

IBPA Awards 2008  
Beijing, China



# 2008 IBPA Awards

## The IBPA Personality of the Year



Antoine Bernheim, president of the Generali Group, has been selected as the International Bridge Press Association's Personality of the Year. Generali is a longtime supporter of the WBF and the IBPA. Bernheim is shown playing at the World Championships in Estoril, Portugal.

This year both the IBPA and the WBF are celebrating 50 years of existence. Your Executive decided to honour as its Personality of the Year someone who represents the commercial sponsors who have most supported bridge in general, and IBPA in particular, over many years. For IBPA, in our early years, that would have been BOLS, but in the later years one company stands out, namely, Generali.

In the days when I was your Editor, Generali frequently supported IBPA with full page advertisements. When we produced our last Handbook in 2002, Generali paid for the postage to members, and they have made a similar offer this year.

In bridge, generally you all know of Generali's support for both the WBF and EBL. The most obvious here in Beijing was the Generali World Masters Individual.

The one individual who has represented Generali over the years is its President, Antoine Bernheim of Italy. Sadly, Mr. Bernheim cannot be present to accept the Award so we have asked someone who is a good friend of Mr. Bernheim to accept the Award on his behalf. I refer to the President of the World Bridge Federation, Mr Damiani.

Patrick Jourdain, President



## The Alan Truscott Memorial Award



Alan Truscott, circa 1964, The New York Times

The **Alan Truscott Memorial Award** is given periodically for some special service to the game that would appeal to Alan. As well as a top bridge player, Alan was also a fine chess player.

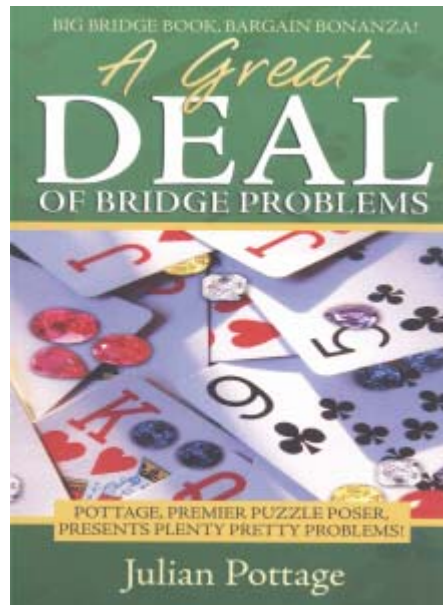


This year, the Truscott Award is given to Liu Siming, Vice-President of the Chinese Contract Bridge Association, for services to the International Mind Sports Association, bringing chess and bridge together at this First World Mind Sports Games. Patrick Choy, accepting the award, said Siming, as Director General Administrator of Sport in China, worked tirelessly to bring bridge and chess into media coverage.

Patrick Jourdain, President

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## Master Point Press Book of the Year



**Winner: Julian Pottage (Wales) for  
“A Great Deal of Bridge Problems”  
Visisphere Publishing**

### **Shortlist:**

Anant Baghwat (India): “The Bridge Adventures of Mr. Baghir (The Numb)”  
David Bird (England): “Heavenly Contracts”  
Mark Horton (England): “Misplay These Hands with Me”  
Enda Murphy (Ireland): “A Bridge Too Far?”  
Bobby Wolff (USA): “The Lone Wolff”



Julian Pottage

## Precision Best Bid Hand of the Year

**Winner: Geoff Hampson-Eric Greco (USA)**  
**Journalist: Paul Linxwiler (USA)**  
**Bulletin 516, page 4**

### Board-A-Match Beauty

Geoff Hampson and Eric Greco bid these hands from the Reisinger qualifiers beautifully.

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

Greco	Hampson
2 NT <sup>1</sup>	3 ♠ <sup>2</sup>
4 ♦ <sup>3</sup>	4 ♥ <sup>4</sup>
4 NT <sup>5</sup>	5 ♠ <sup>6</sup>
5 NT <sup>7</sup>	6 NT
7 ♣	Pass

1. 19-21
2. Minor-suit Stayman, one/both minors
3. Diamonds and a club fit
4. Key-card ask in clubs
5. 1 or 4 key cards
6. King ask
7. A red king

When Hampson bid six no trump Greco knew he was facing a running club suit and could count 12 top tricks. The thirteenth would come from setting up the diamonds, and the worst diamond holding that would go down in dummy of three small would still leave him with better than a 50% contract. Even getting to six no trump would have scored well at BAM, but reaching seven clubs deservedly earned them a shared top from the 64 tables in play and a win at BAM.

#### Shortlist:

- 512.5 Krupowicz-Lutpstanski (Mark Horton)
- 513.7 Fredin-Fallenius (Mark Horton)
- 515.5 Heather Dhondy-Jeremy Dhondy (Simon Cochemé)
- 517.8 Pigot-Moran (Mark Horton)
- 519.12 Siebert-Said (Paul Linxwiler)

## C&R Motors Declarer Play of the Year

**Winner: Giorgio Duboin (Italy)**  
**Journalist: Mark Horton (England)**  
**Bulletin 514, page 9**

**World Bridge Team Championships, Shanghai, China**  
**Bermuda Bowl - Norway v Italy**

**RR6. Board 10. Dealer East. Both Vul.**

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Helgemo</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Helness</i>	<i>Duboin</i>
--	--	3 ♥	Pass
Pass	Double	Pass	3 NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

There was some discussion as to the best bid with the North cards. You can decide if you prefer three spades. You might also consider if there is any case for passing the double on the South cards.

West led the queen of clubs and we immediately observed that declarer was unlikely to make a winning guess in spades. He won the club ace and played the jack of diamonds. West took the ace and continued with the jack of clubs. Declarer ducked that, discarding the jack of spades from his hand, and won the next club, discarding the three of diamonds.

Now came some more serious thinking - declarer could be sure of eleven of East's cards - seven hearts, three clubs and one diamond - but what were the other two? For the moment, it didn't matter, as declarer set out to develop a heart trick by playing the king of hearts.

If East wins this he has no good move - a spade is clearly hopeless, and if East and South play some ping pong in the heart suit West will be squeezed - but Helness found the only way to set declarer a problem by ducking - earning cheers from the Norwegian supporters.

Declarer came to hand with a spade and played the jack of hearts. If East wins that, he can cash another heart, but then the next heart will see West squeezed, so Helness ducked once more. A great try, but now declarer could simply play a spade to dummy's ace.

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If East had shown out on the spade ace, the diamonds would have behaved. If he had followed with a small spade and showed out on the king of diamonds West could have been thrown in to lead away from his ten of diamonds. A great hand featuring top-class play and defence. When the queen of spades actually fell under the ace, Duboin emerged with a couple of overtricks for plus 660.

Closed Room

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
Versace	Saelensminde	Lauria	Brogeland
--	--	3 ♥	Pass
Pass	3 ♠	Pass	4 ♥
Pass	4 ♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

East led the ace of hearts and switched to the six of clubs. Declarer won in dummy perforce and played a diamond to the king. When that held he cross ruffed clubs and hearts and arrived at ten tricks, plus 620 to lose 1 IMP.

**Shortlist:**

- 516.7 Lauria (Phillip Alder)
- 519.4 Sementa (Yeh Bulletin)
- 520.3 Cohen (Phillip Alder)
- 520.10 Cannell (John Carruthers)
- 522.5 Helgemo (Mark Horton)
- 523.4 Greenwood (Andrew Robson)

# Gidwani Family Trust Defence of the Year

**Winner: Michelle Brunner (England)**  
**Journalist: Heather Dhondy (England)**  
**Bulletin 514, page 18**

## The Venice Cup

Having successfully negotiated the round robin, it was time for England to face China in the quarter-finals. We were neck and neck for the first four sets out of six, but eventually the Chinese proved too strong and we were eliminated. One of the earlier sets produced a very special play from Michelle Brunner:

### QF2. Board 26. Dealer East. Both Vul.

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

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

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

West	North	East	South
Michelle Brunner	Liu Yi Qian	Rhona Goldenfield	Wang Wenfei
--	--	Pass	Pass
Pass	1 ♣ <sup>1</sup>	Pass	1 ♦ <sup>2</sup>
Pass	2 ♠	Pass	2 NT
Pass	3 ♣	Pass	4 ♣
Pass	5 NT	Pass	7 ♣
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. Precision Club (16+)
2. Negative (0-7)

The Precision auction propelled the Chinese side to an optimistic seven-club contract. You will note that the entryless dummy more or less forces declarer into the winning line of dropping the singleton king of trumps off-side to land a rather jammy contract.

Enter Michelle, who, on seeing partner's lead of the jack of hearts covered by the queen in dummy, ducked!

Declarer, who was mightily relieved to gain a surprise entry, had no hesitation in taking advantage of it to play her percentage shot in trumps of taking the finesse! Whoops!

How was this brilliancy found? Should declarer have been fooled? Let's think about it.



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One club was strong and one diamond negative. The jump to two spades was natural and forcing, showing a strong hand. Two no trump and three clubs were both natural. Over partner's natural four clubs, showing support, North jumped to five no trump, grand slam force. Whether they disagreed about the meaning of five no trump or the responses, I'm not sure, but one thing that Michelle could be certain of is that declarer had a source of running tricks in spades for this action. Therefore there would be no danger in giving declarer a cheap trick in hearts since they would soon be disposed of on spades in any case.

From Michelle's point of view, a jump to seven clubs holding only the queen in trumps left room for partner to have a trump honour and there was a significant danger that it would be singleton. With plenty of time to think about it, we can all see that it can't cost, and may gain on this layout.

However, the really impressive thing is that it had to be done smoothly and in tempo so as to give nothing away. If you duck slowly, declarer will be suspicious. Should she have been suspicious anyway?

It is unusual to lead from a king-jack-ten holding against a grand slam. If you don't want to lead a trump, then a spade into the solid suit would seem to give nothing away. On the other hand, a lead from jack-ten would be perfectly normal. Therefore, you should not expect the queen of hearts to hold the first trick. Nevertheless, it is a huge leap of logic to then deduce that West has ducked in order to persuade you to take a losing line in trumps. This brilliancy was undoubtedly the play of the tournament.

### **Shortlist:**

- 513.12 O'Keefe (Andrew Robson)
- 515.9 Carroll (John Carruthers)
- 528.11 Campanile-Barel (Richard Colker)
- 521.5 Gromöller (Andrew Robson)
- 521.11 Hamman (Donna Compton)

## Brazilian Junior Deal of the Year

**Winner: Rosaline Barendregt (Netherlands)**  
**Journalist: Max Rebattu (Netherlands)**  
**Bulletin 521, page 13**

### IMP Magazine Junior Bridge Hand of the Year

*Translated from the Dutch by Lex deGroot, Arnhem, The Netherlands; courtesy of IMP Bridge Magazine. The deal was also short-listed for the IBM award*

The White House Junior International is without a doubt the most important international youth tournament in The Netherlands. This year the event comprised 24 teams, including four Dutch Teams. Such an event almost automatically guarantees beautiful and spectacular deals. This year it was Rosaline Barendregt who presented us with a fabulous three no trump contract. In view its quality, it certainly is a good candidate for the Junior Bridge Hand of the Year. To wit.

#### Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
--	--	--	1 NT
Pass	2 ♣	2 ♠	Pass
Pass	2 NT	Pass	3 NT
Double	Pass	Pass	Pass

Unfortunately for North, a double of two spades would not have been for penalties. Rosaline Barendregt upgraded her hand because of the spade tenaces behind East. West tried a penalty double; after all, East had bid two spades vulnerable against not. West led the two of clubs and East won with the ace and shifted to the ten of hearts; West was allowed to win with the king. West returned a heart, won with dummy's queen. It was time to take stock. The opening lead and the auction made it fairly clear that West held a spade void and East a likely singleton club ace. In principle, there are possibilities for four spade tricks, two heart tricks, two or three diamond tricks and one club trick. Transportation between the hands is fairly poor, though. Four spade tricks require the North hand to have three entries and East-West may be able to prevent that. Moreover, the hearts are a threat when declarer loses the lead in diamonds and clubs. Declarer, after winning the heart queen, started with the marked finesse of her nine of spades and West showed out as expected, pitching a club. Then she played a diamond to dummy's king, all following low. Now South had an opportunity to take a second spade

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finesse. Then, if the diamonds were 3-2, all would be well, as there would be sufficient entries for the spade plays. However, Rosaline Barendregt avoided the trap of cashing the spade king and then playing a diamond. Instead, she led the diamond jack from her hand. West showed out, so probably had a 0=6=1=6 distribution. East ducked to avoid giving dummy an extra entry.

South could now have cashed the spade king and heart ace and then played a diamond. As East would have no more hearts or clubs, he would be forced to lead to dummy's spade ace after winning two diamond tricks. However, declarer then has only eight tricks, four in spades, two in hearts, two in diamonds and none in clubs. Meanwhile, East-West have four tricks, so there's no more chance to develop a ninth trick in clubs.

Declarer therefore needed at least one club trick, so after the diamond jack held, she led the club queen. West won with the king and returned a club to South's jack, East discarding two spades. Again, South cannot play the king of spades and ace of hearts, and then a diamond, as that would give East-West five tricks. South therefore cashed the heart ace in the following position:

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

The seven of diamonds was discarded from dummy on the heart ace. What is East to do? If he discards a spade, South will overtake her spade king with the ace and score the spade seven for her ninth trick. If, instead, East discards the ten of diamonds, then declarer will score her ninth trick using East as a 'stepping stone'. She unblocks the king of spades and next throws East in with his diamond ace, forcing him to yield the ninth trick to dummy's spade ace. In fact, this last scenario gives South another winning option. She can play a diamond right away. East wins and South scores the last two tricks with the spade king and diamond eight.

Scoring the last trick via a classic stepping stone to an otherwise inaccessible hand is much more elegant, however.

East might have done better by capturing the diamond jack with the ace and then continuing with the diamond ten. However, South can still reach a stepping stone ending or execute a spade-diamond squeeze. After winning with queen of diamonds declarer next plays a club. She will regain the lead in clubs or hearts and, with South holding the king of spades and eight of diamonds, East will be squeezed. If West refuses to win with the club king, then, after the heart ace, a stepping stone position results. With this fantastic end position, Rosaline Barendregt is a worthy candidate for the Junior Bridge Hand of the Year.

### Shortlist:

- 515.4 Bessis (Mark Horton)
- 517.11 Geromboux (Ron Klinger)
- 519.11 Drijver (Kees Tammens)
- 520. 4 Braun (Ron Klinger)
- 521.6 Lindqvist (Ib Lundby)