

EUROPE WINS OPEN & CHINA THE LADIES in MARLBORO CHINA CUP

Beijing, 12-17th October, 1998 From Justin Hackett and Henry Francis

OPEN TEAMS

1. Europe (captain Alain Levy, Franck Multon, Christian Mari, Paul Chemla) 98 \$18,000
2. World Stars (Geir Helgemo & Paul Hackett, Jason & Justin Hackett, npc Brigitte Mavromichalis) 95
3. North America (captain Fred Gitelman & George Mittelman, Kit Woolsey & Fred Stewart, Peter Nagy & Eric Kokish) 84
4. China (Wang Xiaojing, Wang Weimin, Xu Hongjun, Zhuang Zejun, Shi Haojun, Dai Jianming, npc Luo Yun Hong) 82

LADIES TEAMS

1. China (Zhang Yalan, Gu Ling, Zhang Yu, Wang Wenfei, npc Hu Jihong) 112 \$13,000
2. Europe (Pat Davies & Nicola Smith, Sabine Auken & Kirsten Moller, Bep Vriend & Marijke van der Pas, npc Jens Auken) 100
3. North America (captain Kathie Wei-Sender, Juanita Chambers, Pam Wittes, Stasha Cohen, Dianna Gordon) 81
4. World Stars (Caterina Midskog & Linda Langstrom, Sun Ming & Wang Hongli) 65.

OPEN PAIRS (32)

1. Zhong Fu & Chuancheng Ju (Chi) \$4000
2. F. Gitelman & G. Mittelman (Can)
3. Zhou & Li (Chi)
4. Jason Hackett & G. Helgemo (GB, Nor)

Total prize money: \$80,000

Henry Francis reports:

The European Bridge League, represented by four world champions from France, rocketed from last place after the first Round Robin to win the third annual Marlboro China Cup Open Teams Championship in Beijing. Chemla, Levy & Mari each have two Olympiads and one Bermuda Bowl to his credit. Multon has an Olympiad and a Bermuda Bowl.

In the Womens Teams China gave a convincing performance, winning all six of its matches en route to the title.

In the Open Pairs Zhong Fu & Chuancheng Ju of China had a record final session, 1315 IMPs. That was good enough for the title, overtaking Canada's Fred Gitelman & George Mittelman, leaders after each of the first two sessions.

The three session event was a total-IMP contest, similar to the Cavendish. Each pair played a three-board round against each of the other 31 pairs.

Among the competitors were José Damiani, President of the WBF, & Jens Auken, a Vice-President of the WBF, who finished 13th. Damiani also consulted with Wu Shaozu, President of the Chinese Olympic Committee, on plans to move forward with the WBF goal of having bridge included in the Winter Olympic programme.

Perfect timing enabled Geir Helgemo to succeed on this deal against the French team when every other declarer failed:

Board 16	♠ 10 8 7
Dlr: West	♥ A K 10 9 5 3
E/W Game	♦ K Q 5 3
	♣ None
♠ A K J 6 4	♠ Q 9 3
♥ 6	♥ Q J 8 7 2
♦ A 9 8 6	♦ 4
♣ 9 8 6	♣ A J 4 2
	♠ 5 2
	♥ 4
	♦ J 10 7 2
	♣ K Q 10 7 5 3

West	North	East	South
Helgemo	Levy	Hackett	Chemla
1♠	2♥	3♥	4♣
4♠	All Pass		

Alain Levy cashed ♥A and switched to a trump, won with dummy's nine. Helgemo led a diamond to his ace, ruffed a diamond, ruffed a heart, ruffed a diamond, ruffed a heart and drew trumps, throwing two clubs from the dummy. With no trumps left he then exited with a diamond throwing ♣J. If North won he had to concede a heart to dummy's ♥QJ. If South won the club return would be won by dummy, and a heart conceded to North, who would have to give dummy a heart at the end.

Gitelman, playing a slam against China, received the best defence, but still found a route to success:

Board 1 ♠ A 9 8 2
 Dlr: North ♥ K Q 6 5 2
 Love all ♦ Q 7 5
 ♣ 9

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

♠ 10
 ♥ A J 8 4
 ♦ K 8 2
 ♣ A K J 8 3

West	North	East	South
Xiaojing	Gitelman	Weimin	Mittelman
	1♥	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♥	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♠	Pass	6♥
All Pass			

Against North's 6♥ East found the best lead of a trump. Gitelman won and cashed the top clubs, throwing a diamond from hand. He ruffed the third club, West discarding, so then took ♠A and ruffed a spade, and led a diamond to the queen and ace. Wang Weimin played a second trump, won in the North hand and another spade was ruffed with dummy's last trump.

It looked as if the defence had been too hot, but Gitelman had a final string to his bow. A club ruff was followed by the last two trumps, for a double squeeze. East had to keep ♣Q, and West a good spade, so neither could guard diamonds.

The board proved to be a push because at the other table the defence led trumps only once, and declarer made on a cross-ruff. Shi Hoajun of China found a diabolical defence on this deal against North America:

Board 24 ♠ Q 9 3
 Dlr: West ♥ K 7
 Love all ♦ J 6 3
 ♣ 10 9 7 5 4

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

♠ J 10 8 7 5
 ♥ 4 3
 ♦ A K Q 9 7 5
 ♣ None

West	North	East	South
Kokish	Jianming	Nagy	Hoajun
1♥	Pass	1NT	2♦
Dble	Pass	3♦	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♥	All Pass

Against West's Four Hearts, North, Jianming led ♦2 to South's queen. Hoajun then underled his ♦AK. Jianming was surprised to win the jack, but knew what to do - he led a club for his partner to ruff. Later North won the setting trick with his trump king.

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
21/31	The Marbella Bridge Festival		Matthews 34 95 288 2922
25/28	The Tolani World Invitation, Mumbai, India		Santanu Ghose
FEB 27/28	The Forbo International, Scheveningen		Ducheyne 31 70 397 0405
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

Minutes of the IBPA Annual General Meeting

held on Tuesday, 1st September, 1998 in Lille, France

47 Members present:

Abbasi E. (Pak); Achterberg W. (Swi); Andersson H. C. (Swe); Benjamin A. (GB); Cronier P. (Fra); De Wael H. (Bel); Diment C. (Aus); Dowling S. (Ire); Ducheyne E. (Net); Dupont G. (Fra); Francis H. (USA); Gidwani D. (Ind); Gordon A. (GB); Gerontopoulos P. (Gre); Gijsman K. (Net); Grosfils C. (Bel); Hallen H-O (Swe); Hiron A. (Spa); Hiron M. (Spa); Horton M. (GB); Jafri M. (Pak); Jannersten P. (Swe); Jourdain P. (GB); Leckie S. (GB); Meyer J-P (Fra); Neamtzu C. (Rom); d'Orsi E. (Bra); Ortiz-Patino J. (Swi); Philogene P. (Mau); Ray G. (GB); Ray S. (GB); Rebattu M. (Net); Rigal B. (USA); Rhind J. (Ber); Rosenkranz G. (Mex); Sandsmark T. (Nor); Schipperheyn T. (Net); Senn E. (Net); Serras J. (Bel); Smith M. (GB); Staveley S. (GB); Suri K. (Pak); Tacchi R. (Fra); Truscott A. (USA); Wei-Sender K. (USA); Wignall J. (NZ); Wildavsky A. (USA).

1. The President, Henry Francis, **welcomed** members. The agenda was approved. There were no apologies for absence; there was a quorum. The President acted as Chairman and opened the Meeting.

2. **Homage** was paid to members deceased since the last General Meeting:

Maurice Gauthier, Jill Gatti, and GCH Fox.

3. For the Presentation of **Annual Awards**, Barry Rigal (Awards Chairman) read his report. The winners were (see Bulletin 404 for full details):

Le Bridgeur Award for Best Play: Jeff Meckstroth (USA); Journalist: Jean-Paul Meyer (Fra).

Wei-Sender Award for Best Defence: Geir Helgemo (Nor); Journalist: Patrick Jourdain (GB)

Romex Award for Best Auction: Sylvie Willard & Gerard Tissot (Fra); Journalist: Philippe Cronier

Levendaaal Award for Best Play by a Junior: Igor Grzejdziaak (Pol); Journalist: Jon Sveindal (Nor)

Most winners could not be present personally, compatriots accepted the prizes for them.

4. The **Minutes** of the AGM at Montecatini, 24th June 1997, (see Bulletin 391) and the General Meeting at Hammamet, 28th October 1997 (see Bulletin 395), were approved.

5. No matters arose from these minutes.

6. To accolade Per Jannersten was made an **Honour Member** of IBPA. (For citation see Bulletin 405.)

7. Officer's Reports

(a) The **President**, Henry Francis

reported on two major changes coming about for IBPA:

- the organisation will soon have its own website. The general website will be available to anyone who wishes to visit; there will also be a section private to members containing, for example, the most recent Bulletin. Per Jannersten was responsible for the site.

- the Membership Secretary is taking the necessary steps to make it possible for members to pay their annual dues by credit card. Early indications are that also paying via the Internet will prove feasible. When ready, all details will be published in the Bulletin.

- the Executive has decided to hold the 1999 AGM during the World Championships in Bermuda in January 2000. The purpose is to have as many of the world's zones as possible in attendance.

(b) The Executive Vice-President

There was no report.

(c) **Organisational Vice-President**, Per Jannersten proposed the re-appointment of the Zonal representatives with the exception of Amram Zamzami who was no longer a member. A representative for this Zone would be

appointed as possible. Chris Diment would be re-placing Paul Marston on the Executive and would become the representative for Australasia. Re-appointed were: Julius Butkow for South Africa; Henry Francis for North America, Ernesto d'Orsi for South and Central America, Nissan Rand for the Middle East.

(d) The **Secretary's** report was given by Evelyn Senn. She took care of producing and mailing of the minutes of all Executive and General Meetings in Montecatini and Hammamet, where she also had an IBPA desk. Furthermore she did the work for distribution of the 1997 IBPA Handbook.

(e) **Clippings Secretary**, Evelyn Senn made a General Clippings book with over 100 clippings regarding Rhodes. Other clippings were sent to Mr. Damiani's office.

(f) **Treasurer**, Evelyn Senn & Auditor, Hans Christer Andersson. In presenting the Accounts for 1997 (see this Bulletin), Mrs. Senn reported that 1997 had been a year without surprises. There had been extra expenditure on stationery, but the costs for the Handbook had been lower than expected thanks to two generous sponsors: the Dutch Publishing house Tirion and the WBF.

The usual support of \$2,000 from the WBF was very much appreciated. Evelyn Senn reported this was her last Treasurer's report because she steps down after nine years of hard work. She introduced the new Treasurer, Christer Andersson from Sweden. She thanked the members for their confidence in her. It gave her great satisfaction that the organisation is financially in good shape and that the budget for 1998 predicts a stable position. 1999 will be an expensive year for the IBPA with two

championships (Malta and Bermuda in January 2000) and a new Handbook. She reported that at a recent meeting of the Executive Per Jannersten had said he would find a sponsor for the 1999 Handbook (applause).

Lower expenses, more advertisements, and new sponsors would, hopefully, avoid the deficit in 1999.

The **Auditor**, Christer Andersson, had examined the Report of the 1997 Accounts, the consolidated financial statements, the Account records and the administration for 1997 and found everything to be in order. He recommended the Income Statement and the Balance Sheet be adopted and the AGM be discharged from liability for the financial year 1997.

The Accounts and Budgets were approved.

(g) **Membership Secretary**, Stuart Staveley reported there are 425 Full members, 47 Associate members, 10 Honour members and 19 Sponsored members, making a total of 501. The membership seems to have now stabilised around the 500 mark. A country-by-country breakdown and the names of new and rejoined members were attached to the report. Evelyn Senn read the names of new members who had joined in Lille (see Bulletin 405 page 14).

The Membership Secretary stated that for members outside the sterling area it is becoming more and more troublesome to transfer subscription payments to Scotland. These difficulties encourage members to delay payments, resulting in their removal from the mailing list. It is intended therefore to introduce a facility for paying by credit card, as reported by the President.

At the end of his report Stuart Staveley thanked Evelyn Senn for their wonderful co-operation during so many years.

(h) **Sponsorship Chairman**

There was no report.

(i) **Bulletin Editor**, Patrick Jourdain reported in the year preceding the AGM there had been 12 monthly Bulletins and the Special from Hammamet. Members also received the 1997 Handbook in December and World Bridge News. He thanked all members who had contributed to the Bulletin during the year, reminding contributors to include bidding, vulnerability, the name of at least one player, and the occasion: the basic who, what, where, when and why of journalism. Barry Rigal had provided the Column Service which members can use without crediting the author or IBPA.

The price of advertisements was published in March, following the decisions of the Executive. Since then ads had been published bringing revenue of US\$1600 to IBPA.

May saw Bulletin No. 400. They began in

1959. There had been four Editors: Eric Jannersten, Rhoda Barrow, Albert Dormer and the current one. July had a special article and cartoon from Per Jannersten to mark IBPA's 40th Anniversary. In August Elena Jeronimidis raised the matter of copyright in Tournament Bulletins to be discussed under AOB.

The Executive had given permission to replace IBPA's laser printer, donated by EPSON in 1991.

(j) **Liaison Officer**, Panos Gerontopoulos reported there had been no problems between the IBPA and EBL or WBF. He thanked IBPA members for their support of the WBF and EBL and announced that Mr. Damiani had decided to present 50 copies of World Championship books (25 of '96 and 25 of '97) to the IBPA as a token of appreciation. The President expressed his gratitude for this.

(k) **General Counsel** No report.

8. The following **officers were elected** for the next two years:

President: Henry Francis (USA); Secretary: Evelyn Senn (Neth); Treasurer: Christer Andersson (Swe); Executive Vice-President: Jean-Paul Meyer (Fra); Organisational Vice-President: Per Jannersten (Swe); Chairman: Alan Truscott (USA); Honorary General Counsel: Bill Pencharz (GB); Presidents Emeriti: Alan Truscott (USA) and Tommy Sandsmark (Nor).

9. **Election of Executive Committee** vacancies for a 3 year term: Panos Gerontopoulos (Gre); Jan van Cleeff (Net) and Chris Diment (Australia). The first two were re-standing. Paul Marston of Australia had decided not to re-stand, and all were in favour of electing Diment, (who had been very active in international bridge since 1989) as his successor.

Already elected, 1 year to serve: Julius Butkow (S.A.), Eric Kokish (Can), Barry Rigal (USA).

Already elected, two years to serve: Dilip Gidwani (Ind), Patrick Jourdain (GB), Peter Lund (Den).

10. The **1999 Budget was approved** and the Treasurer's motion to keep the **subscription fee for 1999** unchanged at £36 and the initiation fee at £12 was ratified.

11. **Election of Auditor** Mr. Leckie asked who was going to be Auditor now that Mr. Andersson was Treasurer. The President reported that Mr. Gidwani had offered his services for this task, and this proposal was approved.

12. **Other competent Business** There was an animated discussion about copyright. Mr. Jannersten reported that one law existed to protect authors but that practice in using it

differed from country to country. Participants in the ensuing discussion were: Messrs Suri, Jourdain, Francis, Meyer, and Truscott. It was an ethical matter more than a legal one with which members needed guidance. The key points to emerge for consideration by the Executive as good practice by IBPA members were:

Facts such as details of an actual deal were not copyright; Editors should not copy the words of a named author without crediting the author in the case of an extract, or asking permission in the case of the bulk of an article; authors who send the same words to more than one publication should tell the Editors what they have done; analysis of a deal is not copyright; if an author is employed then ownership of copyright is a matter between the author and employer, but others may work on the assumption that it is the employer who owns the copyright, particularly where the author is unnamed in such publications as Tournament Bulletins; further to this it could be good practice for such publications to have a clear statement regarding copyright of content so that contributing authors and prospective users of copy knew the published conditions; authors can give permission to specified third parties such as "other IBPA members" to reproduce their work; IBPA is a members' club where there is an assumption that the IBPA Bulletin may be expected to reproduce members' work without payment or permission, but readers of the Bulletin must treat copy within the Bulletin as having the same copyright as the original work; invented deals such as Par Hands or Double Dummy Problems should be treated as words, and subject to copyright.

The Meeting adjourned at noon.

IBPA Column Service

by Phillip Alder (USA)

21. Truman Capote said, "Venice is like eating an entire box of chocolate liqueurs in one go." Why is that appropriate here? To get full value from this deal, cover the East and South hands -- no peeping now!

South opens and closes the auction with Four Spades. As West, you lead the king of hearts: three, seven, four. What next?

Dlr: South	♠ 9 4		
Vul: None	♥ A J 8 6 3		
	♦ A 9 4		
	♣ 10 9 6		
♠ 8 5		♠ J 2	
♥ K Q 10 9 2		♥ 7 5	
♦ Q 10 8		♦ K J 7 5	
♣ K J 5		♣ A Q 4 3 2	
	♠ A K Q 10 7 6 3		
	♥ 4		
	♦ 6 3 2		
	♣ 8 7		
South	West	North	East
4♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

Sitting South was Lorenzo Lauria, who was part of the Italian team that won the Rosenblum earlier this year, and the European Open Team Championship in 1979, '95 and '97. He won silver medals in the Bermuda Bowls of '79 and '83, losing each final by five heartbreakingimps.

Lauria could see four sure losers, two in each minor. Was there any chance? Just one ... he ducked the first trick!

Thinking that declarer would never do that if holding a singleton, West continued with the two of hearts, a suit-preference signal asking for a club return after his partner had ruffed, Unlucky! Lauria called for dummy's jack and discarded a club loser. Declarer drew trumps, returned to dummy with a diamond and threw his other club on the ace of hearts to make his contract.

Every South was in four spades, but Lauria was the only declarer to win ten tricks. It's easy to be wise after the event, but declarer successfully painted the wrong picture for the defender.

As you will have guessed, this deal was played in Venice, during the congress held there every September.

Here are four more deals that I feel are suitable for a newspaper column. They may be used without accrediting the source.

22. What is the biggest drawback of bridge? All right, excluding the low level of behaviour it engenders in so many. Clearly, it is the length of time it takes to get up and running from a sitting start. A beginner's book is some 200 pages long. It takes ages to feel comfortable with the game.

To make life easier, enter MiniBridge (*Rules at end of article*). I am itching to give it a try with some students. Declarer chooses the contract after seeing the dummy:

Dlr. South	♠ A Q J 10		
Vul: E-W	♥ 7 5		
	♦ 9 3 2		
	♣ 8 5 3 2		
♠ 9 7 6 5 4		♠ K	
♥ Q J 10 8 6		♥ 9 4 3 2	
♦ K 4		♦ J 10 7 6 5	
♣ 4		♣ A 7 6	
	♠ 8 3 2		
	♥ A K		
	♦ A Q 8		
	♣ K Q J 10 9		

Bridge bidding:

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

Playing MiniBridge, if you were South in the above diagram, which contract would you pick?

The English Bridge Union publishes a magazine called Young Bridge which contains MiniBridge problems. It is sent free to players under 25 years of age. This problem comes from the magazine.

The best contract is Five Clubs, which fails only if both the spade and diamond finesses lose. However, most pairs would reach 3NT after the given auction (or via 1♣-1♠-3NT-Pass in pristine Acol).

I saw the deal in a newspaper column. The writer stated that 3NT depends on the spade finesse working; yet that isn't correct.

You win the first heart trick, drive out the ace of clubs, win the heart return, and run the clubs. With six tricks in, you need three more; these can be two spades and the ace of diamonds or two diamonds and the ace of spades. It is fractionally better, a priori (by 1.21 percent!) to play a spade to dummy's ace. If the king drops offside, that extra edge, you have 11 tricks. And if the king doesn't drop, then you take the diamond finesse. With this layout, you win 11 tricks while those in five clubs have fallen to defeat. Like life, bridge isn't always fair.

23. Which is the oldest bridge magazine still being printed? Which magazine has published the greatest number of issues?

For bridge journalists, these questions are too easy, but perhaps your readers would be interested in the answers. Bridge Magazine started in May 1926, but didn't appear during World War II. (The first editor, A. E. Manning-Foster, died a month before the start of hostilities.) The Bridge World didn't begin until October 1929, but wasn't interrupted by the War. So, BW has put out some 20 more issues.

In the very first Auction Bridge Magazine, as it was called for three years, there was a competition to raise money for King's College Hospital (for whom I played bridge while at University College!). It cost one shilling to enter. KCH was trying to raise £500 to re-open a closed ward. The second problem featured these North-South hands:

<p>Dlr: South ♠ 10 7 Vul: None ♥ 9 2 ♦ K J 7 5 ♣ Q 10 7 5 2</p> <p>♠ A 6 4 3 ♥ K Q 7 4 ♦ Q 10 8 4 ♣ 9</p>	<p>♠ Q 8 5 2 ♥ J 10 8 6 5 ♦ - ♣ J 8 4 3</p>
<p>♠ K J 9 ♥ A 3 ♦ A 9 6 3 2 ♣ A K 6</p>	

South	West	North	East
2NT	Pass	3NT	All pass

South (yes, South, not Z) opened one notrump, which, as it was Auction, was passed out. But to score a game bonus, South had to win nine tricks.

West led ♥4. South wins with the ace and cashes his two top clubs, but West discards ♠3 on the second. How should South continue?

The key clue is West's opening lead: the four of hearts, which, as declarer can see the two and three of hearts, announces that West has only four hearts. And when he turns up with only one club, presumably he began with 4-4-4-1 distribution. So, the diamonds are breaking 4-0. South must continue with the sneaky six of diamonds, hoping West will thoughtlessly play the four. Then declarer can win five diamond tricks and nine in all.

The composer, W. Dalton, congratulated the "many solvers" who worked out this answer. If unprompted, I wonder how many readers would have tried the ace of diamonds at trick two.

Regardless, that wasn't bad for May 1926, was it?

24. I was booked in to supply 24 of these problems. Perhaps I have saved the best for last.

<p>Dlr: South ♠ 10 8 7 5 4 Vul: None ♥ 7 2 ♦ K 6 5 ♣ 8 4 3</p> <p>♠ K Q ♥ 10 8 3 ♦ J 10 ♣ A Q 10 9 7 6</p>	<p>♠ 3 ♥ Q J 9 6 ♦ A 9 8 7 4 2 ♣ J 5</p> <p>♠ A J 9 6 2 ♥ A K 5 4 ♦ Q 3 ♣ K 2</p>
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South	West	North	East
1♠	2♣	3♠ (a)	Dble (b)
Pass	4♣	Pass	Pass
4♠	Dble	All Pass	

(a) Pre-emptive (b) Red suits

I was shown this deal by Michael Prahlin, a Russian who has lived in New York for some years. He was sent it by Yuri Bolotin from the Ukraine. It features a wonderfully imaginative piece of declarer play by a young Ukrainian, but we don't know his name.

The only snag with this deal is that East-West had to be using Rusinow leads. At trick one in an unbid suit, the lower of touching honours is led. King from ace-king, queen from king-queen, and so on. Also, either in a suit bid by partner or when holding two honours doubleton (ace-king, king-queen, queen-jack, etc.), you lead the higher, not the lower, honour (which is why I dislike the method).

Against Four Spades Doubled, West, using Rusinow leads, placed the jack of diamonds on the table. How did South play?

Declarer seemed destined to lose four tricks (one spade, one diamond and two clubs), but he found a great ruse.

East, thinking his partner was leading from the queen-jack of diamonds, played the nine at trick one. South ducked!

Suitably duped, West continued with the ten of diamonds. And equally fooled, East again played low, allowing South to scoop up the trick with his queen. (I think East was wrong. As his double showed the red suits, diamonds should be treated as a suit he has bid.)

Now came the two top hearts and a heart ruff in the dummy. Back to hand with a spade to the ace, declarer led his last heart. West discarded a club, but it only delayed the evil moment. After trumping in the dummy, declarer ruffed ♦K (just in case!) and, when West discarded once more, exited with a trump. Having only clubs remaining, West had to open up the suit, allowing South's king to score a trick.

Declarer lost only one spade, one diamond and one club. Who was this masked marvel?

Minibridge rules (English Bridge Union version)
with popular variations in brackets.

1. Each player counts their points, high card only
(some teachers add points for long suits).

2. Bidding starts with the dealer and the players announce their points. If these do not add up to 40 they check again. Players can use these points to make deductions during the play.

(Some teachers give players the option of saying "Pass if they do not expect to win the auction. You "open" if you have 12/13 points or more. In this version the bidding can go round twice e.g. P P 15 P 9 P P P, more closely reflecting real bridge, but declarer does not know how the missing points lie.)

3. If the points are 20-20 there is a re-deal. The side with the most points becomes the declaring side, the player with the most points of this side becomes declarer. If both members of the partnership have the same points it is the one who announced first.

4. Dummy goes down. Declarer then picks the contract: the trump suit and whether to play in partscore, or game *(or slam, in some versions)*. The opening lead is then made. Scoring for successful or failed contracts is as for duplicate, non-vulnerable.
(Before the players learn scoring you can say the contract in tricks is the total number of points divided by three i.e with 33 points they must make 11 tricks).

The description of Minibridge reported in the Daily Bulletin of the recent ACBL Nationals contained inaccuracies.

Major change in annual dues collection

By Stuart Staveley, Membership Secretary

All members who do not have a sterling bank account will be pleased to know that a facility has been arranged with the Bank of Scotland whereby annual subscriptions may be paid by credit-card.

From 1st December 1998 you may pay via an approved credit card by:

- quoting the credit card number and date of expiry
- signing an authorization on the Annual Renewal or New Member Application Form.

The two credit cards that will be accepted are VISA and MASTERCARD / EUROCARD
(note: NOT American Express).

The great advantage of this method of payment for individual members will be that they do not pay the charges, in some countries quite substantial, which banks make for arranging the transfer of funds.

The amount appearing on the member's later credit-card statement will be the amount of the subscription alone, calculated in the local currency at the sterling exchange rate ruling on the date of receipt.

For the IBPA there will be a cost, but there will also be some administrative benefits. There will be no longer any need to have regional collectors or to quote any subscription rate other than in pounds sterling. The collection of all membership payments will be centralized with the Membership Secretary in Scotland, with the forms and signed authorizations being sent direct to the Membership Secretary either by ordinary mail or by fax. This procedure will simplify the keeping of records, will reduce the chance of error, and should result in the faster processing and acknowledgement of membership payments.

The Annual General Meeting at Lille agreed to leave the annual subscription for 1999 at £36, with the Initiation Fee for new or re-joining members also remaining at £12.

The Annual Renewal Form will be distributed with the December Bulletin. All members are asked to complete the Form and return it to the Membership Secretary, even if they are Honour Members or have already paid their 1999 dues.

Contact: Stuart Staveley Tel: 44 1520 755 217

Four Hands by Ib Lundby (Denmark)

Ib offers these deals to members without requiring credit:

Cheated by a Woman!

Many years ago I trusted women, but lots of bad experiences have taught me to be more careful. An example where I was declarer:

Dlr: West ♠ 2
 E/W Game ♥ Q 10 2
 ♦ A K Q 10 2
 ♣ A 9 4 2

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

 ♠ A 8 5 3
 ♥ J 9 4
 ♦ J 5
 ♣ K J 6 3

West	North	East	South
1♠	Dble	pass	1NT
pass	2NT	pass	3NT
All pass			

West led the ♠Q overtaken by the king, which I ducked, and the spade return went to the ♠7. West continued with the ♠J to my ace (two clubs were discarded from dummy). Now I cashed all the diamonds and carefully studied the discards: East threw a club, and West the ♥8, then a low spade, and thirdly the ♥K! This one was easy, I thought: West obviously had started with something like:

♠ Q-J-10-9-x-x ♥ A-K-8 ♦ 9-4 ♣ ?-x.

With great satisfaction I therefore cashed the ♣A and continued with a club to the king ... and saw West discard the ♥7!

We have ladies' series in bridge - I am now looking for a flight for men.

Third hand high

Maybe you don't see any problems with the East hand below, but your play is very important, so think again, please.

The opposing, undisturbed bidding with North as dealer: 1♥(!) - 4NT, 5♦ - 7NT. Your partner leads the ♠6, and this is what you see:

♠ 7 2
 ♥ J 8 7 5 4
 ♦ 6
 ♣ A Q J 8 7

Dummy ♠ J 10 9 8
 ♥ 6 3
 East ♦ J 8 5
 ♣ 6 5 3 2

♠6 led

Declarer asks for the ♠7 and you play ... the ♠8? Well, in that case your score will be minus 1520, while instead, the play of ♠10 probably is worth 50 points for you. The whole deal:

Dlr: North ♠ 7 2
 Love all ♥ J 8 7 5 4
 ♦ 6
 ♣ A Q J 8 7

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

 ♠ A K Q 5
 ♥ A K
 ♦ A K 10 4
 ♣ K 10 4

This hand appeared in our national teams tournament, division 2. With a spade lead and no other information I suppose that the best chance is a squeeze against four spades and the ♥Q in same hand. After ♠A you cash A-K in hearts and diamonds and continue with five club tricks. One down.

West would not lead from a jack against 7NT, so if East plays the 8 he is marked with exactly J-10-9-8. South takes the ace and may continue with ♣K and ♣10 before making up his mind. When West shows out in clubs, the double squeeze is the better chance: South cashes two more spade tricks, unblocks the ♥A and ♥K and goes back to clubs. On the last club East has to discard a diamond, so South throws the ♠5. What about West?

West has no answer and the grand slam succeeds.

IBPA Editor: If East guards the spades the double squeeze is better unless East shows out on the first club. East's card must fit with West having led from four.

A new kind of double squeeze

This hand from our national teams in a way includes a kind of double squeeze. Both tables played in no trumps - at the one table declarer caught a defender in a throw in squeeze - at the other declarer got squeezed himself.

Dlr: South ♠ 7 6
 Love all ♥ 9 5 2
 ♦ Q 10 8
 ♣ 10 8 7 3 2

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

 ♠ A 5
 ♥ A Q 7
 ♦ K J 6 3 2
 ♣ A Q 5

West	North	East	South
Ole	Morten	Karsten	Søren
Raulund	Andersen	Pedersen	Christiansen
			2NT

all pass

South took the spade lead with the ace and played a diamond to West's ace. West cashed two spade tricks and "cleverly" continued with a low spade to East. A heart came back, and South - who in the meantime had bared A-Q in hearts and clubs, read the distribution perfectly. He went up with the ♥A and cashed four diamond tricks. On the last diamond West had to bare the ♥K in order to guard the ♣K, so he was thrown in and had to give South the last two tricks.

At the other table North-South (Jan Rolf-Larsen/Christian Reinholdt) had found a way to 3NT against Jens Auken/Dennis Koch-Palmund. Dennis led a spade as well, but when he came in with the ♦A he cashed all the spades. Therefore, at this table, South had to throw a card from:

♥ A-Q ♦ K-J-6-3 ♣ A-Q.

He hoped for the best when he discarded the ♥Q, but that was an expensive decision. West played a heart to the ace, and South played a diamond to dummy and closed his eyes when finessing for the ♣K. Five down!

The Warburg Tournament

In the thirties a group of Danish top players founded an individual tournament with 20 participants, chosen "among the best male players in Copenhagen", and since then the

tournament has been played every year. Of course a lot of wonderful traditions have been built up during this period, but the format is still the same. Four days in the autumn and four days in the spring the players meet (eat) and play 4 or 5 rounds of 5 boards. The winner of the year is automatically Chairman of next year's tournament, and the four players at the bottom exchange with four new elected players.

The tournament has its name after its very first chairman, Johan Warburg. In 1998, 65 years later, the former Danish international Stig Werdelin is chairman.

Have a look at this textbook example from the very first round of this year's tournament:

Dlr: East ♠ A K Q J
 N/S Game ♥ A 8 5
 ♦ K 9 5
 ♣ A J 2

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

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

West	North	East	South
	Georg Norris		Svend Jørgensen
		pass	1♣
pass	1♠	pass	2♣
pass	4♦?	pass	4NT
pass	7NT	all pass	

4♦ was an asking bid ("Trelde"), and the response 4NT (3rd step) showed first or second control in diamonds and two of five aces. In this way South became declarer and received a spade lead from West - at other tables North declared but got a spade lead as well.

How do you play?

Of course you may guess the position of the ♣Q, but two declarers of five didn't. At the other three tables South cleverly looked for a hint by continuing spades before playing clubs - and found it. When East showed up with seven spades, West was favourite to have the ♣Q, possibly all the clubs. The best chance therefore was to enter the hand and let the ♣10 run and do the work. 13 tricks.

PAL IN ACTION By Knut Kjaernsrod
(Norway)

Pal Haga of Oslo is indisputably one of Norway's top players at the moment and often produces high quality play. Here he is in action at a great Pairs tournament in Oslo recently. First, as declarer in 3NT:

Dlr: South	♠ J 8 7 5 4	
Love all	♥ A 10 3	
	♦ Q 6	
	♣ A 10 9	
♠ Q 10 3		♠ 9 6 2
♥ 8 7 6 2		♥ J 9 4
♦ A 9 4		♦ J 5
♣ K Q 3		♣ 8 7 5 4 2
	♠ A K	
	♥ K Q 5	
	♦ K 10 8 7 3 2	
	♣ J 6	

Pal was South and opened 1NT. North used Stayman with a response of 3♦ showing a maximum with five diamonds and North signed off in 3NT.

West led a heart to the nine and king. Pal led a diamond to the queen, and the next diamond revealed good news when the jack appeared. West won and played a second heart. As you can see West gets squeezed in the black suits by the remaining red suit winners, but to show his technique was up to squeezing either defender, Pal cashed only one top spade and then, on the diamonds, threw two clubs and two spades. The last heart reduced everyone to three cards. The ending was a criss-cross. If neither defender discards a club honour, you test the spades next, and drop the queen.

Twelve tricks proved a shared top.

IBPA Editor: Best defence is to unguard ♠Q early and then throw a club honour from KQx on the last red winner. Declarer may well cash the wrong black ace next.

This was a real beauty:

Dlr: East	♠ K 5	
Love all	♥ J 7 6 3	
	♦ K 9 5 2	
	♣ K 8 5	
♠ J 9 7		♠ A 10 2
♥ K 10 8 2		♥ A Q 9 5 4
♦ J 7 4		♦ Q 8 3
♣ 10 4 3		♣ Q 9
		♠ Q 8 6 4 3
		♥ None
		♦ A 10 6
		♣ A J 7 6 2

West	North	East	South
		1♥	1♠
2♥	Pass	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♠	All Pass	

IBPA Editor: How did North manage to make no show of strength? A double of Two Hearts looks normal to me. Then South may reach Five Clubs.

Pal had to play in the inferior spot of Three Spades and West led a heart reducing declarer to four trumps at once. How do you go about making nine tricks?

East probably has ♠A. So Pal crossed to ♦K and led a trump. East had to duck so Pal won the queen and, abandoning trumps, switched to clubs. When they came in he could afford to play a third one allowing East to ruff. Pal ruffed the next heart and played a fourth club. If West does not ruff East will have to waste his trump ace on thin air, so West ruffed low. This was over-ruffed by both North and East, but now South was in control. He ruffed the third heart and led the fifth club. West could make a third trump for his side, but declarer still had nine tricks.

This was beaten only by those making 11 tricks in a club contract.

* Knut Kjaernsrod of Norway reports this deal from a local tournament where Ole Kopstad, partnering Kjell Kopstad, switched plans during the play from avoiding a trump promotion to purposely creating one!:

Dlr: West ♠ K J 6 4 2
 N/S Game ♥ J
 ♦ Q J 6 2
 ♣ Q 9 4

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

 ♠ 5
 ♥ Q 10 8 7 4 3 2
 ♦ A 10 4
 ♣ 8 7

West	North	East	South
	Kjell		Ole
Pass	Pass	1♣	2♥
Pass	Pass	Dble	All Pass

West led ♣3 against South's contract of Two Hearts Doubled. East won the ten and continued with a low club to West's king and a third club was ruffed by Ole, South. Declarer realised that to play trumps first was likely to lead to a trump promotion when East gained the lead with ♠A to play a fourth club. So South began with the scissors coup of leading a spade to the jack and queen, removing East's entry whilst dummy still had ♥J.

East played ♥9 to the king and West exited with ♠10. Having seen East's nine of trumps, Ole had a re-think. If he ruffed with his last small trump and played another, West would win and exit with a third spade. South could ruff, but after West's trumps had been drawn, South would have none left and would have to lead away from the ace of diamonds, allowing East to make ♦K and a good club.

So Ole ruffed the second spade with the seven of trumps, and then played a high trump to West's king. West played a third spade, South ruffing East's ace, again with a high trump. South cashed his good trump and exited with his small trump to West's six. West now had to allow an entry to dummy so South took the rest with the aid of the diamond finesse. Just one down.

IBPA Editor: It doesn't help West to stop forcing, as South then goes back to drawing trumps normally and setting up diamonds.

* Stephen Lester reports that IBPA members in America or Europe can subscribe to Australian Bridge for a members' rate of US\$30, or A\$ 30 in New Zealand, Asia or Australia. Cheques drawn on US, NZ or British banks are accepted, or all major credit cards. Contact:

P.O. Box 429 Willoughby
 NSW 2068 Australia
 Tel/Fax: 61 2 9967 0444
 e-mail: ozbridge@bridgeshop.com.au

* A wet no-bridge weekend gave a chance for the Editor to go back through deals not used at the time they were submitted:

Glen Ashton reported from the Canadian Women's Trials for Lille held in Winnipeg a deal in which a correct 4-2 fit was reached.

The winning team of June Pocock, Marylou Bert, Kathy Adachi & Leslie Gold had an interesting board in the final.

Board 29 ♠ 8 7 5 2
 Dlr: North ♥ K J 8 7 5
 Game all ♦ Q T
 ♣ 7 2

♠ A J T 4 ♠ K Q
 ♥ Q 4 2 ♥ A T 6 3
 ♦ 8 6 5 3 ♦ J 2
 ♣ A 4 ♣ K Q J 8 3

 ♠ 9 6 3
 ♥ 9
 ♦ A K 9 7 4
 ♣ T 9 6 5

Pocock	North	Bert	South
	Pass	1♣	1♦
1♠	Pass	2♥	Pass
3♦	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

This auction was all done naturally, without relays, mirrors, or any other special bidding tools. However the opposing pair counteracted this with a defense that painted a false picture in declarer's mind. The ♦Q was led, and was overtaken by the king, for a shift to the club ten. Now it looked like clubs could well be five-one, so declarer won the club ace, drew trump, and played a club to the eight for down one.

Per Lange reported a deal in February from Division 2 of the Norwegian League:

Oystein Jensen, North, partnering Tom Hoiland from Kristiansand found this good defence:

Board 69 ♠ 10 9

Dlr: North ♥ 6 5
 N/S Game ♦ K J 9 8 7 5
 ♣ A 10 7
 ♠ A K 7 ♠ Q J 8 5 4
 ♥ A K 7 4 3 2 ♥ Q 9 8
 ♦ 6 3 ♦ 10
 ♣ 3 2 ♣ K J 6 4
 ♠ 6 3 2
 ♥ J 10
 ♦ A Q 4 2
 ♣ Q 9 8 5

West	North	East	South
	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♥	Pass	3♥	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♦	Pass
5♥	All Pass		

East's light opening put the opponents too high. East's response to RKCB showed 0 or 3 key cards. Jensen as North made the imaginative lead of ♦K. He smartly followed with ♣7, and, of course, declarer misguessed putting in the jack and allowing South to win the queen and push back a club for one off.

Mark Horton reported a deal (no bidding given) in the September Bridge Magazine, from the Killarney Congress, played by England's Colin Porch:

It helped him to the Mixed Pair's title in partnership with Amy Cherry. After East has opened a weak Two Spades South finds himself in Six Hearts. West leads ♠9.

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

You can see eleven tricks, two spades, six hearts, one diamond, one club and one club ruff.

Porch won ♠A, drew one trump only, then played a club to the queen and ace. East returned ♣J. With ♠Q making 7 points, the ♦K had to be with West.

Porch led ♦Q, covered by the king and ace, returned with a trump to ruff his club, and still had a trump in dummy to return again to run the trumps and squeeze East.

* IBPA member John Williams has retired as Secretary of the English Bridge Union. He joined the EBU in 1978 and filled the posts of Secretary or General Manager over 20 years. The current, recently appointed, General Manager is Phillip Lloyd. The Editor of English Bridge is Ken Rowe.

* Elly Ducheyne reports that the next Forbo Tournament will be on 27 and 28th February at the Steigenberger Kurhaus in Scheveningen. Tel & Fax: 31 70 397 0405

* Alan Hiron spots that the last sentence of Barry Rigal's column hand No. 83 last month, claiming that South must cash a diamond before playing good clubs through East, is not accurate. South has already shed a diamond on the fourth heart and can throw the rest on the clubs if East does not ruff. However, if you give dummy one more diamond, and one less club, the comment is valid and adds to the column worthiness of the deal.

* Larry Cohen reports a new e-mail address: larryco@concentric.net

* Lilian Matthews reports that 19th Marbella Bridge Festival will be held at the Marbella Club Hotel from January 21st to 31st, 1999. Open Pairs, Mixed Pairs; Teams, and more Open Pairs. Prizegiving and other cocktail parties. One session per day from 4.30 p.m.. Time for sightseeing... social atmosphere. Contact (note a 9 has been added to our no.): Tel & Fax: 34 95 288 2922

* Bridge Today "University" reports that it is now taking registrations for the winter semester, starting 4th January on Internet. 250 students have registered since June for the Summer Semester. Extra courses by Marshall Miles & Larry Cohen have been added. A course for complete beginners will start in the Spring.

Contact: Matthew Granovetter
 Email: Matt@Bridgetoday.com
 Phone: toll-free in the USA 800-525-4718.
 Web site: www.bridgetoday.com

or 3838 Catalina St Los Alamitos CA 90720
 Courses cost \$49 (less 10% for Bridge Today Magazine subscribers) for 11 classes. And you receive a free book (by "snail" mail) with each course. Give your name, phone and Email number with your registration.

Here's a sample, for use in your bridge column if you like:

Matchpoints ♠ Q 7 6 5 4

Dlr: South ♥ A 8
 Game all ♦ K J 6 2
 ♣ Q 3
 ♠ J 10 8 2 ♠ 9
 ♥ J 6 5 ♥ 10 7 4 3 2
 ♦ 9 7 ♦ Q 8 5 3
 ♣ J 10 8 7 ♣ A K 4
 ♠ A K 3
 ♥ K Q 9
 ♦ A 10 4
 ♣ 9 6 5 2

♥ A 3
 ♦ 5
 ♣ A K J 10 9 8 6

South	West	North	East
1♣	Pass	1♠	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♦	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♣	Pass
4♥	Pass	6♣	All Pass

South West North East
 1NT pass 2♥* pass
 2♠ pass 3NT (all pass)

*transfer to spades Opening lead: ♣J

This deal comes from the first lesson in Marshall Miles' Inferences course. The contract is 3NT when South chose to play for 9 tricks instead of 10. West leads the jack of clubs and East-West take four club tricks. Dummy discards a spade and a heart. East throws a heart. At trick five, West leads a heart. How can you take the rest of the tricks? (Only the North-South cards are shown.)

Miles goes through testing the spades, then the discovery play of cashing the hearts, and finally the decision to take a diamond finesse through East.

* The Bridge World, now in its seventieth year, reports a major upgrade. Beginning with its November issue, the Monthly will increase in size by 12 pages, incorporating a new section, *Bridgeworks*, devoted to helping players improve their results and increase their enjoyment through a deeper understanding. The price remains the same.

Bridgeworks articles stress common sense and the development of useful thought patterns over memorisation and the use of complicated rules. On this deal, from the first issue, declarer can find the correct play through logical thinking, though without the need for any fancy plays.

Rubber bridge; South dealer; E/W Game

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

West led ♥K. When declarer won and cashed the top trumps, he received the bad news about the club break. South reasoned that the only way the contract could succeed was if West had to follow to four rounds of spades, which would permit the discard of declarer's heart loser without allowing West to score his low trump. Therefore, after ♠AK failed to drop the jack, declarer successfully finessed dummy's ten on the third round of spades. That would normally not be the correct play in the spade suit, but in these circumstances a three-three spade break would not allow the contract to be made.

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The Vilnius Cup By Bronius Zibaitis (Lithuania)

75 Open Pairs met at the Hotel Villon. 33 teams competed for the Cup. Prize money was 8,000 USD, quite substantial for our country.

Players from Latvia, Estonia, Finland, Poland, Russia, Belarus, Italy (Szenberg), Great Britain & Lithuania took part: Gawrys-Lasocki, Kowalski-Romanski, Borewicz-Przybora, Martens + president of Lithuanian BA Vainikonis, Levenko-Trishin, Panina-Rosenblum, Kholomeev-Khiouppenen, and many other stars. The results:

Open Pairs :

1. Laanema - Karpov (Estonia) 63.61 %
2. Balicki - Sarkanas (Pol/Lit) 63.60 %
3. Gromov - Petrounin (Russia) 61.78 %.

Open Teams :

1. MIAMI (Gierulski, Korpetta, Rutkowski, Wolek) 213
2. REKONNOV (Khochlov, Gromov, Petrounin) 200
3. VITAS (Vainikonis, Martens, Kowalski, Romanski, Przybora, Borewicz) 198

There was also an Invitational Pairs event (30 best pairs) won by Rekonov-Khochlov followed by Borewicz-Przybora and local pair Kucinskas-Saulytis.

Here are two deals, one from the Invitational pairs, another from the teams (all teams played the same deals).

Deal 52. Dealer: West; Game all.

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

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

West	North	East	South
Pass	1♦	Dble	1♥
2♣	2♥	3♦	3♥
All pass			

1♦ was Precision-style, East's double promised exactly four spades and at least four cards in some minor. West tried to 'find' a minor, and East corrected to diamonds. Most probably, South (I. Kalma from Estonia) decided that his club holding is not in a very favourable position, so 3♥ was enough.

West led ♦J covered by the queen and king. Next came another top diamond ruffed by South. He drew trumps ending in dummy. The ♣J showed break, and West played a spade.

This was covered by the ace, and another club was played. Of course, the club suit was dead, and declarer was forced to give another two spades to the defence - one off. The odd thing is that most pairs were in 4♥ making, with rare exceptions.

The winning line in 3♥ after East's two top diamonds set up dummy's ten, is to draw only two trumps and then take a spade ruff in hand. As East cannot get the lead to play a third diamond, you can draw West's trump after ruffing the third club, and the defence make only a diamond, a spade, and two clubs.

The next deal came from the teams, and proves an exception to the Tip that you should always lead low from your trump holding:

Two local players landed in 7♣ (I do not want to give the bidding) and my partner, local master Albertas Tyla, started with the small trump having J102 in trumps from the West:

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

It is now the same if I play the nine of trumps or not because the declarer has a simple winning line: ♠Q to the ace, spade ruff, heart to the ace, spade ruff, heart ruff (a key extra entry to the dummy) and a third spade ruff; draw two more trumps, and claim.

The lead of the trump jack (or 10, of course) defeats the contract. While establishing the spades, declarer gets an unpleasant surprise from East who ruffs with the nine, promoting West's trumps into a trick for the defence.

IBPA Editor: *Declarer can succeed even on a high trump lead, though he would probably fail: win, unblock the heart ace, return with a diamond, ruff a heart, return again with a diamond, draw trumps, run the ♠Q and get to dummy with ♦K for a heart discard on ♠A.*