

OCTOBER BULLETIN COMPLETED

In an ending which no script-writer would have dared pen, the first IOC Grand Prix (report inside) finished in a tie between China and Brazil, who had also tied for the lead in the Round Robin, and tied their match within the Round Robin. The teams accepted what was destined, omitted the extra boards, linked arms, and shared the honours, symbolising the Olympic spirit which pervaded the event.

With the friendly atmosphere, full Vugraph and actively-accessed Internet site, the event can have only done good for the Olympic aspirations of bridge. The next step is to tackle the IOC constitutional definition of possible Olympic games to ensure it allows the mind-sports to be eligible.

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An Appeal at the ACBL Nationals in Chicago suggests a flaw in current practice and Law. A pair reached a poor slam following an alleged break in tempo during the auction. The slam only made because a side suit was 2-2, but the result was adjusted to game, for both sides, in a Pairs event.

The case for removing the alleged offenders' good result is to teach good tempo. Players learn that moving on after a slow game bid by partner is a no-win situation. If the slam fails you keep the bad result; if it makes the Appeals Committee changes the slam to game where they think the bidding could have been influenced by the hesitation.

But should you give the other side such a good result? Their bad table result (the opponents' making slam) came from bad luck (side-suit 2-2) rather than the alleged infraction by their opponents.

It would be out of balance to give complete redress if the slam was 55%, and none if it was 45%. The non-offenders should, perhaps, receive a weighted-adjusted score e.g. if the slam had a 30% chance of success, 30% of the matchpoints for game and 70% of the matchpoints for slam. The more luck is seen to have played a part, the less you should adjust the score.

The argument for full adjustment is that the situation would not have arisen but for the infraction. But over-generosity to non-offenders encourages claims of tempo-breaks which may really have had no effect on the outcome. The defenders were in a no-lose situation in their claim.

Appeals Committees should be sceptical where defenders make no mention of a tempo-break until after they discover the contract succeeds, and doubly sceptical where the contract reached is a bad one which succeeds by a lucky lie of the cards.

* * * * *

The President of the World Bridge Federation is a member of IBPA and a careful reader of this Bulletin. He takes the opportunity to comment on the Editorial in the Lille Special (see Postbag).

Reading newspaper reports of the current Chess Olympiad puts any problems at the Bridge World Championships into perspective. The Chess Olympiad started days late (building not ready) and had people returning home before play began because of the conditions.

Patrick Jourdain - Editor

Calendar	Event	Venue	IBPA Contact
1998			
NOV 6/8	Monte Carlo Teams		33 93 780 822
15/22	Red Sea Festival, Royal Beach, Eilat		Birman 972 3 605 8355
19/29	ACBL Fall Nationals , Peabody, Orlando		ACBL 1 901 332 5586
DEC 27/30	EBU Year End Congress, London		44 1296 394 414
1999			
JAN 14/17	Cap Gemini World Invitation, The Hague		v. Dalen 31 30 252 6970
20/22	The Macallan World Invitation, London		Mendelson 44 181 878 1743
25/28	The Tolani World Invitation, Mumbai, India		Santanu Ghose
MAR 15/20	European Open & Senior Pairs, Warsaw		Pencharz 44 171 242 3001
18/28	ACBL Spring Nationals, Vancouver		ACBL 1 901 332 5586
JUN 12/26	Generali European Teams & Ladies Pairs, Malta		Pencharz 44 171 242 3001
JUL ??	World Junior Pairs & Camp		Panos G panos@bridge.gr
22/1 Aug	ACBL Summer Nationals, San Antonio		ACBL 1 901 332 5586
AUG ??			World Junior Teams
	Panos G panos@bridge.gr		
NOV 18/28	ACBL Fall Nationals, Boston		ACBL 1 901 332 5586
2000			
JAN 8/22	Bermuda Bowl & Venice Cup, Bermuda		WBF 33 1 53 230 315

* José Damiani, President of the WBF, says:
I have some comments on your last Editorial about Lille.

I do not consider myself as a "politician". You were invited to the WBF 40th anniversary dinner along with many journalists and champions (around 160 with their spouses or companions), not with a view to disarming criticism but simply because I wanted to celebrate the anniversary of the WBF with as many of the actors and friends who were, and are, part of its history.

Although I was very upset myself about the mistake in the Open Pairs Final, I do not think it is right to give your readers the impression that this was the only thing that the players will remember. We are talking only about the 40 players who were involved - out of the total of 3000 you mentioned - and these players were provided with a normal technical solution (their own average).

I too regret the delay in publishing the results, which was partly due to the size of the event and partly due to the nature of the game itself, particularly the Appeals. Nevertheless, I asked the staff to publish all the results and the frequencies of all the sessions in all the competitions. They are also on Internet and everybody can check again. I say "again" because everyone had all the necessary information to check their own score after every session.

We cannot allow you to write "the lack of faith in the accuracy of the scoring" when you know full well that we provided the means for every player to verify his own score.

I agree with you about the play off which was missing from the Conditions of Contest and I will ensure that, in future, there will be a play-off in a KO competition, and that in a Swiss format or Round Robin event, the bronze medal will be given to the team that ranked top in the previous phase.

I also agree that the start of the first session only of some events was far too slow, due mainly to the absence of a number of pre-registered pairs or teams that failed to show up (a very difficult problem with some countries).

However, I do not believe that these championships are too complex, but that there are too many running at the same time. We will certainly have to reconsider the schedule and the format.

Finally, all the staff will have to accept my own philosophy - that they are at the service of the players and not the other way round, while the players themselves must be more disciplined so that, together, we can enable the championships to be run more harmoniously.

It is not a 'shame' to make mistakes - to err is human - but it is a great pity.

IBPA Editor: *The sentence about the WBF dinner could certainly have been better worded, as it was intended as a compliment! With more space I would have said that comment that these dinners are just for officials (yes, and journalists) is made by those who are not invited, and was clearly wrong on this occasion.*

On scoring, I did not know myself how accurate it was, so used the phrase "lack of faith" to indicate that I had heard adverse comment, without knowing if it was valid. If no specific complaints emerge, then the only relevant point is that players must be able to convince themselves that it is accurate.

The last point is a nuance of language, and how it can mislead without tone. I could just as easily have said "it is a pity". There was no intention to convey the meaning "shameful" when saying "it is a shame ..".

IBPA INTERNET NEWS

From Per Jannersten

Our home on the Internet is under construction and will be found on:

www.IBPA.com

The site should be ready in December, if not before.

Bulletin articles will be available before printing. Preview Bulletins will be put on a "secret" address. The Awards from the September Bulletin 404 and articles from this Bulletin 405 are available at:

<http://www.jannersten.com/IBPA/405f.pdf>

Items from the next Bulletin 406 will be available at:

address printed in Bulletin ONLY

Note that the preview Bulletin is continuously updated. That is to say, unless the document starts "Bulletin complete", the material is not complete.

* Esad Kulovic of Croatia has discovered more fascinating points about the Panina hand (see Bulletin 400 page 14):

Dealer: South	A K Q 10 5
Game all	8 7 4
	7 4 2
	Q 4
7	J 9 8 6 3
K Q J 9 5 3	10
J 5 3	A 9
9 3 2	K J 10 7 5

4 2
 A 6 2
 K Q 10 8 6
 A 8 6

West	North	East	South
Rosenblum	Romanski		Panina Zakrewska
			1
2	2	Pass	3
Pass	3	Pass	3NT
All pass			

You will recall that Rosenblum, against Three Notrumps, led a top heart ducked, and on the next Panina discarded A! West gained the lead in diamonds to defeat the game.

The IBPA Editor said that declarer still had a chance, even after the spectacular discard, by endplaying first East and then West. The suggested line after trick two was: one top diamond, two top spades, a low spade to endplay East, then black suit winners to strip squeeze West, who is thrown in with a heart to lead a diamond.

Kulovic points out East can spoil this plan. When endplayed she must exit with the KING of clubs. Then declarer has to win and cross to club queen to cash the third spade. In the four card ending West can keep one winning heart, two diamonds, and, provided he did not discard a club earlier, the precious third club to exit with to East should declarer try the throw-in.

It does not work for East to exit with a low club. The queen wins, and the top spade squeezes West out of his third club, as, if he keeps only one heart in the five card ending, declarer can afford to set up diamonds.

Kulovic says, "A player who has already discarded the ace of diamonds, would be quite good enough to find the Merrimac Coup in clubs later!"

He goes on to point out that declarer might seek to tighten the position to a three card ending by giving up two tricks to East. Suppose after the two hearts, and top diamond, he plays a spade to the ten. East wins and exits with a spade. Now declarer plays off the remaining spades, intending to end-play East into leading a club. The strip-squeeze will then work on West. But East counters by unblocking in spades, forcing North to win the five of spades! Again the ending is one card too many, and West can keep a club exit.

IBPA Editor: But I think declarer has the last word. After East unblocks in spades, declarer cashes the last spade, and leads the club queen. East has to cover and declarer lets it hold. Now the ending is back to three cards in which West is thrown in with a heart to lead a diamond!

We seem to have found a hand to rival Bernasconi's tortures in the Par Contest.

* Per Jannersten replies to Sverre Haagensen (Bulletin 403) on IBPA's original members; "Sverre Haagensen and Ranik Halle might very well both have been present at the inaugural meeting. However, Haagensen was reported as a new member (no. 22) only in November 1959 and Halle was not enlisted (as no. 37) until January 1960. At the Olympiad in Turin (April/May 1960) Halle became our organization's second President after Guy Ramsey who was member no. 1."

* The Membership Secretary, Stuart Staveley, reports that in Lille the following new members were welcomed: Mrs. Mette Andersen (Den); Michel Bolle (Bel); Chris Chambers (GB); Mrs Marjo Chorus (Net); Richard Colker (USA); Nikos Delibaltadakis (Gre); Johan de Grave (Bel); Miltos Koutongos (Gre); Balkrishna Parasrampur (Ind); Aris Peppel (Net); Vijay Phatarphekar (Ind); Ricco van Prooijen (Net); Willem Spoelتمان (Net); Ron Tacchi (Fra); Louk Verhees (Net); Adam Wildavsky (USA). Rejoining was: Jean-Marc Roudinesco (Fra); K. Suri (Pak).

* Jude Goodwin-Hanson reports that Bridge Today University (launched by Matthew and Pamela Granovetter on Internet), now has Advanced Bridge Lessons from Larry Cohen and Marshall Miles available by e-mail.

<http://www.bridgetoday.com>.

Jude is also on the Committee for the ACBL 1999 Spring Nationals in Vancouver, Canada

Contact Jude at:

<http://www.cbf.ca> or jude@cbf.ca

* Mark Horton reports a hand from the first stage of the England Camrose trials in which he credits declarer for finding a defence worthy of an Award! Several defenders had the chance to be brilliant. Only one of them took the opportunity - and declarer may have assisted him!

Dlr: South	J
Game All	A J 9 7 4 2
	7 2
	A Q 10 4
K 10 3	Q 7 5 4
Q 6	K 10 8 5 3
A Q 9 8 4 3	K 5
9 5	7 2
	A 9 8 6 2
	-
	J 10 6
	K J 8 6 3

West	North	East	South
Burn	Waterlow	Eginton	Silverstone
			Pass
2	2	Pass	2

Pass 3 Pass 5
All Pass

West's weak two in diamonds made it attractive for East to start with K although a trump would have worked better.

West overtook the king in case it was a singleton and continued with the Q and another diamond. North ruffed with the 10 and East started to think.

After some time he appeared to be about to detach a card from his hand.

The declarer, Tony Waterlow, had also been doing some thinking and he advised Steve Eginton that his best chance was to underruff!

He had worked out that a spade discard would probably allow him to take advantage of a subsequent 3-3 break whilst a heart discard would probably mean that suit could be established.

Steve Eginton placed his card firmly on the table. It was the 2!!

My question is simple: should the prize go to declarer or defender?

* The Bridge World reports that Games magazine has called its website "superb":
www.bridgeworld.com.

The Bridge World now provides a free publication by e-mail. The e-Bridge World includes practice in all phases of the game through question-and-answer, retrospective segments from its main departments such as the Master Solvers' Club and Challenge the Champs, information, puzzles, and an assortment of bridge features.

The deal below, based on one by Lawrence Rosler & William Root in a National Industrial Recreation Association par contest, appears in the first issue of the electronic magazine as a problem in declarer play.

Rubber bridge; South dealer; Love all.

	A 9 2		
	A 7 5		
	K J 8 7 3		
	4 3		
J 10		8 7 6 5 4	
K 10 9 8 4		3 2	
A 6 4		Q 5	
K 10 6		9 8 7 5	
	K Q 3		
	Q J 6		
	10 9 2		
	A Q J 2		

South	West	North	East
1	1	2	Pass
2 NT	Pass	3 NT	All Pass

After West leads the heart ten, South has two heart stoppers whether he wins the first

trick or not, because West's bid marks the location of the heart king. But there is this difference: If declarer wins the first trick and hearts are split five-two, East will have a heart to return when on lead with a diamond entry. In contrast, a hold-up play at trick one (a familiar maneuver when the two stoppers are the ace and the king, but it works the same way here) ensures the contract. Should West continue hearts at trick two, East will have no heart to lead when in with Q.

Note that if the play starts 10 allowed to hold, a heart to the jack, a diamond to the queen, and a club shift, declarer should rise with A to prevent West from establishing hearts before the diamond ace is dislodged.

If you have any questions or require further information, please send e-mail to:

news@bridgeworld.com

or write to the address below.

Annual subscription to The Bridge World (717 White Plains Rd., Suite 106, Scarsdale, NY 10583-5009; Phone: 800-599-0033) is \$52. (\$62. outside the U.S.) for 12 monthly issues.

* Neil Cohen of Bridge Trix reports that he is the Producer of the Bobby Wolff Bridge Mentoring Series Tel: 1-888-273-8749

<http://www.bridgetrix.com>

An example of the bidding advice available is this one from Gary Powell, the 1998 Bridge World Master Solvers' Club champion:

Swiss Teams, none vul. Gary held:

AQxx Ax AKxx Jxx.

The auction:

N(Marilou)	E	S (Gary)	W
1	1	X	Pass
2	Pass	2	Pass
3	Pass	6	All pass

Marilou held:

xx QJxx xx AKQ10x

The slam made in comfort with K onside.

Gary said he preferred the negative double to 2 on his first bid, because he wouldn't have a good continuation over partner's expected 3 .

As it was, 3 suggested extra length in clubs, and Gary gambled on the club slam.

Over 6 , he'd have pulled to 6NT.

* Nicholas Tcholakov has a new address from Sep 1: Minister Plenipotentiary-Deputy Chief of Mission, Bulgarian Embassy to the U.S. 1621, 22nd Street NW, Washington D.C. 20008, USA

My current e-mail address is still O.K.

[<cholack@undp.org>](mailto:cholack@undp.org)

* Bridge results from the Mind Sports Olympiad held in London in August were:

Pairs: 1. John Young-Chris Jagger (GB)

2. Ron Sitch & Laurence Manning (GR)

3. John Durden & Byron Crittenden (GB)
Mixed Pairs: 1. Marion Day-David Green GB
2. Michael & Margaret Courney (NZ)
3. Piers Shepersen & Nobuleo Matsumara
Winners of other events:
Open Pairs: Paul Mendelson-Peter Hardymont
Mens Pairs: Ting To & Bob Rowlands
Ladies Pairs: Su Burn & Sheena Haytack
Swiss Pairs: Bill Thurl & Francis Eddleston

* *Per Jannersten was made an IBPA Honour member at the AGM in Lille:*

Honour Member for 1998

Per Jannersten

Very few of our members have been to more than 50 international championships, and one might suppose that none can count more attendances than years of life. But Per Jannersten of Sweden is the exception. At the age of eight he went to the European Championships in Stockholm with his father, Eric Jannersten, who was for 30 years the Mr. Bridge of his country: international player, author, columnist and creator of bridge products.

Per went to nearly all the European and World Championships from 1956 to 1970 with his father. Then he concentrated on a business career as a printer. When his father died in 1982, he took over the family business and has appeared at nearly all European and world events since then - always accompanied by a large supply of books and bridge equipment. He has improved the bidding boxes that his father invented, produced automatic dealing machines, and manufactured the first commercial table screens used in Europe.

Per was present when the International Bridge Press Association was founded in 1958, has made valuable contributions to the organisation for the past 15 years, in many capacities. Thanks to his energy and vision, we expect soon to have an IBPA Web page which will permit us to give our members even better service.

Always accompanying Per in his travels is his sparkling wife, Britt. Nowadays they usually bring their lively children, Calle and Anna. We are confident that one of them will be the Honour Member in the year 2038, continuing the great Jannersten tradition.

INDIAN INGENUITY

By Dr. Prakash K. Paranjape (Mumbai, India)

Sandeep Thakral, the top Indian Junior player, took the only line that had any semblance of a chance when the following deal came up in the Kalyan-Dombivali Open teams. He was duly rewarded when his opponent missed a difficult counter.

Dlr: West	A K Q J 7		
E/W Game	A Q 7 6		
	7		
	K J 5		
8 6 5		10 9 4 3	
K J 3		10 5 4	
K J 9 2		A 8 6 5	
A 10 2		7 3	
	2		
	9 8 2		
	Q 10 4 3		
	Q 9 8 6 4		

West	North	East	South
1	2 (1)	Dble	2
Pass	4	All Pass	

(1) Both majors

As is usually the case, Juniors like to step on the accelerator, and Jayesh Goyal, North, after making a Michael's cuebid, didn't think twice before simply raising Thakral's 2 bid to Four! For some reason, West started with A, and then shifted to a diamond. East won and shot back a diamond, forcing dummy down to three trumps.

Winning in dummy, Thakral considered his options. He had lost two tricks already, and had a sure trump loser. Trumps had to break with the king onside. He had only one entry to hand and could not clear trumps as the defence had diamond winners. If he ducked a trump they could force dummy again.

In the given situation he had only one chance and worked on that. He cashed three top spades, discarding his last two diamonds from hand, and then led a low trump from dummy.

East played low, and West won. West played a diamond, but Thakral ruffed this in hand, and took the trump finesse. When they came down in three rounds, he claimed.

East could have beaten the game by rising with the ten of trumps and playing a fourth spade which West could ruff.

My second hand is from the Pairs Final of the Modipon Open, a major event on the Indian calendar. A Biswas methodically tried his options one by one, and came out in flying colours when the last of the options worked.

Dlr: North	A K 10 3 2		
Love all	5 3		
	A 5		
	K J 3 2		
4		Q J 9 7 6	
K 8 6 2		Q J 7	
Q 10 8 6 4 3 2		J 9	
7		10 9 8	
	8 5		
	A 10 9 4		
	K 7		
	A Q 6 5 4		

West	North	East	South
	1	Pass	2
Pass	3	Pass	3NT
Pass	4	Pass	4
Pass	4NT	Pass	5
Pass	6	All Pass	

West led 4. Biswas won in dummy. He could not afford to give up a heart at once, in case the lead was a singleton and West obtained a ruff. So he first tried for trumps 2-2, but West discarded a diamond on the second round. Next Biswas switched to spades, hoping to ruff out the fifth spade, but again West threw a diamond.

Now declarer wanted to ruff two hearts in dummy, but if East gained the lead a third trump would spoil the plan. So he led a low heart from dummy, intending to put in the nine. This was foiled by East rising with the queen. Biswas won, crossed back to dummy with a diamond, and led a second low heart. Again East, S. Basak, defended well, going in with the jack and playing a third trump.

However, the advantage of playing hearts from the dummy now came to declarer's rescue. East, in having to rise twice, had now exposed West's heart king to a ruffing finesse, which Biswas took successfully as his last option.

Six Clubs made was an excellent score.

THE 1998 NOBEL VAN DIJK & PARTNERS DUTCH INDIVIDUAL

12/13 September, Andre Boekhorst Centre, Utrecht

New IBPA member Louk Verhees won the Dutch Individual by two clear tops, reports Kees Tammens, giving two deals where the winner featured:

Only one week after the exhausting world championships in Lille, and one week before the start of the Dutch League (the Meesterklasse) the top 24 ranked players in the Netherlands were seeded into the final of the Dutch Individual to be joined by another 24 players who had come through a qualifier.

Going softly is not the way to score highly in an Individual:

Dir: West	A 8 5 4		
Love all	J 3		
	A 6 3 2		
	Q 9 2		
	K Q	10 9 3 2	
	K Q	A 9 6 4 2	
	Q J 8 4	7 5	
	K 8 6 5 3	J 10	
	J 7 6		
	10 8 7 5		
	K 10 9		
	A 7 4		
West	North	East	South
1NT	Pass	2	Pass
2	Pass	2	Pass
Pass	Dble	Pass	2
Pass	Pass	Dble	All Pass

As East's sequence also suggested spade values North's protective double will not be everybody's choice. If Two Hearts was making Verhees, South, could afford to go one down, but there were six probable defensive tricks against Two Hearts, so he needed to make Two Spades.

West led K to the ace. Verhees led a small heart to the seven and queen. West cashed Q and K and was then endplayed. He switched to a low club taken by the queen. A club to the ace and a heart ruff was followed by A and K and another heart ruff. With J to come that was eight tricks.

Signals are the mainstay of defensive play, and this often leads to misunderstandings in an Individual:

Dir: East	Q 9 6 5 2		
N/S Game	K Q 10 5 4		
	None		
	J 10 5		
	K 10 8	A 4 3	
	A 9 7 2	J 8 7	

A 6 5 2	10 9 8 7 4
9 8	K 6
	J 7
	6
	K Q J 3
	A Q 7 4 3 2

Verhees, South, and Carla Arnolds (1994 womens world pairs champion) had an unopposed auction:

1 -1 -2 -2 -2NT-3 -3 -4 -5 -Pass

No-one can accuse Arnolds of underbidding. Five Clubs has at least three losers. West led a trump to the jack. On the K East played the two which West thought showed a doubleton, and he decided to hold up. That was the end of the defence. Verhees ruffed a heart, led K covered and ruffed, ruffed a heart, cashed two diamonds, ruffed his last diamond, ruffed another heart, and then exited with a spade to claim his last two trumps at the end.

Koos Nobel of the sponsoring firm is a bridge fanatic and highly regarded for his prize-giving ceremony: short speeches, nice prize money and good food! First they present the prizes for the National Tournament Circuit IMP, the yearly cycle of Dutch Tournaments. For the fifth time in eight years Jan Jansma was the overall winner.

BRAZIL & CHINA LINK ARMS as 1st IOC Grand Prix ENDS IN TIE

Olympic Museum, Lausanne 7-11 Sep 1998 from Bulletins edited by Mark Horton

The Conditions specified 4 extra boards in the event of a tie, but, in a fitting conclusion to the first IOC Grand Prix, Brazil & China agreed to share the honours when the score at the end of a 72 board thriller proved to be 167-167. The teams linked arms for the cameras, reflecting the spirit of the five day event.

The final was six sets of 12 boards with \$20,000 for the winner and \$10,000 for the runner-up, which was presumably shared between the two teams.

	<i>Session scores</i>	<i>Total</i>
Brazil	14 13 33 44 42 21	167
China	62 11 13 20 30 31	167

Brazil: Marcelo Branco, Gabriel Chagas, Joao Paulo Campos, Miguel Villas-Boas

China: Dai Jianming, Shi Hailong, Wang Weimin, Wang Xiaojing, Xu Hongjun, Zhang Zejun; non-playing captain: Chen Zelan.

The Brazilian team had won the silver medal in the Vivendi Rosenblum teams in Lille the previous week.

The Final was preceded by a Round Robin of 24 board matches with China and the five nations who have won Bridge Olympiads in the past.

The matches were victory-pointed and, amazingly, Brazil and China tied both in their own match and for the lead here:

1= Brazil & China 85; 3. USA 83; 4. France 78; 5. Poland 65; 6. Italy 49.

USA: Seymon Deutsch, Bob Hamman, Jeff Meckstroth, Eric Rodwell, Paul Soloway, Bobby Wolff; n.p.c. Dan Morse.

France: Paul Chemla, Alain Levy, Christian Mari, Hervé Mouiel, Franck Multon, Michel Perron.

Poland: Cezary Balicki, Apolinary Kowalski, Krzysztof Martens, Jacek Romanski, Marek Szymanowski, Adam Zmudzinski; n.p.c. Andrzej Orlow.

Italy: Dario Attanasi, Norberto Bocchi, Giorgio Duboin, Giuseppe Failla, Ruggero Pulga, Giampaolo Rinaldi; n.p.c. Carlo Mosca.

Round Robin Matches

Round

1: Fra 21 Ita 9; USA 20 Bra 10; China 24 Pol 6
 2: Pol 16 USA 14; Chi 20 Ita 10; Bra 25 Fra 3
 3: Pol 20 Bra 10; Fra 20 Chi 10; USA 17 Ita 13
 4: Chi 16 USA 14; Fra 22 Pol 8; Bra 25 Ita 2
 5: Bra 15 Chi 15; Pol 15 Ita 15; USA 18 Fra 12.

Bd 10	10 6	A K J 9 8 3
East	A Q 10 5 4	9 8 6 3
Both	9 8 5 3	4
	A 8	7 4

The Final

China surged into the early lead:

Board 2	A J 8 3
Dlr: East	J 5 2
N/S Game	J 10 5 2
	10 6
10 6	Q
A K 9 7	10 8 6
A 6 4	K 9 7 3
K 9 3 2	A Q 8 7 4
	K 9 7 5 4 2
	Q 4 3
	Q 8
	J 5

West	North	East	South
Jihong	Chagas	Weimin	Branco
		1	1
Dble	2	Pass	Pass
3	Pass	4	Pass
5	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
Campos	Hongjun	V-Boas	Zejun
		Pass	Pass
1	Pass	2	Pass
2	Pass	3	Pass
3	Pass	4	Pass
5	All Pass		

Both tables reached Five Clubs. When West was declarer for Brazil, North cashed A and switched to the heart two to the queen and ace. Declarer had to lose a heart and a diamond to go one off.

When East was declarer, Branco, South led a spade, and North won to continue the suit. Declarer ruffed, led a heart to the ace, drew trumps and led another heart. When Branco played low it was all over. Weimin won, cashed two top diamonds, and exited with a heart to South's queen. South had to concede a ruff and discard with a third spade.

South has to ditch his queen of hearts on the first or second round, so North's play at the other table of a low heart at trick two, forcing South to put up the queen, was most helpful.

Brazil bid a wrong game, and had a bidding misunderstanding about 4NT to find themselves 40 behind, but then came this big swing the other way:

Q 5	7 4 2
K J 7	2
A 7 2	K Q J 10 6
K Q J 6 3	10 9 5 2

West	North	East	South
<i>Jihong</i>	<i>Chagas</i>	<i>Weimin</i>	<i>Branco</i>
		1NT	Pass
4	Dble	4	All Pass

8 4
A

West	North	East	South
<i>Campos</i>	<i>Hongjun</i>	<i>V-Boas</i>	<i>Zejun</i>
		1NT	Pass
2	Dble	All Pass!	

Against Branco's Six Hearts West, Hongjun, led 8. Branco won in hand with A and crossed to dummy with A. He cashed dummy's king of clubs discarding his losing diamond, and ruffed a diamond. A spade ruff was followed by a diamond, and when East, Zejun, discarded a spade South ruffed and ruffed another spade. Branco now played a diamond, and this time East ruffed with

Both heart calls were transfers. North's double of Four was for the lead. Against 4 when South led a heart, and ruffed the next, he was able to put North in with a club for another heart and 4 was one down.

East's Pass over the double of Two Hearts showed a doubleton spade, so Campos read East for at least three hearts. It was still a brave gamble to sit for Two Hearts doubled.

North led A and switched to 5. Dummy's ace won and then came two top clubs. North ruffed and played a second diamond. West ruffed and led a trump to the jack. Now he simply played on spades. North came only to two more trump tricks. This was 870 and 14 IMPs to Brazil.

10. Branco over-ruffed and ruffed a spade, felling the ace. He then had a choice of winning lines, electing to cash

A, and follow with the master diamond. He lost only to East's J.

This was well played for 13 IMPs to Brazil, but is there a winning line if West leads a trump? IBPA Editor: No.

A blind spot from the Chinese declarer here assisted Brazil in closing the gap:

Bd 18	K 8 7 3
East	7 5 4
N/S	J 9 7 3
	8 3
A J 10 9 2	5
A K 6 2	9 3
K Q 10	A 8 5 4
K	AQ10764
	Q 6 4
	Q J 10 8
	6 2
	J 9 5 2

At the end of the first set China led 62-14 and maintained their lead in the second, but those who thought China would run away with it had to think again as the third began (see next column):
Haojun (South) & Jianming had an unopposed auction to a comfortable contract:

1	-2	-2	-3	-3	-4	-Pass
---	----	----	----	----	----	-------

Four Hearts made 11 tricks. Branco (South) and Chagas were more ambitious:

1	-2	-2	-3	-4	-4	-4	-6	-P
---	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----

Bd 2	None
East	A Q 9 6
N/S	A J 9 5 2
	K 5 4 2
J 10 7 4	A Q 8 3
7	J 10 5
Q 10 7 6	K 3
Q 10 8 3	J 9 7 6
	K 9 6 5 2
	K 8 4 3 2

Villas-Boas (East) & Campos had an unopposed auction:

P-1	-1NT-2NT-3	-3	-3NT-P
-----	------------	----	--------

South, Haojun, led Q and declarer made 11 tricks.

At the other table Zejun, East, & Weimin also bid unopposed:
1 -1 -2 -2 -3 -3 -3NT-
4 -4 -4 -5 -6 -Pass

West valued his hand well and the excellent slam was reached. South, Branco, led Q. Declarer won and unblocked

ruffed a spade and tried the top trumps. When North discarded he crossed to dummy with a diamond. He later relied on diamonds to come in and conceded one down.

IBPA Editor: Horton does not say what East discarded from dummy on the two top trumps. If he threw two hearts and kept the spades it would have been simple to use the diamond entries to ruff out the fifth spade, with the heart entry later. If South does not over-ruff the fourth spade, declarer must follow with A.

If declarer has thrown one spade and one heart on the top trumps, then he can ruff one more spade to isolate the menace with North, give up the trump to South, and squeeze North in diamonds and spades. It is only where declarer has thrown two spades on the top trumps that he can no longer succeed.

At the end of the day China led by just 2 IMPs. The last session began spectacularly:

Bd 1	A K J 10 7 4
North	Q 9
Love all	8 3
	7 4 3
	Q 9 5 2
	None
	K J 10 7 5 3
	A 8 6
	None
	AKQJ106
	A K 2
	Q J 10 6
	8 6 3
	4 2
	9 7 5 4 2
	9 8 5

West	North	East	South
<i>CamposXu</i>	<i>V-Boas</i>	<i>Zhuang</i>	
	1	Dble	Pass
2	Pass	3	Pass
4	Pass	5	Pass
6	Pass	6	All Pass

5 was Exclusion Keycard Blackwood and the response showed two keycards outside spades and denied Q.

West	North	East	South
<i>Jihong</i>	<i>Chagas</i>	<i>Weimin</i>	<i>Branco</i>
	2	Dble	3
6	Pass	6	Pass
7	Pass	Pass	Pass

Campos, in Six Hearts for Brazil showed good technique when North led the ace of spades. He ruffed and led a low trump to the ten! This lost but the ace of trumps still stood guard against another spade lead.

Jihong, in 7 for China, had no choice but to find Q. He ruffed the top spade lead, and led a top diamond, ruffing it in his own hand. He now led a trump to the ace, and a trump to the ...

jack and queen. Brazil led for the first time.

Bd 6	A 8
East	Q J 10 3
E/W	A 4 2
	A K 8 7
9 5 4 2	K Q J 7 6
K 6 5 2	9 7
Q 5	10 9 8 6
9 5 3	6 2
	10 3
	A 8 4
	K J 7 3
	Q J 10 4

West	North	East	South
Campos	Xu	V-Boas	Zhuang
		Pass	Pass
Pass	1NT	Pass	3
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
Jihong	Chagas	Weimin	Branco
		Pass	Pass
Pass	1	Pass	2
Pass	2 !	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

After Branco's inverted minor raise, Chagas tried a lead-inhibiting spade bid. West duly led 2. It appears that Branco was so pleased to have avoided a spade lead that he merely claimed 10 tricks when there are 11 or 12 available. For example, if you set up the hearts, win a spade switch, and avoid the diamond finesse, you make 12 as the Q falls and East is squeezed in diamonds and spades. Would Branco regret his haste?

At the other table East did lead the K and Xu made a text-book play... he cashed the clubs and, before taking the heart finesse, tested the

diamonds with AK. As the queen fell and East had already thrown a diamond to keep his spades declarer made ten tricks for a flat board. This proved very significant at the end.

The next board was a biggy:

Bd 7	A K 9 8
South	Q 10 3
Both	A Q J 5
	A K
10	Q 5
A J 9 4 2	K 8 7 6
10 9 8	7 6 3 2
Q 8 7 3	J 5 2
	J 7 6 4 3 2
	5
	K 4
	10 9 6 4

Branco & Chagas bid:
Pass-2 -2 -2NT-3 (Dble)

4 -5 -5 -Pass
2 was a negative and North did not know of the heart control.

Zhuang & Xu bid unopposed:
Pass-2 -2 -2NT-3 -4 -4NT-5 -6 -Pass

Here South took control and heard that North had four keycards. He gambled that there not two losers in clubs.

13 IMPs to China, but with 12 boards to play Brazil led by 10.

This was the deal that saw China re-take the lead:

Bd 19	K Q 10 7 4
South	6
E/W	10 5
	A 10 9 4 3
A 9 8 5	J 2
8 4	Q 9 2
AK98763	Q 4
None	KQ7652
	6 3
	AKJ10753
	J 2
	J 8

At both tables South opened 3, West overcalled 4 and East made a questionable raise to 5. At one table this was Passed out, but at the other Jianming, North, made a sharp

Against the undoubled game, Chagas led a top spade, which held. He switched to a heart and South played three rounds, but West discarded a spade on the third heart and was still able to ruff a spade to go only two off.

China, against the doubled game, also found the best defence, starting with hearts and then South switching to a trump. Declarer went three off for 800 and 12 IMPs to China who led by 2.

The ding-dong battle continued, but at the end "our pugilists had fought out a draw".

The Round Robin

On this deal five of six tables ended in 3NT by West. Results varied from two overtricks to six down! Franck Multon was the only one to succeed:

Bd 17	K J 10 7 3
North	9 7 2
Love all	10 6 2
	K 4
A Q	8 6 5 2
A 5 3	K J 8 4
K 5	Q 4 3
A Q 7 6 5 2	10 8
	9 4
	Q 10 6
	A J 9 8 7
	J 9 3

Multon received the kind lead of J and followed with ace and a low club to secure 10 tricks. A diamond went to the king, and after the black winners and A, South, Duboin, was end-played in the red suits for the 11th trick.

IBPA Editor: *If South has KJx, Multon still makes as South also has A.. So Multon's line gains when North has Kx and loses when South has Kxx AND North has A. That makes his play with the odds. Would he have been deflected from his line, I wonder, if South had dropped 9 under the ace?!*

Most Norths, as Perron, led a diamond ducked round to the king. Attanasio went four off

One declarer took the heart finesse, which lost, and a spade switch set up North's suit. Later the club finesse lost and the defence made four spades, one heart, four diamonds and a club! Those declarers who cashed their hearts first went less down.

The Italian team had none of their Rosenblum champions from the previous week in Lille, and it showed on this deal:

Bd 25	A 7 6 5		
North	7 3		
E/W	7		
	10 9 8 6 5 4		
	Q 8 3	K J 10 9	
	9 5	AKQ108	
	A Q 6 4 2	3	
	A J 3	K Q 7	
	4 2		
	J 6 4 2		
	K J 10 9 8 5		
	2		

West	North	East	South
Multon	Bocchi	Mouiel	Duboin
	Pass	1	3
3NT	Pass	4NT	All Pass

West	North	East	South
Att'sio	Perron	Failla	Chemla
	Pass	1	3
Dble	Pass	3	Pass
4NT	Pass	5	Pass
6NT	All Pass		

With the diamond finesse known to be working declarer has 11 top tricks after knocking out A. The twelfth must come either from bringing in the hearts or by squeezing South in the red suits. Perron led 10. Declarer knocked out A, won the return, cashed his black suit winners, squeezing South down to two diamonds (Chemla of course, discarding smoothly), took the diamond finesse, cashed the ace and... could not remember whether 6 was good. Eventually he relied on hearts to go one off for a massive swing and a big win to France.

IBPA Editor: *It may be cruel to mention it, but after cashing the black winners, if West realises he has missed one of*

cash hearts next. If J does not fall the diamonds will be good. North cannot have four hearts as he is known to have ten black cards.

In Round 2 USA met Poland:

Bd 8	Q 8 6 5 4		
West	A K 6		
None	A K 5 4		
	6		
	9 3	A J	
	10 9 3	J 5 4 2	
	Q J 10 7 3	9 8 2	
	K J 5	Q 10 8 4	
		K 10 7 2	
		Q 8 7	
		6	
		A 9 7 3 2	

Wolff, North, & Morse bid:

1 -3 -4 -Pass

Balicki & Zmudzinski bid:

1 -2 -2 -4 -5 -6 -Pass

for a slam swing to Poland.

Bd 22	9		
East	K 5		
E/W	A Q 9 8 7 3 2		
	J 4 2		
	Q 8 7 2	K 10 5 4 3	
	A 9 7 4	J 10 2	
	K J 10	None	
	K 6	A Q 9 8 3	
	A J 6		
	Q 8 6 3		
	6 5 4		
	10 7 5		

West	North	East	South
Soloway	Kowal'	Hamman	Romanski
		Pass	Pass
1	2	2	Pass
3	Pass	4	Pass
4	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
Szym'	Meck'	Martens	Rodwell
		1	Pass
2	3	Pass	Pass
3	Pass	4	Pass
4	Pass	5	Pass
6	All Pass		

The play began the same way at both tables: a diamond ruffed, a club to the king, a spade to

back from South. Hamman put up the queen to make 11 tricks in 4; Martens took the finesse to make his slam.

The slam fails on a heart lead.

The USA recovered these two big losses in bits and pieces so Poland only won 16-14.

In the key last round match between USA and China Hamman put his team in with a chance with this slam swing:

Bd 21	A Q 9 3		
North	A K 8 5 3		
N/S	A Q 3		
	4		
	K J 6 5 4	8 2	
	10	J 7 6	
	8 7	K J 9 5 2	
	J 10 8 3 2	Q 7 6	
	10 7		
	Q 9 4 2		
	10 6 4		
	A K 9 5		

West	North	East	South
Hongjun	Hamman	Zejun	Soloway
	1	Pass	1
1	2	Pass	3
Pass	3	Dble	4
Pass	4	Dble	5
Pass	6	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
Rodwell	Jihong	Meck'	Weimin
	1	Pass	3
Pass	6	All Pass	

3 was a Bergen-style raise.

Declarer needs either the spade or diamond finesse and a couple of ruffs. Hamman made short work on the J lead, taking the spade finesse, and ruffing two spades whilst Q was in dummy.

At the other table Meckstroth led a trump and Jihong correctly won in hand. He crossed to dummy for a spade finesse, and then drew a second trump. They did not break, and when he tried to ruff a spade East ruffed in with J. Declarer still had to lose a diamond for one off.

IBPA Editor: *The second round of trumps looks wrong in theory and practice, but suppose declarer had continued with A. Might not West, Rodwell, have dropped K? That unusual example of playing the card you are known to hold might encourage declarer to draw a second trump!*

Rodwell had not bid spades, and might hold Kx or KJx.

Four Hands by Ib Lundby (Denmark)

Congratulations to Ib who has been editing Dansk Bridge for 25 years. The September issue was his 250th magazine! He sends four more hands which may be used with or without credit.

A Triple Hobson's Choice

To make his contract on this hand South presented a Hobson's Choice to his opponents three times:

Dlr: West	7				
Love all		K Q 4			
		A 8 5 3			
		A Q 8 4 3			
	9 8 6 4		K Q 10 3		
	A 10 8 5 3		J 9 6 2		
	10 9 7		-		
	9		K 7 6 5		
2		A J 5 2			
		7			
		K Q J 6 4 2			
		J 10			

Against 6 (IBPA Editor: No auction given, but I suggest: 1 -1 -3 -4NT-5 -6 -Pass) West led the 9 to the A. South played a diamond to K and shifted to 7.

Choice #1: If West takes the A, South has two discards on dummy's hearts: one club and one spade. After drawing West's trumps, South can easily establish a club trick by playing the Q from dummy and ruff one spade with dummy's last trump. Therefore West has to duck the heart, and the K wins. Now a low club is played from dummy.

Choice #2: If East takes the K, declarer has two club tricks in dummy and thus he needs only to ruff one spade. Therefore East has to duck, and South wins the trick in his hand.

Choice #3: If West discards, declarer has an easy task. As before he can draw trumps, establish a club trick and ruff one spade. So West has to ruff, but now declarer can trump two spades and still establish a club trick.

Nice lead, pard

In June the 51th Nordic Championships were played in Oslo. In this hand from the Ladies Series Danish Stense Farholt found a nice but logical lead:

Dlr: South		7 6 3			
N/S Game		K 8 7 5			
		10 5 2			
		A 9 5			
	9 5 4		K J 8 2		
	Q J 9 3		A 10		
	A Q 4		6 3		
	7 6 3		Q J 10 8 2		
		A Q 10			
		6 4 2			
		K J 9 8 7			
		K 4			

West	North	East	South
<i>Farholt</i>	<i>Østmoe</i>	<i>Bekkouche</i>	<i>Malinowski</i>
			1
Pass	1	Dble	1NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Obviously West has a choice between the black suits. The spades are better than the clubs, and for sure partner has four spades, but ... Stense knew that with 5-4 her partner might had bid 1 instead of doubling, but with 4-4 or 4-5 she would always double. Therefore the club lead was logical and left declarer with no chance at all. She won the A, and 10 took the second trick. After a diamond to the J and Q West played the Q, ducked, and shifted back to clubs. She came in again on the A and had still a club to lead to partner. One off.

Operation succeeded, but ...

This hand is from the Nordics as well. Danish Steen Schou had a bidding problem that nobody else observed. With

7 6 5 4 3 2 K J 4 J 4 8 6

he heard his partner open a weak 2 and next hand bid 4 . Schou was red against green - his bid?

Double!

The commentators in the vu-graph were smiling. What was going on?

4 doubled became the final contract and not surprisingly declarer made 11 tricks and 690 instead of 1520 for the laydown grand slam in no trumps! These were the four hands:

Dlr: East	-	J 9 3 2
E/W Game	6 5	A Q J 10 4
	A 8 6 3 2	Q J
	A K Q 9 7 2	10 7
7 6 5 4 3 2	K Q J 10 8	A 7 6
K J 4	7 3	-
J 4	9 7 5	K 8 2
8 6	J 10 4	A K 9 8 5
	A 9	5 4
	A Q 10 9 8 2	
	K Q 10	K Q 10 8 5 4
	5 3	6 5
		7 6 3
		K 9

... but the patient died. In the closed room the Danish pair bid 6, one off. Minus 13 imps!

First and last

I expected a very bad result on this hand from a side event at the Open Swedish Championships in July, but at another table a West player got 6 tricks less than me!

Board 9, West / North-South

A 7 6	-
K 8 2	9 7 3
A K 9 8 5	10 4 2
5 4	A Q J 8 6 3 2

West	North	East	South
1NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

This one seemed to be easy. North led the Q to my king, and as the K had to be onside I finessed successfully with the J in trick 2 - low club from both opponents. When a diamond to the Ace captured the jack from North, I cashed the king as well and was rewarded, when North played the queen. I unblocked the 10, took three more diamond tricks and the A. I finished the job with a second club finesse, while North played the 10. 13 tricks?

No, the devilish player in the South seat showed up with a card he had denied: His majesty in clubs. And the defence took the rest of the tricks. One off.

When I told about the bad luck to my colleague secretaries from Finland and Sweden, Leo Neimo (the Lion) and Björn Gustavsen (the Bear), I hoped for some sympathy, but in vain. Instead they couldn't stop laughing. They had experienced the hand from the other side as North-South:

West	North	East	South
	The Bear		The Lion
1	1	3	Dble
3NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

In short the story was that at this table West got only two tricks - the first and the last one! North led a spade to the queen and ace. A club finesse lost to the king, and now South and North "cross ruffed" in hearts and spades until they had to concede the very last trick to a shaky West.

That's what friends are for ...

THE 1998 IBPA ANNUAL AWARDS

The 1998 Personality of the Year: **Paul Chemla**

Since our last Award made in Hammamet, Paul Chemla, 54, has had a most fantastic year of success as a player.

It began with a win in the Bermuda Bowl. He was also on the French team which won the Olympiads in 1980 and 1992, in all three beating the USA in the final.

This April in Aachen he took silver in the European Mixed Pairs partnering Catherine d'Ovidio (formerly Saul), and followed it with gold in the European Mixed Teams (teaming up with Michel & Veronique Bessis). A couple of weeks later he was in Corsica to become the Generali World Individual Champion.

As this Bulletin is printed he is competing in the World Championships in Lille.

Chemla was born in Tunis in 1944. His father, a lawyer, separated from his mother, Ginette when Paul was quite young. His mother and he moved to Paris in 1960. She married a member of the French cabinet, Bertrand Flornoy, but is now married to the Turkish bridge player Halit Bigat.

Chemla took up bridge in 1968 after leaving University. He worked as a lecturer. He won the first European Pairs in 1976 in Cannes partnering Michel Lebel, and again in 1985 with Michel Perron.

His Olympiad win in 1980 was decided by the famous grand slam in which Hamman led the wrong ace where Chemla partnered Christian Mari. In the 1984 Olympiad in Seattle, with Chemla partnering Michel Perron, France lost in the final to Poland.

Chemla is known for his large cigars, and the ample figure formed through love of good food. His main hobby is classical music, opera in particular. He reads good literature and enjoys a really tough crossword. He also plays rummy for high stakes.

Chemla, a bridge professional, says the evening and night are for playing bridge, the morning and afternoon for sleeping. He is unmarried.

“Le Bridgeur” Award for Best Play - **Jeff Meckstroth (USA)**

Journalist: Jean-Paul Meyer (France)

From IBPA Hammamet Special Page 10

Jeff Meckstroth is under survey after stealing a contract. Norwegians Geir Helgemo & Tor Helness were the victims, a role they are not used to:

Dealer: East	K 7 5 3
Game All	K 8
	K J 9 7 4
	3 2
10 4	A 9 8
Q 3	J 10 6 5 2
5	A 10 2
A J 10 9 7 6 5 4	K 8
	Q J 6 2
	A 9 7 4
	Q 8 6 3
	Q

The contract was 5 by West (yes, 3NT is much easier!) Helness led a low diamond and Jeff played the 10 from dummy! Of course

Helgemo's queen held the trick. Now South, a young, promising and confident player, played back a diamond. And suddenly there was no longer any efficient defence!

Meckstroth discarded a heart on the A and led a heart to his queen. Helness won this and fired back a spade - too late. Meckstroth rose with the ace and played the J. South had to put up the ace, which Meckstroth ruffed in hand. He cashed the A and crossed to K, and the 10 took care of his spade loser.

Other deals which made the shortlist were:

David Price (Bulletin 393, page 20); Jean-Christophe Quantin from the Paris Mixed Pairs reported by Jean-Paul Meyer (Bull 397 pg 7); Warren Lazer at the Australian Nationals reported by Ron Klinger (Bull 398, pg 4); and Marc Smith from a League match reported by David Bird (Bull 400 pg 13).

The Sender Award for Best Defence - **Geir Helgemo of Norway**

Journalist: Patrick Jourdain (GB)

From the Generali World Masters (Bull 400 pg 3)

It is easy to confuse the Deschappelles and Merrimac Coups. The first is the lead of an unsupported honour to create an entry to partner's hand; the second is the deliberate sacrifice of a high card to remove a vital entry to an opponent's hand, usually the dummy. On this deal Geir Helgemo managed both with one card!

First, Apolinary Kowalski told of an imaginative switch by Claude Delmouly but it was Helgemo elsewhere who found the most accurate defence:

Dir: East J 6
 E/W Vul A J 10 8 3
 Q 6 2
 K J 8
 5 4 3 2
 Q 5
 J
 10 9 7 5 3 2 A
 A 9
 7 4
 A 10 8 5 4 3
 Q 6 4

West North East South
Lant'n Jason Delmouly Kowalski
 - - 1 2
 2 3 3 Pass

Pass 4 All Pass
WestNorth East South
Khol'vChemlaHelgemoFreeman
 an
 - - 1 2
 Pass 2 Pass 3
 3 4 All Pass

West led a spade against Kowalski's Four Diamonds. Declarer won and returned a spade to East. Delmouly found the good switch of K. Declarer won this and also did well by leading Q covered by the king and ace.

When the jack fell from West, Kowalski tried to get back to dummy by playing a club. Delmouly won, put his partner in with Q and received a club ruff to defeat the partscore.

KQ10 87 Note that it does no good
 K 9 6 2 for declarer to duck K when it
 K 9 7 is led. East will cash A and play a second heart. Declarer wins and plays trumps: Q, K, A, J. But now he cannot get back to dummy. However, as Kowalski spotted he did have a chance to make.

After winning the ace of trumps he must play a heart. West wins and plays a club, but now East is end-played

into conceding an entry for the trump finesse.

This reveals a flaw in Delmouly's defence. He should have cashed A before making the switch to K - then declarer cannot succeed. And guess what, that is exactly how Helgemo defended against Freeman after the same start.

Freeman won the heart switch, began trumps by playing Q, K, A, J, but when he tried to get back to dummy with a club, Helgemo ruffed, put his partner in with the Q and received a second ruff. Two off!

The other defenders on the shortlist were:

Piotr Tuszynski in a Polish League match reported by Ryszard Kielczewski (Bulletin 395 page 16); Pal Haga at Norway's Easter Tournament, reported by Knut Kjaernsrod (Bulletin 400 page 12); Larissa Panina at the Aachen Mixed Teams reported by Michael Rosenblum (Bulletin 400 page 14); Tor Helness & Geir Helgemo at the Cap Gemini Pairs (Bulletin 397 page 15)

The Romex Award for Best Auction: Sylvie Willard & Gerard Tissot (France)

Journalist: Philippe Cronier (France)

From the European Mixed Pairs in Aachen (Bulletin 400, page 9-10)

The first session of the Pair final saw this brilliantly concise solution to reaching the best spot on board 23, found by Gerrard Tissot and Sylvie Willard of France (see next column): Tissot (West) and Willard bid:

1 -2 -5NT-7NT-Pass

How did Sylvie Willard come up with the winning bid so quickly? As 5NT was a grand slam try asking for the top trumps she knew her partner must have the ace of diamonds and a void in clubs. So surely he would have at least six hearts leaded by the ace-king. In which case she could count 13 top tricks in notrumps.

Dealer: South 3 2
 Game All 10 9 3

K Q 10 9 3
 10 6 3
 10 8 7 4 A K Q J 9 6
 A K J 5 4 2 Q 8 7
 A 8 2 -
 - A 9 8 7
 5
 6
 J 7 6 5 4
 K Q J 5 4 2

The other auctions which made the shortlist were: Leigh Gold & Jamie Ebery reported by Jim Borin (Bull 397 pg 12); George Rosenkranz & Eddie Wold (Bull 396 pg 5); Piotr Gawrys & Marcin Lesniewski reported by Eric Kokish (Bull 398 pg 6); Christian Mari & Alain Levy (Bull 395 pg 12)

The Levendaal Award for Best Play by a Junior: Igor Grzejdziaik (Poland)

From the European Junior Teams (Bulletin 403 page 3):

The Vugraph match between Norway & Poland was mostly a one-way affair in favour of the Vikings, but on Board 10 the capacity crowd saw a beautiful deceptive play by Igor Grzejdzia (see next column):

In the Closed Room Kristoffersen for Norway opened 1 as South, and shortly thereafter West was on lead against 4 . He chose J which enabled South to play the suit for no loser.

In the Open Room South opened 1 (Polish) and Grzejdzia (North) bid 1 . South bid 2 and 4 concluded the auction. However, this time East was on lead, and Saur chose 8.

It is impossible, I think, for anyone to find a legitimate winning line. But Grzejdzia found an excellent deceptive play that made it really difficult for East to find the right defence. At trick one the play went 8,4,2,3!

Cashing A could have been a disaster with another layout, so Saur continued with 6. North took West's jack with the ace, played three rounds of hearts, and later finessed in spades and threw a club loser on the fourth

spade. A club ruff made a total of 10 tricks thanks to a very imaginative deception!

Dlr: East	A 5 3	
Game All	9 6 5 2	
	A K 9 2	
	10 7	
J 2		Q 9 8 6
10 7		J 4 3
Q 8 5		J 10 6
K J 8 6 3 2		A Q 4
	K 10 7 4	
	A K Q 8	
	7 4 3	
	9 5	

The other players to make the short list were:
 Bas Tammens, 14, at the Amsterdam Youth Club reported by Marten Schollaardt (Bulletin 397, page 16); Leigh Gold at the Australian Youth Teams, reported by Ron Klinger (Bulletin 398, page 5); Boye Brogeland at the European Junior Teams (see this Bulletin); Freddi Brondum at the European Junior Teams, reported by Morten Lund Madsen (see this Bulletin).