

2013 IBPA Awards



John Carruthers, Nusa Dua, Bali, Indonesia, September 23, 2013

Personalities of the Year

Andrew Robson, OBE



Queen Elizabeth II invests Andrew Michael Robson as an Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire in the New Year's Day Honours List for 2013.

IBPA member Andrew Robson, bridge columnist for *The Times*, *Money Week* and *Country Life*, was appointed an Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire in Queen Elizabeth of England's 2013 New Year's Day Honours List for his services to bridge and charity.

Robson obtained a B.Sc. at the University of Bristol in 1985, and a Cert. Ed. in the following year. In 2001 he suffered serious injuries when he slipped on ice when hill-walking in the Lake District and fell thirty feet. He broke many bones, spent two months in hospital and was in a wheelchair for much longer. Robson was able to

Bauke Muller



Queen Beatrix of The Netherlands appointed Bauke Muller as a Ridder (Knight) in de Orde van Oranje-Nassau last year. He receives the honour here, applauded by his teammates.

At only 52 Bauke Muller is the oldest and most experienced player of the Dutch Open team. He is the only player who was also on the team the first time the Dutch team won the World Championships back in 1993. He then partnered Wubbo de Boer, who is nowadays the captain of the Dutch juniors. Bauke Muller and Simon de Wijs began their partnership in 2005. Since the beginning they have been the backbone of the Dutch Open team with two Open European championships (2005 and 2009) and rarely place outside the podium, the highlight of course being the Bermuda Bowl in 2011.

return to the bridge table five months after the accident, the speed of his recovery astonishing his doctors. As a result, he received the IBPA Sportsmanship Award in 2002 "for his spectacular recovery from adversity". Robson also has the distinction of receiving the IBPA award for Best Defence of the Year both as a player (1999) and as a journalist (2002).

Robson has also written for *The Oldie*, *The Spectator* and the *Express on Sunday*. He has written books on bridge, produced instructional CDs and DVDs and, in 1995, opened his own bridge club, The Andrew Robson Bridge Club, in London. Robson has put his training as a schoolteacher to good use by heading many instructional seminars around the UK, as well as hosting master classes and charity bridge events and teaching at his club. Robson is married and has two daughters.

Robson's bridge wins include:
Common Market Games Teams Championship
World Junior Teams Championship
European Teams Championship
Cap Gemini Pairs (three times)
Sunday Times-Macallan Pairs
Gold Cup (five times)
Reisinger Board-a-Match Teams (twice)

One of Robson's most-cherished victories came at the 1989 World Junior Teams Championship, where he not only won the bridge gold medal, but also the impromptu tennis championship!

Bauke is married and the father of a grown-up daughter and has mysteriously managed both to finish an education and travel the world, winning the most prestigious tournaments, while still attending his daytime job.

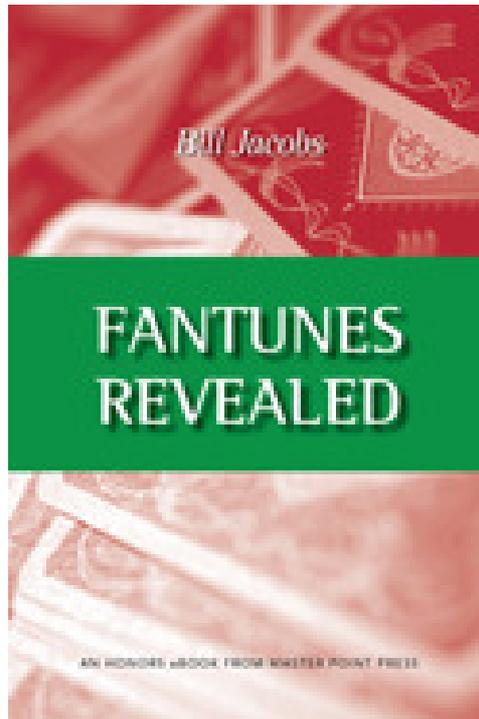
In 2012, Bauke Muller received a Royal Decoration from Her Majesty Queen Beatrix of The Netherlands. After the victory in the Bermuda Bowl in 2011 (Muller's second), the Queen appointed Muller as a Knight in the Order of Orange-Nassau as the most successful bridge player of his country. His teammates now refer to him as "Sir Bauke".

Simon and Bauke play a highly-artificial system known as TARZAN. They employ many relays, making them less audience-friendly to watch than other pairs. However, the system usually gets them to the right spot - if they reach it before the clock runs out!

In addition to the two Bermuda Bowl wins and the two European Open Team Championships titles, Bauke Muller's other bridge successes include a European Champions Cup and wins in both the Teams and Pairs at the 2012 SportAccord World Mind Games.

Master Point Press Book of the Year

Winner: *Fantunes Revealed*, Bill Jacobs, Australia



Shortlist:

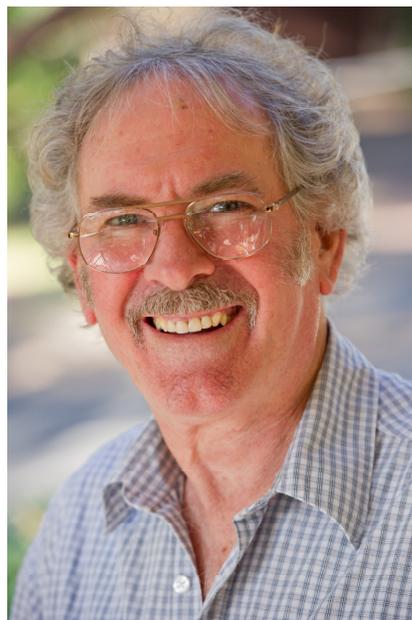
Winning Suit Contract Leads - David Bird & Taf Anthias
Bridge Philosopher 3 - James S. Kauder
Duplicate Bridge Schedules, History and Mathematics - Ian McKinnon
(Removed in favour of the Truscott Award)
Diamonds Are the Hog's Best Friend - Victor Mollo

Not since the introduction of Precision has a new bidding system created such an immediate impact as Fantunes, the unique methods of Fulvio Fantoni and Claudio Nunes, the world's number-one ranked pair. The Italians have several World Championship wins to their name, and their system has played a major role in that success. This book delves into the system, explaining how it works and just as importantly, why it works. Two words best describe Fantunes: natural and fun. This is the definitive text for those who would like to try this innovative and proven new bidding system.

Bill Jacobs has won many Australian national championships, the most recent three playing Fantunes, and has twice represented his country at Open level. He regularly provides astute vugraph commentary on Bridge Base Online. For the last ten years, he has been editor of the monthly bulletin of the Victorian Bridge Association.

Alan Truscott Memorial Award

Recipient: Ian McKinnon, Australia



The Alan Truscott Memorial Award is presented periodically to a person who does something for bridge that the IBPA Executive believes Alan would have appreciated. This year's recipient is Ian McKinnon of Australia for producing *Duplicate Bridge Schedules, History and Mathematics*, an essential book for tournament directors as well as bridge players curious about the history of the game of duplicate bridge. This comprehensive volume supplies all the movements ever thought of and many hundreds of new ones. Included for each movement are the variations, modifications, origins, authors and history of its development. Each movement is then assessed for its measure of quality, called calibre.

The author presents a brand new event type, the Scissor movement, in which any event can be run and scored as a pairs game and as a teams game. The book also delves into the lives of well-known figures such as John T. Mitchell and Edwin C. Howell. In addition, many lesser-known historical figures are examined for their contributions to the development of duplicate movements.

For the mathematically-inclined there are plenty of interesting oddities. The mathematics of balance of movements, giving the measure of quality, is thoroughly discussed. The controversial debate over movement quality, along with its history, is presented through the ideas and opinions of players and mathematicians.

Margaret Parnis England Junior Sportsmanship Award

**Recipients: Justin Howard, Australia and
Emil Buus Thomsen & Frederik Skovly, Denmark**



Justin Howard



Frederik Skovly & Emil Buus Thomsen

IBPA Sportsmanship Awards are granted occasionally for acts of sportsmanship by bridge players that define how we all should act. This year, the award is sponsored by Margaret Parnis England and is specifically targeted at junior players. The deserving winners are Justin Howard of Australia for outstanding acts of sportsmanship at the World Open Youth Championships in Atlanta and to Emil Buus Thomsen and Frederik Skovly of Denmark for similar sporting acts at the European Open Championships in Ostend.

Firstly, in the semifinal of the World Open Youth Team Championship, Howard allowed an opponent to retract a card inadvertently dropped, even though it cost him the contract and jeopardised the match. His team won that match on the last board. Secondly, in the final, he allowed his opponents to field a player who had not previously played in the event due to continued success in the Spingold. "We want to play against your best," was Justin's comment. Unfortunately, Justin's team lost that match. The behaviour of Justin Howard is laudatory and shows that there is excellent sportsmanship in the Junior game as well as the Open game.

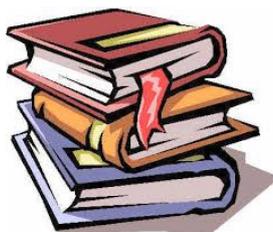
The Parnis England Sportsmanship Award is also presented to Emil Buus Thomsen and Frederik Skovly of the Danish Under-20 Team. An opponent, Mario Dix of Malta, had made a natural bid in a suit in which he was void, preventing the Danish youngsters from bidding a slam in that suit. At the end of the board, they congratulated Dix on his "good psyche" in a most sporting manner.

Richard Freeman Junior Deal of the Year

Winner: Chen Yuechen, China

Journalist: Fu Tsiang, China

From IBPA Bulletin 583.9



A TEXTBOOK DEFENCE, IN A REAL MATCH

Fu Tsiang, Beijing

Suzhou, a city famous for its 2500-year history and its gardens, is only 100 kilometres from Shanghai. The 2013 China National Youth Bridge Championships started in this beautiful city on April 28. Thirty-seven teams competed in four categories: Under-20/25/30 for men and Under-25 for women. U-25 was the largest group; there were 14 teams from different provinces, universities or clubs. A single round robin determined all rankings. Beijing and Shanghai were the favoured teams to take the championship. This deal appeared when they met.

Board 13. Dealer North. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
CHEN		CAO	
Yuechen		Jiahao	
—	Pass	Pass	2♣ ¹
Pass	2♦ ²	Pass	2♥ ³
Pass	2♠ ⁴	Pass	2NT ⁵
Pass	3♣ ⁶	Pass	3♦ ⁷
Pass	4NT ⁸	Pass	6NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. Strong
2. Waiting
3. Hearts or balanced
4. Forced
5. 24-26 HCP balanced
6. Stayman
7. No major
8. Quantitative

West led the three of clubs, two from dummy, nine from East and the ace from declarer. At the second trick, declarer entered dummy with the diamond jack and ran the heart jack to West's ace. West exited with his remaining diamond. Declarer then played the club king, and when the queen did not drop, continued with the seven of spades.

West stopped to count declarer's points and tricks. Besides the king of hearts, the ace, king, queen of diamonds and the ace, king of clubs, he should have the king of spades. If his (minimum) remaining two points were the queen of clubs, he'd have 12 tricks by repeating the heart finesse. With both black queens, he'd also have 12 tricks. However, if declarer instead held the spade queen and no club queen, he needed three heart tricks with the aid of the finesse and a 3-3 break to ensure his slam.

This line became possible on the actual friendly layout. The only problem for this plan was a lack of entries to the dummy. Declarer needed two more entries to the dummy, one to finesse the heart queen again and the other to enjoy the fourth heart after the 3-3 break. Declarer denied a four-card major, so that spade seven should be the only low spade card in his hand. West was concerned that declarer would risk finessing dummy's spade ten to create an extra entry. Thus West decided to make the entry-killing second-hand-high play of the spade jack, destroying the potential channel to dummy. There was then no way home for the slam.

This is a typical textbook quiz! It was wonderful to find it at the table and for Chen to make the play. Congratulations to the smart young player: Chen Yuechen, from Beijing, who found such a splendid defence. He is only 25 years old.

In the end, the Anhui team won the Championship, with Beijing second and Shanghai third.

Shortlist:

- Shivan Shah-Alex Roberts (Michael Byrne, 573.2)
Danuta Kazmucha (Brian Senior, 573.3)
Adam Kaplan (Philip Alder, 573.3)
Jovana Marinkovic (Christer Andersson, 574.4)
Wouter Van Den Hove, Harald Eide & Jakub Wojcieszek (Patrick Jourdain, 583.2-3)

Keri Klinger Memorial Declarer Play of the Year

Winner: Fulvio Fantoni, Monaco
Journalist: Toine van Hoof, The Netherlands

From IBPA Bulletin 575.13



FANTONI'S FANTASTIC Toine van Hoof, Utrecht, The Netherlands

Final. Session 1. Board 16. Dealer East. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Gaviard</i>	<i>Nunes</i>	<i>de Tessières</i>	<i>Fantoni</i>
—	—	Pass	1♥ ¹
Pass	3♥ ²	Double	3♠ ³
Pass	4♥	Pass	4♠ ³
Pass	5♥ ⁴	Pass	6♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. Natural, forcing

2. Weak

3. Cue bids

4. 1 key card without a club or diamond control; 4NT would have denied a key card

After their victory for Monaco in the Cavendish Teams, Fulvio Fantoni and Claudio Nunes finished a somewhat disappointing eleventh in the Cavendish Pairs. Fantoni, however, signed for the best-played hand of the tournament.

West led the queen of clubs. East's double at the three level, vulnerable, with a passed hand, had not eluded declarer. Fantoni correctly placed him with a void in hearts, the black kings and probably both diamond honours. Even double dummy, it's not easy to see how the contract should be played. After a long pause, Fantoni made the spectacular play of a low heart to the seven in dummy. As expected, East showed out (discarding the two of diamonds). Declarer continued with the ten of clubs, discarding a diamond when East played low. West won the jack of clubs and continued with a heart to the ten in dummy.

Now came the nine of clubs, covered by the king (ducking would not have made a difference) and ruffed with the queen of hearts. The rest was a piece of cake: ace of hearts, heart to the king, two established clubs for another diamond and a spade discard and a claim on the spade finesse (East had already been squeezed but that did not matter). A brilliant plus 980.

The first round heart finesse seems unnecessary, but if declarer starts with the ace and then the five of hearts, West can ruin his plans by inserting the jack, killing a vital entry to dummy. Not unsurprisingly Fantoni was the only player in the star-studded field to make the six-heart contract. The gain of 62 cross-IMPs was reduced by a time penalty of 9 cross-IMPs, but I'm sure that didn't bother Fantoni at all.

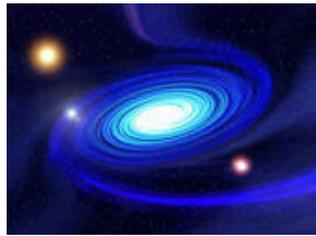
Shortlist:

Danielle Avon (Hervé Pacault, 573.5-6)
Tony Forrester (John Carruthers, 577.14)
Tony Forrester (Ana Roth & David Bird, 579.14)
Josef Piekarek (Brent Manley, 579.14-15)
Fred Gitelman (Phillip Alder, 580.15)
Petter Tondel (Patrick Jourdain, 582.16)
Marc Jacobus (Karen Allison, 583.13)
Douglas Doub (Phillip Alder, 583.12)

Gidwani Family Trust Defence of the Year

Winner: Agustin Madala, Italy
Journalist: Ana Roth, Argentina

From IBPA Bulletin 574.17



FROM ANOTHER GALAXY Ana Roth, Buenos Aires

Harry Houdini (born Erik Weisz; March 24, 1874 – October 31, 1926) was an Austro-Hungarian-born American stunt performer, noted for his extraordinary escape acts. He first attracted notice as “Harry Handcuff Houdini” on a tour of Europe, where he challenged police forces to try to keep him locked up. This revealed a talent for gimmickry and audience involvement that characterized all of his work. Soon he extended his repertoire to include chains, ropes slung from skyscrapers, straitjackets under water, and having to hold his breath inside a sealed milk can.

The 2012 Campionati di Società (Italian Clubs Championships) were held in Salsomaggiore from September 27 to 30. The teams played the semi-finals and final for promotion to the upper league. The Open Final (six sets of 16 boards) found Associato Allegra and Bridge Reggio Emilia playing against each other. Associato Allegra consisted of Norberto Bocchi, Giorgio Duboin, Guido Ferraro, Maria Teresa Lavazza, Agustin Madala and Antonio Sementa. Bridge Reggio Emilia was Mauro Basile, Andrea Buratti, Amedeo Comella, Gianfranco Facchini, Ezio Fornaciari, Carla Gianardi, Aldo Mima and Gianpaolo Ruspa. On the first board of set three, Agustin Madala performed a sensational three-stage escape act.

Board 1. Dealer North. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Ruspa	Bocchi	Mina	Madala
—	Pass	1♥	1♠
Double	Pass	2♣	2♦
4♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

Madala led the jack of spades (Rusinow). Declarer won with the ace and continued with a low club to the ace...Madala realized that if he ruffed the trick he was going to be endplayed (a diamond return would give a diamond trick and a spade return would give a spade trick to declarer). So he performed his first escape act: he pitched a low spade. Declarer quickly realized he was in danger...and played the ace of hearts. Agustin performed his second escape act: he unblocked the heart king, saving a heart escape card.

Declarer continued with another heart and Madala performed his third escape act as he held his breath in perfect Houdini style and played the heart six, dreaming for a miracle...and all of his dreams came true when Bocchi won the trick with his heart jack and returned the diamond queen to defeat the contract by two tricks.

This three-stage escape act could only function with the play of a club at the second trick. If declarer had played the ten of hearts at the second trick, letting South win the trick if North played low, or winning with the ace if Bocchi played the heart jack, Madala-Houdini wouldn't have been able to escape. Finally, if Madala ruffs the first club with a heart honour and exits with his other heart honour, declarer ducks the first heart lead, wins the second, then runs hearts and clubs, ending in the dummy. This position is reached:

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

When declarer plays the nine of clubs to the king, South is squeezed without the count in spades and diamonds. Declarer must, of course, read the end position correctly.

After I wrote this article, I received some e-mails from bridge players talking about this deal. Luis Palazzo was one of them; his e-mail begun with this words: "Agustin Madala is a player from another galaxy." ("Agustín Madala es realmente un jugador de otra galaxia.")...the same words people used to describe The Great Houdini.

Shortlist:

- Fredrik Nyström (Micke Melander, 572.15-16)
- Per-Ola Cullin-Peter Bertheau (Mark Horton, 573.5)
- Martin Schifko-Sacha Wernle (David Bird, 575.13)
- Sjoert Brink-Bas Drijver (John Carruthers, 578.7)
- Roy Welland (Richard Colker, 580.4)
- Peter Fredin-Björn Fallenius (Tjolpe Flodqvist, 580.16)
- Paul Hackett-Tom Hanlon (Patrick Jourdain, 581.7)

Yeh Bros Best Bid Hand of the Year

Winner: Peter Bertheau, Sweden
Journalist: Micke Melander, Sweden

From IBPA Bulletin 572.14

14th WORLD BRIDGE GAMES
LILLE FRANCE, 9-23 AUGUST 2012



Micke Melander, Stockholm

Board 22. Dealer East. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Zmudzinski	Ahlesved	Balicki	Petersson
—	—	1♥	3♣ ¹
4♠ ²	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♣	Pass	5♥	Pass
6♥	6♠	Double	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. Spades and diamonds

2. Exclusion Key Card Blackwood (or a Splinter Bid)

Here, Zmudzinski and Balicki weren't speaking the same language. Four spades for Zmudzinski was Exclusion Key Card Blackwood, but for Balicki it was just a splinter. From there on the bidding went out of control and the Poles took the money when Ahlesved finally sacrificed against six hearts.

West	North	East	South
<i>Bertheau</i>	<i>Narkiewicz</i>	<i>Cullin</i>	<i>Buras</i>
—	—	2♥	4♦ ¹
4♥	5♠	Pass	Pass
6♥	6♠	Pass	Pass
7♥	Double	Pass	Pass
Pass			

1. Diamonds and spades

In the Open Room, Bertheau set a trap for Narkiewicz when he knew that the other side probably had a huge fit in spades. First he tried to buy the hand in four hearts and when they bid five spades, he gave the impression of sacrificing in six hearts. Then, after six spades, he finally bid seven hearts, which he was certain would have a play whatever partner's holding in clubs. *Mamma Mia*, it was laydown when East was declarer and North couldn't give partner a ruff to beat the contract. Plus 100 to the Poles in the Closed Room wasn't much to deliver when it was time to compare the scores and the Swedes at the other table had plus 2470! Twenty IMPs to Sweden and one of the highest scores in this championship.

Shortlist:

Bauke Muller-Simon de Wijs (Mark Horton, 572.9)
 Peter Fredin (Shane Blanchard, 574.6)
 Giorgio Duboin-Antonio Sementa (John Carruthers, 574.8)
 Andy Bowles (Paul Lamford, 574.14)
 Sumampouw-Andhani (Mark Horton, 582.13)