

2012 IBPA Awards



John Carruthers, Lille, France, August 16, 2012

Personality of the Year

Maria Teresa Lavazza



When legendary Non-Playing Captains are discussed, only two names will be mentioned, both Italian: Carl'Alberto Perroux of the Blue Team and Maria Teresa Lavazza of the eponymous Lavazza Team. Maria Teresa retired this year after the European Team Championships in Dublin – as a captain or coach, she won all the major team titles: three Olympiads, two Bermuda Bowls and a Rosenblum; a World Transnational Teams and five European Open Teams titles also adorn the trophy case. Seven other world and European medals complete the npc résumé. As a player, Maria Teresa Lavazza has had some success as well: wins in the European Mixed Teams and the European Champions Cup (twice), as well as three other medals in European Mixed Team Championships.

Lavazza's retirement came about as a result of the Italian Bridge Federation's avowed aim to eliminate selectors and use team trials to choose their teams. This opens the door for sponsors to play in the team, not a possibility when three pairs were selected by the Commissario Tecnico. There is no question that the open Italian bridge team will be worse off without Maria Teresa Lavazza at the helm and that the rest of the bridge world will miss her dearly. The Lavazza coffee stations had become an almost-permanent part of World and European Championships and were greatly appreciated by the attendees - Lavazza coffee has woken up a generation of bridge players, thus improving the standard of the game and providing journalists with untold numbers of brilliancies.

Apart from bridge, Maria Teresa will now have more time to spend with ADISCO, the children's leukemia charity of which she is Regional President, and with her five grandchildren.

Master Point Press Book of the Year

Winner: *The Contested Auction* – Roy Hughes



Canadian expert Roy Hughes' has written four bridge books: *Building a Bidding System*, *Card by Card*, *Canada's Bridge Warriors: Murray & Kehela*, and *The Contested Auction* – all have been shortlisted for the Master Point Press Book of the Year Award. Hughes won the 2007 award for *Canada's Bridge Warriors*. Now he has won the 2012 award for his latest, *The Contested Auction*.

Hughes' background in mathematics and linguistics has led him to think a great deal about the theory and structure of effective bidding systems. In *The Contested Auction*, he turns to the theory and practice of competitive auctions, a critical component of the modern game. Beginning by establishing what the bidding system needs to accomplish, Hughes goes on to discuss every type of contested auction, and recommends useful methods and agreements from which the reader can select. This is an up-to-date discussion, covering many topics in detail that have at best seen cursory treatment in print up to now. Hughes discusses "different philosophies and strategies to cope with the modern vernacular, stressing the importance of clarity of principles, comfort with agreed methods, and a commitment to understanding any treatment and its consequences before adopting it."

Shortlist:

Bridge at the Edge – Boye Brogeland & David Bird

It's All in the Game – Bob Ewen & Jeff Rubens

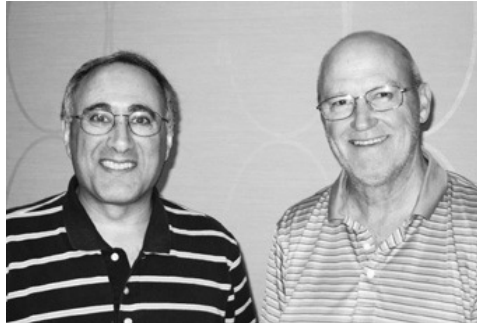
The Deadly Defence Quiz Book – Wladyslaw Izdebski, Roman Krzemien & Ron Klinger

Defend or Declare? – Julian Pottage

The Amazing Queen – Clement Wong

John Simon Sportsmanship Award

Recipients: Jeff Ruben & Andrew Stayton (USA)
and Debbie Rosenberg (USA)



Jeff Ruben & Andrew Stayton



Debbie Rosenberg

The John Simon Sportsmanship Award is granted occasionally for acts of sportsmanship by bridge players that define how we all should act. This year there were two incidents at the North American Bridge Championships in Philadelphia in July that stood out.

Firstly, in the David Bruce 0-5000 Life Master Pairs, Jeff Ruben and Andrew Stayton, who had won the event, were checking their matchpoint scores against their estimates. They noticed that their score for one board greatly exceeded their estimate. Upon checking further, they discovered that the score for that board had been entered incorrectly, and furthermore, that the correct score would drop them from first to second place. They immediately reported the correction to the Tournament Directors.

Secondly, Debbie Rosenberg woke up in the middle of the night realising that her team in the Richard Freeman Mixed Board-a-Match Teams had scored a board incorrectly, winning a full point rather than the correct half a point (board-a-match in the ACBL is scored as a point for a win on the board and half a point for a draw). The margin of her team's win was less than half a point. Rosenberg also immediately reported the error to the directing staff, dropping her team out of first place into second.

While it is true that these actions are covered in the rules of the game, the behaviour of Ruben, Stayton and Rosenberg is laudatory and shows that there is sportsmanship at all levels of the game.

Richard Freeman Junior Deal of the Year

Winner: Roger Lee (USA) (Phillip Alder, journalist; from IBPA Bulletin 560.16)

OPATIJA 2011 I
Phillip Alder, Hobe, Sound, FL

The second World Youth Congress was held in Opatija, Croatia, from August 21 to 30. Opatija is a picturesque town in the northwest corner of Croatia, about a three-hour drive from Venice. I was editor of the daily bulletins, with able assistance from Herman De Wael (primarily page layouts), PO Sundelin (daily bridge puzzles) and Kees Tammens (articles about his Dutch charges).

If there had been a prize for the best-played deal of the tournament, this would have been the easy winner. It was played by Roger Lee of the USA team in the opening session of the Knockout Teams.

Dealer East. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
	<i>Wolkowitz</i>		<i>Lee</i>
–	–	Pass	INT
Pass	2♠ ¹	Pass	3♣ ²
Pass	3NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

1. Range enquiry
2. Maximum

At the other table, South took the first heart trick and early on played on diamonds, hoping they would run. But when they broke 5-1, he had to fail, going two down.

Lee realized that diamonds could wait. He won the ten-of-hearts lead with his queen and immediately ran the seven of clubs, losing to East's jack. To defeat the contract, East had then to switch to a diamond, or return his low club for West to switch to his diamond! Understandably, though, East tried a low spade. Declarer put in his jack, winning the trick. Suddenly he seemed to be up to nine tricks: two spades, two hearts and five diamonds. But Lee realized that diamonds could still wait. He led another

club, dummy's queen losing to East's ace. East led the king of spades, ducked by South, and another spade to declarer's ace, dummy discarding a heart.

Diamonds could wait no longer. South took his ace, played a diamond to dummy's king, and cashed the queen and jack to put West under pressure. On the jack of diamonds, South threw a club, but what could West spare? He had to pitch his last spade. But now a club exit endplayed West to lead away from the king of hearts. Beautifully done! Are you wondering what would have happened if West had won the second club trick with his king and led back the ten of spades? Declarer would have ducked and taken the next spade to cash his ace of hearts, squeezing East in the minors. He would have had to give up his spade, but declarer would then have led a third club to establish his ninth trick there. What marvelous symmetry.

Shortlist:

Alejandro Scanavino/Felipe Ferro (Ana Roth & Fernando Lema, 561.14)

Frederik Skovly/Emil Buus Thomsen (Jens Otto Pedersen, 571.16)

Liga Bekere (Herman De Wael, 571.16)

Keri Klinger Memorial Declarer Play of the Year

Winner: Terje Lichtwark (NOR)
(Knut Kjærnsrød, journalist; from IBPA Bulletin 566.12)

NORWEGIAN BRILLIANCY
Knut Kjærnsrød, Tored, Norway

This board was played recently in one of our clubs in the far north, Harstad. Anders Kristensen, one of the opponents, reported declarer's brilliant play.

Dealer East. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Bremseth</i>	<i>Lind</i>	<i>Kristensen</i>	<i>Lichtwark</i>
—	—	Pass	2♥
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♥
Pass	6♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Two hearts showed six hearts and 10-13 points and three hearts showed a (semi-)balanced minimum. Despite that, North decided to jump to slam. West had decided to “wait in the bushes” with his solid suit. West started with the ace of diamonds and continued with the king, ruffed in dummy. With the trumps 2-2 or 3-1 the contract is easy, but when Terje Lichtwark played a trump to his queen, West discarded a diamond. South played a club to the king and played the ten of trumps, which East had to cover. Then Terje played a club to the ace and ruffed a club. It may seem natural to play the queen of spades now, but that would not work. Instead he played a spade to the king and a club from dummy. East discarded a spade and South his remaining diamond. Now the situation was:

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

To fulfill his brilliancy, Terje played dummy's last club and trumped with his three. The spade queen overtaken with the ace left East helpless.

Shortlist:

- Bill Jacobs (Ron Klinger, 566.6)
- Ronny Jorstad (Knut Kjærnsrød, 566.11)
- Matias Rohrberg (Roland Wald, 567.11/568.15)
- Franck Multon (Brian Senior, 570.7)
- Sven-Åke Bjerregård (Micke Melander, 570.22)
- Carla Arnolds (Mark Horton, 570.20)

Gidwani Family Trust Defence of the Year

Winner: Tezcan Sen (TUR)
(Erdal Sidar, journalist; from IBPA Bulletin 560.4)

ISTANBUL OPEN PAIRS
Erdal Sidar, Istanbul

Dealer West. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
1♦	Pass	INT	4♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

This deal comes from the four-session 2011 Istanbul Open Pairs Championship; 186 pairs took part. West led the diamond ace, spade ace and diamond king. Declarer, Orhan Ozcelik, ruffed and played a trump; East won the ace and continued with a third diamond, but Ozcelik ruffed and cashed all his trumps (unblocking the ten of clubs). West's last three cards were a master spade, a master diamond and the jack of clubs. A club to the ace and another to the nine made the contract. Had East returned a spade instead of a diamond, retaining his diamond guard, the position would have been more complex:

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

This time, on the last trump, West can let go his last diamond; had he discarded it earlier, a club would be forced at this point. Declarer throws the spade from dummy and East feels the pressure between the minors.

At another table, after the same start, East, Tezcan Sen (European Mixed Pairs champion in San Remo and World IMP Pairs champion in Verona) ducked the heart queen. Not wishing to allow the defence a chance to eliminate the diamond menace, declarer ruffed a spade to hand and continued with a high heart, discarding a spade from dummy. Again Sen ducked. On another high heart, declarer was presented with a dilemma: dummy remained with two spades, two diamonds and three clubs. A discard in either spades or diamonds would allow East to destroy the menace in that suit, so he threw the ten of clubs. Sen could now exit with the club queen, clipping the transportation channels for any squeeze. A brilliant stroke.

Declarer, however, missed his chance. Instead of a spade ruff after the queen of hearts holds the trick, if he comes to hand with a diamond ruff, that isolates the diamond menace as the cards lie and the guard squeeze works as before. That, however, was very difficult as if diamonds had been 4-4, East could eliminate the menace in the suit when in with the heart ace.

Shortlist:

Norberto Bocchi (Jan van Cleeff, 563.9)

Lynn Deas (Brian Senior, 564.3)

Joel Wooldridge (Phillip Alder, 564.14)

Balicki Slavek (Latala, 567.11)

IBPA Best Bid Hand of the Year

Winners: Alejandro Scanavino/Felipe Ferro (ARG) (Ana Roth/Fernando Lema, journalists; from IBPA Bulletin 561.14)

OPATIJA 2011

Ana Roth & Fernando Lema, BA
"A Big Bull in an Unknown Rodeo"
(From *El Gaucho Martin Fierro*)

"I am a bull in my rodeo and a big bull in an unknown rodeo; I always think of myself as very good and if you want to try me, let others sing and we will see who is less."

With the words of the great Argentine poet José Hernández, we thus describe the excellent South American performance in the semifinal of the teams against a very powerful Dutch-Romanian team. In a match that will surely make history in Argentine-Uruguayan youth bridge, four junior masters from South America overcame a negative result and won this semifinal. The last set began with Argentina-Uruguay down 25 IMPs and produced a lot of swings. With three boards to play, and with the South American team 7 IMPs behind, Felipe Ferro-Alejandro Scanavino bid and made a grand slam that swung the match in their favour. The remaining boards added more IMPs and the match finished 134-104 in favour of the South Americans. The last set was not for heart patients and board 30 was a luxury not often seen.

Board 30. Dealer East. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Agica	Garcia Da Rosa	Nistor	Crusizio
—	—	1♠	Pass
1NT	Pass	2♣	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Agica began with one no trump in order to later show an invitational hand with spade support. Nistor didn't think his hand deserved a slam invitation and closed proceedings with four spades. He made all 13 tricks. The bidding in the other room was very different...

West	North	East	South
<i>Ferro</i>	<i>Drijver</i>	<i>Scanavino</i>	<i>Wackwitz</i>
—	—	1♠	Pass
3♣ ¹	Pass	3♦ ²	Pass
4♣ ³	Pass	4♥ ⁴	Pass
4NT ⁵	Pass	5♦ ⁶	Pass
5♥ ⁷	Pass	6♥ ⁸	Pass
7♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. 3 or 4 spades and an invitational hand
2. Game force
3. Club shortage
4. Heart control, denies diamond control
5. RKCB
6. 3 Key Cards
7. Asks for the trump queen
8. I have it and the king doubleton or king-queen third of hearts.

Once Scanavino confirmed they were going to play game, Ferro began slam exploration. First he informed partner about the club shortage, and when he saw four hearts, he knew that his partner didn't have club wastage, and that he had heart control but no diamond control. Ferro continued by asking about key cards, promising diamond control. The three-key-card answer was evidently the ace-king of spades and the ace of clubs, so he continued by asking for the queen of spades, telling his partner they had all five key cards. Scanavino confirmed the spade queen and third-round heart control (he had already promised the king). Now Ferro could count to 13 and contracted for the grand slam, not concerned about their combined 25 HP. A jewel.

The lead was a trump; declarer only had to draw trumps and play on hearts...for a well-deserved 1510.

Diego Brenner/Agustin Madala (Ana Roth/Fernando Lema, 561.10)

George Jacobs (Brent Manley, 568.5)

Marion Michielsen/Laura Dekkers (Roland Wald, 568.13)

Gary & Daffyd Jones (Patrick Jourdain, 570.6)

The Alan Truscott Award

Tim Bourke (AUS)



The Alan Truscott Award is presented periodically to a person who does something for bridge that the IBPA Executive believes Alan would appreciate.

This year's recipient is Tim Bourke of Canberra, who not only produces the IBPA column service each month, but also converts the BBO .LIN files into text for we journalists.

For this service Tim is the 2012 recipient of the Alan Truscott Award.