to declarer's queen. A heart saw South go up with the ace and exit with a heart. Declarer won perforce in dummy, played a diamond to the ten, cashed the ♦K and exited with a heart to endplay South, +400.

That was very well played and perhaps South was left to regret his revealing double.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Rehder</i>	<i>Hanlon</i>	<i>Gromoeller</i>	<i>McGann</i>
	Pass	Pass	1♥
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♠
All Pass			

To defeat 2♠ East has to lead the ♠4 but of course he started with the ♦A. He switched to spades and West took the king and returned the suit to the ten and ace. Declarer cashed the ♥A, ruffed a heart, and ran the ♦J pitching a club. He ruffed a diamond, ruffed a heart, and according to the play record finished with +110. That I doubt. I think declarer played a club to the jack and ace, won the club return and played jack and a heart for +140 and 11 imps.