



Bulletin I
7 June 2013

Bulletin Editor: Mark Horton, Layout Editor: Christine Law
Photographer: Pin Yuen Wai

The Road to Bali



The Delegates to the 49th APBF Championships

For those players who are talented and dedicated enough to achieve the distinction of representing their countries the ultimate ambition must be to compete at the very highest level in the World Bridge Championships.

That is the glittering prize that will reward the successful squads here in Hong Kong, as play gets under way today in the 49th APBF Championships. What greater incentive could there be than the right to contest the 41st Bermuda Bowl, the 19th Venice Cup and the 7th d'Orsi Seniors Trophy in one of the most exotic locations in the world, the Island of Bali.

While you are matching your wits in Hong Kong, other qualification tournaments are being contested in Ahmedabad, India and Orlando, USA. I'll keep you posted as to who your potential opposition will be!

Today's VuGraph Matches













14:00 China Hong Kong v Indonesia(Open)
16:40 China Evertrust v China HK - Tse(Senior)

In this issue











Rebullida Cup Open Team	1
DBS Bank Ladies Team	1
J.P. Morgan Senior Team	2
Today's Programme	3
Championship Diary	3
Xiashun APBF Open Pairs	4
Appeals Committee	4
Retrospectively Speaking	5
Advanced Ducking Plays	7
Side Events Information	10
Acknowledgements	11







Rebullida Cup Open Team

Round Number: 1		
Table	Home	Visiting
1	1  New Zealand	12  Philippines
2	2  Chinese Taipei	11  Japan
3	3  China	10  Singapore
4	4  Malaysia	9  China Macau
5	5  China Hong Kong	8  Indonesia
6	6  Australia	7  Thailand

Round Number: 2		
Table	Home	Visiting
1	11  Japan	1  New Zealand
2	10  Singapore	2  Chinese Taipei
3	9  China Macau	3  China
4	8  Indonesia	4  Malaysia
5	7  Thailand	5  China Hong Kong
6	12  Philippines	6  Australia

DBS Bank Ladies Team (President's Cup)

Round Number: 1		
Table	Home	Visiting
1	2  Singapore	11  Thailand
2	3  Australia	10  Chinese Taipei
3	4  New Zealand	9  China Hong Kong
4	5  Philippines	8  Korea
5	6  Indonesia	7  Japan

















Round Number: 2		
Table	Home	Visiting
1	11  Thailand	1  China
2	10  Chinese Taipei	2  Singapore
3	9  China Hong Kong	3  Australia
4	8  Korea	4  New Zealand
5	7  Japan	5  Philippines

J.P. Morgan Senior Team (PABF Senior Cup)

Round Number: 1

Table	Home	Visiting
1	 Chinese Taipei	16  Japan - Yamada
2	 Indonesia	15  Japan - Sindbad
3	 New Zealand - NZ Evennett	14  Japan - IMAX
4	 Thailand - Magic Eyses	13  Australia - Australia
5	 Thailand I	12  Australia - Klinger
6	 China Hong Kong - Winbridge	11  Australia - Lusk
7	 China Hong Kong - Tse	10  Singapore
8	 China Hong Kong - Vincent Li	9  China - China Evertrust

Round Number: 2

Table	Home	Visiting
1	15  Japan - Sindbad	1  Chinese Taipei
2	14  Japan - IMAX	2  Indonesia
3	13  Australia - Australia	3  New Zealand - NZ Evennett
4	12  Australia - Klinger	4  Thailand - Magic Eyses
5	11  Australia - Lusk	5  Thailand I
6	10  Singapore	6  China Hong Kong - Winbridge
7	9  China - China Evertrust	7  China Hong Kong - Tse
8	16  Japan - Yamada	8  China Hong Kong - Vincent Li

Important News from the Delegates Meeting

The Senior Team play-off format for Zone 6 has changed, as all the teams from the Zone are eligible to qualify for the World Championships. Full details will be announced at today's Captain's meeting.

The 2014 Asia Cup will most likely be held in China.

The 50th APBF Championships and 20th APBF Youth Championships in 2015 will be in Bangkok, Thailand.

Today's Programme

09:30-10:30	Captains' Meeting
10:30-11:00	Delegates Meeting 2
11:15-11:40	Participants Photo Session
11:45-13:30	Opening Ceremony & Welcome Luncheon
14:00-16:15	RR1-1 (Open, Ladies, Senior)
16:45-19:00	RR1-2 (Open, Ladies, Senior)
20:00-23:30	World Wide Bridge Contest



Five Presidents who have changed the face of bridge: Bobby Wolff, Jimmy Ortiz-Patiño, Gianarrigo Rona, Ernesto d'Orsi and José Damiani.

Championship Diary

If you want to take a look at the fantastic location for the 2013 World Bridge Championships, you can go to:

<http://www.baliconventioncenter.com/>

That should be all the incentive you need, but even if you fail to qualify here in Hong Kong, you can still compete in the World Championships by contesting the World Transnational Open Teams Championship.

To find out more simply pay a visit to:

<http://worldbridge.org/bali-transnational-teams.aspx>

That url is part of the new look World Bridge Federation web site:

<http://worldbridge.org/>

WBF President Gianarrigo Rona is already here for the Championships.

Meanwhile, these are not the only qualification events for Bali taking place at the moment.

The United States Bridge Federation are currently holding their trials to select their Bermuda Bowl representatives. They have reached the semi final stage and at the half way point (60 deals) Fleisher trails Spector 104-125 while Kranyak holds a substantial lead over Nickell, 169-90. For more information visit:

<http://usbf.org>

Xiashun APBF Open Pairs Arrangements

The Xiashun APBF Open Pairs is an open event. According to APBF regulations, **participants and non-playing captains of the team events are admitted at no charge.** It will be divided into 2 qualifying and 2 final rounds. The 2-session consolation rounds will be in a Swiss pair's format.

The capacity for the qualifying round will be 140 pairs. We are reserving 66 pairs for the participants of the main events. Vacancies will be released on 14 June 2013 at 19:00. Pre-registration at the Championships Office (Forum II, B2) will be necessary for both participants of the main events and for all other players.

We will be updating the available vacancies on the championship website.

Xiashun APBF Open Pairs Qualifying (HK\$800 per pair)

(15 June at 12:00, Regal Ballroom B1 and Forum I B2)

The qualifying round will consist of 2 sessions, with 31 pairs going to the final. Together with the sponsor pair, this will be a 16-table final.

Xiashun APBF Open Pairs Final (Fees included in the qualifying round)

(16 June at 09:30, Forum I, B2)

This will be a 16-table event, run in barometer-style. All tables will be playing the same boards at the same time. Each pair will meet every other pair. In addition to the prizes, the winning pair will get HK\$2,000, 2nd HK\$1,000, 3rd HK\$700, 4th HK\$500.

Xiashun APBF Swiss Pairs (Fees included in the qualifying round)

(16 June at 09:30, Regal Ballroom and Monaco II, B1)

15 rounds of 3 boards each will be played, scored in match points. The match up of the 1st round will be determined by the qualifying round ranking. Subsequent match up will be generated by the computer. In addition to the prizes, the winning pair will get HK\$500, 2nd HK\$300, 3rd HK\$200.

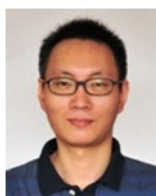
Registration Deadline

Pre-registration is necessary until the maximum capacity is reached. Vacancies will be accepted up to 10 minutes prior to the official starting time. Please register at the Reception, Forum II, B2, or email to apbf2013@hkcba.org.

Appeals Committee



Chair
Derek Zen
(China Hong Kong)



Chen Gang
(China)



John McIlrath
(Australia)



Members
Ayako Miyakuni
(Japan)



Alan Turner
(New Zealand)



Ferdinand Waluyan
(Indonesia)

Retrospectively Speaking

Malaysia played host to the 48th PABF Championships, China scoring a notable double by winning both the Open and the Ladies teams. Indonesia, who will host this year's World Championships in Bali, took the Senior team title.

Here are some of the best deals from the 2011 Championships:

A visit to the Dentist

Dealer West
None Vul

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

It was not uncommon for NS to reach 5♥ and declarer had to be careful when West kicked off with the ace and another club. A losing heart finesse would allow the defenders to cash a second club, so declarer clearly does best to play a spade to hand and ruff a club. Now declarer needs to avoid a small trap. Suppose top spade is cashed and a third spade is ruffed high and followed by the jack of hearts. West wins and plays a diamond, locking declarer in dummy and ensuring a trick for the eight of hearts. Declarer can easily avoid this grizzly fate by cashing two top diamonds, extracting West's exit cards, executing the so called Dentist's Coup.

From the Commentator's Chair

Patrick Huang is one of the best VuGraph commentators, not least because of his ability to spot the way to bring home an awkward contract. On this deal he demonstrated that he does not just talk a good game:

Dealer South
NS Vul

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

Open Room

	West	North	East	South
	Kazuo	Sidney	Hiroshi	Huang
				INT
	Pass	2♣*	Pass	2♦*
	Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT
	All Pass			

West led the three of spades and declarer won with the ten and played a diamond to the two, queen and king. He won the spade return with the ace and ran the nine of hearts. When it held he cashed the ace and jack of diamonds, West, already in trouble, discarding the king of spades. Now declarer played a club to the seven, jack and king and when East cashed the ten of diamonds West and dummy threw a spade.

If East now exits with a club declarer goes up with the ace, plays a heart to the ten, cashes the ace of hearts and exits with a club, forcing East to surrender the last trick to South.

So East tried a heart for the jack and queen. This was the position:

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

Now declarer had a choice of winning lines. He could play a club to the ace and exit with a spade, endplaying West, or, more pro-saically, cash the ace of hearts and then play a club to the ace and a club, forcing East to supply the ninth trick. It was worth 12 IMPs.



The Spider and the Fly

The Spider and the Fly is a poem by Mary Howitt published in 1829. The first line of the poem is 'Will you walk into my parlour?' said the Spider to the Fly. The story tells of a cunning Spider who ensnares a naive Fly through the use of seduction and flattery. I doubt you will catch out many players by flattery at the table, but it is certainly possible to spin a web of deceit, as witness this deal where Makoto Hirata played the role of spider to Bobby Richman's fly:

Dealer West
NS Vul

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

Bobby Richmond played 3NT from the North hand and he won the club lead in dummy and ran the nine of hearts. Makoto Hirata won with the ace and cleared the clubs. When the unsuspecting declarer repeated the finesse East could enjoy his club tricks. Declarer might have wondered why East had not kept communication in clubs, but I suspect we would all have been ensnared in this particular web.

The Road to Bali

Indonesia will play host to the Bermuda Bowl, Venice Cup and d'Orsi Seniors Bowl in Bali later this year and they will be hoping for great things from all their teams.

This deal from the Senior event caught my eye:

Dealer North
Both Vul

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

The contract at both tables was 3NT by North.

In the Closed Room, Kyoko Ohno led the ten of spades to the jack and king which was allowed to hold. The spade return went to East's queen and he took the opportunity to switch to a heart. When he came in with the king of diamonds he played another heart and declarer finished two down, -200.

In the other room East led the nine of spades but this time North won immediately, crossed to the jack of clubs and played a diamond to the jack. East could win, but a heart switch is now too slow and declarer was soon claiming +600 and 13 IMPs.

The ten (or nine) has long been held to be the textbook lead from this type of interior sequence, but there is a lot to be said for preferring the five. You are playing partner for something good in the suit and the nine or ten might be too precious to waste. Here leading the five gives declarer no chance of success.

Dangerous Discards

You all know the feeling - declarer is cashing a long suit and you have to make some discards. How best to help partner while not surrendering vital information to declarer?

Dealer East
None Vul

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

Defending against North's 7NT East leads the two of hearts for the four, ten and ace. Now declarer plays five rounds of clubs, throwing both of dummy's hearts. How should East discard?

The obvious thing to throw at trick four is a spade, but it is not without risk. Patrick Jourdain pointed out that a defender is very likely to make an early discard from a five card suit and if declarer were to draw that inference here it would not be impossible to place West with the diamond length, leading declarer to finesse.

Probably the best way to discard is to part with two hearts and then a spade.

Whatever you make of it either of these is certainly superior to the choice East made at the table - parting with two small diamonds did not overtax the declarer!

Side Events Information

Worldwide Bridge Contest (HK\$200 per pair)

(7 June 2013 20:00, Regal Ballroom B1 and Forum I B2)

Results of the Hong Kong segment will be sent to WBF for combining with the other centres to determine the overall winner. We will provide prizes for the local segment winner. In addition, the winning pair will get HK\$500, 1st runner-up HK\$300 and 2nd runner-up HK\$200.

Feishang IMP Pairs (HK\$200 per pair)

(8 June 2013 19:45, Regal Ballroom B1 and Forum I B2)

This will be a I-winner event. Total IMP scoring will be used. The maximum spread per comparison is 17 IMPs. In addition to the prizes, the winning pair will get HK\$500, 1st runner-up HK\$300 and 2nd runner-up HK\$200.

Speedball Pairs (HK\$200 per pair)

(9 June 2013 20:00, Regal Ballroom B1 and Forum I B2)

This will be a I-winner event, scored in match points. Players will be given 5 minutes to finish a board to start, with the time gradually reduced. In addition to the prizes, the winning pair will get HK\$500, 1st runner-up HK\$300 and 2nd runner-up HK\$200. The winning pair will also receive 2 buffet dinner coupons, courtesy of Regal Hongkong Hotel.

Recruit Hong Kong Mixed Pairs (HK\$200 per pair)

(11 June 2013 19:45, Regal Ballroom B1 and Forum I B2)

This will be a I-winner event, scored in match points. In addition to the prizes, the winning pair will get HK\$500, 1st runner-up HK\$300 and 2nd runner-up HK\$200. The winning pair will also receive 2 deluxe dinner coupons for 2, courtesy of COVA.

Dragon Boat Pairs (HK\$200 per pair)

(12 June at 19:45, Regal Ballroom B1 and Forum I B2)

This will be conducted in 2 sessions. The 1st session will be a speedball where you will be given only 5 minutes or less to complete a board!! Pairs will then be divided into 3 to 4 sections for the 2nd session based on the ranking of the 1st session.

Pairs in each section will only play amongst themselves but the scores will be combined for match pointing. In addition to the prizes, the winner, 1st runner-up, 2nd runner-up will receive HK\$500, HK\$300 and HK\$200 respectively. The pairs who come 5th within each section will also receive the “double 5th” award and a special cash prize of HK\$500. The winning pair will receive 2 dinner coupons, courtesy of Regal Hongkong Hotel.

San Miguel “Happy Hour” Continuous Pairs (HK\$200 per pair)

(14 June at 19:30, Regal Ballroom and Monaco II & III, B1)

This event will be restricted to players 18 years of age or above. San Miguel beer will be provided to all participants free of charge. 5 segments of 6 boards each will be played, scored in match points. Each segment winner, 1st runners-up, 2nd runners-up will receive cash prizes of HK\$300, HK\$200 and HK\$100 respectively. The best 4 scores (out of 5) will be chosen to determine the winner. There will also be a “fastest drinker” competition during the event.

Overall Side Game Winner

“Ranking Points” will be given to each player in the Worldwide Bridge Contest, Feishang IMP Pairs, Speedball Pairs, Recruit Hong Kong Mixed Pairs, Dragon Boat Pairs and San Miguel “Happy Hours” Continuous Pairs, depending on the finishing position. The player with the highest accumulated ranking points will be the overall winner. In addition to the prizes, the winner, 1st runner-up, 2nd runner-up, 3rd runner-up will receive HK\$1,500, HK\$800, HK\$600 and HK\$400 respectively.

Registration Deadline

Pre-registration will be required for all events until the maximum capacity of 60 tables is reached. Vacancies will be announced on the website and these will be accepted up to 10 minutes prior to the official starting time.

Please register at the Reception, Forum II, B2 or by email to apbf2013@hkcbfa.org.

Advanced Ducking Plays Tim Bourke

The technique of ducking a trick into the safe hand is something we all learnt in the bridge cradle. With A10xx opposite K9xx, for example, you choose whether to play to the 10 or the 9 according to which defender is dangerous. In this article we will look at some more advanced ducking plays. The aim will be the same – to prevent the dangerous defender from gaining the lead.

Try this one for starters:

Dealer South
E/W Game

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

West North East South

1♥

Pass 4♦* Pass 4♥

All Pass

How will you play heart game when West leads the queen of diamonds to dummy's ace?

If you can force the defenders to play the spades for you, there will be only one loser in the suit. You should aim to eliminate the red suits and exit with a third round of clubs. Suppose you cross to a trump at Trick 2, ruff your remaining diamond and play ace and another club. When the cards lie as in the diagram, East can win the second club with the jack, play a spade to the queen, win the third club with the king and send another spade through. That will be one down.

To prevent East from gaining the lead twice in clubs, you must use an avoidance play. You lead the first club from dummy, intending to play the ♣10. If West (the safe hand, who cannot attack spades effectively) wins and returns a club, you will win with the ace and exit in clubs, forcing the defenders to play spades or concede a ruff-and-discard.

What if East plays the ♣J on the first round? You will win with the ♣A, cross to a trump and lead towards your ♣10. If East plays low on the second round, you will play the ♣10 to duck the trick into the safe hand. Suppose instead that East rises with the ♣K and switches to a spade, West winning with the ♠Q. West will be endplayed. He can cash the ♣Q but must then lead into your spade tenace. The contract is safe unless East happens to hold all three missing club honours.

On the next deal it is West who must be kept off lead.

Dealer West
Love all

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

West North East South

1♥ 2♦ Pass 2♠

Pass 3♣ Pass 3NT

All Pass

West leads the ♥K, persisting with the suit, and you win with the ♥A on the third round. There are eight top tricks and you must aim to develop a ninth from one of the minor suits. This must be done without allowing West (the danger hand) on lead. What is your plan?

Looking for a 3-3 break in the club suit can wait. The first priority is to seek an extra trick from the diamonds. If the suit breaks 3-3, two extra tricks will drop into your lap. Life will also be easy when East holds four diamonds, since you can concede a fourth round to the safe hand. The key case is when West holds four diamonds. In that case you must aim to duck an early diamond trick to East.

At Trick 4, you lead the ♦10 with the intention of running the card to East. Let's suppose that West thwarts you temporarily by covering with the ♦J. You win the trick in dummy and return to your hand with the ♣K. You then lead the ♦4 towards dummy. West cannot afford to rise with the ♦9 or you will make all five diamond tricks. He plays low and you cover with dummy's ♦7, ducking the trick into the safe hand. East wins with the ♦8 and the contract is secure. What is more, you will be spared the annoyance of finding that clubs were 3-3 all along!

On the next deal it is West who must be kept off lead.

Dealer West
Love all

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

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

West leads the ♥K, persisting with the suit, and you win with the ♥A on the third round. There are eight top tricks and you must aim to develop a ninth from one of the minor suits. This must be done without allowing West (the danger hand) on lead. What is your plan?

Looking for a 3-3 break in the club suit can wait. The first priority is to seek an extra trick from the diamonds. If the suit breaks 3-3, two extra tricks will drop into your lap. Life will also be easy when East holds four diamonds, since you can concede a fourth round to the safe hand. The key case is when West holds four diamonds. In that case you must aim to duck an early diamond trick to East.

At Trick 4, you lead the ♦10 with the intention of running the card to East. Let's suppose that West thwarts you temporarily by covering with the ♦J. You win the trick in dummy and return to your hand with the ♣K. You then lead the ♦4 towards dummy. West cannot afford to rise with the ♦9 or you will make all five diamond tricks. He plays low and you cover with dummy's ♦7, ducking the trick into the safe hand. East wins with the ♦8 and the contract is secure. What is more, you will be spared the annoyance of finding that clubs were 3-3 all along!

If you simply play ace, king and another diamond, you will succeed only when East holds three of the five outstanding diamonds. A better idea is to lead twice towards the dummy, planning to duck if the lowest missing diamond (the ♦7) appears from West. At Trick 2 you lead a low diamond from your hand. If West plays the ♦7 you will duck in the dummy, knowing that East (the safe hand) will have to overtake. It makes no difference what East returns. When diamonds break 3-2, you will score four tricks in the suit and claim the contract.

Suppose instead that West inserts the ♦10 on the first round. You will win with dummy's ♦A and return to your hand with a club (or a heart) to lead another diamond. This time West has to play the ♦7 or you will make all five diamond tricks. You duck in the dummy and East has to overtake with his remaining card. Nine tricks once again.

The next deal features elimination play. You need to throw one particular defender on lead with the third round of a suit. How can it be done?

Dealer South
N/S Game

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

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

West leads the ♦Q against your spade game and you must somehow avoid the loss of three hearts and one club. There is no law against East holding the ♥A but you have a niggling feeling – with the deal being in *Bridge Magazine* – that West may hold that card. What can you do about it?

You win the diamond lead with the ace and draw trumps with the ace and king. You then lead the ♣Q from dummy. East plays low and you run the queen successfully. What now? If you continue with ace and another club, East will win the third round and a switch to the ♥Q will sink you. Since you hope to throw West on lead on the third round of clubs, you should play the ♣J next. East has to cover with the ♣K and you win with the ♣A. You cross to the ♦K and ruff a diamond in your hand, eliminating that suit. When you exit with the ♣8, West has to win! A minor-suit return will give you a ruff-and-discard and a heart return will allow you to make the ♥K. Your fancy play in the club suit has given you the contract. If your partner was too dozy to notice it, perhaps you should point it out to him!

The fact that one defender is dangerous will often affect how you develop tricks in a suit. Take a look at the club suit on this deal:

Dealer South
Game All

♠ 6 ♥ KJ973 ♦ J1092 ♣ K106	♠ K742 ♥ 84 ♦ K75 ♣ AJ83	♠ QJ1085 ♥ Q106 ♦ 643 ♣ 95
♠ A93 ♥ A52 ♦ AQ8 ♣ Q742		

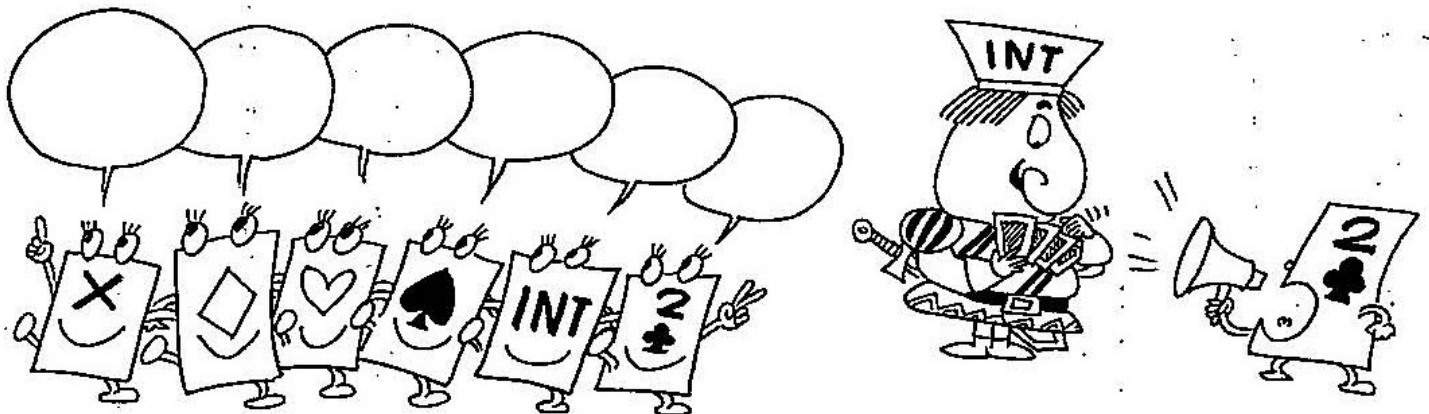
West North	East South	
	INT	
Pass 2♣*	Pass 2♦*	
Pass 3NT	All Pass	

West leads the ♥7 to East's ♥Q. The defenders persist with the suit and you win the third round, throwing a spade from dummy. What next?

You need three club tricks to bring the total to nine. Look at the club suit in isolation first. What is the best play for three tricks? You should cash the ♣A on the first round. If the ♣6 and ♣5 appear, you will need a 3-2 break. If instead the ♣10 or ♣9 falls from either defender, you should make your next play on the assumption that the card may be a singleton. For example, if East drops the ♣9, you should lead to the ♣Q next. It's clear to play that way because a defender would have no reason to play the ♣10 or ♣9 from ♣K109x.

On this particular deal, it would be a total nonsense to start with the ♣A! Whenever West held the ♣K he would gain the lead to enjoy his two established heart tricks. Nor is a first-round finesse of the ♣J the best idea. When the cards lie as in the diagram, West would win the lead with his remaining ♣K10 and again defeat you. (You would also go down when West started with ♣K96, provided East was bright enough to unblock the ♣10 under dummy's ♣J.)

Since West is the danger hand, you should lead the ♣Q on the first round, planning to run the card. Here West will cover with the ♣K, won with dummy's ♣A. It will then be a simple matter to return to your hand with a diamond and lead to the ♣8, ducking into the safe hand. Game made!



Acknowledgement

The Hong Kong Contract Bridge Association Limited and the Organising Committee of the 49th Asia Pacific Bridge Federation Championships wish to express their sincere thanks to:

Home Affairs Bureau, HKSAR
Leisure and Cultural Services Department, HKSAR

COVA

DBS Bank Ltd., Hong Kong Branch

Feishang Holdings Limited

J.P. Morgan

Recruit Company Limited

Regal Hongkong Hotel

San Miguel Brewery Hong Kong Ltd.

Xiashun Holdings Limited

民政事務局
(藝術及體育發展基金)
Home Affairs Bureau
(Arts and Sport Development Fund)



J.P.Morgan

