

❖ TOURNAMENT REPORT ❖

THE 2015 BERMUDA BOWL

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This special online supplement, reporting on the 2015 World Championship, includes detailed coverage of the preliminary rounds through the semifinals. Our report on the final appears beginning in the August 2016 issue of The Bridge World.

The 2015 Bermuda Bowl was contested during September and October in Chennai (formerly Madras), on the Bay of Bengal in eastern India. The venue, the ITC Grand Chola Hotel, was luxurious, and the playing conditions were fine. The format, as usual in recent years, was 22 teams playing a complete round-robin over seven days, followed by 96-board quarterfinals and semifinals, then a 128-board final. Strangely, there were no commentators for some sessions of the final.

The composition of the field changed frequently during the weeks preceding the event, as allegations, disputations, confessions, and mysteries relating to alleged improper behavior by leading pairs swirled. Three European-zone teams with involved pairs that had played in a qualifying event withdrew: Germany, Israel and Monaco were replaced by Sweden, Denmark and France. One day before play started, the World Bridge Federation withdrew the invitation to one of Poland's nominated pairs, which was replaced by a pair from the winning 2014 Rosenblum team.

The favorites were USA1 (Katz, Nickell; Levin, Weinstein; Meckstroth, Rodwell), POLAND (Gawrys, Klukowski; Jassem, Mazurkiewicz; Kalita, Nowosadzki), ENGLAND (Bakhshi, Gold; Forrester, Robson; Jason and Justin Hackett), USA2 (Demuy, Kranyak; Fireman, Wolpert; Hurd, Wooldridge), SWEDEN (Bergdahl, Warne; Nystrom, Upmark; Sylvan, Wrang), BULGARIA (Danailov, Stamatov; Gunev, Nanev; Mihov, Stefanov), DENMARK and FRANCE (Bessis, Volcker; Combescure, Rombaut; de Tessieres, Lhuissier). All of these made the quarterfinals except DENMARK. The other quarterfinalist was CHINA (Hou, Liu; Hu, Li; Kang, Sun). Eighth-finisher SWEDEN edged out JAPAN by 0.14 of a victory point, almost always less than the value of an overtrick.

The matchups for the quarterfinals were BULGARIA vs. SWEDEN, CHINA vs. USA2, POLAND vs. FRANCE, and ENGLAND vs. USA1.

Session One

The knockout phase began with a bang (Board 1):

South dealer
Neither side vulnerable

NORTH

♠ —
♥ 9 8 6 4 2
♦ 9 5
♣ K Q 9 8 7 4

WEST

♠ 9 8 7 5 4
♥ A 10 5
♦ K 10 8 6
♣ J

EAST

♠ K Q J 10 6 2
♥ 7 3
♦ Q J 4 3 2
♣ —

SOUTH

♠ A 3
♥ K Q J
♦ A 7
♣ A 10 6 5 3 2

CHINA VS. USA2

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
Hu	Wolpert	Li	Fireman
1 ♣	Pass	5 ♣	(All Pass)

If North can bid five clubs, South, with all those controls, might well have bid six. Still, plus 420 would have picked up imps in some matches—but not in this one, because:

ROOM 2

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
Kranyak	Kang	Demuy	Sun
1 ♣ ^a	Pass	1 ♦ ^b	1 ♠
2 ♣	3 ♣ ^c	4 ♠ ^d	5 ♠
Double	Pass	5 NT	Pass
6 ♣	Double	(All Pass)	

^aartificial; strong

^bartificial; weak

^cstrong spade raise

^dclub fit; spade void

Plus 1090 gave 12 imps to USA1. Both of those results were better than the North-South scores in BULGARIA vs. SWEDEN: One South opened two

notrump, the other a strong club, and both gave up in five spades doubled, scoring only 100 for no swing.

ENGLAND VS USA1

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
Bakhshi	Katz	Gold	Nickell
1 ♣	Pass	1 ♥	3 ♠
Double	5 ♠	6 ♣	Pass
7 ♣	Double	(All Pass)	

West cashed the heart ace. In compressed auctions, it is vital for a partnership to have an agreement whether it is stronger to bid at once or to pass then pull partner's double.

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
Rodwell	Forrester	Meckstroth	Robson
2 NT	Pass	3 ♦	4 ♠
Pass	Pass	5 ♣	Pass
5 ♠	Double	6 ♣	(All Pass)

North-South scored 920; 14 imps to USA1.

In one match, both East-West pairs found the par spot:

FRANCE VS. POLAND

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
Jassem	Rombaut	Mazurkiewicz	Combesure
1 ♣*	Pass	1 ♦ [†]	3 ♠
Double	4 ♠	4 NT	Pass
5 ♣	5 ♠	Pass	Pass
6 ♣	Pass	Pass	6 ♠
Double	Pass	Pass	Pass

*a weak notrump, or natural clubs, or any hand with 18-plus HCP

[†]0-7 HCP, or minors with 8-11 HCP, or very strong

Declarer was two down, minus 300, which is absolute par.

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
Bessis	Gawrys	Volcker	Klukowski
1 ♣	Pass	1 ♥	3 ♠
Double	4 ♦	5 ♣	5 ♠
5 NT	Pass	6 ♣	6 ♦
Pass	6 ♠	7 ♣	Pass
Pass	Double	(All Pass)	

Here, Volcker gave his opponents a bonus: 9 imps to POLAND.

With only your side vulnerable, RHO opens one spade in third seat. Would you take any action with this hand?

♠ J 10 6 3 2 ♥ A Q 10 ♦ A K 10 5 ♣ Q

Suppose you passed, and the auction continued: one notrump on your left, pass by partner, two clubs on your right. Anything now?

Board 2 was a highly-competitive partial at most tables:

East dealer
North-South vulnerable

NORTH
♠ J 10 6 3 2
♥ A Q 10
♦ A K 10 5
♣ Q

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

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

SOUTH
♠ 7
♥ 8 6 5 2
♦ J 4 3
♣ 10 8 5 3 2

After the third-seat one-spade opening, Stefanov overcalled one notrump; East doubled; North-South ended in two clubs doubled and did well to hold the loss to down one for minus 200.

The other North, Warne, passed at both junctures of the posed questions. The East-West Bulgarians ended in two spades, down two: 7 imps to SWEDEN.

Rodwell overcalled one notrump as North; East doubled; ironically, though North-South ended in two hearts doubled with more and stronger trumps than the Bulgarians had held, the penalty was 800. At the other table, Bakhshi, North, dodged the first-round bullet but reopened after the one-notrump response, ended in two diamonds doubled, and lost 500: 7 imps to ENGLAND.

Kranyak followed the same path as Bakhshi, but at this table North-South landed in two clubs doubled, minus 200. That led to a loss of 6 imps when Wolpert, West, opened one notrump, North doubled, and East-West ended in two spades, down one.

Bessis, as North, doubled after his opponents bid one spade — one notrump — two clubs. Gawrys, East, redoubled, and had a chance for a big score when two hearts was passed around to him, but he chose three clubs, passed out, down one. The other East, Rombaut, opened a 10-12-HCP notrump; West transferred to spades and rebid 2NT, passed out, one down for a flat board.

In contrast, Board 6 was tame at most tables:



East dealer
East-West vulnerable

NORTH
♠ Q 10 9
♥ 10 9
♦ J 8 6 5
♣ K J 6 2

WEST
♠ 8 4 3
♥ A Q 8 6 4
♦ A K 9 4
♣ Q

EAST
♠ 6 2
♥ K J 2
♦ Q 10 3 2
♣ A 10 9 3

SOUTH
♠ A K J 7 5
♥ 7 5 3
♦ 7
♣ 8 7 5 4

At five tables, South passed in second seat and came in with two spades after West opened one heart and East offered a strong raise with two clubs. Four East-Wests continued to four hearts, making 10 or 11 tricks. Jassem, North, took the save in four spades doubled. Combesure, West, led the club queen: king, ace; Rombaut switched to a trump, so the defenders could draw dummy's trumps before declarer could ruff a heart. South made five spades and a club for down four, minus 800: 5 imps to FRANCE.

CHINA's East-West scored 620 in four hearts. At the other table, their teammates stole the opponents blind:

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
Hu	Wolpert	Li	Fireman
—	—	—	Pass
2 ♠*	Pass	2 NT [†]	Pass
3 ♥ [§]	Pass	4 ♠	(All Pass)

*five-card weak two-bid

[†]relay

[§]minimum strength; strong suit

Declarer went three down, losing 150 but winning 10 imps for CHINA. Perhaps West might have doubled.

One North-South did even better. Gold, South, opened two spades (weak; five spades; four-plus of a minor). Everyone passed, and South went one off, minus 50. At the other table, Meckstroth opened a weak two spades, but Robson doubled, and Forrester doubled the raise to three spades, so East-West reached four hearts.

North led the spade nine. South took the king and switched to a diamond, but he went up with the ace on the next spade from dummy: 11 tricks, plus 650: 12 imps to ENGLAND.

With both sides vulnerable, partner passes, and RHO opens one diamond. What would you do with:

♠ 7 3 ♥ Q 9 8 6 3 ♦ K 10 7 ♣ K J 6?

This was Board 7:

North dealer
Both sides vulnerable

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

WEST
♠ A Q 5
♥ K J 7 2
♦ J
♣ Q 7 5 3 2

EAST
♠ K 10 8 4
♥ —
♦ A 9 6 4 3 2
♣ A 9 8

SOUTH
♠ 7 3
♥ Q 9 8 6 3
♦ K 10 7
♣ K J 6

At six tables, North-South were silent. One West reached five clubs, for plus 600. Among the five Wests in three

notrump, three scored 630 on a spade lead, and one scored 600 on the club-ten lead. Gawrys went down on the heart-four lead to the queen and king. Declarer played the club three to dummy's (East's) ace and the club eight: jack, five, ten. The heart eight went to the jack and ace, and declarer finished three down, minus 300: 14 imps to FRANCE.

At the other two tables, after pass — one diamond — ?, South, vulnerable and facing a passed partner, made an adventuresome (read “unwise”) overcall with a balanced hand and a moth-eaten suit. This might have worked as a lead-directing bid as long as partner would keep quiet, but neither North did.

Over West's two notrump, Hu bid three hearts, which was allowed to stand undoubled. After the diamond jack ducked to the king, South played the heart queen: king, ace; declarer ended two down, minus 200, gaining 10 imps against 630, and this result is unlikely to dissuade South from similar overcalls in the future.

However, ENGLAND displayed a philosophy that no bad bid should go unpunished. When Meckstroth jumped to three hearts over West's two clubs, Robson doubled for takeout. Forrester passed and led the diamond jack to the ace. East returned the diamond three, ruffed; then a club to the ace and another diamond ruff; two spades and a trump trick made the penalty 800: 5 imps to ENGLAND.

On Board 10, some contracts made that should have been defeated, and some failed that could have been made.



East dealer
Both sides vulnerable

NORTH
 ♠ K J 8
 ♥ A K 10 7 5 4
 ♦ —
 ♣ A 10 3 2

WEST
 ♠ A 7 5 4
 ♥ J 3
 ♦ A K Q J 8
 ♣ J 8

EAST
 ♠ Q 2
 ♥ Q 9 8 6 2
 ♦ 10 9 7 4
 ♣ 9 5

SOUTH
 ♠ 10 9 6 3
 ♥ —
 ♦ 6 5 3 2
 ♣ K Q 7 6 4

Sylvan, West, opened one diamond in third seat; North doubled; East bid three diamonds; and, Mihov, South, ended in five clubs. The diamond-king lead was ruffed in dummy. Declarer played the top hearts, pitching a diamond and a spade (throwing two diamonds would have been better). A heart was ruffed with the club six and overruffed, and declarer subsequently lost two spades and a spade ruff: two down; minus 200.

At the other table, Gunev, West, opened a strong club. North overcalled one heart, and Bergdahl, South, eventually became declarer in three spades. West led the spade five: low, queen. East returned the spade deuce, ducked to the jack. South discarded two diamonds on the top hearts, crossed to the club king, ruffed a diamond, played on clubs, and made nine tricks; plus 140: 8 imps to SWEDEN.

In ENGLAND vs. USA1, both Wests opened one notrump and both Souths ended in five clubs. Gold ruffed the diamond-king lead, crossed to the club king, and played the spade three to the jack and queen. East returned the spade

deuce to the ace and ruffed the third spade: one off; minus 100.

Meckstroth ruffed the diamond-king lead, crossed to the club king, and ruffed another diamond. After cashing the club ace, he pitched two diamonds on the top hearts. Declarer lost two spades but had 11 tricks: plus 600; 12 imps to USA1.

Mazurkiewicz, South, landed in five clubs after West had opened one diamond. Declarer ruffed the diamond-ace lead and played heart ace-king pitching diamonds, club ace, and a club to the queen, then a spade to the jack and queen for 11 tricks and plus 600. At the other table:

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
Volcker	Klukowski	Bessis	Gawrys
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	1 NT	2 ♠*	Pass
2 ♥†	Double	Redouble	Pass
Pass	3 ♠	(All Pass)	

*major one-suiter

†pass-or-correct

West did well to remove the redouble, as two hearts could have been made (losing two spades and three hearts). Against three diamonds, North led a top heart and gave South a heart ruff. The defense took two clubs and a spade for one down; minus 100: 11 imps to POLAND.

Wolpert opened one notrump in third seat; North doubled; Fireman bid two diamonds—diamonds and a major, which North doubled. There were better actions for South than passing. South led the club king. Declarer lost a spade, two clubs, and two hearts, but he took the rest for plus 180. At the other table:

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
Demuy	Sun	Kranyak	Kang
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	1 ♣*	Pass	1 ♠†
Pass	1 NT	2 ♥	Pass
Pass	3 ♠	Double	(All Pass)

*artificial; strong

†artificial; weak

South might have taken out the take-out double. Still, the defenders had five tricks available and were in position to collect 200 and to win 9 imps. Sadly for them, that did not eventuate. South led the spade ten: four, king. North might well have switched to a top heart—why not?—and it would have been clear defensive sailing from there, but he chose to return the spade jack. Declarer won with the queen, crossed to the diamond ace, ditched a club on the spade ace, ruffed a spade with the diamond ten, and soon had nine tricks; plus 670: 10 imps to CHINA, a swing of 19 imps.

With neither side vulnerable, West is the dealer and opens one diamond. What would you do as North with:

♠ 8 6 5 3 ♥ K J 7 ♦ J ♣ A Q 8 3 2?

In this situation on Board 11, five Norths doubled; four of those auctions ended with South in four hearts:



West dealer
Neither side vulnerable

NORTH
♠ 8 6 5 3
♥ K J 7
♦ J
♣ A Q 8 3 2

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

EAST
♠ K 10
♥ 9 5 4 2
♦ Q 4 3 2
♣ 10 9 4

SOUTH
♠ J 9 7
♥ A Q 8 6 3
♦ A 7
♣ J 7 5

The lucky layout in clubs allows a declarer in four hearts to lose only three spades, although East's compulsory falsecard of a high club might lead South astray.

BULGARIA gained an overtrick imp when West led the club six, ducked to the jack. CHINA was in four hearts, making, after one diamond — double — pass — four hearts. At the other table, Wolpert, North, passed one diamond, and East-West bid uncontested to two diamonds, making three for a gain of 11 imps.

Almost the same auctions occurred in ENGLAND vs. USA1. Nickell passed one diamond, and England played in two diamonds for plus 110. At the other table, Forrester, South, was in four hearts on the diamond-ten lead: jack, queen, ace. Declarer led the spade jack, taken by the king; East cashed the spade ten and switched to the heart five. South won in hand and ducked a club. Back came another heart, and the result was two down: minus 100: no swing.

POLAND's East-West had an uncontested auction that ended in four dia-

monds by West, one down; minus 50. At the other table, Klukowski, North, doubled one diamond, and the auction continued two diamonds — four hearts — five diamonds, doubled in the passout seat. North led the heart king. South overtook and switched to the club seven. Two clubs and the diamond ace meant two down; minus 300: 8 imps to POLAND.

A light weak two-bid stole the pot at three tables on Board 14:

East dealer
Neither side vulnerable

NORTH
♠ 9 7 5 2
♥ K Q 4
♦ K 10 7
♣ A 10 2

WEST
♠ Q J 10 8 4 3
♥ A 6
♦ Q J 8
♣ 8 3

EAST
♠ K
♥ J 10 9 8 5 2
♦ 5 3 2
♣ Q 5 4

SOUTH
♠ A 6
♥ 7 3
♦ A 9 6 4
♣ K J 9 7 6

Kang, East, opened two hearts, all pass; he finished two down, minus 100. At the other table, Fireman passed as East. South opened one club, West preempted with two spades, North doubled, South bid two notrump, and North raised to three. West led the spade queen and South ducked East's king. East switched to the heart jack. South misplayed clubs but still came home with 10 tricks when West was under pressure in the pointed suits; plus 430: 8 imps to CHINA.

Katz's weak two hearts was also passed out, three off; minus 150. At the other table:

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
Meckstroth	Robson	Rodwell	Forrester
—	—	—	2 ♠*
Double	2 ♥†	Double	Pass
3 ♣	Pass	3 NT	(All Pass)

*weak two in a major, or 4-4-4-1 with 17-20

HCP

†pass-or-correct

East led the heart jack to the ace. North won the heart return, cashed the club ace, ran the club ten, and had 10 tricks; plus 430: 7 imps to USA1.

Gawrys' two-diamond opening showed a major-suit weak two-bid; West bid two hearts, pass-or-correct, all pass; two down, minus 100. At the other table, the bidding began the same way, but South reopened with three clubs, which North converted to three notrump. The heart jack went to the ace, and the heart six came back. Declarer finished with 11 tricks; plus 460: 8 imps to POLAND.

Wrang passed as East, and North-South stopped in one notrump, making four, plus 180. At the other table, Bergdahl reopened his opponents' two diamonds — two hearts with two notrump, showing the minors. North bid three clubs, making four; plus 130: 2 imps to BULGARIA.

Playing a falsecard to try to fool declarer can have serious repercussions when partner is fooled as well. Jeff Meckstroth suffered this fate on Board 16:



South dealer
North-South vulnerable

NORTH
 ♠ 8
 ♥ K 10 8 6
 ♦ A K J 9
 ♣ 10 8 5 3

WEST
 ♠ A
 ♥ 7 2
 ♦ Q 8 7 6 5 3 2
 ♣ K 6 4

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

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

Nickell, having opened one spade as South, finished in four spades. West led the club four. East took the club ace and returned the club deuce: nine, king. South won the third club, crossed to the diamond ace, knocked out the spade ace, and had ten tricks; plus 620.

At the other table, Robson, South, opened four spades, and all passed. Rodwell, West, led the heart seven: eight, queen(!), ace. Declarer's natural play is to try for a club discard, so South crossed to dummy's diamond ace and played the diamond king, overruffing East. Declarer continued with the spade queen. West took the ace, after which a heart or a low diamond would have defeated the contract, as declarer lacked the entries to dummy to take a club trick. However, from East's heart queen at trick one, West placed the heart jack with South. Hoping that East held ace-queen-low in clubs. West switched to the club four. East won and tried the club deuce, but South ducked; making four: no swing. Had East played normally in hearts, the defense would have been easier.

SWEDEN made four spades after a club lead, gaining 12 imps when BULGARIA failed after a diamond lead. However, USA2 made four spades after a diamond lead: diamond ace, diamond king ruffed and overruffed, spade king to the ace, and West switched fatally to a club. East won and played the heart queen, but declarer later guessed clubs correctly; plus 620.

At the other table, South was in four spades against the heart-seven lead: eight, nine, ace. West had bid diamonds, so declarer tried the diamond ten to dummy's jack. The diamond ace was ruffed and overruffed. After the spade king went to the ace, West returned the heart deuce, and declarer later lost three clubs; minus 100: 12 imps to USA2.

FRANCE made four spades after a diamond lead; plus 620. At the other table:

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
1 ♠	3 ♦	Pass	Pass
3 ♠	Pass	3 NT	(All Pass)

Declarer, Gawrys, had no problems. He took the heart-three lead with the ten and knocked out the ace of spades, soon claiming 10 tricks: plus 630; no swing.

At the end of the first segment, SWEDEN led BULGARIA 57-18.5, CHINA led USA2 93-37, ENGLAND led USA1 44-37, and FRANCE led POLAND 64-43.

Session Two

Your opponents have bid one notrump (15-17) - four notrump - six notrump. What would you lead from:

♠ Q 10 2 ♥ 10 8 5 4 2 ♦ 7 6 ♣ Q 9 7?

On Board 18, five pairs reached six notrump, most of them via an invitational auction:

East dealer
North-South vulnerable

NORTH
♠ A 4 3
♥ K J 3
♦ A K 3
♣ J 10 6 4

WEST
♠ Q 10 2
♥ 10 8 5 4 2
♦ 7 6
♣ Q 9 7

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

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

Declarer has ten top tricks and can create an extra one in clubs. The outcome seems to hinge on the spade finesse, and the anticipated result is one down. Against the two North declarers in six notrump, East led the diamond queen, and the defense triumphed.

When South was the declarer, West had no reason to make an attacking lead against two balanced hands. Wolpert led the relatively-passive heart deuce; Sun tried the more-aggressive spade deuce: 17 imps to USA2.

POLAND scored 660 in three notrump, gaining 13 imps when Kalita led the heart four against six notrump in the other room.

Levin-Weinstein found an offbeat spot, bidding one notrump — four notrump — five hearts — six hearts — pass. Six hearts was not a terrible contract, but The Great Dealer provided a five-one trump break. Robson-Forrester stopped in game without inviting slam, to gain 13 imps for ENGLAND.

With only North-South vulnerable, the bidding goes:

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
1 ♠	Pass	2 ♣	2 ♦
2 ♠	5 ♦	?	

As North, what would you do with:

♠ Q 9 7 ♥ J 9 ♦ 2 ♣ A Q J 10 8 6 3?

There were five-level decisions at four tables on Board 21:

South dealer
North-South vulnerable

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

BULGARIA and SWEDEN pushed the board in four spades. Hurd-Wooldridge matched that result, but Fireman overcalled South's one spade with three hearts, leading to five hearts doubled. North led the diamond deuce, and the defense was allowed to collect a diamond ruff, one spade, one club, and two hearts for 500: 3 imps to USA2.

Against Forrester-Robson, Rodwell, East, inserted a sandwich two-diamond overcall, raised to four; North's four spades was passed out; plus 620. At the other table, after the problem shown, Weinstein, North, bid five spades. The defense came to one diamond, one spade, and one club; minus 100: 12 imps to ENGLAND.

After the same auction, Tessieres, North, bid five spades; minus 100. The youthful Klukowski, North, passed (forcing); Gawrys doubled, and the defense came to one spade, two hearts, and one club; minus 300: 9 imps to POLAND.

On Board 27, with neither side vulnerable, your LHO passes, partner opens three spades, and RHO passes. What would you do with:

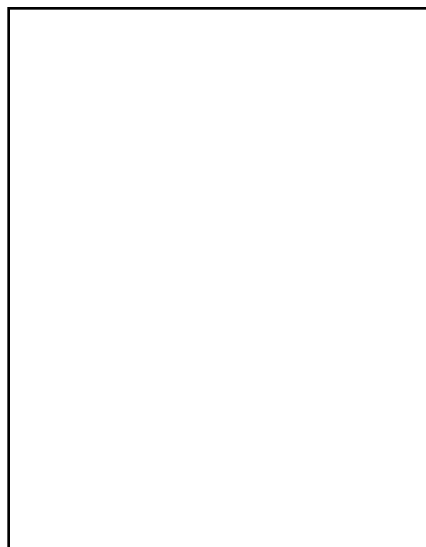
♠ 10 ♥ A 8 7 4 ♦ K Q J 8 ♣ A 10 9 5.

Three responders passed; five went on to four spades. Opener held:

♠ A Q J 9 8 7 5 ♥ 5 2 ♦ 5 4 ♣ 3 2.

There were no bad breaks, so dummy provided four tricks; with king-doubleton of spades onside, declarer added seven trump tricks.

After two sessions, the scores were: SWEDEN 100, BULGARIA 52.5; CHINA 101, USA2 72; ENGLAND 85, USA1 47; FRANCE 104, POLAND 80.



After two sessions of the quarterfinals of the 2015 Bermuda Bowl, SWEDEN (Bergdahl, Warne; Nystrom, Upmark; Sylvan, Wrang) led BULGARIA (Danailov, Stamatov; Gunev, Nanev; Mihov, Stefanov) 100-52.5; CHINA (Hou, Liu; Hu, Li; Kang, Sun) was ahead of USA2 (Demuy, Kranyak; Fireman, Wolpert; Hurd, Wooldridge) 101-72; ENGLAND (Bakhshi, Gold; Forrester, Robson; Jason and Justin Hackett) had a lead on USA1 (Katz, Nickell; Levin, Weinstein; Meckstroth, Rodwell) 85-47; and FRANCE (Bessis, Volcker; Combescure, Rombaut; de Tessieres, Lhuissier) had scored 104 imps to 80 for POLAND (Gawrys, Klukowski; Jassem, Mazurkiewicz; Kalita, Nowosadzki).

Session Three

With neither side vulnerable, LHO opens a natural one club, and RHO responds one heart. What call do you make with:

♠ 10 8 6 4 ♥ K 8 ♦ K J 8 7 6 5 ♣ 8?

Suppose you overcall two diamonds, and the bidding continues three clubs on your left, three notrump on your right.

What is your opening lead?

The tension between three notrump and five of a minor arose on Board 40:



North dealer
Neither side vulnerable

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

WEST
♠ 10 8 6 4
♥ K 8
♦ K J 8 7 6 5
♣ 8

EAST
♠ J 9 7
♥ Q 9 5 2
♦ 10 9 2
♣ K 7 4

SOUTH
♠ K 5 3
♥ A J 10 7 6
♦ Q 4 3
♣ 10 5

There is no defense against five clubs, while only a diamond lead can defeat three notrump. Bergdahl-Warne began with a strong-club opening and wended their way to five clubs after a diamond overcall; plus 400. At the other table of that match:

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
Stefanov	Nystrom	Mihov	Upmark
—	—	1 ♣	Pass
1 ♥	2 ♦	3 ♣	Pass
3 NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

The two-diamond overcall was no thing of beauty, but it could have helped East to find the lead if North had become declarer in notrump. West led the diamond eight to dummy's ace. Declarer played the club ace and queen, hoping to find the club king with West and catering to a bare king with East. No luck. East won and returned a diamond, so the defense had six tricks; minus 100: 11 imps to SWEDEN.

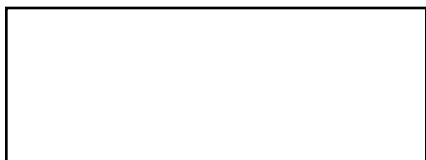
In CHINA vs. USA2, both sides reached three notrump after an untested auction. Hurd played it from

North, and East led a spade; plus 460. Hu played it from South and received the diamond-seven lead to the ace. Rather than rely solely on clubs, he first worked on hearts: three, deuce, jack, king. West switched to the spade four to dummy's ace. A heart to the ten won, and, had hearts been three-three, Hu would have had nine tricks. When the heart ace revealed the break, declarer crossed to the club ace and played the club queen; minus 150: 12 imps to USA2.

Meckstroth-Rodwell started with a strong club and reached five clubs after a diamond overcall; plus 400. The Hacketts bid to three notrump by North in an uncontested auction. Levin, East, showed that he needed no help from partner by leading the diamond ten. Declarer won and played club ace, club queen; minus 100: 11 imps to USA1.

With East-West silent, Bessis-Volcker bid to five clubs; plus 400. At the other table, Combescure intervened with a two-diamond overcall after one club — pass — one heart. When his opponents continued with three clubs and three notrump, West did not heed his own advice but led a spade; plus 460: 2 imps to POLAND. From West's perspective, with a potential source of tricks for declarer in the North hand, it looks more attractive to make an attacking lead in diamonds rather than a passive one in spades.

Having trailed ENGLAND since Board 2, USA1 forged into the lead on Board 43:



East dealer
Neither side vulnerable

NORTH
 ♠ A 4
 ♥ 8 7 2
 ♦ K 9 7 3
 ♣ Q J 9 4

WEST
 ♠ K 9 6 3
 ♥ J 6 5 3
 ♦ J 10
 ♣ K 8 5

EAST
 ♠ 10 7 5 2
 ♥ A K Q 10
 ♦ 5
 ♣ 10 7 3 2

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

After East passed, Meckstroth-Rodwell bid one notrump — three notrump and scored 400 after a spade lead, ducked. When the Hacketts began one diamond — two diamonds, Weinstein, East, did something rather good: He bid two hearts. North-South could no longer reach three notrump; they wound up in five diamonds, down one: 10 imps to USA1, now leading by 94-87.

No game is a solid contract; four pairs stopped in partscores. Hurd-Wooldridge gained 5 imps for USA2 by scoring 130 in three diamonds when their counterparts bid five diamonds. Kalita-Nowosadzki also scored 130 in three diamonds, but there were fireworks at the other table of this match:

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
Volcker	Gawrys	Bessis	Klukowski
—	—	—	Pass
1 ♦	Pass	1 NT	Double
2 ♦	2 ♠	3 NT	Double
Redouble	Pass	Pass	Pass

Some might think that East had done quite enough with his passed-hand double, but, ah, sweet bird of youth. East cashed three hearts and the heart ten went to the jack. West switched to the spade three, ducked to the jack (on the bidding, declarer knew which black-suit finesse was more promising), and the score of 800 gave FRANCE 12 imps. There is a school of thought that holds that it does not pay to double for penalties at imps in the hope of just one off. This result might reinforce that view. [The double might have served to bluff North-South, with no heart stopper, out of three notrump. After the redouble, East might have run profitably.—*Ed.*].

With both sides vulnerable, North opens one diamond, East overcalls one notrump, and South doubles. As West, what would you do with:

♠ 8 2 ♥ 9 8 6 5 ♦ 10 3 2 ♣ 10 9 8 3?

Penalties abounded on Board 45:

North dealer
Both sides vulnerable

NORTH
♠ Q 9 3
♥ K Q 4 3
♦ J 6 5
♣ K J 5

WEST
♠ 8 2
♥ 9 8 6 5
♦ 10 3 2
♣ 10 9 8 3

EAST
♠ A 5 4
♥ A J 10 2
♦ A 9 7
♣ Q 4 2

SOUTH
♠ K J 10 7 6
♥ 7
♦ K Q 8 4
♣ A 7 6

Bergdahl doubled North's one-diamond opening, certainly more prudent

than overcalling one notrump with marginal strength—some would say that the East hand is underweight for one notrump. South responded one spade and became declarer in four spades. West led the heart six: king, ace. South discarded a club on the heart-jack return, and the defense could take no more than its three aces; plus 620.

At the other table, Stefanov overcalled one notrump, double, all pass. The spade-ten lead held, as did the spade seven to North's queen. East took the third spade and played heart ace, heart jack. North won and switched to the diamond jack, holding declarer to his three aces: minus 1100; 10 imps to SWEDEN.

Wooldridge overcalled with one notrump and was doubled, but Hurd, West, ran to two clubs, doubled by South. North led the heart king, and declarer lost one spade, one heart, one heart ruff, three clubs, and two diamonds: minus 800. At the other table:

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
Kranyak	Li	Demuy	Hu
—	—	1 ♦*	1 NT
Double	2 ♣	Pass	2 ♦
Pass	Pass	Pass	

*two-plus diamonds

This went four down; minus 400: 9 imps to CHINA. If South can't double for penalty, North must double to preserve the possibility of defending.

Robson was the only North not to open—and who can blame him, with an aceless, 4-3-3-3 12-count. East opened one notrump; Forrester, South, bid two diamonds, showing diamonds and a major; North jumped to three notrump; South removed to four spades and scored 620. At the other table, the Hacketts picked up imps via:

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
Weinstein	Jason	Levin	Justin
—	—	1 ♣	1 NT
Double	2 ♣*	Pass	Pass
Double	Pass	Pass	Redouble
Pass	2 ♥	Double	(All Pass)

*clubs and another suit

North led the heart three, ducked to the nine. Declarer played the spade eight and allowed North's nine to hold. The heart king was taken by the ace; after the spade ace and a spade ruff, West led the heart eight. North took the queen and shifted to the diamond five. Declarer collected the spade ace, a spade ruff, three hearts, and the diamond ace: minus 500; 3 imps to ENGLAND.

Bessis doubled North's multi-way one-club opening, and Klukowski, South, ended in four spades; plus 620. At the other table, East overcalled one notrump, South doubled, and West ran to two clubs. South eschewed a penalty double, and North ended in three notrump; after a club lead, the defense could take only East's three aces; plus 630: no swing.

With neither side vulnerable, RHO opens three spades, and LHO raises to four. What is your opening lead from:

♠ 8 ♥ 9 6 5 ♦ A J 5 2 ♣ A 10 9 5 4?

On Board 46, the defense needed to take its tricks quickly:



South dealer
Neither side vulnerable

NORTH
♠ A J 10 6
♥ A K 3
♦ Q 10 6
♣ 8 7 6

WEST
♠ 8
♥ 9 6 5
♦ A J 5 2
♣ A 10 9 5 4

EAST
♠ 3
♥ Q J 10 8 7 4
♦ K 7 3
♣ K J 3

SOUTH
♠ K Q 9 7 5 4 2
♥ 2
♦ 9 8 4
♣ Q 2

At seven tables, it went three spades by South, four spades by North. Nystrom led the diamond ace; Danailov, Forrester, Klukowski chose the club ace; Kranyak picked the club nine. They all defeated the contract. Combescure and Hou led the heart five. Declarer ditched a club on the second heart, drew trumps, and, finding a favorable diamond position, lost only one club and two diamonds; plus 420.

At the table paired with the one where Rodwell had been set in four spades by the club-ace lead:

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
Justin	Weinstein	Jason	Levin
2 ♠	Pass	2 NT*	3 ♥
4 ♠	5 ♥	Double	(All Pass)

*requests a feature

Declarer lost one spade, two hearts, and, after misguessing, one club: minus 300; 8 imps to ENGLAND.

Vulnerable against not, partner opens one spade; you respond one notrump; partner rebids two hearts. What would you do now holding:

♠ J 5 ♥ K Q J 7 5 4 ♦ 3 2 ♣ J 8 7?

Hurd, Justin, and Stefanov jumped to four hearts. Partner held (Board 48):

♠ K Q 9 7 6 ♥ A 8 6 3 ♦ Q J ♣ Q 9.

There was bad news (the defense found a spade ruff, and declarer scored minus 300), and good news (the opponents could make five diamonds, and minus 300 was a gain of 3 imps in each match), but a little more bad news (a raise to three hearts would almost certainly have bought the contract, for a gain of 2 additional imps).

After 48 boards, the halfway mark, SWEDEN 123 led BULGARIA 73.5, CHINA 135 led USA2 110, ENGLAND 101 led USA1 99, and FRANCE 127 led POLAND 102.

Session 4

With both sides vulnerable, you pass as dealer. After (one diamond) — three spades — (pass) — ?, what call would you make with:

♠ 9 7 5 ♥ A 9 8 ♦ K 7 6 ♣ 10 9 3 2?

This was Board 52:



East dealer
Both sides vulnerable

NORTH

♠ 6
♥ K J 6 5
♦ J 8 5 3 2
♣ A 8 5

WEST

♠ A K Q 10 8 4 3
♥ Q 7 3
♦ 9
♣ 7 4

EAST

♠ 9 7 5
♥ A 9 8
♦ K 7 6
♣ 10 9 3 2

SOUTH

♠ J 2
♥ 10 4 2
♦ A Q 10 4
♣ K Q J 6

A popular start, after East passed, was one of a minor by South, three spades by West. Where North doubled, Hurd raised to four spades, no doubt thinking that the opponents had a game, so let's push it a bit higher. Everyone passed. That was lucky, since one is usually on safe ground in doubling when a preempt is raised to game by a passed hand. Declarer, Wooldridge, took the heart-six lead with dummy's ace (ducking would have gained a trick) and wound up two down; minus 200. At the other table, the three-spade overcall of one diamond was passed out; minus 100: 3 imps to CHINA.

BULGARIA and SWEDEN both bid four spades and went two down, but the former gained 7 imps by doubling. The raise to four spades was also doubled here:

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
Bakhshi	Katz	Gold	Nickell
—	—	—	Pass
1 ♣	3 ♠	Double	4 ♠
Pass	Pass	Double	(All Pass)

North led a trump and collected 500. Meanwhile:

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
Rodwell	Justin	Meckstroth	Jason
—	—	—	Pass
1 ♠	1 ♠	Double	2 ♠
2 NT*	3 ♥†	4 ♠	(All Pass)

*clubs, but diamonds at least as long

†long-suit game-try

West led the spade king and queen. Declarer ruffed in dummy, played three rounds of trumps finessing en route, lost two hearts, and took the rest: plus 130, but 9 imps to ENGLAND.

Similarly, the Polish North-South settled in four diamonds, plus 130, after a one-spade overcall. At the other table of that match:

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
Lhuissier	Mazurkiewicz	Tessieres	Jassem
—	—	—	Pass
1 ♠	4 ♠	5 ♠	(All Pass)

West led the spade ace and East followed with the nine, suit-preference for hearts. West should have ignored the signal, because it is hard to see how any heart tricks for the defense could run away. When West switched to the heart seven: five, eight, ten, declarer made the contract; plus 600: 10 imps to FRANCE.

Notrump contracts abounded in this session. Three pairs bid and made game on Board 54:



South dealer
North-South vulnerable

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

WEST
♠ A J 9 6 5 4
♥ 7 6 2
♦ A Q 9
♣ A

EAST
♠ 8
♥ J 10 8 3
♦ 10 8 7 6 4
♣ J 6 4

SOUTH
♠ K 10 3
♥ A Q 4
♦ K 3 2
♣ K 7 5 2

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
Wooldridge	Hu	Hurd	Li
1 NT*	Double†	Pass	2 ♠
Pass	2 ♠	(All Pass)	

*14-16 HCP

†general strength

Maybe it is being wise after the event, but North's 8 HCP with potential in clubs could justify a vulnerable game-try if available. North led the club nine; West lost a diamond, a diamond ruff, two spades, and three hearts: minus 100.

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
Kang	Kranyak	Sun	Demuy
1 NT*	Double†	Redouble§	Pass
2 ♣	2 ♠	(All Pass)	

*13-15 HCP

†general strength

§puppet to two clubs, preliminary to showing a one-suiter

Two down: no swing. SWEDEN played in two spades by West, one down for minus 50, and in two notrump by South, making three, for plus 150 and a gain of 3 imps.

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
Justin	Meckstroth	Jason	Rodwell
1 NT*	Double [†]	Redouble	Pass
Pass	2 ♠	(All Pass)	

*15-17 HCP

[†]one minor, or both majors, or a strong hand

Having located the concentrated opposing strength, North-South might have headed for three notrump. West went one down; minus 50.

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
Katz	Gold	Nickell	Bakhshi
1 NT*	2 ♠	3 NT	(All Pass)

*15-17 HCP

Nickell produced the just-do-it “Nike bid.” [lebensohl sometimes reduces responder’s options—*Ed.*] The spade-four lead went to the ten. South played a club; West won and returned the diamond queen. Declarer took nine tricks; plus 600: 11 imps for USA1.

Nickell’s jump to three notrump was replicated at both tables of FRANCE vs. POLAND, where West’s two-diamond overcall showed a major one-suiter. Against the French game, West led the ace and another spade. Declarer won with the king, cashed the heart ace, then led a low club. He had nine tricks for plus 600. At the other table, West doubled three notrump and led a low spade, to the ten. South played a club to the ace, took the low-spade continuation, and collected his nine tricks: plus 750: 4 imps to POLAND. Note that South held a minimum opening and poor shape, yet three notrump presented no problems.

Exact defense was needed to defeat three notrump on Board 55, and not every pair of defenders found it:

East dealer
Both sides vulnerable

NORTH
♠ 8 6
♥ 8 5 2
♦ Q J 8 7 6 5
♣ J 7

WEST
♠ J 7 3
♥ 7 3
♦ A K 3
♣ 9 8 5 4 3

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

SOUTH
♠ A K Q 9
♥ K J 4
♦ 10 9
♣ A K 10 2

After East passed, Nickell and Katz bid two notrump — three notrump. West led the diamond ace and switched to the club nine: seven, six, ten. South continued with the diamond ten. To defeat the contract, West needed to win, but he ducked. Nickell needed no second chance. He overtook with dummy’s queen and played the heart deuce: six, jack. Declarer cashed the top spades and the club ace-king, then exited with the spade nine. East won and had only hearts left. He played the heart ten; Nickell rose with the king; plus 600.

Jason-Justin bid two notrump (20-22 HCP) — three clubs (Puppet Stayman) — three diamonds (no five-card major) — pass. Declarer took the spade lead and played diamonds. West won the second round and switched to the heart three: five, six, jack. North pitched a heart loser on the third spade winner, ruffed a spade, and led the club jack, covered, so North’s last heart went on a club; plus 150, but 10 imps to USA1.

BULGARIA gained 10 imps similarly, 600 in three notrump against 110 in three diamonds.

Volcker and Bessis bid two notrump — three notrump, and Kalita led the club five: jack, queen, ace. The diamond nine went to the king, and West continued with the club four to dummy's seven. (It would not have hurt West to play a top club instead, and that might have defeated the contract.) After the heart deuce to the ace, East shifted to the spade five. South won, knocked out the diamond ace, captured the spade-jack continuation, cashed two clubs and a spade, then exited with the spade nine to East. Declarer finessed the jack on East's heart-ten return; plus 600. In the other half of the forest:

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
Jassem	Lhuissier	Mazurkiewicz	Tessieres
—	—	—	2 ♡*
Double	2 ♠	Pass	Pass
2 NT	Pass	3 ♦	Pass
4 ♡†	Pass	5 ♦	(All Pass)

*5-10 HCP; at least four-four in the majors

†interpreting three diamonds as a transfer

East led the spade five to the ace. Declarer played the diamond ten to the ace, and West switched to the heart seven to East's ace. The second trump loser made the score minus 100: 12 imps to FRANCE.

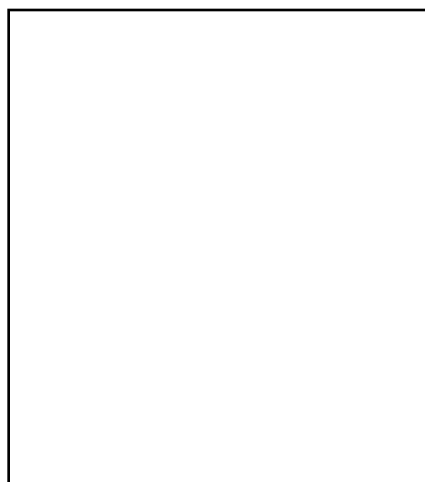
Hurd and Wooldridge bid two notrump — three clubs — three spades — three notrump. Hu (West) led the diamond ace and switched to the heart seven. Li won with the ace and returned the diamond four—a thoughtful play, giving West the diamond count. West took the king and reverted to hearts, to the queen and king. South cashed two spades and played the club deuce: jack, queen. East returned a heart, and South was stuck with a losing spade; minus 100. The big action came in the other room of this match:

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
Sun	Demuy	Kang	Kranyak
—	—	—	Pass
2 NT	Pass	3 NT	Double
Pass	Pass	4 ♦	Pass
4 NT	Double	(All Pass)	

East's adventuresome double asked West to find East's major. When North ran, it would have been wise for South to pass.

West led the diamond ace and switched to the heart seven. East took the heart ace and shifted to the spade deuce to the ace. The diamond nine went to the king, and the spade jack went to the king. South cashed the club ace and led the club deuce to the jack and queen. East led a spade. South took the spade queen, cashed the club king, and exited with the spade nine. East won and had to play a heart. South finessed the heart jack for two down; minus 500: 9 imps to USA2.

Having doubled three notrump successfully on Board 55, Kranyak tried again on Board 56, but this time he was on lead:



North dealer
Neither side vulnerable

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

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

EAST
♠ K J 9 8 4
♥ Q 10 6 3
♦ 6 4
♣ 6 5

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

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
Kang	Kranyak	Sun	Demuy
—	—	1 ♥	1 ♠
1 NT	Double	Pass	2 ♠
Pass	Pass	2 NT	Pass
3 NT	Double	(All Pass)	

West led the club ace, then the club jack, which held, and the club eight to the king. Declarer played the heart ace-king and, getting no good news there, shifted to the diamond queen, ducked. West won the next diamond and cashed three clubs for down two; minus 300. At the other table, Hurd, North, in four hearts, lost two trump tricks and the minor-suit aces for down one; minus 50: 6 imps to USA2.

Katz-Nickell bid to three notrump by South. The club ace and jack won the first two tricks, and the club seven went to dummy's king. Katz played a spade to the queen and a heart to dummy's jack for three down; minus 150. In the companion room, Jason played in three hearts from the North side, and lost the obvious four tricks to score 140: 7 imps to ENGLAND.

In the other two matches, there was no swing for three clubs down three (150) vs. a heart partscore making three (140).

On Board 58, while everyone else had a comfortable time in three or four notrump, Meckstroth-Rodwell went one too high (both sides vulnerable):

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

Rodwell	Meckstroth
—	Pass
1 ♣*	2 ♦†
2 NT	3 NT
4 NT	5 NT
Pass	

*artificial; strong
†balanced hand; 8-10 HCP

North led the diamond queen from queen-jack-ten and turned up with king-jack-six-three of hearts. Declarer took two heart finesses and was one down; minus 100: 12 imps to ENGLAND.

On Board 60, four hearts was beaten six times by a trump lead and later continuation, but it succeeded twice:



South dealer
East-West vulnerable

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

WEST
♠ Q 9 6 2
♥ 10 7 5
♦ A Q J 2
♣ Q 7

EAST
♠ J 8 5
♥ 4
♦ 10 8 5
♣ A K 10 8 3 2

SOUTH
♠ 10 7
♥ A K Q J 9 3
♦ K 7 6 4
♣ 4

With the diamond ace offside, declarer needs two diamond ruffs in dummy, so a trump lead makes the defense easy.

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
Sun	Demuy	Kang	Kranyak
1 ♥	Pass	2 ♥	3 ♣
4 ♥	Double	(All Pass)	

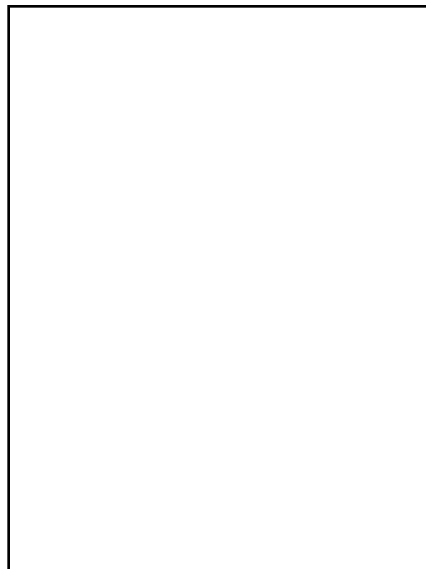
When the bidding went as shown, West led the club queen. East overtook and continued with the club ace, ruffed. South crossed to dummy in spades and led the diamond three: five, six, queen. This would have been a good time to lead a trump, but West led a spade to dummy's king. South continued with the diamond nine: ten, four, deuce. East reverted to clubs. South ruffed with the heart jack, ruffed a diamond, crossed to the heart ace, ruffed his last diamond, eloped with his last low trump via a spade ruff, and the top hearts made the score plus 590: 12 imps to CHINA.

When Jassem-Mazurkiewicz bid one-two-four, Lhuissier led the spade six to dummy's king. Declarer played a diamond to the king and ace, and West

switched to the heart seven, won by South's nine. After a spade to dummy, the next trick went diamond nine, ten, four, deuce. East cashed the club king and switched to the spade jack. South ruffed with the ace, ruffed a diamond, ruffed a club, ruffed a diamond, and made 10 tricks, scoring 420 and gaining 11 imps.

The defense could have prevailed in a number of ways. At trick five, East could have played the diamond eight under the nine. West would have won and played a second trump. West could have overtaken the diamond ten and played a second trump anyway. Left on lead with the diamond ten, East could have switched to a low club, a play that was found in another match. West would have won and played a second heart.

After 64 boards, SWEDEN 162 led BULGARIA 121.5, CHINA 167 led USA2 129, ENGLAND 154 led USA1 130, and FRANCE 160 led POLAND 142.



After four sessions of the quarterfinals of the 2015 Bermuda Bowl, SWEDEN (Bergdahl, Warne; Nystrom, Upmark; Sylvan, Wrang) led BULGARIA (Danailov, Stamatov; Gunev, Nanev; Mihov, Stefanov) 162-121.5; CHINA (Hou, Liu; Hu, Li; Kang, Sun) was ahead of USA2 (Demuy, Kranyak; Fireman, Wolpert; Hurd, Wooldridge) by 167-129; ENGLAND (Bakhshi, Gold; Jason and Justin Hackett; Forrester, Robson) had a lead on USA1 (Katz, Nickell; Levin, Weinstein; Meckstroth, Rodwell) 154-130; and FRANCE (Bessis, Volcker; Combescure, Rombaut; de Tessieres, Lhuissier) had scored 160 imps to 142 for POLAND (Gawrys, Klukowski; Jassem, Mazurkiewicz; Kalita, Nosadzki).

Session Five

With neither side vulnerable, RHO opens two notrump (20-22 HCP). What would you do with:

♠ J 10 9 8 6 3 ♡ 7 ◇ — ♣ 10 9 8 4 3 2?

What would you have done if the opening had been a strong one club?

On Board 65, the West players might have been asked, "Are you a man or a mouse? Squeak up!"



South dealer
Neither side vulnerable

NORTH

♠ A
♡ 6 5 4
◇ AK 9 7 6 2
♣ J 6 5

WEST

♠ J 10 9 8 6 3
♡ 7
◇ —
♣ 10 9 8 4 3 2

EAST

♠ Q 7 4 2
♡ A 10 9 8 3 2
◇ 10 8 3
♣ —

SOUTH

♠ K 5
♡ K Q J
◇ Q J 5 4
♣ AK Q 7

At four tables, South opened a strong club. Two Wests bid two spades, and one bid three spades, but the "man" award goes to Demuy, who bid *four*. Four Souths opened two notrump. Three Wests passed; the "man" in this group was Gawrys, who bid three spades. As you can see, six notrump is cold, and, if North is the declarer, six diamonds is unbeatable, but East-West have a remarkably good save in spades.

Best results for East-West came in BULGARIA vs. SWEDEN:

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
Nanev	Wrang	Gunev	Sylvan
1 ♣*	2 ♠	3 ◇	4 ♠
Double	Pass	Pass	Pass

*artificial; strong

North led the spade ace and switched to the club five, ruffed. Declarer cashed the heart ace and crossruffed hearts and clubs for ten tricks; plus 590. Not good enough, because:

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
Upmark	Stefanov	Nystrom	Mihov
1 ♣*	3 ♠	4 ♣†	4 ♥
Double	Pass	Pass	4 ♠
Pass	Pass	4 NT	5 ♠
Double	Pass	Pass	Pass

*artificial; strong

†six-plus diamonds; game-forcing

North led the spade ace and switched to the diamond king, ruffed. After heart to the ace, heart ruff, club ruff, heart ruff, dummy's hearts were high, and declarer claimed 11 tricks; plus 650: 2 imps to BULGARIA.

Where Demuy bid four spades over Liu's strong club, China bid to six diamonds and Kranyak saved in six spades. North led the diamond king. Demuy ruffed and set up hearts for 11 tricks; minus 100. At the other table, Hurd opened two notrump and the auction was uncontested up to six diamonds, to be played by South. When East doubled to ask for an unusual lead, Wooldridge did well to run to six notrump. West led the spade jack, taken by dummy's ace. East ducked a heart lead, so South took all the tricks for plus 1020: 14 imps to USA2.

Bakhshi opened two notrump and became declarer in six diamonds, not doubled. West led the club ten; East ruffed and cashed the heart ace; minus 50. In the other room, Rodwell opened a strong club, Forrester overcalled two spades (showing spades *or* clubs, so East could not act), and North-South bid to six notrump, making seven when East ducked the heart lead; plus 1020 sent 14 imps to USA1.

Kalita opened two notrump and was about to play in six diamonds when East doubled and he redoubled. Nowosadzki removed to six notrump for the usual 1020. At the other table:

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
Bessis	Gawrys	Volcker	Klukowski
2 NT	3 ♠	4 ♣*	4 ♠
Pass	Pass	5 ♠	Pass
6 ♣	Pass	6 ♦	6 ♠
Double	Pass	Pass	Pass

*diamonds

North led the diamond ace, ruffed. Declarer crossruffed clubs and diamonds for four tricks, played the heart ace, ruffed a heart, and took 10 tricks; minus 300: but 12 imps to POLAND.

With your side vulnerable, RHO opens one diamond, and you double holding:

♠ K 9 6 3 ♥ A Q 7 5 ♦ 10 ♣ K 8 7 5.

LHO jumps to three diamonds (invitational), RHO converts to three notrump, and, after two passes, partner doubles. What would you lead?

On Board 66, seven tables played in a partscore, but at one table three notrump (doubled) was reached as shown:

NORTH
 ♠ Q 7
 ♥ J 6 3
 ♦ A K 8 6 4 3
 ♣ 10 6

WEST
 ♠ K 9 6 3
 ♥ A Q 7 5
 ♦ 10
 ♣ K 8 7 5

EAST
 ♠ 8 4 2
 ♥ 4 2
 ♦ 9 7 5
 ♣ A Q J 9 4

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

After the auction given, Nystrom led the spade three. Dummy's queen won, and declarer cashed six diamonds and

the spade ace; down one, minus 100. Meanwhile, Sweden's North scored 110 in two diamonds: 5 imps to SWEDEN.

Some play that a double of three notrump by the player not on lead asks for a spade lead if the defenders have not bid a suit. Others use it to ask for partner's shorter major. Neither of these guidelines should apply here. If East had a major strong enough to seek the lead, he would have bid it over three diamonds. The suit that East could not have bid comfortably is clubs, and West might well have found a club lead. The defense could have taken five clubs and two hearts for three down; a 500 penalty would have led to a gain of 12 imps.

All but one pair found a five-club sacrifice on Board 67:

North dealer
East-West vulnerable

NORTH
♠ 10 4 3 2
♥ 8 7
♦ A K Q 7
♣ 8 3 2

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

EAST
♠ K Q J 9 8 5
♥ A K Q 3
♦ J
♣ J 5

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

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
Nanev	Wrang	Gunev	Sylvan
—	—	Pass	1 ♠
2 ♣	Pass	3 ♣	Double
4 ♣	4 ♥	(All Pass)	

While four spades is likely to fail, there is no defense against four hearts.

North led the diamond king and switched to the club deuce. West took the club ace, drew trumps, and had 10 tricks for 620. At the other table, East opened a strong club and South bid three clubs. East later bid four spades, and North-South saved in five clubs. West doubled and led the spade six. South won and played the club queen, ducked, followed by the club ten. The defense took its heart tricks for one down; minus 100 gave SWEDEN 11 imps.

This was an attractive auction:

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
Bakhshi	Weinstein	Gold	Levin
—	—	Pass	1 ♠
2 ♣	Double	2 ♦	4 ♥
4 NT*	Pass	5 ♣	Pass
Pass	Double	(All Pass)	

*pick a minor

North was able to introduce a lead-directing two-diamond bid and support clubs later.

Four Easts opened one spade; at three of those tables, East-West found their heart fit. Four Easts opened a strong club; none of those pairs found the heart fit. At every table where the contract was five clubs doubled, a spade was led. Three declarers played the club queen at trick two and went one down; the other four went two down: spade ace, then, to cater to a singleton club ace with East, a diamond to dummy, and a club to the king. West won and gave East a diamond ruff.

On Board 68, four East-West pairs settled for a low-level penalty when a slam was available:

West dealer
Both sides vulnerable

East dealer
North-South vulnerable

NORTH
♠ J 9 2
♥ 9 2
♦ 8 6 4 3
♣ Q 7 3 2

NORTH
♠ 8 5 3 2
♥ K 5
♦ A 10 8 6
♣ 7 6 3

WEST
♠ Q 6 5 3
♥ A 10 5 4
♦ A K 9 7
♣ 5

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

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

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

SOUTH
♠ 7 4
♥ K Q J 8 6 3
♦ J 10
♣ K J 9

SOUTH
♠ K Q J 10
♥ A 10 7 4
♦ K 5 3
♣ K 4

At four tables, the bidding went:

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
—	1 ♦	Pass	2 ♣
2 ♥	Double*	(All Pass)	

*penalty

Each of these Souths went three off, losing 800. The defenders took two spades, two diamonds, the club ace, two club ruffs, and the heart ace.

Three pairs reached six spades, two when West doubled the two-heart intervention (one for takeout, one for penalty), the other when East responded one spade and West raised to three after the overcall. Each declarer organized two club ruffs, drew trumps, and conceded a club to score 1430. USA2 and ENGLAND racked up 12 imps, and POLAND gained 13.

On Board 73, two defenders had an opportunity to defeat a vulnerable game, but neither snatched it.

Five Souths opened one notrump, passed out; four scored 120, one 150. At the other three tables, with East-West silent, the bidding began one club — one diamond — one notrump (showing a strong notrump). All three Norths looked for game. One ended in three spades, plus 140; the other two reached four spades. Against game, both Wests led the club queen. On winning with the club king, South played the spade queen, ducked, followed by the spade king, taken by the ace. A third spade would have laid declarer low, but both Wests continued clubs. South ruffed the third club and played heart king, heart ace, heart ruff, diamond to the king, heart ruff, diamond ace for 10 tricks; plus 620: 11 imps to BULGARIA, 10 imps to USA2.

On Board 78, there were several ways to beat four spades, and most of the defenders found one:



West dealer
Neither side vulnerable

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

WEST
♠ 6 4 3
♥ 7 5
♦ K 8 4 3
♣ 8 5 4 3

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

SOUTH
♠ K Q 10 5 2
♥ Q 10 9 3 2
♦ J 5
♣ K

A common North-South auction was one of a minor — one spade — two spades — four spades — pass. A diamond lead (or a heart lead and a diamond switch, or a heart lead and a later heart ruff) would have given the defense four tricks. A club to the ace (or the club-ace lead) and a heart switch would have worked. A spade lead and a diamond switch would have been fine.

One pair stopped in three spades and was held to nine tricks by a heart lead. Two pairs bid and made four spades. After the standard auction, Wrang led the heart seven; East played heart ace, spade ace, heart six. That did not work. Declarer, Nanev, won with the king, drew trumps, and made his game for 7 imps to BULGARIA. The other making game:

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
Bakhshi	Weinstein	Gold	Levin
—	Pass	Pass	1 ♣
2 ♦*	Pass	4 ♠	(All Pass)

*majors

Levin led the club ace and switched to the diamond six. Too late. North captured West's diamond king, pitched his diamond loser on the club queen, and played a spade; plus 420. At the other table, a diamond lead held North-South to 140 in three spades: 7 imps to ENGLAND.

There was a great similarity among the auctions on Board 80:

West dealer
East-West vulnerable

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

WEST
♠ 10 4
♥ A Q 6 5
♦ K Q 4 3
♣ K J 10

EAST
♠ K 9 5
♥ 10 9 2
♦ A J 2
♣ Q 8 5 2

SOUTH
♠ J 7 6 3
♥ K
♦ 10 8 6
♣ 9 7 6 4 3

Every West opened one notrump; every North showed the majors; every East-West pair reached three notrump, usually via a direct bid by East. There it rested at five tables, and every one of those Wests made the contract, some with an overtrick or two. At the other three tables, the vulnerability persuaded South to take the save in four spades, which was doubled (twice by West, once by East). Every West led a trump—low, king—and the trump return was won in dummy. At that point, . . .

Nystrom, South for Sweden, played dummy's heart three: nine, king, ace. West switched to the diamond three to the ace, and East played a third spade,

won in dummy. South played the heart eight, ten, ruffed with the spade jack. Declarer crossed to the club ace and played the heart jack to knock out the queen. He lost one spade, two hearts, and three diamonds, for minus 500: 4 imps to SWEDEN.

At trick 3, Gold, South for England, also played the heart three: deuce, king, ace. Levin switched to the diamond three, to the ace. Weinstein, East, saw that if he played a third spade, declarer could win in dummy, ruff a heart, cross to the club ace, and play the heart jack, pinning East's remaining heart, and thus escape for a penalty of 500. East therefore continued diamonds. West took the top diamonds and exited with a club. Declarer ruffed a low heart, ruffed a club, and played another low heart, ruffing. He made one club and five trump tricks for four down; minus 800.

At the other table, Meckstroth played the heart three at trick three: deuce, king, ace. Robson switched to the diamond four. Forrester took the diamond ace and continued with a third spade, won in dummy. Declarer played the heart four—ten, ruffed—and a club to the ace. He decided to play East for queen-ten-deuce of hearts and played the heart seven: nine, ruffed. South made one club and four trump tricks for five down; minus 1100: 7 imps to ENGLAND.

With 16 boards to go, two teams had good but not insurmountable leads: SWEDEN 198 BULGARIA 161.5 and ENGLAND 201 USA1 153. The other two matches hung by slender threads: CHINA 198 USA2 195 and POLAND 178 FRANCE 175. The momentum was with the leaders in those matches, as they had caught up from significant deficits.

Session Six

With neither side vulnerable, there are two passes to you. What do you do with:

♠ K J 5 4 3 ♥ A 10 ♦ 10 5 ♣ J 8 5 4?

This was Board 81:

NORTH
 ♠ A 9 6
 ♥ J 8 6 4
 ♦ Q J 3
 ♣ Q 10 9

WEST
 ♠ Q 8 7 2
 ♥ K Q 5
 ♦ A 6 4
 ♣ K 7 2

EAST
 ♠ 10
 ♥ 9 7 3 2
 ♦ K 9 8 7 2
 ♣ A 6 3

SOUTH
 ♠ K J 5 4 3
 ♥ A 10
 ♦ 10 5
 ♣ J 8 5 4

Four Souths opened one spade in third seat. One was raised directly to two spades; another (in the same match) was strong-raised and stopped in two spades. Each declarer lost one spade, one heart, two diamonds, and two clubs, a push at minus 50. Another one-spade opener pushed the board at two spades down one when North in the other room opened a mini notrump and South transferred. A table with higher-level action:

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
Wooldridge	Li	Hurd	Hu
—	—	Pass	Pass
2 ♠	Pass	Pass	Double
Pass	2 NT*	Pass	3 ♦
Pass	Pass	Pass	

*pick-a-suit

South led the club five, taken by the ace. East played the heart deuce—ten,

king—followed by the spade deuce: six, ten, jack. South cashed the heart ace and switched to the spade three: seven, nine, diamond deuce. Declarer played diamond king, diamond ace, spade ruff, heart queen, spade ruff, then ruffed the heart nine to score 110. East-West scored 50 at the other table, so that meant 2 imps to CHINA, now ahead by 200-195.

BULGARIA made three diamonds on the spade-three lead, while SWEDEN went one down after the diamond-ten lead. (Declarer could fail via diamond king, heart to the king, club to the ace, heart up. South takes the heart ace, plays a low spade to North's ace, and receives a heart ruff.)

On Board 82, at favorable vulnerability, partner opens 2NT (20-22). What is your bidding plan holding:

♠ 9 5 4 ♥ J 2 ♦ Q 9 8 7 6 2 ♣ 8 5?

Bakhshi-Gold and Kalita-Nowosadzki bid two notrump — three clubs — three diamonds (no five-card major) — pass. Meckstroth-Rodwell bid similarly after starting one club (strong) — one diamond (weak) — two notrump (21-23 HCP). The best spot would often be three diamonds, but this time three notrump was a sensible contract and a make on the lie of the cards. Partner held:

♠ A 8 6 ♥ A K 10 9 ♦ A K J ♣ Q 6 4.

Clubs were four-four, diamonds two-two.

Demuy-Kranyak began with a strong club and ended in four diamonds, making. Hu-Li bid two notrump — three clubs — three hearts — three notrump and scored 400: 7 imps to CHINA, now ahead 207-195.

Bessis-Volcker bid two notrump — three notrump and made 10 tricks after a heart lead: 7 imps to FRANCE against 130 in the other room, regaining the match lead at 182-178. For the spectators, it was exciting stuff.

BULGARIA gained 11 imps when SWEDEN had an accident and played in two clubs, three off.

On Board 85, USA2 gained 10 imps by making game vs. a partscore and trailed 211-213. USA1 picked up 12 imps when Forrester lost his way and went one down in a game. And USA1 collected more much-needed imps on Board 86:

West dealer
East-West vulnerable

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

WEST
♠ J 9 2
♥ 8 7 2
♦ A Q 9 4 3
♣ A 2

EAST
♠ K 3
♥ K Q
♦ J 8 7 6 5
♣ 8 7 6 4

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

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
Robson	Rodwell	Forrester	Meckstroth
—	1 ♦*	Double	1 ♠†
4 ♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

*two-plus diamonds

†diamonds (leaves partner room to bid one notrump if he has short diamonds)

West led the heart seven: four, queen, ace. South played the club nine. West took the ace and continued with the

heart deuce: jack, king. East led the diamond jack—deuce, queen, and West played a third heart. Declarer had four heart tricks, four clubs, and the spade ace, but that was all; minus 50. In the other room:

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
Weinstein	Bakhshi	Levin	Gold
—	Pass	Pass	Pass
1 ♡	Pass	2 ♣*	Pass
2 ♡	Pass	4 ♡	(All Pass)

*strong raise

West led the club ace and switched to the spade deuce: four, king. Back came the club six to dummy's king. Declarer played the heart four to the queen and ace, then the heart three: two, nine, king. East continued with a third club. South ruffed with the ten, drew the last trump, and played clubs and spades. He did not lose a diamond trick; plus 420: 10 imps to USA1.

CHINA scored 140 in three hearts and won 6 imps when Hurd-Wooldridge failed in four spades.

USA1 collected another bevy of imps on Board 87:

East dealer
Both sides vulnerable

NORTH
♠ A K 8 2
♡ A Q 8 7 5
◇ 5
♣ A Q 4

WEST
♠ Q J 4 3
♡ K J 9 6 4 3
◇ 2
♣ 5 3

EAST
♠ 10 6 5
♡ 2
◇ K Q 7 3
♣ K 10 9 8 2

SOUTH
♠ 9 7
♡ 10
◇ A J 10 9 8 6 4
♣ J 7 6

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
Meckstroth	Robson	Rodwell	Forrester
—	—	—	Pass
3 ◇	Pass	5 ◇	(All Pass)

The spade-queen lead was taken by dummy's ace. After a diamond to the jack, declarer played heart ace, heart ruff, spade king, spade ruff, and the diamond ten to East's queen, leaving:

NORTH
♠ 8
♡ Q 8
◇ —
♣ A Q 4

WEST
♠ J
♡ K J 9
◇ —
♣ 5 3

EAST
♠ —
♡ —
◇ K 7
♣ K 9 8 2

SOUTH
♠ —
♡ —
◇ A 9 6
♣ J 7 6

Had East led a club, declarer would have won in dummy, ruffed a major-suit card, crossed to the club ace, and scored another ruff (or waited for the trump-coup position) to take 11 tricks. East in fact played the diamond seven, but that was no better. South took the diamond nine and ace, then played the club six to the queen, scoring two club tricks; plus 600. In the other room:

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
Gold	Weinstein	Bakhshi	Levin
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	2 ♡	Pass	Pass
3 ◇	Pass	3 NT	(All Pass)

East led the heart deuce: ten, king, ace. Declarer played the spade deuce. East took the ten and switched to the

club nine, won by the queen. Declarer continued with spade king, club ace, spade ace, diamond to the jack, and the diamond ace—but that was his last trick; the contract was two down; minus 200: 13 imps to USA1, which had scored 38 imps without reply and now trailed by only 10 imps with nine boards to play.

Meanwhile, USA2 scored 12 imps the reverse way when Demuy made three notrump and Li went down in five diamonds, in each case after South had opened three diamonds. Li took the spade-jack lead with the ace, played the diamond five to the jack, and cashed the diamond ace. He lost two diamond tricks and, later, the club finesse. Demuy took the club-eight lead with the queen and played the diamond five to the jack, then the diamond ace, discarding the spade deuce. He continued with the heart ten (jack, queen), heart ace, spade ace, spade king, and exited with the spade eight. West won, returned the club three to the ace, captured the eight of hearts, and cashed the spade jack, but, with only nine-six of hearts remaining, was forced to concede a trick to the heart seven, which was declarer's ninth trick.

Volcker, in five diamonds, took the same line as Li for minus 100. Nowodadzki, in three notrump, took the club-ten lead with the queen and played the diamond five. To beat the contract, East needed to play a diamond honor, but he didn't. Declarer took the diamond jack and ace, and continued with the heart ten: three, five, deuce. The diamond four went to the queen, and East switched to the spade six: nine, jack, king. Declarer cashed the spade ace and exited with the spade eight. West took the spade queen and four, but then he was forced to play a heart. After a fi-

nesse of the heart queen, declarer made two spades, three hearts, two diamonds, and two clubs; plus 600: 12 imps to POLAND, which regained the lead at 192-186.

On Board 88, 11 tricks were available in hearts:

North dealer
Neither side vulnerable

NORTH
 ♠ A K Q 7
 ♥ 7 5 4 3
 ♦ 5 2
 ♣ 10 4 3

WEST
 ♠ 10 8 6 5 2
 ♥ A 8
 ♦ 4
 ♣ A Q 8 5 2

EAST
 ♠ J 9 3
 ♥ 9 2
 ♦ K 10 9 6
 ♣ K J 9 6

SOUTH
 ♠ 4
 ♥ K Q J 10 6
 ♦ A Q J 8 7 3
 ♣ 7

Two matches had pushes in four hearts making five. In USA2 vs. CHINA, both Wests cue-bid two hearts (spades and a minor) over the third-seat one-heart opening. After competition at the four-level, Demuy-Kranyak scored the standard 450 in four hearts. At the other table, Hurd, East, jumped to four spades over North's three hearts; Hu, South, bid five hearts. Wooldridge doubled and led the diamond four: deuce, six, queen. South took dummy's spade ace-king to discard his club loser, then knocked out the ace of hearts. He drew trumps and had twelve tricks. Plus 750 meant 7 imps to CHINA, now leading 226-223.

In ENGLAND vs. USA1, after the usual one heart and two hearts, ENGLAND played in four hearts plus 450. In the other room, Meckstroth, North, showed

a strong heart raise, and Robson, East, jumped to four spades, doubled by North. South led the club seven to the ace. Declarer played dummy's spade deuce. North won with the queen and switched to the heart seven: nine, ten, ace. After the spade five to the king, North's diamond five went to the ten and jack. South cashed the heart king and continued with the heart queen, ruffed in the East hand. After the club jack and the club six to the queen, declarer played a top spade and finished two down; minus 300: 4 imps to ENGLAND, upping its lead to 205-191.

After some small swings, with five deals to play, SWEDEN was well ahead, but FRANCE led by 8, ENGLAND by 15, and CHINA by 5.

With your side vulnerable, you, West, hold:

♠ A J 10 9 8 6 3 ♥ J 5 3 ♦ 6 ♣ J 8

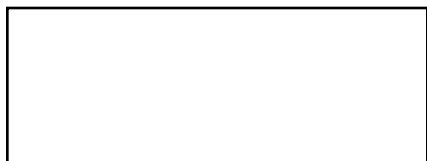
What would you lead after this auction?

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
1 NT	2 ♠	2 NT*	Pass
3 ♣	Pass	3 NT†	(All Pass)

*lebensohl

†game values; fewer than four hearts; no spade stopper

On Board 92, Meckstroth-Rodwell bid as shown. Gold-Bakhshi bid one notrump — (two hearts, showing spades) — three notrump. One West led the spade jack, the other the spade ten. This choice of suit was not a success.



NORTH
 ♠ 4 2
 ♥ A 8
 ♦ A J 9 3
 ♣ Q 10 4 3 2

WEST
 ♠ A J 10 9 8 6 3
 ♥ J 5 3
 ♦ 6
 ♣ J 8

EAST
 ♠ 5
 ♥ Q 7 4 2
 ♦ K 7 5 4
 ♣ K 7 6 5

SOUTH
 ♠ K Q 7
 ♥ K 10 9 6
 ♦ Q 10 8 2
 ♣ A 9

Each South won the first trick and took a diamond finesse. On winning the diamond king, both Easts returned a heart: six, jack, ace. The club deuce went to the nine and jack. Robson cashed the spade ace and played a heart; Weinstein simply returned a heart. Both declarers made 10 tricks for plus 430.

Two other Wests led a spade against three notrump, giving declarer no trouble. Three other Wests led a low heart. After that, there are double-dummy lines to succeed, but they are counterintuitive, and all three declarers failed. (The play generally went along these lines: heart to the queen and king, diamond to the king, spade five-king-ace, and a spade return. South won, cashed the diamonds, and played the club ace and nine to the king. East played a heart to the ace. Declarer took the club ten and gave up a club; then, a heart to West's jack gave the defense five tricks.)

CHINA bid and made three diamonds, to pick up 4 imps and lead by 9 with four boards to go.

The stage was set for some exciting conclusions, but the remaining boards were relatively dull. ENGLAND picked

up an imp on Board 93. On Board 94, CHINA gained 2 imps, and FRANCE added 5 by punishing an overbid. In ENGLAND vs. USA1, Board 95 was a push; on Board 96, ENGLAND collected 4 imps for a partscore swing, to win 215-195. Swings of 1 and 2 imps on these deals left POLAND a survivor by 211-197. Late swinging by BULGARIA narrowed SWEDEN's margin of victory: 223-202.5.

One match did not end tamely. In CHINA vs. USA2, this was Board 95:

East dealer
East-West vulnerable

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

With the diamond king onside, only the bad spade break had beaten Sweden's East in six spades. No doubt those in four spades breathed a sigh of relief when spades were revealed to divide four-zero.

Kang, East, opened a strong one club, and Sun bid a negative one diamond. Demuy, North, intervened with two hearts, and East rebid two notrump. West transferred to spades and raised three spades to four. Declarer made the usual 11 tricks for plus 650. At the other table, disaster struck:

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
Li	Hurd	Hu	Wooldridge
—	—	—	2 NT
Pass	4 ♥*	Double	4 ♠
Pass	Pass	?	

*spades

All was well for CHINA to this point, and, had North passed, the Far-East entry would have secured a berth in the semifinals. However, North bid four notrump (pick-a-suit), and South's five clubs was doubled by East.

West led the diamond five: three, queen. East returned the club six: deuce, king, four. West reverted to the diamond four: eight, ten, jack. Declarer ducked a heart to the jack, and East cashed the club ace. Eventually, the contract was six down; minus 1400: 13 imps to USA2, now leading 238-236, winning the match when Board 96 was flat.

Had South been able to hold the penalty to 1100 and thus the swing to 10 imps, the Chinese would have survived by 1 imp. Is there a case for South's passing four notrump to show equal lengths in the non-spade suits? This action would be based on the philosophy that, if you think your side is in trouble, let partner play it. In that scenario, North could have bid five hearts, where there was a strong chance that he could have come to six tricks, which would make the penalty "only" 1100. (Double-dummy, East could lead a low club, and the defense could take eight tricks for 1400, but East is likely to lead a spade. North ruffs and, if he is brave enough to play the heart ace and another heart, will come to six tricks.)

That was an exciting and well-contested set of matches, perhaps a sign that many countries are able to compete at the top level.

The 2015 Bermuda Bowl semifinals matched **SWEDEN** (Bergdahl, Warne; Nystrom, Upmark; Sylvan, Wrang) against **USA2** (Demuy, Kranyak; Fireman, Wolpert; Hurd, Wooldridge), and **ENGLAND** (Bakhshi, Gold; Forrester, Robson; Jason and Justin Hackett) against **POLAND** (Gawrys, Klukowski; Jassem, Mazurkiewicz; Kalita, Nowosadzki). From the round-robin results, **USA2** had a carryover of 12.7 imps, **ENGLAND** of 4.33 imps.

Session One

There were fireworks on the first deal. Hurd-Wooldridge had collected 1400 on the penultimate deal of the quarterfinals to pull out the match. The team conceded the same penalty—not the right note on which to start an encounter.

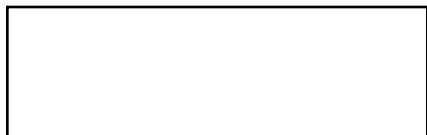
West dealer
Neither side vulnerable

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

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

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

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



SWEDEN VS. USA2

ROOM 1

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
<i>Kranyak</i>	<i>Warne</i>	<i>Demuy</i>	<i>Bergdahl</i>
—	1 ♣*	2 ♥	Pass
4 ♠	Pass	Pass	Double
Pass	Pass	Pass	

ROOM 2

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
<i>Sylvan</i>	<i>Wolpert</i>	<i>Wrang</i>	<i>Fireman</i>
—	1 ♦	3 ♥	3 ♠
Pass	3 NT	Pass	Pass
Double	Pass	Pass	Pass

ENGLAND VS. POLAND

ROOM 3

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
<i>Jason</i>	<i>Jassem</i>	<i>Justin</i>	<i>Mazurkiewicz</i>
—	1 ♦	2 ♥	2 ♠
Pass	3 NT	Pass	Pass
Double	Pass	Pass	Pass

ROOM 4

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
<i>Klukowski</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Gawrys</i>	<i>Bakhshi</i>
—	1 ♦	2 ♥	2 ♠
Pass	3 NT	(All Pass)	

*artificial; strong

In Room 1, North intended two hearts as hearts and another suit but South took it as majors. Against four spades doubled, West led the spade four: jack, king, ace. South played the heart ten. West took the ace and switched to the club ace, then led the club five to East's king. After the diamond six to the seven and ten, West exited with the club nine, ruffed by South. Declarer cashed the

spade queen and led the heart jack to the king. East ruffed, took the spade ten and nine, and reverted to diamonds. West won the diamond queen and ace, and South made the spade eight for his fourth trick; minus 1400.

The eyes of young, impressionable players should be shielded from Fireman's three-spade bid in Room 2. In reaction to the double of three notrump, North led the spade jack: king, ace. South switched to the heart jack and ten, both ducked. Next came the club queen to the ace. From this point, West had a chance to make the contract via club king, diamond finesse, club ten, diamond finesse; but he played a club to the ten and jack. South shifted to the diamond five—jack. Declarer crossed to the club king and repeated the diamond finesse to take eight tricks: minus 100, 17 imps to **SWEDEN**.

The two-spade bid used in the other match is not commonly taught to students at any level. In Room 3, Jassem received the spade-jack lead: king, ace. South switched to the heart jack: three, deuce (encouraging), eight. Hoping that he had hit partner with hearts headed by the ace-queen, South cashed the spade queen and followed with the heart ten. Declarer won with the heart ace, cashed the diamond ace, continued with the diamond queen, and had nine tricks; plus 550.

In Room 4, Gawrys led the club six (second-highest from weakness, or third- or fifth-highest from an honor): seven, queen, ace. Declarer played back the club nine: four, ten, jack. South switched to the heart jack. West took the ace and played the spade four: jack, king, ace. South took the heart ten and shifted to the diamond seven to the queen. Declarer crossed to the club king, repeated the diamond finesse, and

had one heart, five diamonds, and two clubs; minus 50: 12 imps to *POLAND*.

With both sides vulnerable, partner opens with a weak two spades, pass on your right. What would you do with:

♠ 7 3 ♥ A K J 10 8 ♦ 9 4 ♣ A Q 6 4?

Only one pair stopped out of game on Board 4:

South dealer
Both sides vulnerable

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

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

EAST
♠ K J 4 2
♥ 9 7 5
♦ K 8 7
♣ J 10 5

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

SWEDEN VS. USA2

ROOM 1

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
<i>Kranyak</i>	<i>Warne</i>	<i>Demuy</i>	<i>Bergdahl</i>
2 ♠	Pass	2 NT	Pass
3 ♣ ^a	Pass	4 ♠	(All Pass)

ROOM 2

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
<i>Sylvan</i>	<i>Wolpert</i>	<i>Wrang</i>	<i>Fireman</i>
2 ♦ ^b	Pass	2 ♠ ^c	(All Pass)

ENGLAND VS. *POLAND*

ROOM 3

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
Jason	<i>Jassem</i>	Justin	<i>Mazurkiewicz</i>
2 ♠	Pass	2 NT	Pass
4 ♠ ^d	Pass	Pass	Pass

ROOM 4

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
<i>Klukowski</i>	Gold	<i>Gawrys</i>	Bakhshi
2 ♦ ^b	Pass	2 NT	Pass
3 ♥ ^c	Pass	4 ♠	(All Pass)

^amaximum

^bweak two-bid in a major

^cpass-or-correct

^dmaximum; no side feature

^espades; maximum values

In Room 1, Kranyak received the heart-three lead to dummy's jack. The spade three went to the queen, and the spade ace revealed the bad break. South finessed the heart ten and cashed the heart ace, pitching a diamond, then threw another diamond on the heart king, as East ruffed with the spade jack. East cashed the spade king and continued with the diamond king. West overtook and switched to the club seven. Declarer took the ace and ditched a club on the long heart; plus 620.

In Room 2, Wrang was the only North not to look for game, which he thought insufficiently likely to succeed, although he made one trick more than everyone else. East led the heart five to the queen and ace. Declarer finessed the spade queen, cashed the spade ace, and played heart king, ten and jack, discarding diamonds. East ruffed the fourth heart and could have gained a trick (and an imp) by playing a diamond, but he switched to the club jack: deuce, king, ace. Dummy's last diamond went away on North's fifth heart; plus 200: 9 imps

to *USA2*.

In Room 3, Jassem led the heart six. Declarer took dummy's ace, finessed the spade queen, cashed the spade ace, played the heart deuce to the jack, and continued with the heart king and ten, ditching diamonds. East ruffed and played a diamond; plus 620.

In Room 4, Gawrys took the club-jack lead with the queen, played the spade three to the ten, heart deuce to the king, and spade seven to the nine. He lost one spade and two diamonds; plus 620: no swing.

On Board 5, Kranyak produced one of the nicest pieces of subterfuge you are likely to see:

West dealer
East-West vulnerable

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

WEST
♠ 10 6 5
♥ K 6 4
♦ 10 5 4
♣ 9 8 7 5

EAST
♠ Q J
♥ A 10 8 7 2
♦ Q J 2
♣ J 4 3

SOUTH
♠ A K 4 3
♥ J 3
♦ A K 9 8
♣ K Q 6



SWEDEN VS. *USA2*

ROOM 1

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
<i>Kranyak</i>	<i>Warne</i>	<i>Demuy</i>	<i>Bergdahl</i>
—	Pass	Pass	Pass
1 ♣*	Pass	1 ♦†	Pass
2 ♥§	Pass	2 ♠	Pass
2 NT	Pass	3 NT	(All Pass)

*artificial; strong

†artificial; weak

§puppet to two spades, preliminary to showing hearts or a balanced hand

West led the heart six (second-highest from three), and East did well to insert the eight, to retain a link with West. Kranyak won with the jack and returned . . . the heart three! West took the king, and East played the deuce. To West, it seemed as though South had five hearts. (As East had played the eight at trick one, perhaps he should have followed with the seven at trick two, sounding an alarm bell by playing the hearts out of natural order.)

West switched to the club seven: deuce, jack, king. Should East have played a low club? South continued with the spade ace, spade king, and a third spade. East discarded the club four. Something more flamboyant was needed, perhaps the diamond queen. Maybe East thought that West had led from king-six-doubleton. South's deception worked. West switched to the diamond four, and declarer had three spades, one heart, two diamonds, and three clubs; plus 400.

At the other table, Fireman, East, opened one heart in third seat. North-South found their spade fit and ended in four spades by North. East led the heart ace and a heart to the king. Declarer could not avoid losers in spades and diamonds; minus 50: 10 imps to *USA2*.

In the other match, the same contracts were reached. In Room 3, East opened one heart, South doubled, and North ended in four spades. The defense took two hearts at once, and a spade and a diamond later; minus 50.

ENGLAND VS. *POLAND*

ROOM 4

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
<i>Klukowski</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Gawrys</i>	<i>Bakhshi</i>
—	Pass	Pass	Pass
2 NT	Pass	3 NT	(All Pass)

Here, too, West led the heart six: nine, ten, jack. South played the spade ace: five, deuce, jack; then the spade four: six, seven, queen. This did not fool anyone. East returned the heart deuce to the king. Back came the heart four, and East took three more tricks; minus 50: no swing.

South would have been in fine shape if hearts had been four-four and spades three-two, but he might have done better to play spade ace, spade king, and a low spade, which might have left West wondering whether South had started with ace-jack-low of hearts.

You are the dealer with both sides vulnerable. What would you do with:

♠ 8 ♥ Q 6 5 ♦ K 2 ♣ K Q 8 7 5 3 2?

On Board 7, two Easts thought that this was a suitable three-club opening. The other two deemed that there was too much strength outside clubs. Since one might open three clubs with slightly stronger clubs (replace the deuce with the jack, say) and no outside values, responder might find it hard to place opener with so much strength. So it proved at those two tables:

East dealer
Both sides vulnerable

ROOM 4

NORTH
♠ Q 10 3 2
♥ 10 7 3
♦ A 10 7 5
♣ 9 6

WEST
♠ —
♥ A J 9 8 4
♦ Q 8 6 4 3
♣ A 10 4

EAST
♠ 8
♥ Q 6 5
♦ K 2
♣ K Q 8 7 5 3 2

SOUTH
♠ A K J 9 7 6 5 4
♥ K 2
♦ J 9
♣ J

SWEDEN VS. *USA2*

ROOM 1

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
<i>Kranyak</i>	<i>Warne</i>	<i>Demuy</i>	<i>Bergdahl</i>
—	—	—	2 ♣*
4 ♠	5 ♣	5 ♠	Pass
Pass	6 ♣	Pass	Pass
6 ♠	Double	(All Pass)	

ROOM 2

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
<i>Sylvan</i>	<i>Wolpert</i>	<i>Wrang</i>	<i>Fireman</i>
—	—	—	3 ♣
4 ♠	5 ♣	5 ♠	Pass
Pass	Double	Pass	6 ♣
6 ♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

ENGLAND VS. *POLAND*

ROOM 3

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
<i>Jason</i>	<i>Jassem</i>	<i>Justin</i>	<i>Mazurkiewicz</i>
—	—	—	1 ♣
4 ♠	4 NT	5 ♠	Pass
Pass	Double	Pass	6 ♣
Pass	Pass	Pass	

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
<i>Klukowski</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Gawryys</i>	<i>Bakhshi</i>
—	—	—	3 ♣
4 ♠	5 ♣	5 ♠	(All Pass)

*10-15 HCP; six-plus clubs; no side suit

As six clubs would have been made, Kranyak and Sylvan did well to sacrifice. In Room 1, West led the club ace, and South ruffed the next club. Declarer cashed the spade ace and ran the diamond jack to the king. East returned the heart five to the king and ace, then won the next heart for three down: minus 800.

In Room 2, Wolpert led the heart ace. That gave away a trick, but the defense still collected a club and a diamond for two down: minus 200: 12 imps to SWEDEN. Note that West declined to double six spades after East's three-club opening and removal of five spades doubled.

Against Mazurkiewicz in Room 3, South led the spade ace. The diamond three went to the king, then came the diamond deuce: jack, four, seven. South switched to the heart deuce: four, ten, queen. Declarer played club ace, club king, heart six: king, ace; plus 1370. With the heart king onside, South's heart switch was immaterial, as declarer would have been able to set up the fifth diamond for a heart discard.

In Room 4, Gold led the club ace, and declarer was two down; minus 200: 15 imps to POLAND. Charge the three-club opening for that.

After that deal, few imps changed hands until Board 13:

East dealer
Both sides vulnerable

ENGLAND VS. *POLAND*

ROOM 3

NORTH
♠ A K 9 5
♥ A Q 9 3
♦ A
♣ A J 5 3

WEST
♠ J 6
♥ J 10 8 5 2
♦ 6 4 3 2
♣ 9 8

EAST
♠ Q 7 2
♥ 6
♦ K Q J 9 5
♣ K 6 4 2

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
Justin	<i>Mazurkiewicz</i>	Jason	<i>Jassem</i>
—	—	—	1 ♦
Pass	3 ♦	Double	3 ♥
Pass	4 ♥	Double	5 ♦
Double	Pass	Pass	Pass

ROOM 4

SOUTH
♠ 10 8 4 3
♥ K 7 4
♦ 10 8 7
♣ Q 10 7

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
<i>Gawrys</i>	<i>Bakhshi</i>	<i>Klukowski</i>	Gold
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	Pass	1 ♣	1 ♦
Pass	2 ♦	Double	Pass
2 ♠	Pass	4 ♠	(All Pass)

SWEDEN VS. *USA2*

ROOM 1

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
<i>Demuy</i>	<i>Bergdahl</i>	<i>Kranyak</i>	<i>Warne</i>
—	—	—	1 NT*
Pass	2 ♣ [†]	Double	2 ♦
Pass	Pass	Double	Pass
2 ♠	Pass	4 ♦ [§]	Pass
4 ♥	Pass	5 ♣	Pass
5 ♥	Pass	6 ♠	(All Pass)

ROOM 2

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
<i>Wrang</i>	<i>Fireman</i>	<i>Sylvan</i>	<i>Wolpert</i>
—	—	—	1 ♦
Pass	Pass	Double	Pass
1 ♠	Pass	4 ♦ [§]	Pass
4 ♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

*10-15 HCP; at least five-four in the minors
†puppet to two diamonds, preliminary to playing there or inviting game

§splinter

In Room 1, Kranyak's splinter was reasonable. South and North might have done less later. With an opening bid over him, it was optimistic of Kranyak to bid the slam. The club-nine lead was ducked to East's king, and a trump trick had to be lost; minus 100.

After Sylvan splintered in Room 2, Wrang sensibly signed off. West led the heart jack to the ace. South played the spade ace and diamond ace, followed by a low club. East ducked, and the queen won. A diamond ruff was followed by the spade king, a heart to the king, and a finesse of the heart nine. South pitched a club on the heart ace and had 12 tricks; plus 680,

In Room 3, Jassem tried to steal North-South's suit, but all he bought was trouble. South led the diamond eight to the ace. North cashed the heart ace and continued with the heart nine.

East discarded the club four, and South won to play another diamond. Declarer still needed to lose two spades and a club for four down; minus 1100.

In Room 4, the diamond-three lead was taken in dummy, and declarer played spade ace, spade king, heart to the king, club finesse, for 11 tricks; plus 650: 10 imps to ENGLAND. Some might think that cashing the spade ace and king at once was not necessarily safe—what if spades had been four-one?

On Board 14, Demuy needed to side-step an endplay:

East dealer
Neither side vulnerable

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

SWEDEN VS. USA2

ROOM 1

SOUTH Bergdahl	WEST Kranyak	NORTH Warne	EAST Demuy
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	Pass	1 ♣ ^a	Pass
1 ♦ ^b	Pass	1 ♥ ^c	Pass
2 ♣ ^d	Pass	2 ♦	Pass
2 ♥	Pass	2 ♠ ^e	Pass
3 ♠	Pass	6 ♦	(All Pass)

^aartificial; strong

^bartificial; weak

^cartificial; 20-plus HCP

^dbalanced hand; 5-7 HCP

^erelay for further description

At the three tables not shown, North showed a very powerful hand with long diamonds, but South bid three notrump and took 11 tricks. Here, North blasted into six diamonds. West led the diamond four: nine, jack, queen. The club three went to the queen, and South played four rounds of diamonds. It was clear to East that West must have the heart king, else South would have won trick one in dummy and played the heart queen to set up the king to discard a spade from dummy while the closed hand still had the trump queen as an entry. West had discarded club four, spade deuce, and heart deuce, while East had let go the heart four, club ten, heart five, and heart ace. South ran two more diamonds and cashed the club ace, but the die was cast; minus 50: 11 imps to USA2. With the strong hand exposed, the defense was straightforward.

With only North-South vulnerable, North passes, and East opens a natural one diamond. What would you do as South with:

♠ 9 2 ♥ A 5 ♦ 5 4 ♣ A K Q 10 9 6 2?

This situation arose on Board 15:

NORTH
 ♠ 10 7 5 4
 ♥ J 8 7 4
 ♦ K 10 8 3
 ♣ 4

WEST
 ♠ A K 6 3
 ♥ Q 10 6 3 2
 ♦ Q 9 6
 ♣ 8

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

SOUTH
 ♠ 9 2
 ♥ A 5
 ♦ 5 4
 ♣ A K Q 10 9 6 2

SWEDEN VS. *USA2*

ROOM 1

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
Warne	Demuy	Bergdahl	Kranyak
—	—	Pass	1 ♦
3 NT	Double	Pass	Pass
4 ♣	Double	(All Pass)	

ROOM 2

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
Wolpert	Wrang	Fireman	Sylvan
—	—	Pass	1 ♣*
Pass	1 ♦†	Pass	1 ♥
2 ♣	Double	Pass	2 ♦
3 ♣	3 ♦	(All Pass)	

*11-plus HCP; two-plus clubs

†hearts

I showed South's hand to my wife, Suzie, with the comment, "East opened one diamond, and South bid three notrump. That's a real man's bid." She replied, "Yes, it is. Need I say more?" This jump normally includes a stopper in opener's suit. If North's pass over the double showed a diamond stopper, why

didn't South pass? If South was not prepared to sit for a double, three notrump was probably not the best choice.

In Room 1, Demuy led the spade king; Kranyak played the queen. West continued with the spade three. East won with the jack and returned the spade eight. South ruffed and played club ace, club king. Some "solid" suits fail to live up to that description. South cashed the heart ace, and Kranyak, emulating Demuy from the previous deal, unblocked the king. South exited with the heart five. West took the queen and switched to the diamond queen: king, ace. East cashed the diamond jack, and South needed to ruff the next diamond. East still had a trump trick coming for three down; minus 800.

Contrast that scenario with Wolpert's circumspect approach in Room 2. No gung ho leap for him—and right he was, too. North led the club four against three diamonds. South won with the nine and returned the club queen: diamond nine, diamond ten. North shifted to the spade four. Declarer won with the ace and ran the diamond queen, followed by the diamond six. After drawing the last trump, declarer took two spades and played the heart king. South took the ace and the top clubs for one down; minus 50: 13 imps to *USA2*.

ENGLAND VS. *POLAND*

ROOM 3

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
Jassem	Justin	Mazurkiewicz	Jason
—	—	Pass	1 ♣
2 ♣	2 ♥	Pass	2 NT
Pass	3 ♠	Pass	4 ♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

ROOM 4

East dealer
Neither side vulnerable

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
Gold	<i>Gawrys</i>	Bakhshi	<i>Klukowski</i>
—	—	Pass	1 ♣*
3 ♣	Double	Pass	3 ♦
Pass	3 ♥	Pass	3 NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

NORTH
 ♠ K Q J
 ♥ K 9 8 5 4
 ♦ K J 10 4
 ♣ 9

*a weak notrump, natural clubs, or 17-plus HCP

In Room 3, Mazurkiewicz led the club four to the nine. South returned the club king, ruffed with the deuce; North discarded the diamond three. The heart three went to the king and ace, and back came the club ace: heart six, heart eight. North exited with the spade five and made only his trump trick thereafter: down one; minus 50.

In Room 4, Gold led the club queen and continued with the club ace, club king, and club ten. East cashed the spade queen, crossed to the spade ace, and led the diamond queen: king, ace. When declarer played the heart nine, South took the ace and his clubs, and the contract was three down; minus 150: 3 imps to ENGLAND.

After 16 deals, **USA2** 72.7 led **SWE-DEN** 56, and **POLAND** 41 led ENGLAND 25.3.

Session Two

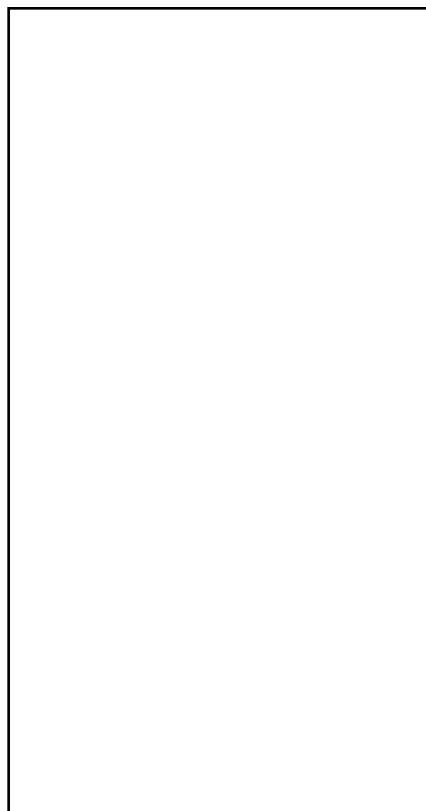
Some pairs climbed too high on Board 17:



WEST
 ♠ 6 3 2
 ♥ 3 2
 ♦ Q 9 8 2
 ♣ K 8 5 3

EAST
 ♠ 8 7 5 4
 ♥ A Q 10 7
 ♦ 6
 ♣ A Q 10 2

SOUTH
 ♠ A 10 9
 ♥ J 6
 ♦ A 7 5 3
 ♣ J 7 6 4



SWEDEN VS. USA2

ROOM 1

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
<i>Demuy</i>	<i>Nystrom</i>	<i>Kranyak</i>	<i>Upmark</i>
—	—	—	1 ♠*
Pass	Pass	1 ♥	Pass
1 NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

ROOM 2

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
<i>Sylvan</i>	<i>Wooldridge</i>	<i>Wrang</i>	<i>Hurd</i>
—	—	—	1 ♣
Pass	1 ♠	1 ♥	Pass
1 NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

ENGLAND VS. POLAND

ROOM 3

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
<i>Bakhshi</i>	<i>Nowosadzki</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Kalita</i>
—	—	—	1 ♣
Pass	1 ♠	1 ♥	Pass
2 ♠	Pass	3 ♠	Pass
3 NT	Pass	Pass	Double
Pass	Pass	Pass	

ROOM 4

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
<i>Gawrys</i>	<i>Forrester</i>	<i>Klukowski</i>	<i>Robson</i>
—	—	—	1 ♣
Pass	Pass	1 ♥	2 ♣
Double	4 ♣	Double	(All Pass)

*amorphous

In Room 1, Demuy took the spade-six lead with the jack, cashed the diamond king, and ran the diamond jack to the queen; East discarded the spade four. West switched to the club five. East won with the queen, cashed the club ace, and returned the club deuce:

jack, king. West played the heart three to the eight and queen. East's club ten and the heart ace gave the defense seven tricks; minus 50.

In Room 2, Wooldridge led the club five. East won with the queen and returned the club deuce: jack, king. West switched to the spade deuce to the jack. Declarer picked the diamonds via diamond ace, diamond to the ten, then played spade king, spade ace, diamond to the jack, and took seven tricks; plus 90: 4 imps to SWEDEN.

In Room 3, Bakhshi might have chosen one notrump rather than two diamonds. The spade-six lead was taken by the jack. As West's one diamond had been natural, Bakhshi played diamond ace, diamond finesse, spade ace, diamond finesse, diamond king, spade king. That was seven tricks, but it was also the end of the line: down two; minus 300.

In Room 4, no doubt Robson had a good reason for two clubs. (He might have invoked the so-called streaker's defense: "It seemed like a good idea at the time.") Forrester took him seriously, perhaps a touch too seriously.

South led the heart jack: deuce, eight (upside-down carding), queen. The spade seven went to the jack, and North switched to the club nine: ten, jack, king. The heart three went to the ten, and declarer played another spade. North won with the queen and led the spade king to South's ace. After the club six to the queen, East exited with the diamond six. South took the ace and returned a club, won by the ace. The spade four was ruffed by the seven, overruffed by the eight. Declarer ruffed a diamond, cashed the heart ace, and lost his last heart to North's heart king, going two down; minus 300: 12 imps to POLAND.

As dealer at favorable vulnerability, what would you do with:

♠ Q J ♥ J 10 6 5 4 3 ♦ 10 8 4 3 ♣ 6?

Standards have slipped in many areas of life. Why should bridge be an exception? The fact that three players opened three hearts with this collection illustrates how far we have dropped. Only Wooldridge passed. No doubt they point him out in the street with a nudge and wink. It was all academic. The opponents had no problem bidding game in spades and making 11 tricks.

Board 23 tested defensive methods against a one-notrump opening:

West dealer
Both sides vulnerable

NORTH
♠ A 10 9 7 6
♥ —
♦ 8 7
♣ A K 10 9 5 4

WEST
♠ Q 3
♥ A Q J 8
♦ K Q 9 4 2
♣ 7 2

EAST
♠ 8 4 2
♥ 7 4
♦ J 10 5 3
♣ J 8 6 3

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

SWEDEN VS. USA2

ROOM 1

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
<i>Demuy</i>	<i>Nystrom</i>	<i>Kranyak</i>	<i>Upmark</i>
—	1 NT	Pass	Pass
2 ♥	Pass	3 ♣	Pass
3 ♥	Pass	3 ♠	Pass
3 NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

ROOM 2

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
<i>Sylvan</i>	<i>Wooldridge</i>	<i>Wrang</i>	<i>Hurd</i>
—	1 NT	2 ♠	Pass
4 ♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

ENGLAND VS. POLAND

ROOM 3

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
<i>Bakhshi</i>	<i>Nowosadzki</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Kalita</i>
—	1 NT	2 ♣*	Pass
3 ♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

ROOM 4

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
<i>Gawrys</i>	<i>Forrester</i>	<i>Klukowski</i>	<i>Robson</i>
—	1 ♦	2 ♣	Pass
3 ♥	Pass	3 ♠	Pass
4 ♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

*(exactly) four spades, five-plus-card minor

No one had an ideal systemic method for the North hand, so each player compromised.

In Room 1, Demuy ducked the diamond-king lead and won the next diamond. After the club queen and spade king, he played the spade jack and had nine tricks; plus 600.

In Room 2, Wrang's two spades showed six, but who's counting? Hurd led the heart seven: nine, jack, spade six. After club queen, spade king, and spade ace, declarer ruffed a club with the spade jack, ruffed a heart, drew the last trump, and had 12 tricks; plus 680: 2 imps to SWEDEN.

In Room 3, Gold had a way to show a five-card major with a secondary minor, which might have worked well; passing three hearts showed touching faith. Not only did Bakhshi make three hearts, it

turned out to be a pickup. The diamond-king lead went to the ace. South played club queen, spade five to the ace, club ace to discard the diamond six, and the club king to dump the spade jack. West ruffed with the heart eight. South trumped the diamond return, played a low heart, ruffed the diamond return, and played another low heart. West made four trump tricks, but declarer had nine tricks; plus 140.

In Room 4, Klukowski was persuaded by Gawrys jump and heart rebid that South's suit was somewhat better than it was. With less respect for South's bidding, North might have ventured four spades. Gawrys followed the same line of play as Bakhshi for one down; minus 100: 6 imps to ENGLAND.

On Board 28, every North-South pair played in three notrump, but only one survived:

North dealer
East-West vulnerable

NORTH
♠ K J
♥ A K J 8 5
♦ A 8 7 4
♣ J 9

WEST
♠ A 7 4
♥ 9 7
♦ 10 6 3
♣ K Q 10 6 4

EAST
♠ Q 10 9 8 6
♥ Q 6 4 3
♦ J 9 5
♣ 5

SOUTH
♠ 5 3 2
♥ 10 2
♦ K Q 2
♣ A 8 7 3 2



SWEDEN VS. USA2

ROOM 1

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
<i>Demuy</i>	<i>Nystrom</i>	<i>Kranyak</i>	<i>Upmark</i>
—	—	1 ♣ ^a	Pass
1 ♥ ^b	Pass	1 NT	Pass
2 ♣ ^c	Double	Pass	Pass
3 NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

ROOM 2

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
<i>Sylvan</i>	<i>Wooldrige</i>	<i>Wrang</i>	<i>Hurd</i>
—	—	1 ♥	Pass
1 NT	Pass	2 ♣ ^d	Pass
2 ♦ ^e	Pass	3 NT	(All Pass)

ENGLAND VS. POLAND

ROOM 3

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
<i>Bakhshi</i>	<i>Nowosadzki</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Kalita</i>
—	—	1 ♥	Pass
1 ♠ ^f	Pass	2 ♣ ^g	Pass
2 ♦	Pass	2 NT	Pass
3 NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

ROOM 4

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
<i>Gawrys</i>	<i>Forrester</i>	<i>Klukowski</i>	<i>Robson</i>
—	—	1 ♥	Pass
1 NT	Pass	2 ♦	Pass
2 ♥	Pass	2 NT	Pass
3 NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

^aartificial; strong

^bartificial; 8-11 HCP

^crelay

^dartificial; 14-plus HCP

^emaximum

^f0-4 spades

^gdiamonds

In Room 1, East led the club five. Fearful of a spade switch, declarer took the club ace and ran the heart ten. East won and switched to a spade. West won and cashed the top clubs for one down; minus 50.

In Room 2, Wooldridge led the club king. South took the club ace and played the heart deuce: nine, jack, queen. East returned the heart six, taken by the ace. Declarer cashed the heart king and eight (West discarded two clubs), then crossed to the diamond king. The spectators and commentators all foresaw declarer's making nine tricks on the three-three diamond break and thereby gaining 10 imps, but something strange happened: Unaware that the diamonds were breaking, South went for a spade trick. The spade three went to the jack and queen. East returned the spade ten. West took the ace, cashed two clubs, and reverted to a spade for East to cash, with the result of four down; minus 200: 4 imps to **USA2**.

In Room 3, Gold had no chance after the spade-ten lead. West took the ace and returned the spade four to the king. Declarer crossed to the diamond king and played the heart deuce to the jack and queen. East cashed out; minus 50.

In Room 4, something happened that is very rare at these heights: a sensible and completely natural auction to the normal spot. South took the club-king lead and played the heart deuce to the jack, which held. Then came the heart ace, heart king, and a fourth heart. West discarded the spade four and the club four. East switched to the diamond jack. South cashed the diamond king and queen. To this point, West had shown up with two hearts and, given the defense, five clubs. The spade-four discard would hardly be from queen-third. Not prepared to rely on three-three

diamonds, Gawrys played the spade five, seven from West, and king from dummy. Declarer thus made 10 tricks; plus 430: 10 imps to **POLAND**.

With both sides vulnerable, there are three passes to partner, who opens one notrump, 15-17 HCP. Pass on your right. What is your bidding plan with:

♠ Q J 5 ♥ Q J 8 5 4 ♦ J 6 ♣ J 10 6?

This was Board 29:

West dealer
Both sides vulnerable

NORTH
♠ Q J 5
♥ Q J 8 5 4
♦ J 6
♣ J 10 6

WEST
♠ 7 2
♥ 7 6 2
♦ A 7 5 2
♣ K 7 4 2

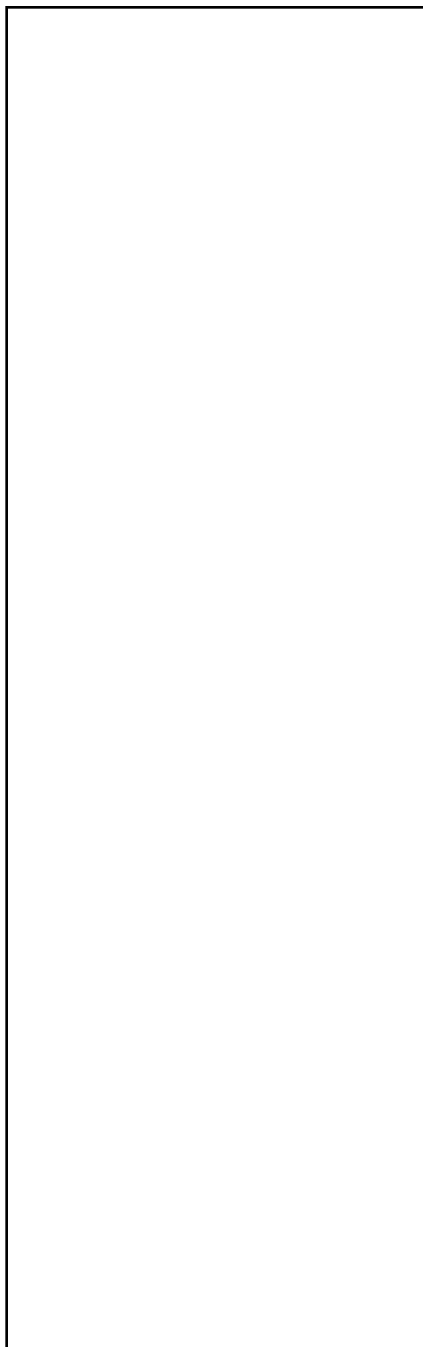
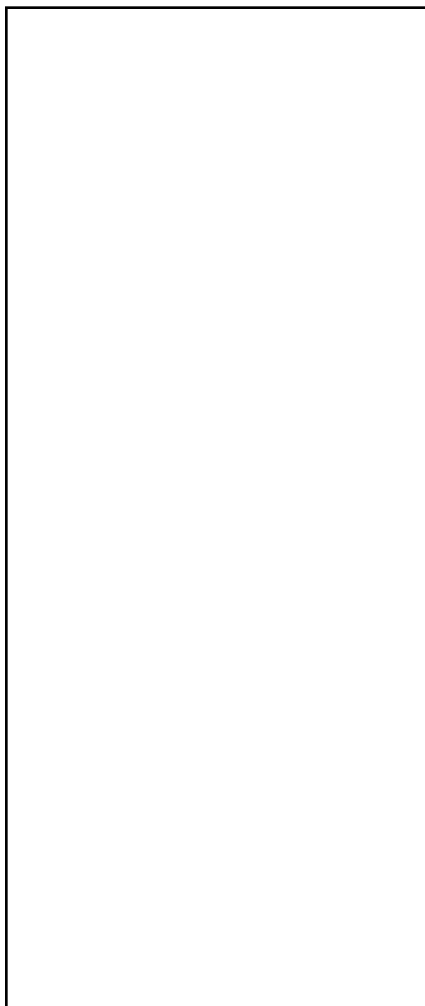
EAST
♠ 10 9 8 4
♥ A 10 9
♦ K 8
♣ Q 8 5 3

SOUTH
♠ A K 6 3
♥ K 3
♦ Q 10 9 4 3
♣ A 9

Every table began with a fourth-position one notrump by South and a transfer to hearts by North, accepted by opener. At three tables, the auction ended there, and **SWEDEN** scored an over-trick imp. **POLAND** scored 140 at one table, but, in the other room, Bakhshi, North, invited game with two notrump, and Gold bid three. West led the club deuce: jack, three, nine. The heart four went to the king, and the heart three to the queen and ace. With hearts three-three, South had 10 tricks; plus 630: 10 imps to **ENGLAND**.

A similar situation had arisen in the quarterfinals (Board 54); there, responder was also rewarded for looking for game with 8 HCP and a five-card suit. Might five-card suits be underrated? Ask not what can go wrong, but what might go right.

After one-third of the matches, it was **USA2** 92.7, **SWEDEN** 92; *POLAND* 70, *ENGLAND* 48.3.



After 32 boards of the semifinals of the 2015 Bermuda Bowl, the scores were: **USA2** (Demuy, Kranyak; Fireman, Wolpert; Hurd, Wooldridge) 92.7, slightly ahead of **SWEDEN** (Bergdahl, Warne; Nystrom, Upmark; Sylvan, Wrang) 92; and **POLAND** (Gawrys, Klukowski; Jassem, Mazurkiewicz; Kalita, Nowosadzki) 70, with a useful lead over **ENGLAND** (Bakhshi, Gold; Forrester, Robson; Jason and Justin Hackett) 48.3.

Session Three

Board 38 was the sort of layout that annoys purists, because so many points depended on a near-tossup event (East-West vulnerable):

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

Three pairs played in six spades, a good slam. Forrester-Robson bid to seven spades, where success boils down to a little more than the diamond finesse, which worked: 13 imps to ENGLAND.

The punishment for overcalling with a weak suit is that partner leads that suit. Consider Board 40, for example.



West dealer
Neither side vulnerable

NORTH

♠	A K J 10
♥	10 7
♦	K 10 9 7 5
♣	10 6

WEST

♠	4 3 2
♥	A 6 3
♦	A 4
♣	J 8 7 4 3

EAST

♠	8 6 5
♥	Q 9 8 5 2
♦	2
♣	A Q 9 5

SOUTH

♠	Q 9 7
♥	K J 4
♦	Q J 8 6 3
♣	K 2

SWEDEN VS. USA2

ROOM 1

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
Nystrom	Hurd	Upmark	Wooldridge
—	Pass	1 ♦	1 ♥
1 ♠*	2 ♦†	Pass	2 ♥
3 NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

ROOM 2

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
Wolpert	Sylvan	Fireman	Wrang
—	Pass	1 ♦	1 ♥
3 NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

*fewer than four spades

†strong heart raise

Facing a passed partner, the urgency to bid one heart as East is not obvious. If South ends in three notrump with East-West silent, West's club lead will lead to a routine two down.

"Haste makes waste" might be an apt title for the play in one match. In Room 1, Hurd led the heart three: seven, eight, jack. South played the diamond three,

and West grabbed the ace, then continued with the heart ace and the heart six. South won and had 10 tricks; plus 430.

In Room 2, Sylvan also led the heart three to the seven, eight, and jack, but he ducked South's diamond at trick two. Declarer played another diamond. East discarded the discouraging spade eight; West won and switched to the club seven. East took the ace and put the heart queen on the table. Here, South must duck to succeed, but the hasty three notrump had given him little information about the layout of the deal. (Had he bid more slowly, and had West shown a heart raise, South might well have found the winning continuation.) When declarer covered the queen, West won, and the heart return gave the defense six tricks; minus 100: 11 imps to **SWEDEN**.

If he guesses what to do, South can always make three notrump after the heart-three lead. Interestingly, the heart-ace lead can beat three notrump. In Room 1, if Hurd had ducked the first diamond, won the second, and switched to a club, the bidding very likely would have guided Nystrom to the winning play if East later led the heart queen.

In the other match, *POLAND* made nine tricks in three notrump by South after the heart-three lead; plus 400. *ENGLAND* played in three diamonds and scored 110: 7 imps to *POLAND*.

Board 41 was almost *déjà vu*, with **SWEDEN** again making three notrump, which was defeated at the other table.

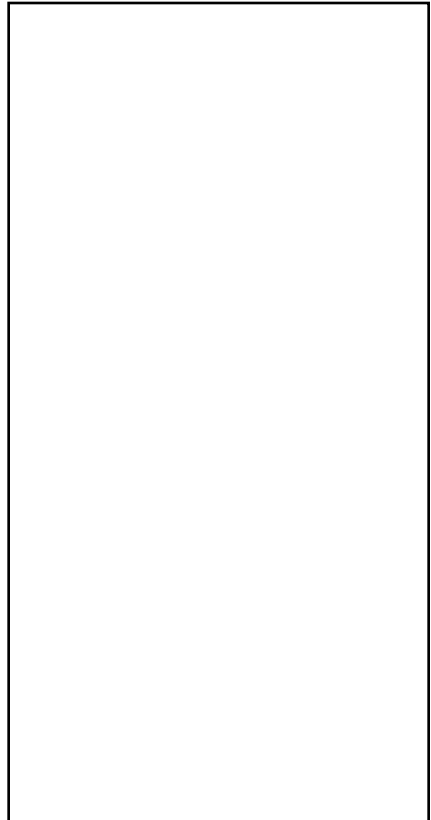
East dealer
North-South vulnerable

NORTH
♠ A J 8 4
♥ K
♦ J 7 4
♣ K Q 7 6 2

WEST
♠ 10 7 3 2
♥ J 10 2
♦ A 2
♣ A 8 5 3

EAST
♠ 6 5
♥ 9 7 6 4 3
♦ K Q 10 6 5
♣ 9

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



SWEDEN VS. USA2

ROOM 1

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
<i>Wooldridge</i>	<i>Nystrom</i>	<i>Hurd</i>	<i>Upmark</i>
—	—	—	Pass
1 ♣	Pass	1 ♠	Pass
1 NT	Pass	3 NT	(All Pass)

ROOM 2

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
<i>Warne</i>	<i>Wolpert</i>	<i>Sylvan</i>	<i>Fireman</i>
—	—	—	Pass
1 ♣	Pass	1 ♥ ^a	Pass
1 ♠	Pass	2 ♠ ^b	Pass
2 NT	Pass	3 NT	(All Pass)

ENGLAND VS. POLAND

ROOM 3

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
<i>Robson</i>	<i>Nowosadzki</i>	<i>Forrester</i>	<i>Kalita</i>
—	—	—	2 ♥ ^c
Pass	3 ♥ ^d	Double	Pass
3 NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

ROOM 4

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
<i>Gawrys</i>	<i>Bakhshi</i>	<i>Klukowski</i>	Gold
—	—	—	2 ♥ ^c
Pass	3 ♦ ^e	Pass	3 ♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

^aspades

^bartificial game-force

^cweak; five hearts; four-plus-card minor

^dpreemptive

^einvitational in hearts

In Room 1, Nystrom led the heart jack: king, seven (discouraging), eight. Declarer played a club. Nystrom won and did something good: With little prospect for enough tricks in spades

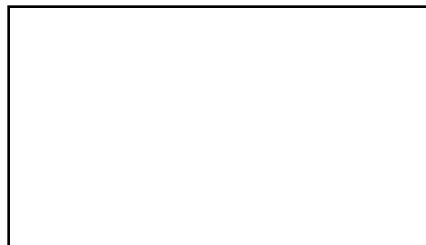
to beat the contract, he switched to the diamond ace and deuce for two down; minus 200.

In Room 2, Wolpert led the club three: seven, nine, jack. South played the club four and West ducked. Goodbye, that's all she wrote. Declarer unblocked the heart king and had nine tricks; plus 600: 13 imps to SWEDEN. Had West taken the club ace, East could have signaled for a diamond switch.

In Room 3, Nowosadzki led the heart jack: king, nine, five. Declarer played the club king: nine, four, three. Now, Robson, not knowing that his hearts were all winners, played the spade four to the king and led the club ten. West ducked, and declarer claimed nine tricks; plus 600.

At the other table of that match, Bakhshi's psychic kept North-South quiet. (That would be good or bad depending on what happened in three notrump in the other room.) The spade king was led, and declarer ruffed the third spade. He cashed three diamonds and led the heart four: five, jack, king. The club king was taken by the ace, and the heart ten went to the ace. South reverted to clubs. East ruffed and played a diamond. South ruffed, drew East's last trump, and cashed a club for three down; minus 150: 10 imps to ENGLAND.

Haste in defense cost a trick on Board 42:



East dealer
Both sides vulnerable

NORTH
♠ K 10 9 3
♥ J 6
♦ Q 10 7
♣ 9 8 7 2

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

EAST
♠ —
♥ Q 9 8 7 3
♦ 8 4 2
♣ A K Q 5 3

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

SWEDEN VS. USA2

ROOM 1

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
Nystrom	Hurd	Upmark	Wooldridge
—	—	—	1 ♥
1 ♠	2 ♥	2 ♠	3 ♣
4 ♠	Double	(All Pass)	

West led the spade six: nine, club three, deuce. Declarer played the club deuce to the queen. East switched to the heart three. Placing West with the heart ace for the non-heart lead, South played low. West won with the ace and returned a heart to the king. After the spade seven, and the spade eight to the ten, declarer played the club seven: king, jack. East switched to the diamond deuce: three, king, and the result was one off; minus 200.

The auction began similarly in the Room 2, but Wolpert, South, bid three diamonds over three clubs, and Sylvan's four hearts as West ended proceedings. Declarer, Wrang, ruffed the spade-ace lead, played a heart to the

ace, and continued with a heart to the jack, queen and king. Declarer ruffed the next spade, cashed the top clubs, ruffed a club, ruffed a spade, and took the fifth club. East then played the diamond deuce to the king for 11 tricks; plus 650: 10 imps to SWEDEN.

ENGLAND VS. POLAND

ROOM 3

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
Nowosadzki	Forrester	Kalita	Robson
—	—	—	1 ♥
1 ♠	2 ♥	3 ♠	4 ♣
4 ♠	Double	(All Pass)	

ROOM 4

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
Bakhshi	Klukowski	Gold	Gawrys
—	—	—	1 ♥
2 ♠	2 NT*	3 ♠	4 ♣
Pass	4 ♥	(All Pass)	

*heart raise

In Room 3, West led the club six. East won with the queen and continued with the club ace and five. South ruffed with the spade queen, crossed to dummy's spade nine, and ruffed the last club with the spade eight. After the spade jack to the king and the spade ten, declarer led the heart jack, seven from East . . . king from South, ace, for two down; minus 500.

At the other table, after the spade-ace lead was ruffed, Gawrys followed the same line as Wrang. At the end, he finessed the diamond jack and made 10 tricks: plus 620: 3 imps to POLAND.

In some cultures, it is traditional to praise another at only half his real worth, because any more might be con-

sidered flattery. With that in mind, I observe that Wooldridge did rather well on Board 45:

East dealer
Both sides vulnerable

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

SWEDEN VS. USA2

ROOM 1

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
<i>Wooldridge</i>	<i>Nystrom</i>	<i>Hurd</i>	<i>Upmark</i>
—	—	—	Pass
2 ♦	Pass	2 ♥	Pass
4 ♣*	Pass	4 ♦	Pass
6 ♦	Pass	Pass	Pass

*splinter

West led the spade nine. To succeed without help as the cards lay, South needed to win trick one with the king. He took it with dummy's ace but made the slam anyway. With the club ace over the king, it looks as though declarer must lose a club and a heart, but watch what happened: After diamond king, diamond ace (club nine from West), diamond queen (spade seven from West, heart deuce from dummy), South played a fourth diamond: club

six, heart four, club four. Next came the club three: jack, deuce, seven. A heart switch at this point would have defeated the slam, but West played the spade six: three, queen, king. South led the diamond five: heart three, spade four, spade eight; and these cards remained:

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

Wooldridge continued with the diamond four: spade ten, heart six from dummy, and East was finished. If he threw a club, South could cross to dummy with a heart and play the club ten-ace-ruff, to set up the club king. Given South's four-club splinter, maybe that was East's best move. In practice, he discarded the heart seven. South played heart ace, heart king, and took the last two tricks in the closed hand; plus 1370.

At the other table, Sylvan and Wrang suffered a misunderstanding, bidding one diamond — one heart — two hearts — two notrump — three diamonds — three hearts — pass: 15 imps to *USA2*.

In the other match:

ENGLAND VS. *POLAND*

ROOM 3

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
Robson	Nystrom	Forrester	<i>Kranyak</i>
—	—	—	Pass
1 ♠	Pass	1 ♥	Pass
2 ♠	Pass	3 ♣	Pass
4 ♥	Pass	4 NT	Pass
5 ♣	Pass	5 ♠	Pass
5 ♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

ROOM 4

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
<i>Gawrys</i>	Bakhshi	<i>Klukowski</i>	Gold
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	Pass	1 NT	Pass
2 NT*	Pass	3 ♣†	Pass
3 NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

*diamonds
†encouraging

In Room 4, North took the heart-queen lead and played seven rounds of diamonds. West discarded enough clubs so that declarer could afford to play a club to set up a club trick; plus 690: 1 imp to *POLAND*.

Did you think that the one-diamond opening by two Souths on the previous deal was a little light? If so, you will react similarly to the one-spade openings on Board 46:



East dealer
Neither side vulnerable

NORTH
♠ 5 2
♥ 5 2
♦ A K Q 8 6 5
♣ Q 10 9

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

EAST
♠ K 10 4
♥ Q 7
♦ J 10 3 2
♣ K J 5 4

SOUTH
♠ A J 9 8 7 6
♥ A 8 6
♦ 9 4
♣ 7 3

SWEDEN VS. *USA2*

ROOM 1

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
Nystrom	<i>Hurd</i>	Upmark	<i>Wooldridge</i>
—	—	—	Pass
1 ♠	2 ♥	3 ♠	Pass
3 ♠	Pass	4 ♠	(All Pass)

ROOM 2

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
<i>Wolpert</i>	Sylvan	<i>Fireman</i>	Wrang
—	—	—	Pass
1 ♠	2 ♥	3 ♠	Pass
3 ♠	Pass	4 ♠	(All Pass)

To some, the South hand might look like a regulation weak two-bid. Perhaps the heart holding persuaded both Souths to try a one-bid. In Room 1, Nystrom captured the diamond-seven lead with dummy's ace and played the spade deuce to the nine and queen. He took West's heart-ten exit, cashed the spade ace, pitched a club on the third diamond winner, and lost two spades, two hearts, and one club; minus 100.

In Room 2, Wolpert ducked the heart lead, won the second heart, and played diamond ace, diamond king. West ruffed and cashed the club ace, then played the top heart, ruffed with the spade five and overruffed. East might have cashed the club king, but he played the diamond ten. South pitched the club seven, and West ruffed. South trumped the club return and played the spade ace. He lost six tricks; minus 150: 2 imps to **SWEDEN**. Both Souths could take comfort from the fact that East-West could make four hearts—not that this had been about to happen; three spades would have won each auction.

ENGLAND VS. *POLAND*

ROOM 3

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
<i>Nowosadzki</i>	Forrester	<i>Kalita</i>	Robson
—	—	—	Pass
2 ♠*	2 ♥	2 ♠	2 NT
Pass	3 ♥	Pass	Pass
3 ♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

ROOM 4

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
Bakhshi	<i>Klukowski</i>	Gold	<i>Gawrys</i>
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	1 ♥	2 ♠	Double†
2 ♠	3 ♥	Pass	3 NT
Double	Pass	Pass	Pass

*weak two-bid in a major
 †does not promise four spades

In Room 3, Kalita won the heart lead and ducked a spade to East's ten. Back came the spade four to the ace. Declarer discarded a heart on the third diamond and lost two spades, one heart, and two clubs; minus 50.

In Room 4, Bakhshi took a huge position when he doubled three notrump, and he came up smelling of roses. The odor might have been different if either West or East had run to four hearts, but, then again, real men don't run. Bakhshi led the diamond nine to the queen, and Gold switched to the spade five: ten, jack, queen. Gawrys took four club tricks, finessing en route, and then played the heart king. That was the end of the ball game: South took the ace and played the diamond four. North took the diamond king and diamond ace, then played the spade deuce. South claimed the rest for down four; minus 800: 13 imps to **ENGLAND**.

Board 48 saw an uncommon occurrence, a vulnerable sacrifice against a nonvulnerable game:

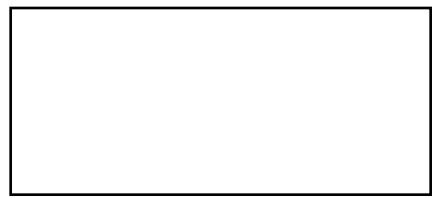
South dealer
 North-South vulnerable

NORTH
 ♠ 9 3
 ♥ 6 3 2
 ♦ K 9 7 3 2
 ♣ A 4 3

WEST
 ♠ K 10 8 5 2
 ♥ 10 5
 ♦ J 6 5 4
 ♣ K J

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

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



SWEDEN VS. *USA2*

ROOM 1

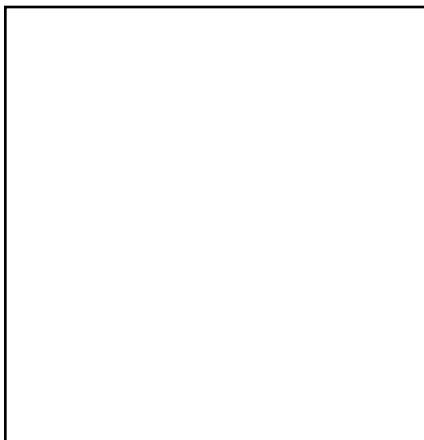
SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
<i>Hurd</i>	<i>Upmark</i>	<i>Wooldridge</i>	<i>Nystrom</i>
1 ♥	Pass	2 ♥	3 ♣
4 ♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

ROOM 2

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
<i>Sylvan</i>	<i>Fireman</i>	<i>Wrang</i>	<i>Wolpert</i>
1 ♥	Pass	2 ♥	Pass
4 ♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

Given the predilection for light openings and lighter overcalls, it is more than a little surprising that neither West ventured one spade, especially at the prevailing vulnerability. Lo and behold, four spades is on for East-West, and so is five clubs, unless South is inspired to lead a low spade. Both Wests led the club king against four hearts, and declarer eventually lost one spade, one heart, and two diamonds, for minus 100: no swing.

The Wests in the other match were not as shy:



ENGLAND VS. *POLAND*

ROOM 3

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
<i>Forrester</i>	<i>Kalita</i>	<i>Robson</i>	<i>Nowosadzki</i>
1 ♥	1 ♠	2 ♥	2 NT*
3 ♦†	3 ♠	4 ♣	Double
4 ♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

ROOM 4

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
<i>Klukowski</i>	Gold	<i>Gawrys</i>	<i>Bakhshi</i>
1 ♥	1 ♠	2 ♥	4 ♠
5 ♥	Pass	Pass	Double
Pass	Pass	Pass	

*spade raise
†game-try lacking defensive strength

In Room 3, Kalita led the club king, and declarer lost the usual four tricks; minus 100.

In Room 4, West led the spade deuce, taken by the queen. The heart king went to the ace, and declarer later lost two diamonds for one off; minus 200: 3imps to ENGLAND. Had South passed four spades, that would almost certainly have been made for 420 and 8imps to ENGLAND. If, instead of four spades, Bakhshi had chosen a fit-showing jump of four clubs, the costly spade lead could have been avoided, and East-West might have scored 500 and notched 9imps.

At the halfway point, it was **SWEDEN** 142, *USA2* 125.7; *POLAND* 99, **ENGLAND** 88.3.

Session Four

Board 50 was most unusual: The four tables played contracts in four different suits. Not one declarer was successful.

East dealer
North-South vulnerable

ROOM 4

NORTH
♠ J 7
♥ A
♦ A K 6 5 2
♣ A 8 6 3 2

WEST
♠ K 3
♥ K Q J 9 6 4
♦ J
♣ K 10 7 5

EAST
♠ Q 9 6
♥ 2
♦ Q 10 9 7 4 3
♣ J 9 4

SOUTH
♠ A 10 8 5 4 2
♥ 10 8 7 5 3
♦ 8
♣ Q

SWEDEN VS. *USA2*

ROOM 1

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
Sylvan	Hurd	Wrang	Wooldridge
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	1 ♥	2 NT	Pass
3 ♣	Pass	Pass	Pass

ROOM 2

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
Kranyak	Nystrom	Demuy	Upmark
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	1 ♥	2 NT	Pass
3 ♣	3 ♥	Double	(All Pass)

ENGLAND VS. *POLAND*

ROOM 3

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
Mazurkiewicz	Forrester	Jassem	Robson
—	—	—	3 ♦
Pass	3 ♥	Pass	Pass
3 ♠	Pass	4 ♠	(All Pass)

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
Jason	Kalita	Justin	Nowosadzki
—	—	—	3 ♦
Pass	Pass	Pass	

In Room 1, Sylvan faced a highly-unenviable choice. He chose the stronger singleton and hoped he would not be doubled. The heart-queen lead was taken by the ace, and South played diamond ace-king, discarding a spade. West ruffed. The heart king was ruffed with the deuce and overruffed. East returned the diamond nine: club queen, overruffed. Are we having fun yet? The upshot (downshot?) was four off; minus 400.

In Room 2, Nystrom expected his partner to be short in clubs, so he figured to have some hearts. With six-four, bid more. Well, not this time. North doubled to show values, and South passed to show his pleasure. It's moments like these you want to hug the opponent who lets you off the hook. The diamond king took trick one, and North switched to the spade jack: six, ace, king. South shifted to the club queen: king, ace. North returned the club six, ruffed. The spade deuce went to the nine, then the heart deuce to the king and ace. Back came the club deuce, and South ruffed again. Two down was the limit of the North-South pleasure; minus 300: 12 imps to *USA2*.

When it comes to preempts at favorable vulnerability, beauty is in the eye of the beholder. Many play that a change of suit after a preempt is forcing, but some do not. In Room 3, Mazurkiewicz thought East-West were on the con, so he balanced with three spades. North had every reason to raise. West led the heart king to the ace. The

spade seven went to the ace, and South ruffed a heart with the spade jack. East overruffed and switched to the club four: queen, king, ace. South ruffed a club and played the spade four. West won and took two heart winners for one down; minus 100.

In Room 4, when Nowosadzki's three diamonds came around, North no doubt wished that penalty doubles of preempts had still been in vogue. South led the club queen: king, ace. North cashed the heart ace and continued with the club three. South ruffed, cashed the spade ace, and exited with the spade eight to the king. Declarer played the heart king, ruffed with the five and overruffed. The diamond three went to the jack and king. East needed to lose another diamond, for two down; minus 100: 5 imps to ENGLAND.

The trend continued on Board 51, where again no declarer was successful:

West dealer
North-South vulnerable

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

SWEDEN VS. USA2

ROOM 1

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
<i>Wooldridge</i>	Sylvan	<i>Hurd</i>	Wrang
—	1 ♣	1 ♥	Pass
2 ♦	Double	2 ♥	Double
?			

ROOM 2

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
<i>Upmark</i>	<i>Kranyak</i>	<i>Nystrom</i>	<i>Demuy</i>
—	1 ♣	1 ♥	Pass
2 ♦	Double	2 ♥	Double
?			

Wooldridge bid three diamonds, Sylvan doubled, and all passed. Upmark passed, but Nystrom ran to three diamonds, pass, pass, double, all pass.

In Room 1, Sylvan led the club king; East overtook and switched to the diamond five: deuce, jack. West cashed the diamond ace and exited with the diamond three. South won, cashed another diamond, and played the spade king. West won, took the club jack, and played the club seven. South won and tried the spade jack. West took the spade queen and the club queen for three down; minus 800.

In Room 2, Kranyak led the club queen. East overtook and switched to the spade five. West took two spades and gave East a spade ruff. East played the diamond five to the king and ace, and West returned the diamond jack. South won, played another diamond, and then led the club ten. West took the club jack and king for three down; minus 800: no swing.

ENGLAND VS. *POLAND*

ROOM 3

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
Robson	<i>Mazurkiewicz</i>	Forrester	<i>Jassem</i>
—	1 NT	2 ♡	Pass
Pass	Double	Pass	Pass
Redouble	Pass	2 ♠	Pass
3 ♦	Pass	Pass	Pass

ROOM 4

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
<i>Nowosadzki</i>	Jason	<i>Kalita</i>	Justin
—	1 NT	2 ♦*	2 ♡
Pass	Pass	Pass	

*one-suiter in a major

In Room 3, Mazurkiewicz led the club king. East overtook and switched to the diamond five: queen, ace. West returned the diamond three: eight, ten, king. South played the diamond nine to the jack. West switched to the heart four: jack, king, diamond deuce. The club nine went to the jack. West cashed the club queen, and the club seven went to South's ten. South played the spade nine, and West took the spade queen and ace for the usual three down, but undoubled here; minus 300.

In Room 4, Nowosadzki led the diamond king to dummy's ace, and declarer tried the heart four. North rose with the ace and returned the diamond eight. South took the queen and switched to the spade jack to the ace. Next came the diamond jack; North discarded the club eight and East his spade loser. The club king was ruffed by North, who played the heart queen, followed by the spade six: club four, king. The diamond-seven lead drew the sevens of the other three suits. (How often have you seen that?) The club six to the jack was ruffed

by North, who played the spade ten: club ace, nine, queen. The club queen came next, ruffed with the heart eight, overruffed by the heart ten. The heart king was declarer's seventh trick, so, despite the six-zero break, the contract was only one down; minus 50: 8 imps to *POLAND*.

On Board 53 (West dealer; East-West vulnerable), everyone was in notrump, and all except one made eight tricks. Tony Forrester found the vital ninth trick.

NORTH
 ♠ 7 5
 ♡ Q 7 6
 ♦ Q 9 7 5 3
 ♣ 7 5 3

WEST
 ♠ 9 6 4 3
 ♡ J 8 4
 ♦ A 6 2
 ♣ J 6 4

EAST
 ♠ K J 10 8
 ♡ K 5 3 2
 ♦ 8 4
 ♣ Q 8 2

SOUTH
 ♠ A Q 2
 ♡ A 10 9
 ♦ K J 10
 ♣ A K 10 9

Where Hurd was South, he opened two notrump, all pass. Where Nystrom was South, he began with a strong club and ended in three notrump. Forrester opened two notrump, raised to three notrump. Kalita opened two notrump and finished in three notrump after an inquiry for a five-card major.

In *USA2* vs. *SWEDEN*, the play proceeded along similar lines at the first two tables named: West led a low spade to the king, ducked. South took the second spade and played the diamond king, ducked, and a second diamond, also ducked. Sooner or later, each declarer played three rounds of clubs. East

won and returned a spade to South, who lost a heart to the queen and king. East played the spade eight to West's nine. West's diamond ace was the fifth trick for the defense. No swing.

In ENGLAND vs. POLAND, Kalita took the first spade and played diamonds; West won the third round. South ducked the next spade, won the third spade, and played the heart nine: jack, queen, king. East returned the spade eight to West's nine, and West exited with a heart. South took two hearts and two clubs, then lost the third club for one down; minus 50.

Forrester ducked the first spade, won the second, and played diamond king—ducked, diamond ten—ducked, club ace, club king, and a third club. East returned a spade to South, leaving:

NORTH
 ♠ —
 ♥ Q 7 6
 ♦ Q 9
 ♣ —

WEST
 ♠ 9
 ♥ J 8 4
 ♦ A
 ♣ —

EAST
 ♠ 10
 ♥ K 5 3 2
 ♦ —
 ♣ —

SOUTH
 ♠ —
 ♥ A 10 9
 ♦ J
 ♣ 10

South played the club ten (heart four, diamond nine, heart three), followed by the diamond jack (ace, queen, spade ten). West cashed the spade nine, drawing the heart six, deuce and nine, then exited with the heart eight: seven, five, ten. The heart ace was South's ninth trick; plus 400: 10 imps to ENGLAND. The key idea was not to touch the hearts. Nicely done.

With neither side vulnerable, North opens one notrump, 15-17 HCP, and South jumps to five diamonds. As West, what would you lead from:

♠ Q 10 9 7 6 2 ♥ A 9 8 3 ♦ 10 9 ♣ K?

This was Board 56:

North dealer
 Neither side vulnerable

NORTH
 ♠ A K J 8
 ♥ K 7 5 4
 ♦ Q 3
 ♣ A 10 8

WEST
 ♠ Q 10 9 7 6 2
 ♥ A 9 8 3
 ♦ 10 9
 ♣ K

EAST
 ♠ 5 4 3
 ♥ Q 10 6
 ♦ A 6
 ♣ Q 7 6 5 2

SOUTH
 ♠ —
 ♥ J 2
 ♦ K J 8 7 5 4 2
 ♣ J 9 4 3

Nystrom opened a strong club, South bid a negative diamond, and, after a little interference, South's two diamonds was passed out. West led the club king, and South took 10 ten tricks; plus 130. At the other table:

SWEDEN vs. USA2

ROOM 1

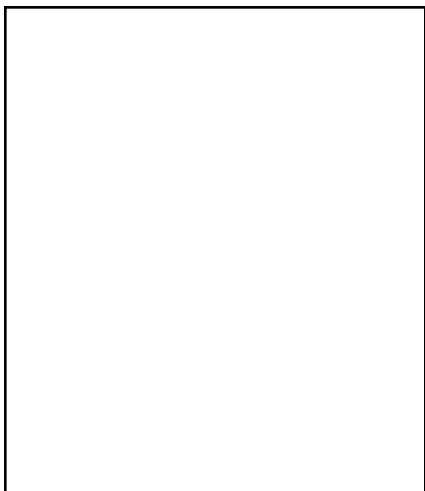
SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
<i>Wooldridge</i>	<i>Sylvan</i>	<i>Hurd</i>	<i>Wrang</i>
—	—	1 ♣	Pass
1 ♦	1 ♠	Pass	2 ♠
4 ♦	Pass	5 ♦	(All Pass)

West led the spade nine (consistent with honor-ten-nine). South finessed the spade jack, and cashed dummy's

spade ace. South's hearts were gone. He ruffed a heart, played a diamond to the queen and ace, won the diamond return, and led a club for 11 tricks; plus 400. 8 imps to **USA2**. The lead of a club, or a diamond, or the heart ace would have defeated five diamonds, but who can blame West for the spade lead?

In the other match, Kalita, North, opened one notrump, and Nowosadzki bid two notrump, showing minors or diamonds. After North bid three clubs, South signed off in three diamonds, then made 10 tricks on the club-king lead. At the other table, Forrester opened one notrump, and Robson jumped to five diamonds, all pass. Mazurkiewicz found the perfect layout for his opening lead when he began with the heart three. South can succeed by going up with dummy's heart king, but that was not about to happen. East's queen won, West took the heart return, and the trump ace was the third trick for the defense; minus 50: 5 imps to **POLAND**.

After 64 deals, **SWEDEN** 163 led **USA2** 158.7; **POLAND** 137 led **ENGLAND** 125.3.



With 30 boards to play in the 2015 Bermuda Bowl semi-finals, **SWEDEN** (Bergdahl, Warne; Nystrom, Upmark; Sylvan, Wrang) had a small lead over **USA2** (Demuy, Kranyak; Fireman, Wolpert; Hurd, Wooldridge), 163-158.7; **POLAND** (Gawrys, Klukowski; Jassem, Mazurkiewicz; Kalita, Nowosadzki) had a mildly larger lead over **ENGLAND** (Bakhshi, Gold; Forrester, Robson; Jason and Justin Hackett), 137-125.3.

Session Five

When play resumed, this was the first deal (Board 65):

West dealer
Neither side vulnerable

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

SWEDEN vs. USA2

ROOM 1

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
<i>Demuy</i>	<i>Warne</i>	<i>Kranyak</i>	<i>Bergdahl</i>
—	Pass	1 ♦	Pass
1 ♥	Pass	2 ♥	Pass
2 NT*	Pass	3 ♥†	Pass
3 NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

ROOM 2

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
<i>Sylvan</i>	<i>Hurd</i>	<i>Wrang</i>	<i>Wooldridge</i>
—	Pass	Pass	1 ♣
Double	1 ♠	2 ♥	(All Pass)

ENGLAND vs. POLAND

ROOM 3

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
<i>Forrester</i>	<i>Kalita</i>	<i>Robson</i>	<i>Nowosadzki</i>
—	Pass	Pass	1 ♣
Double	1 ♥§	Double	Pass
2 ♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

ROOM 4

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
<i>Klukowski</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Gawrys</i>	<i>Bakhshi</i>
—	Pass	Pass	Pass
1 NT	Pass	2 ♣	Pass
2 ♥	Pass	4 ♥	(All Pass)

*relay
 †four hearts; minimum
 §spades

Buoyed by his tens and nines (and the context of a strong-club system), Kranyak opened with the North cards. It is hard to appreciate the new bridge with an old bridge mind. Still, there is nothing wrong with reaching game with a combined 25-count and a fit. In Room 1, West led the spade four: three, ace, five; East switched to the club six to the queen. After the spade jack won, and the spade ten went to the king, declarer played the heart queen: king, ace, for nine tricks; plus 400.

Sylvan and Forrester doubled East's one club where some might choose the riskier one notrump. Robson and Wrang acted conservatively where some might venture three hearts. Ten tricks were

made at each table, so *USA2*, which had made a game on the North-South cards, gained 6 imps.

In Room 4, Klukowski-Gawrys had a rare standard auction, and Gold led the heart deuce: ten, three, five. The heart queen won trick two; then came the heart four: king, ace, spade seven. Had Klukowski gone after spades next, he would have succeeded, but he chose the club finesse. East won and switched to the diamond three, which went to the queen and king. West put the spade four on the table, and declarer needed to divine the position. Since he could discard a spade from hand or dummy, he just needed to pick the locations of the spade honors. East had shown up with the heart king and the club king. If he had the spade ace as well, he might have opened in third seat (as Nowosadzki and Wooldridge in fact had done). Klukowski was inclined to place the spade ace on this left, so up went the spade king for down one; minus 50: 6 imps to ENGLAND.

Board 68 provided a declarer-play problem:

NORTH
 ♠ A K 10 5 4 3
 ♥ K 4
 ♦ A 7
 ♣ J 7 2

SOUTH
 ♠ Q
 ♥ Q 2
 ♦ K Q J 8 6 3
 ♣ A Q 9 4

South plays in six diamonds with no opposition bidding. West leads the heart jack: four, ace, deuce; East returns the heart three, won by the king. How would you plan the play?

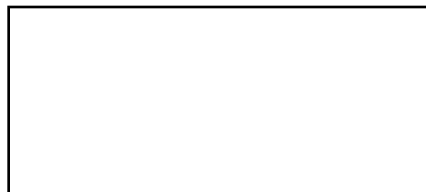
Kranyak ran the club jack at trick three; one down. Robson played the club deuce; one down. The competing line is spade queen, diamond king, diamond to the ace, spade ace, spade king and spade ten. That would have worked, as West held:

♠ 9 7 6 2 ♥ J 10 8 ♦ 9 4 2 ♣ K 10 3.

Now suppose that West had doubled South's four-club control-bid. How does that affect your approach?

Lead-directing doubles have much to answer for. Gawrys and Wrang, warned off the club finesse by the double of four clubs, adopted the spade-discarding line and made the slam, sending 16 imps to *SWEDEN* and *POLAND*. Kranyak might have chosen the winning line when the club jack was not covered. Playing for discards on the spades requires spades to be four-two, the spade jack to fall, and the hand short in spades also to be short in diamonds, not a favorite. Still, if spades turned out to be three-three, the club finesse would still be available, whereas if declarer adopts the club-finesse line and the king is onside, there is still the matter of the third round of clubs. Declarer can draw trumps and play spade ace, spade king, making if the jack drops, else finessing the club nine. The doubles simplified a complex problem. [For more on this deal, see May 2016 issue, page 40.—*Ed.*]

There were three redoubles on Board 73, but only one was left in:



North dealer
East-West vulnerable

ENGLAND VS. *POLAND*

ROOM 3

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

WEST
♠ —
♥ J 6 2
♦ A K J 7 4 2
♣ K 10 7 3

EAST
♠ 10 9 8 5 4 2
♥ A 8 7 3
♦ 9 8 3
♣ —

SOUTH
♠ A K Q 7 6
♥ 10 5
♦ 6 5
♣ Q 6 4 2

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
<i>Nowosadzki</i>	Forrester	<i>Kalita</i>	Robson
—	—	1 ♣	Pass
1 ♠	3 ♦	Pass	4 ♦
Double	Pass	4 ♥	Pass
4 ♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

ROOM 4

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
<i>Bakhshi</i>	<i>Klukowski</i>	Gold	<i>Gawrys</i>
—	—	1 NT ^d	Pass
2 ♥	3 ♦	Pass	Pass
Double	Pass	3 ♥	4 ♦
Pass	Pass	Pass	

^a10-15 HCP; two-plus diamonds

^btakeout

^c14-16 HCP

^dgood 11 to 14 HCP

SWEDEN VS. *USA*²

ROOM 1

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
<i>Bergdahl</i>	<i>Demuy</i>	<i>Warne</i>	<i>Kranyak</i>
—	—	1 ♦ ^a	1 ♠
Pass	2 NT	Pass	3 ♠
Double	Redouble ^b	Pass	4 ♣
Double	Pass	Pass	Redouble
Pass	4 ♦	(All Pass)	

ROOM 2

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
<i>Wooldridge</i>	<i>Sylvan</i>	<i>Hurd</i>	<i>Wrang</i>
—	—	1 NT ^c	Pass
2 ♥	Pass	2 ♠	Pass
3 NT	Double	Pass	Pass
Redouble	Pass	Pass	Pass

Kranyak's Room-1 overcall at unfavorable vulnerability might not attract a majority vote in the Master Solvers' Club, but no damage was done. North led the diamond ten, won by the jack. After club ruff, spade ruff, club ruff, Demuy played dummy's heart three: five, six, nine. He could later pin the heart ten or catch North in a squeeze-endplay; plus 130.

Sylvan's Room-2 double of three notrump was made in the hope driving North-South into four spades, where a bad break awaited. Showing values might encourage East to double four spades. East led the diamond three (third- or fifth-highest). West won with the king and returned the deuce. North, pleasantly surprised to win trick two, took four spades and, with a finesse, two clubs. That was seven tricks, but declarer had no more; minus 600: 10 imps to SWEDEN.

In Room 3, Forrester cashed two diamonds and switched to a heart: king, ace. Single-dummy, four spades might make some days. With the vile breaks in the black suits, this was not one of those days, and South finished three down; minus 150.

In Room 4, Gold led the diamond ten. Klukowski followed Demuy's line card-for-card. At the end, after heart three, five, six, nine, North returned a low heart, ducked to the jack, and West had ten tricks; plus 130: 1 imp to ENGLAND.

With both sides vulnerable, East passes, South opens one spade, West bids four hearts, pass, pass, back to opener. What would you do as South with:

♠ K Q J 5 4 ♥ — ♦ J 10 9 6 ♣ K J 8 5?

This problem arose on Board 77:

East dealer
Both sides vulnerable

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

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

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

SOUTH
♠ K Q J 5 4
♥ —
♦ J 10 9 6
♣ K J 8 5

In Room 1, after the sequence shown above, Kranyak doubled, necessary to protect partner's potential penalty pass. West passed, and North bid four spades,

which East doubled. Kranyak ruffed the heart-ace lead and played the diamond ten: three, deuce, ace. East returned the heart nine, and South pitched a club. West won and continued with the diamond queen to dummy's king. Then, the spade ten: deuce, five, heart three revealed the trump layout. Declarer played the diamond seven to the jack, cashed club ace and king, and exited with a third club. West played a heart, ruffed with dummy's spade nine, for one down; minus 200. Meanwhile:

ROOM 2

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
Wrang	Wooldridge	Sylvan	Hurd
—	—	—	Pass
1 ♠	4 ♥	Double	Pass
4 NT	Pass	5 ♣	Double
Pass	Pass	5 ♠	Double
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Whatever the nature of North's double, you can file it under "Living beyond one's means." The heart-king lead was ruffed, and the spade king was allowed to hold. South led the diamond jack: queen, king, ace, and back came the heart six. South discarded a club, and the heart ace won. West played the diamond three, won by South's ten, and South cashed the diamond nine. After the club king and a club to the ace, declarer played the spade ten, which held, leading to three down; minus 800: 12 imps to *USA2*.

In the other match, after the problem start, Robson doubled and reached four spades doubled as in Room 1, and the play went (pretty much) as in Room 1, for one down; minus 200.

At the other table, Gawrys, South, passed out four hearts; plus 650: 10 imps to ENGLAND.

With only North-South vulnerable, South opens four spades, pass, pass, around to East. What would you do as East with:

♠ A 10 6 ♥ K Q 10 4 2 ♦ A 5 ♣ A 10 8?

Every South opened four spades on Board 79:

South dealer
North-South vulnerable

NORTH
♠ J 7
♥ J 9 3
♦ Q 9 2
♣ K 9 6 5 4

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

EAST
♠ A 10 6
♥ K Q 10 4 2
♦ A 5
♣ A 10 8

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

At both tables of **SWEDEN** vs **USA2**, South's four spades was passed out. On defense, Demuy-Kranyak collected one spade, one heart, and two diamonds; minus 100. Sylvan-Wrang also found the diamond ruff for an additional undertrick; minus 200: 3 imps to **SWE-DEN**.

In the other match, Gawrys, East for **POLAND**, doubled four spades. The defense took its top winners, to score 200. At the other table, Robson, East for **ENGLAND**, also doubled, but this was for takeout. Forrester, West, bid four notrump, suggesting two or three places to play. East bid five hearts. After the spade-queen lead, declarer could draw trumps and concede a club for 12 tricks; plus 480: 7 imps to **ENGLAND**.

A lead-directing double on Board 80 led to both good news and bad news.

East dealer
East-West vulnerable

NORTH
♠ K Q 8 5 3
♥ 10 4
♦ 7 5 4
♣ K 9 6

WEST
♠ 4
♥ Q J 3
♦ Q 10 3 2
♣ A Q J 4 2

EAST
♠ 9 2
♥ K 9 8 6 5 2
♦ —
♣ 10 8 7 5 3

SOUTH
♠ A J 10 7 6
♥ A 7
♦ A K J 9 8 6
♣ —

The small slam in spades is a reasonable spot, but it fails after a heart lead. At three tables, six spades was played by North, twice after South opened one diamond, and once after East opened two hearts and South bid four diamonds, showing diamonds and spades. Each East led a heart, and each result was minus 50. No swing in **SWEDEN** vs **USA2**. At the fourth table:

ENGLAND VS. *POLAND*

ROOM 3

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
<i>Kalita</i>	Robson	<i>Nowosadzki</i>	Forrester
—	—	—	2 ♦ ^a
4 ♦ ^b	Pass	4 ♥ ^c	Pass
4 ♠	Pass	5 ♣ ^d	Double
6 ♦	Pass	6 ♠	Double ^e
Pass	Pass	Pass	

^aweak two-bid in a major with 4-8 HCP or 4-4-4-1 with 17-20 HCP

^bdiamonds and a major

^cpass-or-correct

^dcontrol-bid

^e“ignore my previous double”

The good news was that West led a diamond and East ruffed. The bad news was that after that lead there was no successful defense. East returned a club, ruffed. South could draw trumps, set up the diamonds with a ruff, discard a heart loser from the North hand, and ruff a heart for 12 tricks; plus 1210: 15 imps to *POLAND*.

With 16 boards remaining, *USA2* had taken the lead over *SWEDEN*, 212.7-201; *POLAND* led *ENGLAND*, 182-163.3.

Session Six

On Board 81, every North-South pair reached a respectable four spades, but only two made it:

North dealer
Neither side vulnerable

NORTH
 ♠ K Q 8 3
 ♥ K Q
 ♦ K 10 8 6
 ♣ 8 7 2

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

EAST
 ♠ 7 4 2
 ♥ J 7 6 2
 ♦ J 7 4 2
 ♣ 10 6

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

Klukowski and Kranyak declared from South, Bakhshi and Wrang from North. At three tables, West had over-called in clubs. The play was by and large the same everywhere: Declarer took the club lead and played a spade. West won and continued clubs. Two Easts threw a heart on the third club, one threw the diamond deuce, and one

ruffed. At every table, South learned that West had started with six clubs, one spade and three or four hearts.

Klukowski and Wrang played West for the diamond jack; minus 50. Bakhshi and Kranyak played West for 1=4=2=6, led a low diamond to the king, and ducked on the way back. That meant 10 imps to *USA2* (now ahead by 222-201.7), and to *ENGLAND* (narrowing its deficit to 173.3-182).

Over the next seven boards, *SWEDEN* picked up dribs and drabs to trail by only 216.7-222. *POLAND* did likewise to lead by 193-175. However, over the next two boards, the appearance of the landscape shifted dramatically.

On Board 89, every contract was doubled:

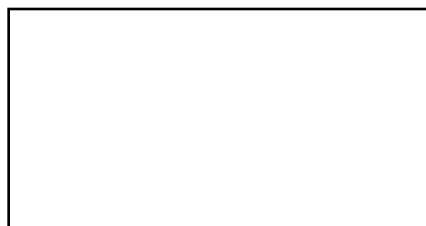
West dealer
North-South vulnerable

NORTH
 ♠ 8 5
 ♥ 8 6 2
 ♦ Q J 9 5 2
 ♣ 7 6 2

WEST
 ♠ K J 9 2
 ♥ 7 4
 ♦ 8 7 3
 ♣ Q 10 9 3

EAST
 ♠ A Q 10 3
 ♥ Q J 5 3
 ♦ A K 10 6 4
 ♣ —

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



SWEDEN VS. USA2

ROOM 1

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
<i>Hurd</i>	<i>Wrang</i>	<i>Wooldridge</i>	<i>Sylvan</i>
—	Pass	Pass	1 ♠
2 ♣	Pass	Pass	Double
Pass	Pass	Pass	

ROOM 2

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
<i>Nystrom</i>	<i>Demuy</i>	<i>Upmark</i>	<i>Kranyak</i>
—	Pass	Pass	1 ♣*
2 ♣	Pass	Pass	Double
Pass	Pass	Pass	

*artificial; strong

Doubling a low-level contract for takeout when holding a void is not attractive, lest partner pass for penalties, but here the East hand looked strong enough to withstand that possibility. As reality proved otherwise, perhaps West should have chosen two spades.

In Room 1, Hurd faced the diamond-three lead: queen, king, club four. Declarer played the spade four, won by the ten; East shifted to the heart three. South took the ace and played another spade. West won with the jack and led a third spade, ruffed in dummy. Next came the heart six: queen, king; then the heart ten to the jack. South lost two spades, two clubs, and one heart; plus 180.

In Room 2, Demuy led the heart seven: deuce, jack, ace. The spade four went to the ten, and East led the heart three. South played the ten and led another spade. East won and continued with the heart five: nine, club three. South lost two spades and two clubs, scoring 380: 5 imps to SWEDEN, narrowing its deficit to 0.3 imps.

There was even more action in the other match:

ENGLAND VS. POLAND

ROOM 3

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
<i>Robson</i>	<i>Gawrys</i>	<i>Forrester</i>	<i>Klukowski</i>
—	Pass	Pass	1 ♠
2 ♣	Pass	Pass	Double
Redouble	2 ♠	Pass	Pass
2 ♥	2 ♠	3 ♣	3 ♥
Double	Pass	Pass	4 ♠
Double	Pass	Pass	Pass

ROOM 4

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
<i>Kalita</i>	<i>Bakhshi</i>	<i>Nowosadzki</i>	Gold
—	Pass	Pass	1 ♠
Double	1 ♠	Pass	4 ♠
4 NT	Pass	5 ♣	Double
Pass	Pass	Pass	

In Room 3, Klukowski's bidding reads as though he was hoping that four spades would be doubled. If so, his wish was granted. North led the heart deuce: three, nine, seven. South played the spade four, won by dummy's (East's) ten. The diamond ace was ruffed, and South played his remaining spade. Then, the heart four went to the jack and ace, and South tried the club ace. Declarer ruffed with dummy's spade ace and played the heart five (ten, spade nine), then continued with the diamond eight, queen, ducked in dummy. When North exited with the club six, declarer discarded dummy's heart queen. South won with the club king, and declarer had the rest of the tricks for two down; minus 300.

In Room 4, Kalita doubled one diamond hoping to duplicate the action that would be taken at the other table. The diamond-king lead was ruffed, the spade four was taken by the king, and West continued with the spade deuce. East won with the queen and played the spade ace. North ruffed and led the diamond jack: ace, club eight. Declarer continued with the heart ace, heart king, and heart nine to the jack. That was three tricks for the defense, and West had two trump tricks to come for three down; minus 800: 15 imps to ENGLAND, now trailing by only 190.3-193.

A gain of 15 imps is quite rare, but not only did one occur on Board 89, there was one *in each match* on Board 90:

South dealer
Both sides vulnerable

NORTH
♠ A K J 10
♥ 10 9 7 4
♦ —
♣ Q J 10 9 4

WEST
♠ 6 4 2
♥ Q J
♦ K J 10 5 4 2
♣ 7 3

EAST
♠ 9 8 3
♥ A K 3 2
♦ 9 8 6 3
♣ K 8

SOUTH
♠ Q 7 5
♥ 8 6 5
♦ A Q 7
♣ A 6 5 2

SWEDEN VS. USA2

ROOM 1

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
<i>Wooldridge</i>	Sylvan	<i>Hurd</i>	Wrang
1 ♣	Pass	1 ♥	Pass
1 NT	Pass	2 ♦*	Pass
2 ♥	Pass	2 ♠	Pass
2 NT	Pass	3 ♣	Pass
3 ♦	Pass	5 ♣	Double
Pass	Pass	Pass	

ROOM 2

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
<i>Upmark</i>	<i>Kranyak</i>	<i>Nystrom</i>	<i>Demuy</i>
1 ♦†	Pass	1 ♥	Pass
1 NT	Pass	3 ♠	Pass
3 NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

ENGLAND VS. POLAND

ROOM 3

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
Forrester	<i>Klukowski</i>	Robson	<i>Gawryś</i>
1 ♣	Pass	1 NT§	Pass
2 ♣	Pass	2 ♠	Pass
3 ♣	Pass	3 ♥	Pass
3 NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

ROOM 4

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
<i>Nowosadzki</i>	Gold	<i>Kalita</i>	Bakhshi
1 ♣	Pass	1 ♥	Pass
1 NT	Pass	2 ♦*	Pass
2 ♥	Pass	3 ♣	Pass
3 NT	Pass	5 ♣	Double
Pass	Pass	Pass	

*artificial game-force

†10-15 HCP; two-plus diamonds

§clubs; game-force

In Room 1, it looks as though Wooldridge needed to bid three notrump over three clubs; three diamonds sounded like doubt as to strain. West led the heart queen, then the heart jack, overtaken by the king. East cashed the heart ace and played a fourth heart. South ruffed with the ace and played a trump. The club king was the fourth trick for the defense; minus 500.

In Room 2, Upmark received a diamond lead to the queen. After a spade to the ace, a club finesse, and another club, he had ten tricks (dummy had been squeezed out of a black card at trick one); plus 630, 15 imps to **SWEDEN**, bursting into the lead at 236.7-222.

In Room 3, three notrump was wrongsided for **ENGLAND**. East led the diamond eight: queen, king. Back came the diamond deuce: heart nine, nine, ace. Robson crossed to the spade five and led the club queen, eight . . . It was feast or famine depending on the location of the club king. Result: plus 600.

In Room 4, Nowosadzki indicated stoppers in spades and diamonds for the three-notrump rebid, but how strong were his diamonds? North could not tell and decided that five clubs would be a safer spot. Had Kalita bid two spades over two hearts, then three clubs over two notrump, he could have trusted South's three-notrump continuation. The play went as in Room 1; minus 500: 15 imps to **ENGLAND**, which led by 205.3-193.

With neither side vulnerable, RHO opens one club, LHO responds one spade, partner doubles, and the dealer passes. What would you do with:

♠ 10 9 7 6 5 3 ♥ 9 6 3 ♦ 10 ♣ Q 10 7?

USA2 and *POLAND* retrieved significant ground on Board 91:

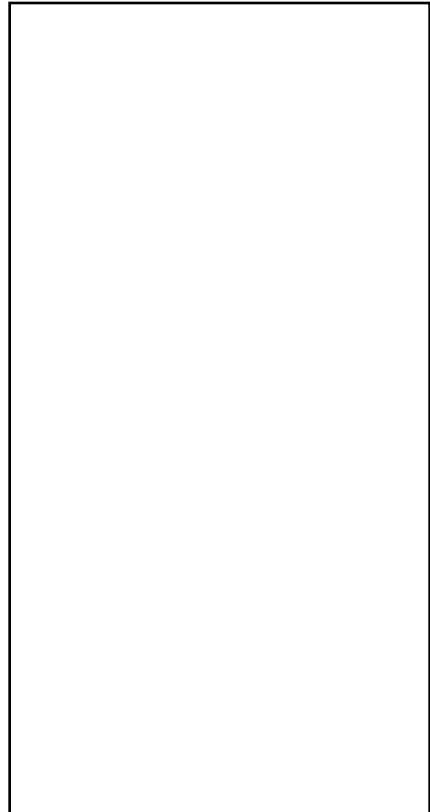
East dealer
Neither side vulnerable

NORTH
♠ K
♥ Q J 10 5
♦ K Q 8 7
♣ K 8 4 2

WEST
♠ A Q J 2
♥ K 4
♦ 9 5 4 3
♣ J 5 3

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

SOUTH
♠ 10 9 7 6 5 3
♥ 9 6 3
♦ 10
♣ Q 10 7



SWEDEN VS. *USA2*

ROOM 1

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
<i>Hurd</i>	<i>Wrang</i>	<i>Wooldridge</i>	<i>Sylvan</i>
—	—	—	1 ♣
Pass	1 ♥*	Double	Pass
Pass	1 NT	(All Pass)	

ROOM 2

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
<i>Nystrom</i>	<i>Demuy</i>	<i>Upmark</i>	<i>Kranyak</i>
—	—	—	1 ◇
Pass	1 ♠	Double	Pass
2 ♣	Double	Pass	Pass
2 ♥	Pass	Pass	Double
Pass	Pass	Pass	

ENGLAND VS. *POLAND*

ROOM 3

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
<i>Robson</i>	<i>Gawrys</i>	<i>Forrester</i>	<i>Klukowski</i>
—	—	—	1 ♣
Pass	1 ♠	Double	(All Pass)

ROOM 4

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
<i>Kalita</i>	<i>Bakhshi</i>	<i>Nowosadzki</i>	Gold
—	—	—	1 NT
Pass	2 ♣ [†]	Pass	2 ◇
Pass	2 ♠ [§]	Pass	2 NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

*spades

[†]marionette to two diamonds

[§]invitational

In Room 1, Wrang received the heart-jack lead. He took dummy's ace and played the diamond deuce to South's ten. Back came the heart six to the king. After diamond four-seven-jack, the

spade four went to the queen and king. Declarer had two spades, two hearts, two diamonds, and the club ace; plus 90.

In Room 2, Nystrom had a most-unhappy time. The defense began with heart king, heart to the ace, and a third heart. Declarer won, drew the missing trump, and finessed the club ten. West won and switched to the diamond four: seven, jack; East played the spade four to the ace. West collected two more spade tricks, then led the diamond three to the king and ace. East cashed the club ace, and declarer had the last two tricks, for down four; minus, 800: 12 imps to *USA2*, now trailing by only 234-236.7.

You might not like passing one spade doubled with South's modest trumps, but Robson's Room-3 outcome was better than Nystrom's. North led the spade king, a normal start, though it gave declarer a trick he might have lost. After diamond four-queen-ace, declarer played heart king, heart ace, and a heart ruff with the deuce; he took four spade tricks, two hearts, and the minor-suit aces for plus 260.

In Room 4, Gold received the heart-six lead: four, ten, ace. He lost the spade finesse, won the heart return, and played the diamond three: seven, jack, ten. Declarer could have cashed out for seven tricks, but he played off his spade winners, followed by the club three to the king and ace, then the club six, won by the club queen. The defense took the rest of the tricks in the major suits for two down; minus 100: 8 imps to *POLAND*, narrowing ENGLAND's lead to 201-205.3.

Board 92 was a no-swing, a partial going off at both tables in one match and succeeding at both tables in the other. With only a tiny difference in

each match and four boards to go, each team's supporters had no fingernails left.

Board 93 sounded the death knell for **USA2** (both sides vulnerable):

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

<i>Hurd</i>	<i>Wooldridge</i>
—	Pass
2 ♣	2 ♦
2 NT	3 NT
Pass	

This board was flat at six diamonds plus 1370 in **ENGLAND** vs. **POLAND**. **SWEDEN** also made the diamond slam, but where the bidding went as shown, and North led the heart jack (from jack-ten-seven-three) rather than a club (from king-nine-four-deuce), making 13 tricks for 720 was little consolation for the missed slam: 12 imps to **SWE-DEN**, now ahead by 248.7-234.

Board 94 was pushed in three no-trump making three at all four tables, and Board 95 was flat in two spades making three at all four tables. On Board 96, no more than a partial was available, which offered no chance for **USA2** to recover. The other match was still undecided.

East passes, and South opens one notrump, 15-17 HCP. At unfavorable vulnerability, what would you do as West with:

♠ K Q 8 ♥ 9 ♦ 10 7 6 ♣ A K J 8 4 3?

Last board:

East dealer
East-West vulnerable

NORTH
♠ A 10 5 3 2
♥ 7 6 5 3
♦ 5 4 2
♣ 10

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

SOUTH
♠ 9 4
♥ K Q 10 2
♦ A Q J 9 8
♣ Q 2

SWEDEN VS. USA2

ROOM 1

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
<i>Wrang</i>	<i>Wooldridge</i>	Sylvan	<i>Hurd</i>
—	—	—	Pass
1 ♦	2 ♣	Double	2 ♦
2 ♥	Double	Pass	2 NT
Pass	3 ♣	(All Pass)	

ROOM 2

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
<i>Demuy</i>	<i>Upmark</i>	<i>Kranyak</i>	<i>Nystrom</i>
—	—	—	Pass
1 NT*	Pass	2 ♣	Pass
2 ♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

*good 13 to 16 HCP

In Room 1, Wooldridge doubled to show values, then showed that the invitation was for a club game. After the diamond-deuce lead, the defense took two diamonds and the spade ace; plus 130.

In Room 2, Demuy, too weak for a reverse, chose a slightly offshape

one notrump (rather than bidding one diamond and possibly rebidding two diamonds). The vulnerability favored bidding one notrump. West led the club ace and switched to the diamond six: king, ace. The heart king lost to the ace, and East played the diamond three to the queen. South ruffed the club queen, finessed the heart ten, cashed the heart queen, and ran diamonds; plus 140: 7 imps to **USA2**. **SWEDEN** had won an enthralling match by 248.7-241.

ENGLAND VS. *POLAND*

ROOM 3

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
Bakhshi	<i>Nowosadzki</i>	Gold	<i>Kalita</i>
—	—	—	Pass
1 ♠	2 ♣	Double	Redouble
2 ♥	3 ♣	(All Pass)	

The diamond deuce was led to the king and ace. The defense took the spade ace and another diamond, but declarer had 10 tricks; plus 130.

With ENGLAND up a few imps, all eyes focused on the other table:

ROOM 4

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
<i>Gawrys</i>	Forrester	<i>Klukowski</i>	Robson
—	—	—	Pass
1 NT	Pass	2 ♥	Pass
2 ♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

The vulnerability and a passed-hand partner made it too rich for Forrester to enter the auction. He led the club ace. A second club might have made things tough for declarer, but West switched to the diamond six: king, ace. South ducked a spade, won the diamond return, crossed to the spade ace, and, leav-

ing two trumps at large, played safely with the heart three to the king, followed by the diamond jack. East ruffed and played the heart ace, and declarer claimed eight tricks; plus 110: 6 imps to *POLAND*, which had snatched a win by 1.7 imps on the last deal: 207-205.3.

In the Round of 16 at the 2014 Rosenblum, Gawrys had made four spades on the last board to win a match. In the 2015 Bermuda Bowl, he made two spades to win a semifinal on the last board.

The audience needed time to catch its collective breath after these hairs-breadths. It would be **SWEDEN** vs. *POLAND* in the final.

Our report on the final appears beginning in the August 2016 issue of The Bridge World.