

# 2016 IBPA Awards



John Carruthers, Wroclaw, Poland, September 12, 2016

# IBPA Personality of the Year

## George Rosenkranz



*George Rosenkranz accepting the 2004 Winthrop-Sears Medal for his work in steroid research*

George Rosenkranz was born in Budapest, Hungary, in 1916, and turned 100 last month. His achievements as a bridge player may be what we know him for, but there is more to him than that. He studied chemistry at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology, where he received his doctorate. His mentor, future Nobel Prize winner Lavoslav Ružička, began Rosenkranz's interest in steroid research. To escape the Nazis, Ružička arranged an academic position for Rosenkranz in Ecuador. While Rosenkranz was waiting in Havana, Cuba for a ship to Ecuador, the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor. The United States immediately entered World War II. Permitted to stay in Cuba, he worked for Vieta-Plasencia Laboratorios on a commission basis.

While in Havana, he met his future wife, Edith, having been immediately smitten. She turned down his initial proposal of marriage, but accepted some time later. They have been married for more than 70 years, surely making them the longest-lived bridge partnership of two expert players. Also during this time in Cuba, Rosenkranz was advised against going to Ecuador and was told about a fledgling company in Mexico City called Syntex Corporation.

Rosenkranz's skills in synthesizing hormones had also attracted the interest of the company's founders, and Rosenkranz joined the company in 1945. In turn, Rosenkranz recruited leading organic chemists and biochemists from around the world, in particular Carl Djerassi and Alejandro Zaffaroni. Their research resulted in the production of the contraceptive birth pill, prednisone, cortisone, and many other steroids. Rosenkranz also helped to start the Institute for Molecular Biology in Palo Alto, where Syntex opened a plant.

There followed a cascade of papers on steroid chemistry issued from the Rosenkranz lab. During the 1940s and 1950s, Rosenkranz himself was the author or co-author of over 300 articles on steroid chemistry and he is named on over 150 patents. Rosenkranz has received many awards for his work, including the 2004 Winthrop-Sears Medal for his work in steroid research the 2012 Biotechnology Heritage Award in recognition of his significant contributions to the development of biotechnology through discovery, innovation, and public understanding .

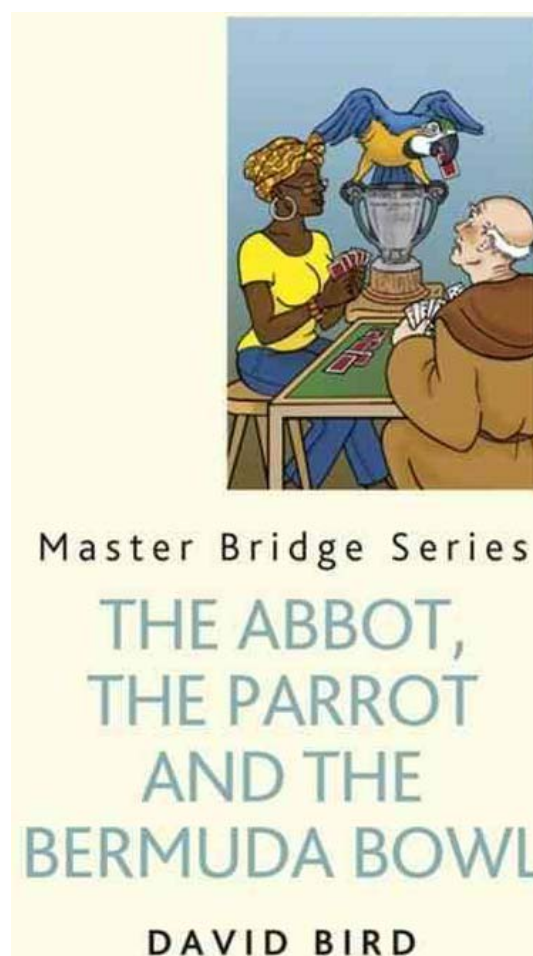
We know him better, though, as an avid bridge player. He is an ACBL Grand Master, with more than 13,000 master points and 12 NABC titles, including the big four: Grand Nationals, Reisinger, Spingold and Vanderbilt. He has written or co-written more than ten books on bridge. He was inducted into the ACBL Hall of Fame in 2000. In world championship teams competition, he represented Mexico in the World Team Olympiad three times from 1972 to 1996 and the United States in the 1983 Bermuda Bowl. Rosenkranz played in two other open World Championships, the last being in Montréal in 2002. In addition, he has made significant contributions to bidding theory. He created the Romex bidding system.

Rosenkranz's desire was always to bid every deal correctly, and especially the slams. Hence Romex has three strong and potentially artificial opening bids: one notrump, two clubs and two diamonds. (Two notrump is also strong, but natural.) He devised many useful concepts, like cover cards, and gadgets, like Romex trial bids, which combine long and short suit trials, and the Rosenkranz Double and Redouble, both of which define hands with and without a high honor in the suit of partner's overcall. Rosenkranz pioneered the use of computer simulation to choose between potential interpretations for a bid.

The Rosenkranzes are also well-known because while attending the Summer Nationals in Washington, DC, in 1984, Edith was kidnapped in a plot hatched by a bridge player from Texas. The ransom of one million dollars was paid, but as soon as Edith was released, the police swooped in and captured the miscreants.

George and Edith are widely known for their charm and good nature, and their contributions to bridge at all levels – including sponsoring IBPA awards! On the occasion of George Rosenkranz's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday the IBPA is delighted to name him our Personality of the Year.

**Master Point Press Book of the Year**  
***The Abbot, the Parrot and the Bermuda Bowl***  
**(Orion Publishing Group)**  
**by David Bird, England**



David Bird has written approximately 140 bridge books, and has won six 'Book of the Year' awards from the American Bridge Teachers Association. He has been shortlisted for the Master Point Press IBPA 'Book of the Year' award on four previous occasions. This is his first win.

Bird contributes regularly to *Bridge Magazine*, *English Bridge*, *The Bridge World*, the *American Contract Bridge League Bulletin* and other magazines around the world.



David Bird

In *The Abbot, the Parrot and the Bermuda Bowl*, Bird brilliantly weaves his own redoubtable characters into the narrative of the 2016 Bermuda Bowl in Chennai with real-life players. Following is one such example, written before the scandals of 2015 broke, that is unintendedly ironic.

UPPER BHUMPOPO v MONACO

**Board 14. Dealer East. EW Vul.**

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

West	North	East	South
Fulvio	Mbozi	Claudio	The
Fantoni		Nunes	Witchdoctor
—	—	2♥	Double
Pass	4♠	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♥	Pass	7NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

In the Fantunes system, an opening bid of one heart would promise 14-plus points and be forcing for one round. Nunes opened two hearts, which showed 9-13 points and at least five hearts. This surely marked him with the heart king and the Witchdoctor was happy to take a tilt at seven notrump when his partner jumped to four spades and then showed the two missing aces.

Fantoni led the ten of diamonds and down went the dummy. The Witchdoctor quickly counted his top tricks: five spades, three hearts, four diamonds and one club. *Kmahli umbekah!* That was thirteen

tricks. He won with the ace of diamonds and played the king of spades. He could not believe his bad luck when East showed out on this trick, discarding a diamond.

The Witchdoctor glared at his screen-mate, Fulvio Fantoni. Was it possible that the Monaco team's magic was more powerful than his own? Maybe he could survive in some way.

The Witchdoctor played the queen and jack of spades and continued with the three remaining top diamonds, throwing hearts from dummy. These cards were still in play:

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

The Witchdoctor was determined to prove that his supernatural powers were greater than those of his opponents. What would happen if he crossed to the ace of clubs now and played the ace of spades, throwing the ten of clubs from his hand? East could not afford to discard a heart or declarer would score four heart tricks. If instead he threw a club honour, dummy's club nine would become good.

An unwelcome thought occurred to the Witchdoctor. *Bafaqqasar!* When he played the established nine of clubs, this would catch him in a one-suit squeeze. If he threw the three of hearts, he would have to win the first heart trick in his hand and could not then repeat the heart finesse.

A few seconds later the Witchdoctor sat upright in his chair, his eyes ablaze. The magic summoned from African skies had arrived at the very last moment. Feeling as if he were floating on air, he led the ten of clubs to dummy's ace. Discarding his last club on the ace of spades would not work for East now. The Witchdoctor would throw the three of hearts, finesse the jack of hearts and return to dummy with the nine of clubs to finesse the heart queen. If, instead, East threw a heart, the Witchdoctor would discard the four of clubs on the last spade and pick up four heart tricks by leading the ten of hearts.

Nunes eventually threw a heart and the Witchdoctor soon had thirteen tricks before him. "You see that, Mbozi?" he said, peering through the gap in the screen, "Only mos' powerful magic mekkin' such play possible."

"It's better if I lead a club," said Fantoni with a rueful smile. "Sorry, partner. My magic powers weren't up to it!"

### **Other Shortlisted Candidates**

**Kaban, Tugrul:** *A Complete System for the Tournament Bridge Player* (Master Point Press)

**Kauder, James:** *Bridge Philosopher 4* (KD Publishing)

**Kimelman, Neil:** *The Right Bid at the Right Time* (Master Point Press)

**Parrish, Adam:** *When to Draw Trumps* (Bridge Winners Press)

**Zines, Dennis:** *Everyday Bridge Adventures* (Austin Macauley Publishing)

# Alan Truscott Memorial Award

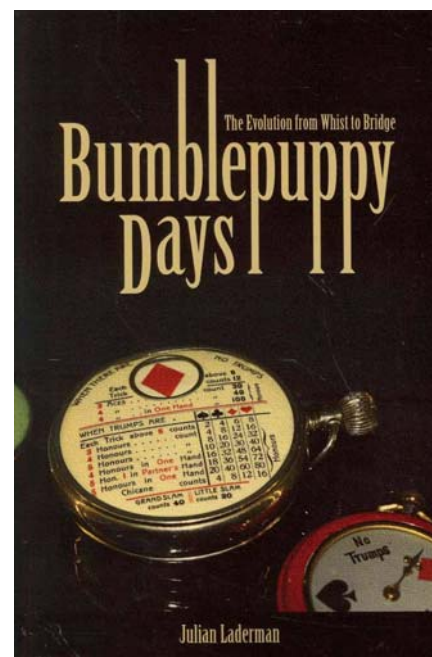


Alan Truscott, circa 1964, *The New York Times*

The Alan Truscott Award is presented periodically to an individual or organisation that, in the opinion of the IBPA Executive, has done something in the world of bridge that Alan would have approved of and appreciated. Alan was an IBPA Executive member, serving as its president from 1981 to 1985 and was the long-time bridge editor of the *New York Times*. Alan was also a fine player: before leaving Great Britain for the United States, Alan represented Great Britain internationally, earning a first and second in the European Team Championships and a third in the Bermuda Bowl. Before such things were forbidden, he served as the NPC for Bermuda and Brazil in World Championships.

## **Recipients: Betsy Lerner for “*The Bridge Ladies*” & Julian Laderman for “*Bumblepuppy Days*”**

Last year, we were well on our way to bestowing the Truscott Award upon Julian Laderman for “*Bumblepuppy Days*” when we, as well as the rest of the bridge world, were overtaken by the cheating scandal and its fallout. Eventually, after much debate, we decided to give the award to ‘The Investigators’ of the scandal. This year, we have joint recipients of the Truscott award, “*The Bridge Ladies*” by Betsy Lerner and “*Bumblepuppy Days*” by Julian Laderman.



## *The Bridge Ladies*

A fifty-year-old bridge game provides an unexpected way to cross the generational divide between a daughter and her mother. Betsy Lerner takes us on a powerfully personal literary journey, where we learn a little about bridge and a lot about life. After a lifetime defining herself in contrast to her mother's "don't ask, don't tell" generation, Lerner finds herself back in her childhood home, not five miles from the mother she spent decades avoiding. When Roz needs help after surgery, it falls to Betsy to take care of her. She expected a week of tense civility; what she got instead were the Bridge Ladies. Impressed by their loyalty, she saw something her generation lacked. Facebook was great, but it wouldn't deliver a pot roast.

Tentatively at first, Betsy becomes a regular at her mother's Monday bridge club. Through her friendships with the ladies, she is finally able to face years of misunderstandings and family tragedy, the bridge table becoming the common ground she and Roz never had. By turns darkly funny and deeply moving, *The Bridge Ladies* is the unforgettable story of a hard-won—but never-too-late—bond between mother and daughter.

## *Bumblepuppy Days*

The nineteenth century belonged to whist, the twentieth century to bridge – but where did bridge come from and why did it take over? *Bumblepuppy Days* follows the trail as, with many detours, it winds through Duplicate Whist, Boston, Swedish Whist, Russian Whist (*Biritch*), Bridge Whist, Auction Bridge and *Plafond*, through to Contract Bridge, thanks to Harold Vanderbilt, essentially the game we play today.

Julian Laderman is a Mathematics Professor when he is not playing bridge or writing about the game. His books include the ABTA award winners *A Bridge to Simple Squeezes* and *A Bridge to Inspired Declarer Play*.



# John Simon Sportsmanship Award



*John E. Simon*

## Recipients: James & Sam Coutts

This year's John Simon Sportsmanship Award goes to the brothers James and Sam Coutts from Christchurch, New Zealand for their impeccable behaviour in the Summer Festival of Bridge in Canberra in January.



*James Coutts*



*Sam Coutts*

We couldn't say it any better than GeO Tislevoll did in his letter to Barry Rigal explaining what happened ...

Hi Barry,

I don't know what it takes to be worth a sportsmanship award nomination, but will tell you this story from Canberra in January. It was a 34-pair event over two days before the main events started. At the finish, it was a close finish among several pairs, one of whom was Joan Butts and me. When we got the results in the bar afterwards, two young brothers from Christchurch, James and Sam Coutts had won, finishing a few MPs ahead of us. I did not think much more about it other than that I thought our score in the last set was a bit lower than I had hoped for. Everybody had gone somewhere, dinner, bar etc., and there were no score slips available. About three hours later, Joan came looking for me and told me that, when looking over the scores on the internet, she had found a scoring error; our plus 90 in one notrump having been scored as minus 90. The difference that would have made, if scored correctly, was more than the Coutts brothers' winning margin. The organisers were informed about it by Joan the same evening, but they said it was too late to change the scores, even though the prize-giving was set to be the next morning. Rules are rules.

James Coutts (and his brother) did not want to accept this. He said, "If we did not really win, I don't want to accept the prize." He talked to the organisers the next morning, but they did not want to change anything. I was not in the room when the prize-giving happened (I was to play the next event in the room downstairs), but Joan told me when James and Sam were given the first prize, James grabbed the microphone and said he and his brother had decided not to accept the gold medal and the first prize money, and handed it over to swap with Joan. No one got a bigger round of applause in Canberra this year than James and Sam.

(Joan and I decided we did not want to take the first-prize money either and suggested a split of first and second.)

I think the two brothers' behaviour was commendable. They had done nothing wrong themselves, and I am sure some (many?) would have just accepted the win. I think these young players' (there is a fine and growing group of young players in New Zealand and Australia at the moment) attitude is super.

Best regards, GeO Tislevoll, Auckland

# Keri Klinger Memorial Declarer Play of the Year

**Winner:** Richard Jedrychowski (Australia)

**Article:** *Oz Bridge: The Force of the Jedi*

**Journalist:** Ron Klinger (Australia)

**Event:** Rubber Bridge, Grand Slam Bridge Centre, Sydney

**Source:** IBPA Bulletin 616, May, 2016, p. 2



**OZ BRIDGE**

**Ron Klinger**

**Northbridge, NSW**

[www.ronklingerbridge.com](http://www.ronklingerbridge.com)

## THE FORCE OF THE JEDI

Take a look at one of Australia's top players, Richard Jedrychowski, affectionately known as Jedi, in action in a rubber bridge game at the Grand Slam Bridge Centre, Double Bay, in Sydney on April 8.

**Dealer South. Neither Vul.**

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

West	North	East	South
Callin	Raj	David	Richard
Gruia	Limaye	Conway	Jedrychowski
—	—	—	1♠
Pass	2♠	Double	Pass
3♦	3♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

West led the two of hearts: five, king, three. East shifted to the diamond three: six, king, two. West continued with the five of diamonds, taken by the ace. To defeat three spades, East needed to play another diamond, but he chose the three of clubs. The queen of clubs won and South shifted his attention to trumps: six of spades, two, seven, three; then the eight of spades, diamond seven, ten, four.

South could almost certainly tell West's shape: four spades (known) and four diamonds (indicated by the play so far). As West had led the two of hearts, that would have been from three or four hearts. However, if West had had four hearts, he'd have bid three hearts, not three diamonds. South gave West three hearts, and hence a 4=3=4=2 pattern. West had also shown up with the ace of spades and the king of diamonds. As East had won trick one with the king of hearts, South also placed the heart queen with West. East might have been deceptive with both the queen and king of hearts, but that was unlikely. There was no reason to fool partner here. These cards remained:

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

South has lost three tricks already and will lose to the ace of spades at some point. How can South come to nine tricks? It would not work to cross to the ace of hearts, discard a heart on the jack of diamonds and ruff a heart. If you continue with a spade, West wins and a diamond gives the defence the fifth trick one way or another. A heart to the ace, jack of diamonds to discard your heart loser and then another club finesse will not work either.

Because it was hopeless if West had started with the queen-ten-two of hearts, declarer, of necessity, placed the heart ten with East. In that case, he could transfer the heart menace to East by leading the jack of hearts at a convenient time. At trick seven, Jedi therefore played the nine of spades. West took the ace, and declarer unblocked the king from dummy as East discarded a heart. If West had played another spade, East throwing the nine of diamonds, South would have won and led the jack of hearts, letting it run if West had played low. If West had covered, the heart ace would have won and the jack of diamonds would have squeezed East in hearts and clubs.

In practice, after taking the ace of spades, West was not so kind as to play another spade. He returned a diamond to dummy's jack. This foiled South's initial plan, since the squeeze position had been destroyed, whether South discards a heart or a club.

Not to worry, Jedi found the solution. He ruffed the jack of diamonds! Ruffing your own winner is not usually a good idea, but here it was essential. Next came the jack of hearts: queen—ace—six. East was down to the ten of hearts and king-to-three clubs while South had the nine of hearts and the ace-jack-four of clubs. The jack of spades simultaneously drew West's last trump and squeezed East. Whichever suit East discarded, South would discard from the other suit and repeat the club finesse. Making three spades.

### Other Shortlisted Candidates

<u>Reporter</u>	<u>"Star"</u>	<u>Bulletin</u> .Page
Knut Kjærnsrød	Erik Dahl	609.12
Brent Manley	Jeff Meckstroth	610.9
Jan van Cleeff	Yaniv Zack	618.7
Mark Horton	Bénédicte Cronier	618.13
John Carruthers	Joel Wooldridge	617.15

# Gidwani Family Trust Defence of the Year

**Winner:** Dennis Bilde (Denmark)

**Article:** *Glittering Bridge Stars*

**Journalist:** Måns Berg (Sweden)

**Event:** The Swedish Bridgefestival 2015

**Source:** IBPA Bulletin 608, September, 2015, p. 3



[www.svenskbridge.se/eng](http://www.svenskbridge.se/eng)

**THE SWEDISH  
BRIDGEFESTIVAL 2015**



## GLITTERING BRIDGE STARS

**Måns Berg, Stockholm**

**Translated by Micke Melander**

Since the Swedish Bridge Festival 2015 didn't collide, as it usually does, with the Summer Nationals in the USA, a big number of the Nordic star players were seen in play very early in the 2015 edition of the Chairman's Cup in Örebro, Sweden. Normally, they fly in to Sweden in the middle of the competition for the last days of the KOs. This year, 166 teams participated, with players from 13 NBOs. Young Danish player Dennis Bilde's star was really glittering when he made a brilliant play in the Qualifying Swiss on the following board:

**Dealer East. EW Vul.**

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

West	North	East	South
Nyström	Andersson	Bilde	Probert
—	—	1♣	1♠
2♥	Double	3♥	3♠
4♥	4♠	Pass	Pass
Double	Pass	Pass	Pass

Two hearts from Nyström was forcing for one round and North's double was for takeout. Nyström confessed afterwards that his double that ended the auction was a little bit aggressive, but he liked his singleton diamond and the trump holding with which to defend.

Nyström led the four of diamonds, declarer followed low from dummy, and Bilde in East followed suit with the nine! That went to the declarer's king. Bilde foresaw what would happen if he had jumped up with the ace of diamonds to give his partner a diamond ruff: declarer would then have won the heart or club return, drawn trumps and been able to run the established diamonds to score eleven tricks.

By keeping the ace of diamonds and making sure of being in control of the diamond suit, Bilde made a really good defensive move. Declarer played a trump to the ace and a second round of trumps which went to Nyström's king. Nyström then shifted to a club, ducked to Bilde's queen. Bilde returned a low diamond, ruffed by Nyström with his last trump. Declarer could do nothing when Nyström returned his last club—South still had to lose to the ace of diamonds and a second club for two down!

At the other table, they played in four spades, which was easily made after a diamond lead to the ace and a diamond ruff. Of 72 declarers, 62 of them managed to make four spades.

Note that declarer could always have made his contract on a diamond lead, by finessing in spades. The only killing lead was a club. Probert stood no chance to make his contract when he didn't finesse in trumps due to the brilliant defence set up by Dennis Bilde!

### **Other Shortlisted Candidates**

<u>Reporter</u>	<u>"Stars"</u>	<u>Bulletin</u> . <u>Page</u>
Jan van Cleeff	Thomas Bessis	610.4
Knut Kjærnsrød	Brogeland/Lindqvist	612.3
Michael Kamil	Geir Helgemo	612.13
Knut Kjærnsrød	Kristoffer Hegge	614.19
Oren Kriegel	Brad Moss	615.7

# Yeh Bros. Best Bid Deal of the Year

**Winner:** Michael Rosenberg and Zia Mahmood (USA)

**Article:** *Changing Horses in Mid-Stream*

**Journalist:** John Carruthers (Canada)

**Event:** 2015 World Senior Teams Championship, Chennai

**Source:** IBPA Bulletin 608, January 2016, p. 6



## CHANGING HORSES IN MID-STREAM

John Carruthers, Kingsville, ON

One of the most difficult tasks to accomplish in bidding is to agree one suit, especially a major, then bid a slam in another suit. Michael Rosenberg and Zia Mahmood, playing in the USAI team, did just that in their round-robin match against England, and it wasn't just a small slam, but a grand:

**Board 21. Dealer North. NS Vul.**

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

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Mahmood</i>	<i>Price</i>	<i>Rosenberg</i>	<i>Simpson</i>
—	Pass	Pass	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♣ <sup>1</sup>	Pass
2NT <sup>2</sup>	Pass	3♦ <sup>3</sup>	Pass
4♦ <sup>4</sup>	Pass	4♠	Pass
4NT <sup>5</sup>	Pass	5♣ <sup>6</sup>	Pass
5♥ <sup>7</sup>	Pass	6♦ <sup>8</sup>	Pass
7♣ <sup>9</sup>	Pass	7♦	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. Drury with a spade fit
2. (i) Slam try, usually with a second suit, or (ii) Choice of games with 4M or 3NT, to be clarified with a 3NT bid next time.
3. I have a good diamond suit (two of the top three honours)
4. In order to set up double key card
5. Six Key Card Blackwood
6. One or four key cards
7. Queen ask
8. Both the queen of spades and the queen of diamonds
9. Please pick a grand slam (in case East has only ♦KQ109)

Mahmood took a bit of a chance: a spade grand slam would likely have been on the heart finesse if Rosenberg had only four diamonds, unlikely as that was (Rosenberg had denied a heart control by bidding four spades over four diamonds). Colin Simpson led a heart. Rosenberg won with the ace, led a diamond to the king, ruffed a club, cashed the ace of diamonds, came to the queen of spades, drew the last trump and claimed, plus 1440. A brilliant effort.

At the other table...

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Holland</i>	<i>Hamman</i>	<i>Hallberg</i>	<i>Lair</i>
—	1♣	Pass	3♣ <sup>1</sup>
Double	Pass	3♦	Pass
4♠	Pass	5♣	Pass
5♦	Pass	5♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. Pre-emptive

Bob Hamman and Mark Lair really got in John Holland's face, forcing him to start at the three level. Having received only a three-diamond bid from Gunnar Hallberg in response to his takeout double and having holes everywhere, despite his jump to four spades, Holland subsided at the five level, taking the obvious 12 tricks to lose 14 IMPs.

### Other Shortlisted Candidates:

<u>Reporter</u>	<u>"Stars"</u>	<u>Bulletin</u> . <u>Page</u>
Wang et al	Liu-Lu	613.15
Peter Gill	Boyd-Robinson	615.7
Bob Pitts	Price-Simpson	615.12
Bob Pitts	Hacketts	615.13
John Carruthers	Tolliver-Zwerling	612.7



# Richard Freeman

## Junior Deal of the Year

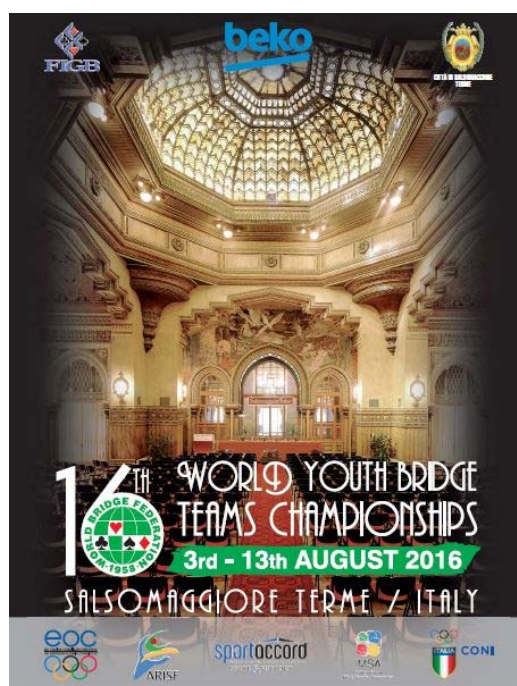
**Winner:** Leen Stougie and Mark Stougie (Netherlands)

**Article:** *Saving the Best until Last*

**Journalist:** Phillip Alder (USA)

**Event:** 16<sup>th</sup> World Youth Team Championships, Salsomaggiore

**Source:** IBPA Bulletin 620, September 2016, p. 4



## SAVING THE BEST UNTIL LAST

Phillip Alder, Hobe Sound, FL

With only the opponents vulnerable, you (South) hold:

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

The bidding goes:

West	North	East	South
—	—	1♠	Double
2♣	Pass	Pass	Double
Pass	3♦	3♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		

What would you lead?

Often, at the end of a long tournament, the standard of play deteriorates because the players are tired. But surely the best defence of these championships, and perhaps of the year, occurred on the fourth board of the last set in the Youngsters final between Italy and the Netherlands.

This was the full deal:

**Dealer East. EW Vul.**

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

The bidding was identical at both tables.

In the Open Room, Sebastiano Scala made the 'normal' lead – the ace of diamonds. After seeing the dummy, he switched to the ten of trumps . . . too late. Pim Dupont won in his hand and led another diamond. South played his jack and Andrea Manganella (North) overtook with his queen to lead a second trump, but declarer won with his nine and ruffed a diamond in the dummy. After that, East had only two losers in the rounded suits, so made his contract for plus 140.

In the Closed Room, Leen Stougie (South) found the trump lead at trick one! The declarer, Federico Porta, won with his spade nine and led a diamond. South took that trick with his king and led another spade. East won with his queen to lead another diamond, but South played the jack and his brother, Marc Stougie, overtook with his queen to play a third trump and kill the diamond ruff in the dummy. Now declarer had to lose one heart, three diamonds and one club to go one down.

That brilliant defence gained 5 IMPs for the Netherlands. But it proved to be too little too late, with Italy taking the title by 217 imps to 175.

### Other Shortlisted Candidates:

<u>Reporter</u>	<u>"Star"</u>	<u>Bulletin.Page</u>
Alder et al	Filip Jelic	609.15
Kees Tammens	Yvonne Wiseman	616.4
Brian Senior	Liz Gahan	617.4
Van Cleeff	Giovanni Donati	618.8
Phillip Alder	Christian Bakke	620.3
Phillip Alder	Oscar Nijssen	620.2