



# 4th Commonwealth Nations Bridge Championship 8th to 14th September 2014

## Daily bulletin – Thursday 11th September



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## ***The Big Push ...*** **Who qualifies for the Knock-Out Stages?**

The eligible medal winners are the Commonwealth Nations teams:

Group 1: Barbados, Canada, England, Malaysia, Malta, Pakistan, Scotland, Singapore, South Africa

Group 2: Australia, Guernsey, India, Isle of Man, Jersey, Kenya, Northern Ireland, Wales

### **Quarter Finals**

The quarter-finals will be 24-board matches played on Friday 12th September in two stanzas of 12 boards each. The conditions of contest state that a minimum of four Commonwealth Nations teams will go through to the quarter-finals, independent of their ranking in the Round Robins. This means that a maximum of 4 non-Commonwealth Nations teams will qualify for the quarter-finals. Finishing in the top four of your group therefore guarantees you a qualifying place only if you are a Commonwealth Nations team. It is possible that a non-Commonwealth Nations Team finishing in the top 4 of its group might not qualify for the quarter-finals.

If fewer than four Commonwealth Nations teams qualify by right (by finishing in the top 4 of their group), then those Commonwealth Nations teams with the next best rankings will qualify for the quarter-finals, replacing the teams in their group with the worst qualification record. If two teams from different groups are tied with the same ranking, then IMP quotient will be used to break the tie.

Ideally the draw for the quarter-final will be 1st in Group 1 plays 4th in Group 2, 2nd in Group 1 plays 3rd in Group 2, etc. However, since the conditions of contest state that at least two Commonwealth Nations teams will go through to the semi-finals, the draw may have to be adjusted.

*(Continued on page 2)*

### **Today's matches on VuGraph and BBO**

	<b>Round 11 – 10:30 to 12:20</b>	<b>Round 12 – 12:45 to 14:35</b>	<b>Round 13 – 15:35 to 17:25</b>
VuGraph:	Chairman's v Barbados	Scottish President's v Guernsey	Wales 2 v Scotland
BBO:	Canada v Australia Women	Black Swan v England 2	Pakistan v Guernsey 2

# Today's Matches

## Championship Teams round robin – Day 4

### Group 1

### Group 2

#### Round 11 – 10:30 to 12:20

Match			Match		
1	Chairman's	Barbados	11	South Africa 2	India
2	England	Malta	12	Wales	Isle of Man
3	Canada	Australia Women	13	Pakistan 2	SBU
4	Singapore	Malaysia	14	Australia	Black Swan
5	Pakistan	Wales 2	15	Guernsey	England 2
6	South Africa	Harris	16	Kenya	Scottish President's
7	Guernsey 2	Scotland	17	Jersey	Northern Ireland

#### Round 12 – 12:45 to 14:35

Match			Match		
1	Scotland	Singapore	11	Northern Ireland	Australia
2	Malaysia	Wales 2	12	Black Swan	England 2
3	South Africa	Guernsey 2	13	Kenya	Jersey
4	Malta	Canada	14	Isle of Man	Pakistan 2
5	Chairman's	England	15	South Africa 2	Wales
6	Barbados	Australia Women	16	India	SBU
7	Harris	Pakistan	17	Scottish President's	Guernsey

#### Round 13 – 15:35 to 17:25

Match			Match		
1	Pakistan	Guernsey 2	11	Guernsey	Jersey
2	Malta	Chairman's	12	Isle of Man	South Africa 2
3	Wales 2	Scotland	13	England 2	Northern Ireland
4	Australia Women	England	14	SBU	Wales
5	Canada	Barbados	15	Pakistan 2	India
6	Harris	Malaysia	16	Scottish President's	Black Swan
7	Singapore	South Africa	17	Australia	Kenya

In each match, the first-named team will sit North-South in the open room and East-West in the closed room at the table number shown. The second-named team will sit North-South in the closed room and East-West in the open room at the corresponding tables.

These matches will be on Vugraph (SUB room)

These matches will be on BBO

### Semi-Finals

The semi-finals will be 32 board matches played on Friday 12th September in two stanzas of 16 boards each. The conditions of contest state at least one Commonwealth Nations teams will go through to the final.

If only two Commonwealth Nations teams qualify for the semi-finals, they will play each other in the semi-finals with the winner being awarded the Gold Medal and the loser being awarded the Silver Medal. The Commonwealth Nations team having the next best performance will automatically get the Bronze Medal.

If three or four Commonwealth Nations teams qualify for the semi-final and there are two teams from the same country, these two teams will play one another in the semi-finals. If there are not two teams from the same country then the team with the best record in the Round Robin phase will select its opponent.

### Final and 3rd Place Play-Off

The final will be over 48 boards played on Saturday 13th September in four stanzas of 12 boards each. The play-off for third place will be over 36 boards played on Saturday 13th September in three stanzas of 12 boards each.

Full details can be found in the conditions of contest.

# Yesterday's Results

## Championship Teams round robin – Day 3 Group 1 Group 2

### Round 7

Match		IMPs	VPs	Match		IMPs	VPs
Australia Women	South Africa	56-6	19.47-0.53	SBU	Kenya	44-6	18.17-1.83
Pakistan	Malta	32-16	14.42-5.58	Guernsey	Isle of Man	17-24	7.84-12.16
Wales 2	Barbados	54-10	18.87-1.13	England 2	India	29-27	10.66-9.34
Malaysia	England	18-27	7.29-12.71	Black Swan	Wales	3-58	0.09-19.91
Guernsey 2	Harris	32-58	3.62-16.38	Jersey	Scottish President's	28-27	10.33-9.67
Scotland	Chairman's	26-18	12.44-7.56	Northern Ireland	South Africa 2	7-42	2.23-17.77
Canada	Singapore	62-12	19.47-0.53	Pakistan 2	Australia	24-39	5.81-14.19

### Round 8

Match		IMPs	VPs	Match		IMPs	VPs
South Africa	Pakistan	23-24	9.67-10.33	Kenya	Guernsey	18-54	2.09-17.91
Scotland	Malaysia	37-13	16.03-3.97	Northern Ireland	Black Swan	32-12	15.26-4.74
Singapore	Guernsey 2	46-24	15.66-4.34	Australia	Jersey	55-9	19.08-0.92
Harris	Wales 2	35-34	10.33-9.67	Scottish President's	England 2	42-27	14.19-5.81
Chairman's	Australia Women	42-32	12.97-7.03	South Africa 2	SBU	29-39	7.03-12.97
England	Canada	29-34	8.42-11.58	Wales	Pakistan 2	23-24	9.67-10.33
Barbados	Malta	33-24	12.71-7.29	India	Isle of Man	49-7	18.65-1.35

### Round 9

Match		IMPs	VPs	Match		IMPs	VPs
Guernsey 2	Wales 2	27-51	3.97-16.03	Jersey	England 2	22-24	9.34-10.66
Harris	Canada	32-40	7.56-12.44	Scottish President's	Pakistan 2	35-20	14.19-5.81
Barbados	Singapore	23-20	10.97-9.03	India	Australia	22-47	3.79-16.21
Pakistan	Chairman's	14-45	2.81-17.19	Guernsey	South Africa 2	44-7	18.04-1.96
South Africa	England	1-50	0.62-19.38	Kenya	Wales	11-37	3.62-16.38
Malta	Scotland	12-77	0.00-20.00	Isle of Man	Northern Ireland	28-29	9.67-10.33
Malaysia	Australia Women	23-38	5.81-14.19	Black Swan	SBU	23-29	8.13-11.87















### Round 10

Match		IMPs	VPs	Match		IMPs	VPs
Canada	Chairman's	25-34	7.29-12.71	Pakistan 2	South Africa 2	15-47	2.66-17.34
Singapore	Pakistan	14-49	2.23-17.77	Australia	Guernsey	50-19	17.19-2.81
Scotland	Harris	33-16	14.64-5.36	Northern Ireland	Scottish President's	25-9	14.42-8.27
England	Barbados	104-18	20.00-0.00	Wales	India	16-25	7.29-12.71
Australia Women	Malta	21-43	4.34-15.66	SBU	Isle of Man	23-27	8.72-11.28
Malaysia	Guernsey 2	65-22	18.76-1.24	Black Swan	Jersey	35-33	10.66-9.34
Wales 2	South Africa	22-25	9.03-10.97	England 2	Kenya	64-2	20.00-0.00

 This result includes an adjustment.















# Championship Teams round robin – Ranking after 10 rounds

## Group I

Rank	Team	Total	Eng	Can	Sco	Cha	Wal2	VAus	Mala	SA	Pak	Sin	Har	Malt	Bar	Gue2	Adj
1	 England	155.68		8.42	9.03		19.56		12.71	19.38	18.04	12.16	16.38		20.00	20.00	
2	 Canada	146.98	11.58		4.74	7.29	16.55		16.55	19.38	20.00	19.47	12.44			18.98	
3	 Scotland	143.42	10.97	15.26		12.44		18.87	16.03	8.13	12.44		14.64	20.00	14.64		
4	 Chairman's	131.17		12.71	7.56		9.03	12.97	13.48	4.94	17.19	18.53	16.72			18.04	
5	 Wales 2	119.26	0.44	3.45		10.97		14.42		9.03		16.38	9.67	20.00	18.87	16.03	
6	 Australia women	102.07			1.13	7.03	5.58		14.19	19.47	6.52	9.34	19.83	4.34		14.64	
7	 Malaysia	94.85	7.29	3.45	3.97	6.52		5.81		6.28	16.03			7.56	19.18	18.76	
8	 South Africa	94.15	0.62	0.62	11.87	15.06	10.97	0.53	13.72		9.67			12.44	18.65		
9	 Pakistan	84.74	1.96	0.00	7.56	2.81		13.48	3.97	10.33		17.77		14.42	12.44		
10	 Singapore	83.63	7.84	0.53		1.47	3.62	10.66			2.23		16.21	16.38	9.03	15.66	
11	 Harris	81.00	3.62	7.56	5.36	3.28	10.33	0.17				3.79		15.66	14.85	16.38	
12	 Malta	65.52			0.00		0.00	15.66	12.44	7.56	5.58	3.62	4.34		7.29	9.03	
13	 Barbados	52.34	0.00		5.36		1.13		0.82	1.35	7.56	10.97	5.15	12.71		7.29	
14	 Guernsey 2	45.19	0.00	1.02		1.96	3.97	5.36	1.24			4.34	3.62	10.97	12.71		

# Championship Teams round robin – Ranking after 10 rounds

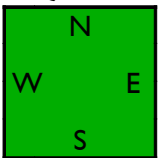
## Group 2

Rank	Team	Total	Aus	Ind	Wal	Eng2	Pak2	Pre	IoM	SBU	SA2	NI	Gue	Jer	BS	Ken	Adj
1	 Australia	146.89		16.21	8.42	12.71	14.19	13.96	8.42	19.08	17.63		17.19	19.08			
2	 India	133.50	3.79		12.71	9.34		10.33	18.65			13.72	10.33	16.72	19.74	18.17	
3	 Wales	124.83	11.58	7.29		3.62	9.67	6.52				18.98	12.71	18.17	19.91	16.38	
4	 England 2	117.43	7.29	10.66	16.38		4.74	5.81	8.13	17.04	16.72			10.66		20.00	
5	 Pakistan 2	116.90	5.81		10.33	15.26		5.81			2.66	10.66	12.71	20.00	17.63	16.03	
6	 Scottish President's	107.04	6.04	9.67	13.48	14.19	14.19		13.23	12.16	3.45	8.27		9.67			2.69
7	 Isle of Man	103.95	11.58	1.35		11.87		6.77		11.28		9.67	12.16	10.00	14.85	14.42	
8	 SBU	102.80	0.92			2.96		7.84	8.72		12.97	12.16	10.00	17.19	11.87	18.17	
9	 South Africa 2	100.15	2.37			3.28	17.34	16.55		7.03		17.77	1.96	3.28	17.34	13.23	
10	 Northern Ireland	97.39		6.28	1.02		9.34	14.42	10.33	7.84	2.23		17.19		15.26	13.48	
11	 Guernsey	89.24	2.81	9.67	7.29		7.29		7.84	10.00	18.04	2.81			5.58	17.91	
12	 Jersey	64.57	0.92	3.28	1.83	9.34	0.00	10.33	10.00	2.81	16.72				9.34		
13	 Black Swan	55.25		0.26	0.09		2.37		5.15	8.13	2.66	4.74	14.42	10.66		6.77	
14	 Kenya	45.44		1.83	3.62	0.00	3.97		5.58	1.83	6.77	6.52	2.09		13.23		

**Round 6: SBU v Northern Island**

These teams were near the middle of the Group Two table. The match was featured on BBO with commentary by Michael Rosenberg and also on local viewgraph presented by Harry Smith and Alex Adamson. The match comprised boards 15-28. There were two game-swings, one to each side. Most of the swings were small and evenly distributed. Only two boards were flat and the part-score boards involved hard decisions. The SBU ran out narrow winners by 7 imps (12.16 VPs).

Board: 16 Dealer: West E-W game

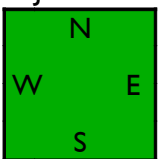
<p>♠ A K 8 ♥ A 10 8 ♦ 10 8 5 ♣ 9 8 3 2</p>		<p>♠ 5 4 ♥ Q 6 5 2 ♦ K J 9 7 ♣ Q 6 5</p>	<p>♠ J 9 7 6 3 ♥ J 9 ♦ A 6 ♣ K J 7 4</p>
		<p>♠ Q 10 2 ♥ K 7 4 3 ♦ Q 4 3 2 ♣ A 10</p>	

The auction was the same at both tables.

West	North	East	South
Open room: Currie	Haas	Cole	Silverstone
Closed room: Coyle	Curran Pass	Diamond Pass	Fitzpatrick 1♦
Pass	1♥	All pass	

Even at adverse vulnerability, East should probably overcall in spades and West might have protected. In the closed room, the contract made but in the open room, East led the ace of diamonds and a third-round ruff defeated it. After two rounds of diamonds, declarer would have to guess to lead the first round of trumps from South to make the contract.

Board: 19 Dealer: South E-W game

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

Open room:

West	North	East	South
Currie	Haas	Cole	Silverstone
Pass	INT	All pass	1♥

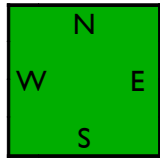
Would you open the South hand as dealer, at favourable vulnerability? Most would but here it led to a minus score.

Defenders attacked diamonds and Declarer won the third round. How would you continue?

Michael Rosenberg suggested a club to the king. If that wins, you can duck a heart and hope for a doubleton heart queen or an even split.

Here nothing works, and declarer was two down. The hand was passed out in the closed room.

Board: 22 Dealer: East E-W game

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

Closed room:

West	North	East	South
Coyle	Curran	Diamond	Fitzpatrick
1♦	1♥	Pass	Pass
Double	4♥	All pass	2♥

Declarer won the opening spade lead and led a heart to dummy's king, ducked by West. West won dummy's diamond lead to play ace and another heart. Thus declarer was prevented from ruffing a diamond and accurate defence resulted in one down.

Open room:

West	North	East	South
Currie	Haas	Cole	Silverstone
1♦	1♥	Pass	Pass
All pass		Pass	2♥

In the open room, Haas passed Two Hearts without even making a game-try and made ten tricks on a diamond lead.

Board: 23 Dealer: South Game all

	♠ 3								
	♥ A Q J 5								
	♦ A 8								
	♣ J 8 7 5 4 2								
♠ Q 10 5 4 2 ♥ K 9 ♦ K 10 5 ♣ A Q 9	<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 100px; height: 100px; background-color: #008000; color: white;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td></tr> </table>	N		W	E		S	♠ 7 6 ♥ 10 4 3 ♦ Q 9 7 4 3 2 ♣ K 10	
N									
W	E								
	S								
	♠ A K J 9 8								
	♥ 8 7 6 2								
	♦ J 6								
	♣ 6 3								

Closed room:

West	North	East	South
Coyle	Curran	Diamond	Fitzpatrick
			Pass
1♠	2♣	All pass	

Two Clubs made ten tricks but this board still resulted in a game swing to SBU:

Open room:

West	North	East	South
Currie	Haas	Cole	Silverstone
			2♥

Double 4♥ All pass

South's Two Hearts showed both majors, and North raised to game. West found the best lead of a diamond, won by dummy's ace. Declarer cashed the top spades to discard a diamond and led a club.

To defeat the contract, West must win and lead a spade but instead she continued clubs. East won and made dummy ruff a diamond. Dummy's club lead was ruffed by East but with only diamonds and trumps left, East was endplayed.

Board: 24 Dealer: West Love all

	♠ J 7								
	♥ K 6 3								
	♦ 10 5 4								
	♣ A J 10 6 5								
♠ K 6 2 ♥ A Q J 10 9 7 ♦ 8 7 3 2 ♣ -	<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 100px; height: 100px; background-color: #008000; color: white;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td></tr> </table>	N		W	E		S	♠ A 4 ♥ 8 4 ♦ K J 9 6 ♣ K Q 8 7 2	
N									
W	E								
	S								
	♠ Q 10 9 8 5 3								
	♥ 5 2								
	♦ A Q								
	♣ 9 4 3								

Open room:

West	North	East	South
Currie	Haas	Cole	Silverstone
1♥	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♥	Pass	4♥	All pass

North led a trump and declarer played dummy's eight, dooming the contract, except at double dummy. Had she played low, she could have succeeded by ruffing a spade with dummy's eight.

Closed room:

West	North	East	South
Coyle	Curran	Diamond	Fitzpatrick
3♥	All pass		

Coyle's hefty pre-empt kept them out of game, for a lucky swing.



Derek Diamond and Willie Coyle from the SBU team

Board: 26 Dealer: East Game all

	♠ Q 6								
	♥ Q 10								
	♦ J 7 5 3								
	♣ 8 5 4 3 2								
♠ 9 2 ♥ A 5 4 ♦ 10 9 8 ♣ A K 9 7 6	<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 100px; height: 100px; background-color: #008000; color: white;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td></tr> </table>	N		W	E		S	♠ A K 7 5 4 ♥ 9 3 2 ♦ A K 6 ♣ Q 10	
N									
W	E								
	S								
	♠ J 10 8 3								
	♥ K J 8 7 6								
	♦ Q 4 2								
	♣ J								

Closed room:

West	North	East	South
Coyle	Curran	Diamond	Fitzpatrick
		1♠	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♣	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♣	All pass		

This inelegant contract was one down. Perhaps, East should have rebid 2 No Trump.

Open room:

West	North	East	South
Currie	Haas	Cole	Silverstone
		1♠	
2♣		3♦	
3NT			

The auction in the open room was also a bit strange. Presumably, East had to bid Three Diamonds because Two Diamonds wasn't forcing. Anyway, Three No Trumps was cold and earned a game swing.

Board: 27 Dealer: South Love all

<p>♠ A K ♥ 6 4 ♦ A 6 5 ♣ A J 9 8 5 3</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 5px; width: 80px; margin: 0 auto;">                 N W                  E S             </div>	<p>♠ J 9 8 6 ♥ A K 10 8 3 ♦ 10 3 2 ♣ 10</p>	<p>♠ Q 10 5 4 3 2 ♥ Q 7 2 ♦ J 8 4 ♣ 2</p>
		<p>♠ 7 ♥ J 9 5 ♦ K Q 9 7 ♣ K Q 7 6 4</p>	

Open room:

West	North	East	South
Currie	Haas	Cole	Silverstone
INT	Double	Redouble	1♣
2♣	Pass	2♠	Pass
			All pass

The play in Two Spades is interesting. The successful line is to use at least two of dummy's black suit entries to ruff clubs.

The last board was flat.

Michael Rosenberg summed up proceedings by remarking that players should take more time to think as consideration of the whole hand can suggest a better line of play.

### Burn's Laws

*This marvellous article by David Burn originally appeared under the title Larry Who? It has been published on the Internet, but it deserves a wider audience.*

It appears that the most significant bridge book to emerge in recent years is something called *The Law of Total Tricks*. This work is said to have revolutionised competitive bidding among experts and average players alike, and it even has a sequel called *Following the Law*. The third volume in the series, *Lesser Breeds Without the Law*, ought to be out in time for Christmas.

The principle on which the Law is based was originally developed by Jules Verne in his novel *Nord contre Sud*, or 'North doubles South'. It should be apparent from the title that the novel is a bridge fantasy, not meant to be taken seriously, but this has not prevented scholars from following its precepts religiously. In particular, the pithily expressed notion that "the sum of the number of tricks available to North-South in their best trump fit and the number of tricks available to East-West in theirs equals the sum of the number of trumps held by North-South in

their best fit and the number of trumps held by East-West in theirs" has caused innumerable learned writers, including the present author, to forget what they were going to say at the end of a sentence because the beginning of it has gone on for so long.

The Law itself is more or less worthless, since the total number of tricks taken by anyone almost never equals the total number available to them, regardless of how many trumps they might have. That is why, in his second book, Larry Cohen was at pains to develop the theme of 'adjustments'. The current version of the Law of Total Tricks, assuming that I have fully understood the great man's words, is:

*"The total number of tricks that North-South and East-West can take in their respective best trump fits is equal to: the total number of trumps they hold, minus one for the number of holdings such as Qx and Jxx in any of the hands, plus one for each card over eight in a side suit held by the partnership, minus a half for every honour held in a short suit, plus a half for having most of your honours in your long suits, with a tendency towards a negative assessment if the opponents bid one of your long suits, but a tendency towards a positive assessment if your hand does not contain impurities."*

No wonder it doesn't work. And even if it did, no one would have a hope of understanding it. What I am going to present in this article is a far simpler rule, with the following absolute guarantee: If you never again violate Burn's Law of Total Trumps, your results will improve enormously.

That may sound a grandiose and wholly unjustifiable claim, but it is not. I have conducted the most comprehensive and painstaking research in order to verify my theory. At the recent Olympiad in Rhodes, any one of forty teams would have won but for the fact that at some point they violated Burn's Law. Chinese Taipei, for example, would have been in the final instead of France had they not done this:

Dealer: North N-S game

<p>♠ 7 2 ♥ J 8 7 6 4 2 ♦ K J 10 2 ♣ 7</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 5px; width: 80px; margin: 0 auto;">                 N W                  E S             </div>	<p>♠ A K 6 5 ♥ 10 9 ♦ 9 3 ♣ A K 8 5 3</p>	<p>♠ J 9 4 ♥ 3 ♦ Q 8 7 5 4 ♣ Q 10 6 4</p>
		<p>♠ Q 10 8 3 ♥ A K Q 5 ♦ A 6 ♣ J 9 2</p>	

In the Closed Room the auction was:



<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
	2♣*	Pass	2♦*
Pass	2♠*	Pass	3♥*
Pass	3♠*	Pass	4♦*
Pass	4♥*	Pass	4♠*
Pass	5♣*	Pass	5♦*
Pass	5♠*	Pass	6♣*
Pass	6♦*	Pass	6♥*
Pass	Pass*	Pass	

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Lin</i>	<i>Mari</i>	<i>Shen</i>	<i>Bompis</i>
			INT*
Pass	2♣	Pass	2NT*
Pass	4♦*	Pass	4♠
Pass	6♠*	All pass	
INT	Out of turn, but nobody noticed		
2NT	Both majors		
4♦	Transfer to spades		
6♠	A punt, hoping that the slam would either be a good one or would make on a blind opening lead		

It may help to set out the two different versions of this somewhat bewildering auction:

**Bid Meaning according to North**      **Meaning according to South**

2♣	5+ clubs, perhaps a major, 11-16	5+ clubs, perhaps a major, 11-16
2♦	Relay	Relay
2♠	4+ spades	4+ spades
3♥	5+ hearts	I ought to have five hearts but I am a bit fixed because 3♠ is not forcing, 4♦ is a splinter and 4♠ is feeble
3♠	No diamond guard	No diamond guard
4♦	4th suit, presumably looking for somewhere to play	A cue bid, which I hope partner will realise agrees spades even though there is no reason why he should
4♥	Heart support	Heart support
4♠	A cue bid with hearts agreed	Spade support
5♣	A cue bid with hearts agreed	A cue bid with spades agreed
5♦	A cue bid with hearts agreed	A cue bid with spades agreed
5♠	A cue bid with hearts agreed	A sign-off in spades
6♣	A cue bid with hearts agreed	Club support (it might be argued that taking six rounds of the auction to support your partner's first bid is a little excessive, but in view of the number of rounds that South took to support spades, not especially surprising.
6♦	A grand slam try in hearts, asking for good trumps	A cue bid with spades agreed
6♥	A sign-off in hearts	A grand slam try in spades, asking for good trumps
Pass	Oh well!	What the *@\$\$!

In the Open Room, the bidding was no less risible but rather more effective:

Six spades made, six hearts went five down, and France took the lead in the match for the first time in the final set of sixteen boards.

Shattered by this blow, the Chinese Taipei men could not recover and all because they had failed to obey **Burn's Law of Total Trumps**:

*"When you are declarer, the total number of trumps held by your side should be greater than the total number of trumps held by your opponents."*

Britain would have been in the knock-out stages but for this:

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

In the Open Room, Slovenia did well to stop in a making contract, for South had ♠KQJ3.

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
			1♣
Pass	Pass	Double	Pass
1♠	Pass	4♠	All pass

In the Closed Room, one of the more serious violations of the Law occurred:

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
			1♣
Pass	3♣	4♣	All pass

This contract went five down (it is an interesting corollary to Burn's Law that almost all violations of it end up going five down) and Slovenia gained 12 IMPs.

In true Larry Cohen style, I have already written the sequel to the Law of Total Trumps.

It is called **The Rule of Eight**, and it is for those of you whose bidding methods are already geared to the avoidance of 3-0 fits but whose judgement at the higher levels of the auction may be a little suspect.

This deal from the Olympiad final between France and Indonesia is a good example.

Dealer: South Love all

♠ Q J 10 7 6 5  
 ♥ A Q 7 2  
 ♦ -  
 ♣ 9 4 2

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

	N	
W		E
	S	

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

♠ A K 9 4  
 ♥ J 10 9 5 4  
 ♦ J 10  
 ♣ J 10

This was the bidding in the Open Room:

West	North	East	South
Szwarc	Panelewen	Multon	Watulingas
Pass	1♠	2♦	3♦
4♦	4♥	4NT	5♥
Pass	5♠	6♦*	Pass
Pass	6♣*	Double	All pass

6♦ A violation of the rule of eight  
 6♣ See above

In the Closed Room:

West	North	East	South
Karwur	Mouiel	Sakul	Levy
Pass	1♠	2♦	3♦
4♦	4♥	5♣	5♠
6♦*	6♥*	Pass	6♣
Pass	Pass	Double	All pass

6♦ Further violation  
 6♥ Ditto

I make the same guarantee for the Rule of Eight as I made for the Law of Total Trumps. If you never again violate it, your results will improve immeasurably.

The rule is similar to the well-known **Rule of Eleven**, and is applied in three stages:

1. During the auction, ascertain how many aces are held by your opponents.
2. Subtract this number from eight.
3. Do not bid at the level given by the answer.

The third book in the series will cover advanced topics in card play such as putting down the dummy. To whet your appetite, here is an important principle:

*If your side has bid and supported a major suit during the auction, but finished up in no trumps, you should put the major you were bidding on the extreme right of dummy as it appears from declarer's point of view.*

Otherwise, as one poor soul discovered in Rhodes, your partner may fall foul of **Burn's Third Law**:

*"You cannot make 3NT on a cross-ruff."*

### Wednesday's problem - solution

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

♠ A 5  
 ♥ A Q 8 4 3  
 ♦ A K 4 3  
 ♣ 8 5

	N	
W		E
	S	

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

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

Contract: 6♥ Lead: ♦J

How do you play this slam?

Do you take the club finesse or play a spade to the queen for a club discard? The first thing to do is to find how trumps are breaking. Play king and ace of trumps. If they break, ruff a diamond and come back to the ace of spades to draw the last trump. Now you have two bites at the cherry with a spade to the queen.

When trumps don't break, you must play clubs hoping that North has ♣Kxx. Take the finesse, ace of clubs and ruff a club before ruffing a diamond. Now you discard the losing spade on a long club.

### Thursday's problem hand

Dealer West; N-S game

♠ 8 7 6 5  
 ♥ A 5 4  
 ♦ A 9 6 4  
 ♣ A 9

	N	
W		E
	S	

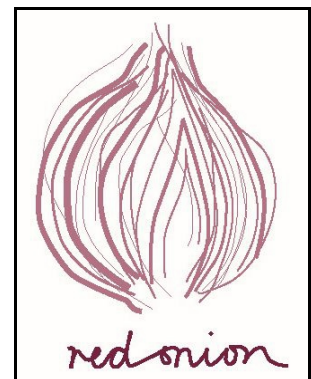
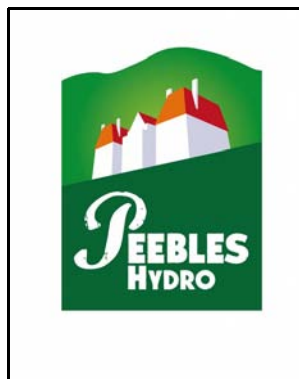
♠ A 10 9 4  
 ♥ Q J 10  
 ♦ J 2  
 ♣ K 7 5 4

West	North	East	South
INT	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♠	Pass	4♣	All Pass

Contract: 4♣ Lead: ♠2

You duck the opening lead and South wins with the jack. He returns the king of trumps to which North follows. How do you continue after this bad start?

Answer in tomorrow's bulletin.



## Scotland v Chairman's team

Yesterday morning one of our VuGraph commentators was delayed and the Editor had to step in. During the course of the match (described below) he had more than one opportunity to refer to *Burn's Law of Total Trumps* (not to be confused with *The Law of Total Tricks*). The audience wanted to know more, so the detailed explanation by the inventor is in this issue. It has appeared in other publications, but as many discerning judges consider it to be one of the best bridge articles ever penned it bears repeating.

Board: 4 Dealer: West Game all

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

Open room:

West	North	East	South
Bakhsji	Barton	McIntosh	Spears
Pass	2NT	All pass	

East led the three of spades for the ten, jack and queen. Declarer tried the king of diamonds and East took the ace and continued with the king of spades. When West followed with the four declarer ducked and now East switched to the two of hearts. Declarer ducked West's queen and also ducked the king.

West should have gone back to spades at this point, but he played a third heart and declarer won and played the three of clubs. East took the king and was looking at the setting trick, but when he exited with the three of diamonds declarer could claim the rest and a remarkable +120.

Closed room:

West	North	East	South
Mould	Justin	Matheson	Jason
Pass	2♣*	Pass	2♦*
Pass	2♥*	Pass	2♠*
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♣*
Pass	3♦	All pass	

North showed a strong balanced hand with at least one major while South showed nothing at all.

West led the queen of hearts and when it held he continued with the eight of clubs, dummy's jack losing to East's king. The jack of hearts was taken by dummy's ace and a heart returned to West's king. When West switched to the eight of spades declarer

went up with the ace and played a heart, pitching a spade when East threw a club. West ruffed and had he now played a spade declarer would be in danger of going four down, but he played a club and although East could ruff that declarer could ruff the king of spade return and play a trump to the jack and queen. When East returned a spade declarer threw a club, won with dummy's queen and played a diamond, claiming three down, -300 and 9 IMPs to Scotland.

Board: 5 Dealer: North N-S game

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

Open room:

West	North	East	South
Bakhsji	Barton	McIntosh	Spears
	Pass	1♥	Pass
1NT*	Pass	2♣*	Pass
2♥	Pass	2NT	Pass
3NT	All pass		

1NT 5+ spades

When East showed a good hand with 2NT West went on to game.

North led ♦6 for the J, Q and K and declarer played ♠10 for the four and queen. South returned the three of diamonds and declarer won with dummy's ace and played a spade for the five, jack and king. Now North switched to the seven of clubs and declarer won with the ace. Having lost two tricks declarer might now have played another spade. With the suit dividing he would have taken ten tricks, but even if a defender had held ♠A8 at this point he would not have been down in top cards, although he would have needed to score three heart tricks.

When he decided to abandon spades and rely on the hearts he played one to the jack and South won and played a diamond. Declarer won and played off the top hearts, one down, -50.

Closed room:

West	North	East	South
Mould	Justin	Matheson	Jason
	Pass	1♥	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♣*	Pass
2♦*	Pass	3♠*	Pass
3NT	All pass		

- 2♣ Gazilli
- 2♦ Minimum
- 3♠ 2-5-3-3 distribution, 16+

North led the seven of diamonds for the jack queen and king and when declarer played the jack of spades North went in with the king and switched to the seven of clubs. Declarer won with dummy's king and played a spade. When South's eight appeared declarer was in clover - he could clear the spades and claim the rest, +430 and 10 IMPs for Scotland.

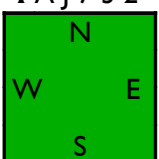
On Board 6 East opened 2♥ on ♠74 ♥AJ8753 ♦A53 ♣J5. South doubled with ♠KJ108 ♥Q42 ♦Q1042 ♣A2 and North, looking at ♠Q6 ♥1096 ♦KJ98 ♣10987 bid 2NT\* and passed his partner's 3♣. (See Burn's Law of Total Trumps.) That went no fewer than five down, -250. In the replay McIntosh did well to make 3♥ for +140 to hold the loss to 3 IMPs.

Shortly afterwards both Norths opened 4♠ on ♠QJ10932 ♥K ♦9 ♣K10984 finding partner with ♠♥10873 ♦QJ10 ♣AQJ72. (To break Burn's Law of Total Trumps once is unfortunate, to do it twice looks like carelessness.)

Speaking as a result's merchant 5♣ looks a better spot.

They were both one down, -50, no swing.

Board: 12 Dealer: West N-S game

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

Open room:

West	North	East	South
Bakhsji	Barton	McIntosh	Spears
Pass	1♣	1♦	1♥*
3♣*	Pass	3♦	All pass

- 1♥ Transfer to spades
- 3♣ Splinter

South led a club and North took the ace and returned the five of hearts. Declarer put up the ace, pitched a heart on the king of clubs and ran the jack of diamonds. That lost the king and the defenders also scored a heart, so that was +130.

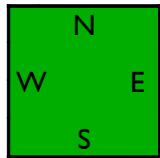
Closed room:

West	North	East	South
Mould	Justin	Matheson	Jason
Pass	1♣	1NT	Pass
2♥*	Pass	2♠	Pass
3♦	Pass	4♦	Pass
4♠	All pass		

2♥ Transfer

South led the six of clubs and North won with the ace and switched to the eight of hearts for the jack and queen. Declarer won the heart continuation, pitched a heart on the king of clubs and played a diamond to the ten. North won and played a heart and declarer ruffed in dummy and played a spade to the jack and queen. The club continuation forced dummy and when declarer elected to cash the ace of spades he was three down, -150 and 7 IMPs for the Chairman's team.

Board: 14 Dealer: East Love all

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

Open room:

West	North	East	South
Bakhsji	Barton	McIntosh	Spears
Pass	2♥	1♦	Double
Double	All pass	Pass	4♥

With NS taking an aggressive stance they got way too high and paid the penalty. East led the ace of diamonds and switched to the two of spades. West took the ace and returned the five, East winning with the king and cashing the ace of clubs. There was still a trump to lose, -300.

Closed room:

West	North	East	South
Mould	Justin	Matheson	Jason
1♥	1NT	1♦	Double
		All pass	

East led the four of diamonds and declarer won with the queen and played on clubs. East took the third round and played a heart, West winning with the king and playing a diamond for the king and ace. The defenders took their spade tricks but declarer had the rest, +120 and 9 IMPs to the Chairman's team. A good win for Scotland, 26-18 IMPs, 12.44-7.56 VP.