

Press stop

Harold Franklin 1915-1998

Harold Franklin, who died peacefully on 23rd December aged 83, was for two decades the senior figure in the direction of bridge tournaments in England, the European Bridge League and the World Bridge Federation. From the mid-sixties to the mid-eighties most major tournaments were under his energetic direction.

He was born in Leeds in 1915, and read Modern Languages at Leeds University which he represented at football and boxing. He was destined for a legal career when war intervened and he joined the army. He was commissioned in the artillery in 1941, and, joining the Maritime RA, served on two ships which were torpedoed, before being posted to India.

He learned bridge in 1938 and after the war had considerable success at national level, winning the British championships (the Gold Cup) twice. A fiery temperament led to the break-up of his partnership with Bobbie Mercado whilst competing in the British Trials, but he returned to represent Britain in the European Championships of 1952 and 1956 with Louis Tarlo. In later years he was non-playing captain of many British teams including the Ladies team which won the World Olympiad in 1964 and the European Championships in 1963 and 1966.

He was bridge correspondent of the Yorkshire Post, and Editor of the English Bridge Union magazine from its start in 1966 until 1984. He became Chief Tournament Director for England, and later both the European Bridge League and World Bridge Federation with responsibility for the world championships for ten years, retiring in 1985. In his retirement he organised bridge weekends for Grand Metropolitan and Hilton Hotels. He suffered a serious heart attack in 1991 and from 1993 required nursing care.

Franklin never married.

The Editors wish all members a very happy 1999.

* * * * *

The American Contract Bridge League is experimenting in response to criticism of Appeals Procedures. Here are two suggestions, one of which has already proved its worth in Britain...

At a final in any tennis club there may be half-a-dozen (unpaid) officials on duty as line-judges. At a local golf club final an official accompanies the players to make any rulings needed. Yet bridge players, even in the final of a world championship, play under Laws written on the assumption that no-one is watching. Ridiculous, really.

Some years ago the regulations of the Camrose Trophy (the British Home Internationals) were amended to require the presence of a Tournament Director at each table. The benefits have been substantial.

The Director is a time-monitor from the start. The old flaw - that the monitor was only called *after* the damage had been done - has disappeared, and the frequency of time penalties has dropped significantly.

Recourse to Appeals has also reduced dramatically. The Director-at-the-table is a witness of fact: what was said, whether there was a hesitation, what happened when a claim was made? Rulings on such matters, made by a Director who was present at the time, are accepted by players and Appeals Committees alike. Without loss of justice these rulings could even be made final.

The Appeals Committee is left to do its proper job - handle matters of bridge judgement only. Did the player have reasonable alternative actions; might the non-offender have found the winning lead with a better description of the opponents' system? - etc.

And this leads to the second suggestion. When making up the Appeals Committees, it is more important to have good bridge-*players* than skilled lawyers or competent administrators. On judgement matters the players want to be judged by their peers or better.

Happy 1999,

Patrick Jourdain - Editor

ACBL FALL NATIONALS (contd from last Bulletin)

Orlando 21st -30th Nov '98 Bulletins edited by Brent Manley & Henry Francis; Internet: Burghard

In the December Bulletin we reported on the win by Zia Mahmood & Howard Weinstein in the Blue Ribbon and of Rita Shugart's team in the Reisinger. Here are further items from the Nationals:

* The ACBL Charity Foundation donated \$5000 to the local Cancer Research Centre.

* Bobby Goldman is ACBL's Honor Member for 1999.

* Lew & JoAnna Stansby won the Life Master Open Pairs. JoAnna thanked Jill Levin, who, as Jill Blanchard, assisted by her then husband Bob, filed suit against the ACBL for having a Life Master Mens Pairs and Life Master Womens Pairs. In 1990 three former Mens events were made Open. The Womens events remained for Women only.

* Dan Morse was re-elected as ACBL delegate to the World Bridge Federation for the period 1999 to 2001.

* Val Covalciuc of Chicago was elected ACBL President for 1999. She is a bridge teacher.

* For an experimental period, including the Spring & Summer Championships in 1999, Appeals for all events except NABC+ will be heard and resolved by Tournament Directors.

* Alan Sontag, 52, & Peter Weichsel, 55, have re-launched their partnership after a break of 15 years. They took second place in the Reisinger. Their partnership started in 1971 in the Precision team of C.C. Wei. They won the 1975 London Sunday Times (now The Macallan), and then the Cavendish Calcutta in 1976 and '77. For professional reasons they split after winning the 1983 Bermuda Bowl.

* The Open-Board-a-Match Teams was won by Grant Baze, Michael Whitman, George Mittelman, Brad Moss, and Fred Gitelman.

Life Master Open Pairs

Winners Lew & JoAnna Stansby had a large number of successful competitive doubles, left in by partner for big penalties. Here is one:

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

West	North	East	South
	Lew		JoAnna
		Pass	Pass
1♠	2♥	2♠	Dble
All Pass			

JoAnna's competitive double was likely to have two hearts. The defence took their six top winners and the heart ruff for a penalty of 300 and 71.5 out of 77 matchpoints.

Hugh Ross faced a dilemma in the auction on the same deal. His solution, in the end, was to give the opponents just a little more rope. Ross was playing with Kyle Larsen

West	North	East	South
-	-	Pass	Pass
2♠	Dbl	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♣	Pass	?

Ross's 2NT bid is an extension of Lebensohl. Here 2NT usually denotes a weak hand and asks partner to bid 3♣. A direct bid of a suit, therefore, shows at least moderately constructive values.

"I didn't know whether my hand was bad enough," Ross confessed, but he bid 2NT anyway. Larsen bid 3♣, as directed, and it was Ross's turn again. He kept the bidding alive by bidding 3♦.

"I wanted to give everyone a chance to bid again," Ross said. It worked like a charm. West passed 3♦, as did North, and East could not resist one more shot. His 3♠ bid was doubled by a grateful Ross, and he and Larsen collected plus 500 with two top hearts, a heart ruff, three diamond tricks and the ♣A. That was good for 74.5 out of 77 matchpoints.

Open Board-a-Match Teams

Steve Robinson, partnering Peter Boyd, made a club trick with the bare ♣Q opposite ♣J9.

Dlr: North ♠ A K J 9 8 5 3 2

E/W Game	♥ A J 10		
	♦ 9		
	♣ Q		
♠ Q		♠ 10	
♥ 7 4		♥ K 9 8 5 3	
♦ K Q J 7		♦ 10 4 2	
♣ K 10 6 4 3 2		♣ A 8 7 5	
	♠ 7 6 4		
	♥ Q 6 2		
	♦ A 8 6 5 3		
	♣ J 9		
West	North	East	South
-	2♣	Pass	2♥ (1)
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

(1) Two controls: one ace or two kings.

East led a low heart, taken in dummy with the queen. Robinson played a spade to the queen, ace and 10. He followed with a diamond to the ace and a diamond ruff, spade to the 7 and a diamond ruff, then a spade to the 6 and a third diamond ruff, extracting all of the diamonds from both opponents. Robinson then ran trumps, reaching this position:

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

Robinson played ♠2 and East, who could see an end-play looming, discarded ♣A. If East had thrown his low club, Robinson would have had an easy end-play with the ♣Q, forcing a heart return into Robinson's tenace. So when East unblocked clubs, Robinson cashed ♥A, removing the 7 from West, and played the ♣Q. West won with the ♣K, but had only the ♣10 left to play to dummy's good jack. Plus 680 was good for a win.

Too many points

On this deal from the second qualifying session of the Life Master Pairs, Tony Forrester found himself wishing he could have given some of his high cards to Zia, his partner. Taking advantage was Al Childs of Little Rock. He was playing with Clay Hall of Birmingham AL.

Dlr: East	♠ J 7 5 4
E/W Game	♥ K 8 3
	♦ A 9

		♣ A K 7 6	
♠ 6 3 2		♠ A K 10 8	
♥ 7 6 4		♥ Q	
♦ 10 4 3 2		♦ K J 8 7	
♣ 10 4 3		♣ Q J 9 5	
		♠ Q 9	
		♥ A J 10 9 5 2	
		♦ Q 6 5	
		♣ 8 2	
West	North	East	South
Zia	Hall	Forrester	Childs
-	-	1♣	2♥
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♦
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

Zia led a low club, taken by Childs with the ace. Childs cashed the ♥K, getting the good news in that suit, and came off dummy with a low spade. Forrester won the ♠K and got out with the ♣Q, taken by the king. Childs then pulled trumps ending in his hand -- Forrester discarded diamonds on the second and third round of hearts -- and played the ♠Q. Forrester won the ♠A and played a third round of clubs, ruffed by Childs, who then played his next to last heart, throwing a diamond from dummy. All of a sudden, Forrester no longer liked his hand, which was taking no more tricks. This was the position with Forrester still to discard:

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

Forrester could do no more than succumb to the criss-cross squeeze. If he discarded a spade, both dummy's spades would be good. If he let go a diamond, Childs could play a diamond to dummy's ace, dropping the king, pitch the low diamond on the ♠J, ruff a club back to hand and claim with the good ♦Q. If Forrester discarded a club, dummy would provide two discards for the diamonds in Childs' hand.

The overtrick was worth 43.5 out of 51 matchpoints.

How they do it

Have you ever wondered how the expert players take so many tricks? You can get an idea by following Eddie Wold's line of reasoning on this deal from the second final session of the Life Master Open Pairs. Wold was playing with George Rosenkranz.

Dlr: West ♠ 5 4
 Love all ♥ A K 5 2
 ♦ A 2
 ♣ K J 10 8 4

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

2

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

West	North	East	South
-	Wold	-	Rosenkranz
1♣	1♥	3♣ (1)	4♣
4♥	All Pass		

(1) Weak

Here is how Wold worked out the distribution in both opponents' hands at trick one:

East led the ♣2, and since East-West were using third-and fifth-best leads, Wold knew that his left-hand opponent had five clubs (he would hardly have made a jump raise with three-card support). That meant West had three clubs.

Wold knew the spades were 4-4 because West didn't open 1♠, as he would have done with five, and East didn't bid 1♠ over 1♥, as he would have done with five or more spades.

So Wold knew that West had four spades and three clubs. That brought Wold to diamonds, of which West had to hold exactly three. Why?

Because if West held four diamonds, he would have opened 1♦, not 1♣. Could West have only two diamonds? No, because he was known to have exactly three clubs and exactly four spades. If he had four spades, three clubs and two diamonds, he would have to have four hearts – and that was impossible. Wold was playing a 10-card heart fit.

So Wold knew West's shape was 4-3-3-3. With his good heart spots and dummy entries, Wold could easily play the heart suit for no losers.

Wold discarded a low diamond from dummy on the opening club lead rather than ruffing. West won the ♣A and continued with the ♠Q to dummy's ace. Wold followed with the ♥J and was disappointed when West covered, making the rest easy.

For making six, Wold earned his side 68 out of 77 matchpoints.

What a lead!

Another beautiful play by Hugh Ross has come to our attention. It occurred during the first final session of the Blue Ribbon Pairs.

Dlr: East ♠ 9 6 5
 N/S Game ♥ Q J 9 5
 ♦ A 9
 ♣ A Q 6 4

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

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Nagy</i>	-	<i>Ross</i>	-
-	-	Pass	Pass
1♠	Dbl	4♠	4NT
Pass	5♣	Dbl	5♦
Pass	5♥	All Pass	

Ross found the killing lead -- his lowest spade. When Nagy won with his king, he knew Ross had under the ace -- and there had to be a good reason. He correctly figured Ross needed a club led through, and that was that -- Nagy was able to give Ross a club trick when he got in with a diamond. The underlead of the ace at trick one was absolutely necessary because the diamonds set up for all of declarer's necessary club pitches.

Squeeze reprise

This deal had the analysts working:

Dlr: West ♠ 10 4 3 2
 N/S Game ♥ J 10 9 7
 ♦ 10 2
 ♣ Q J 10

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

♠ J 7 6
 ♥ 6 5
 ♦ A 8 7 6
 ♣ 7 6 4 2

Initially Gary Oleson wrote that the only defense to defeat Six Notrumps is to lead the ♥J. The report said that once a heart is led, the ball is in South's court. South must win the *third* round of diamonds as North sluffs a club honor. Then South must fire back a heart to completely sever communications between declarer and dummy. North has to rely on partner holding the ♣7.

But two days later the Bulletin spotted:

Problem -- what does North pitch when East cashes his diamonds? The first pitch is easy -- a club. But what does he play on the second diamond? He can't throw a spade -- declarer's spades will be good. He can't throw a heart -- dummy's hearts will be good. So he has to sluff another club, right? But look at the club spots. If North comes down on the singleton ♣Q, declarer can cash the ♣A, cross to dummy's now good ♣9, then return to hand with a spade. That way declarer takes three clubs, three spades, three hearts and three diamonds. That adds up to 12!

There's a name for this -- a three-suit clash squeeze.

Calendar	Event	Venue	IBPA Contact
1999			
JAN	13/25	Australian Summer Festival, Canberra	Brockwell 61 2 6239 2265
	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
APRIL	2/5	Easter Festival, London	EBU 44 1296 394 414
	2/5	Zone 7 Championships, Christchurch	Brockwell 61 2 6239 2265
	4/16	PABF Championships, Jakarta	Brockwell 61 2 6239 2265
MAY	5/9	Cavendish Invitation Teams & Pairs, Las Vegas	1 212 725 2135
JUN	5/6	WBF Worldwide Contest	WBF 33 1 53 230 315
	12/26	Generali European Teams & Ladies Pairs, Malta	Pencharz 44 171 242 3001
JUL	9/20?	World Junior Pairs & Camp	Panos G panos@bridge.gr
	22/1 Aug	ACBL Summer Nationals, San Antonio	ACBL 1 901 332 5586
AUG	5/14?	World Junior Teams	Panos G panos@bridge.gr
	9/15	European University Championships, Weimar, Ger	Schmidt-Bott 49 241 171848
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
MAR	9/19	ACBL Spring Nationals, Cincinnati	1 901 332 5586; www.acbl.org
	30-Apr 2	14 th Cap Gemini World Invitation, The Hague	v. Dalen 31 30 252 6970
AUG	10-20	ACBL Summer Nationals, Anaheim	1 901 332 5586; www.acbl.org
NOV	18-28	ACBL Fall Nationals, Birmingham, Al.	1 901 332 5586; www.acbl.org

BOTSWANA OPEN TEAMS

By Leif-Erik Stabell (Zimbabwe & Norway)

Stabell sent two deals. One was the slam that we published from Janet Pinard in the last Bulletin. Here is the other, a candidate for an Award:

Nancy & Diniar Minwalla is one of our strongest pairs, but unfortunately, they don't have any other pair from Botswana who can make up a decent national team. Diniar grew up in Bombay where he partnered Rajesh Dalal (who now frequently plays with Jaggy for India) for many years. Nancy is American, but has lived in Botswana for 20 years.

Take a look at this hand from another match:

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

West	North	East	South
	D.Minwalla		N.Minwalla
	1 NT	3 ♦	3 ♠
pass	4 ♦	pass	4 ♥
pass	4 NT	pass	5 ♣
pass	5 ♥	pass	6 ♠
pass	pass	pass	

1 NT was 15-17, 4 ♦ and 4 ♥ were cuebids, and 4 NT showed further slam interest without a club control. After 2 more cuebids South reasonably jumped to slam, hoping for a doubleton club opposite.

West leads ♦K. How do you play?

The straightforward plan is to cross to hand with the King of hearts and take an immediate spade finesse. Another possibility is to play East for the King of spades (not unreasonably, since he only has Q J of diamonds), and try to end-play him on the second round of spades after eliminating the other suits. That may work if East has 2-2-7-2, 2-3-7-1 or 2-3-6-2 distribution, but you have to guess which order to cash your side winners. For example: ♦A, diamond ruff, ♥K, ♠A, ♥A Q, diamond ruff, ♣AK, spade. East is end-played into giving you a ruff and discard if he started with 2-3-7-1 or 2-3-6-2, but if he started with 2-2-7-2, he will ruff the Queen of hearts with the spade King and exit safely in a minor.

So, the spade finesse is probably the best chance after all, and after considerable thought, Nancy Minwalla ruffed a diamond with the spade 8 at trick 2 (reasoning that the non-vulnerable East would probably not have 8

diamonds), cashed ♥K at trick 3, and then played a spade to the nine. Remarkably enough, this sequence of play was the only way to make the contract, as the full deal will reveal:

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

After a spade to the nine, declarer cashed A Q of hearts, ruffed a heart low, cashed A K of clubs, took another spade finesse, and ended up with this position:

Dlr: North	♠ A
	♥ --
	♦ 8
	♣ 7
	♠ K 7
	♥ --
	♦ --
	♣ J
	♠ --
	♥ --
	♦ --
	♣ 8
	♠ --
	♥ --
	♦ Q 9 6
	♣ --

Now came ♦8 on which declarer discarded her ♣8. East won this trick, but with two cards left, West's 'sure' trump-trick has suddenly disappeared.

A remarkable hand, and certainly the best played hand in our part of the world this year.

IBPA Editor: The smother play is extremely rare.

Four Hands by Ib Lundby (Denmark)
Ib offers these deals to members without requiring credit

Ib's first deal is a clear candidate for our Levendaal Award, and his name should be retained in that connection.

Third generation

Lizzi and Jørgen-Elith Schaltz were some of the hot bridge names I read about and learned from, when I was a junior player. Lizzi won the European Ladies Team title several times, and her husband played on our national team as well. For a couple of years my partner was Peter Schaltz, their son, and in 1970 I was his captain when he and his team won the European Junior title in Dublin. Since then Peter has for many years played on our national team with different partners, among them his wife Dorte and his cousin Knud-Aage Boesgaard.

Dorte and Peter are still competing in the Danish first division, but their chances to represent Denmark again maybe have decreased a little. No problem at all – the third generation is ready to take over! Meet 14 years old Martin Schaltz in this fascinating hand from a recent club evening.

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

South	West	North	East
1NT	Pass	3NT	all pass

West led his fourth best heart, won by dummy's queen, and after a diamond to the queen the next diamond trick told Martin that he had to work for it. So he did!

The ♦K took trick 3, and a heart to the ♥8 end-played West on the ♥9. He elected to play the ♠J which was taken by the ♠K, and a spade went to the ♠8 and the bare ace. Now it was East's turn to be thrown in! A low club went to the jack and queen, and before Martin cashed the ♠Q this was the picture:

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

Look what happens to East when the ♠Q is played. If he throws a diamond, declarer will cash the ♦A and continue with a diamond, thereby making his third end-play. Therefore East had to throw a club, but it didn't help him very much. Instead Martin played a club to his ace, discarded a diamond on the ♥A and threw East in with the ♣K. Dummy's A-10 in diamonds took the two last tricks. 3NT made with an overtrick.

Two end-plays and a throw-in squeeze in the same hand ... I guess that we will meet Martin at the international scene very soon.

Phone talk

"Want a remarkable hand from yesterday?" Normally I am too busy at work to discuss bridge hands on the phone, but I needed a break, so I allowed my friend to continue, and so he did:

“Lead problem. Your hand:
 ♠ Q 10 8 4 ♥ A 9 4 ♦ Q 9 3 ♣ J 7 6

West	North	East	South
	1♠	Pass	3♣
Pass	3NT	Pass	6♣ all pass

Your lead!”

I followed the advice from a former editor of our magazine, the Leo Pedersen rule: “If you have an ace against a small slam, cash it. Otherwise you may not get it at all, maybe partner has the king of the suit, or maybe dummy will show you how to defeat the slam.” (Later on the rule has been extended: “If you have two aces against a small slam ...”). “Ace of hearts”, I said.

“All right”, accepted my friend on the ‘phone. Now dummy is tabled:

	♠ A K J 7 5
	♥ Q 8 7 3
	♦ J 7 6
	♣ 9
♠ Q 10 8 4	<i>North</i>
♥ A 9 4	
♦ Q 9 3	<i>West</i>
♣ J 7 6	

Low from dummy, jack from your partner (reverse signals) and king from declarer. Your next move?”

I asked for a review of the bidding, and suddenly I had the clue. Of course! South didn’t use Blackwood, so obviously he had started with something like

♠ - ♥ K ♦ A K x (x) ♣ A K Q x x x x (x)

Now, if I played a spade, a heart or a diamond, declarer would win in dummy and get rid of his diamond losers. Agree? “I play a club”, I said and had difficulties hiding that I was a little proud of myself.

“WHAT CLUB?” my friend shouted and laughed – and I was caught. Satisfied with my solution I didn’t realize that it was only a half one. In this case the jack of clubs was the right answer. If I had found this diabolic play I would have been the today’s hero. My friend gave me the distribution of the 52 cards:

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

After my friend had hung up. I thought an inspired South might have dropped the heart king, holding:

♠ - ♥ K x x ♦ A K ♣ A K 10 8 5 4 3 2

The switch to ♣J, felling East’s bare queen, would indeed be a “killing defense”; in this case meaning that my partner will kill me.

Play safe

I noticed this interesting hand in our National Club Championships one month ago. Only a few declarers found the safe play, but most of them survived because only a few defenders took advantage when declarer erred.

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

The normal contract was 6♥ by South with the K♦ lead from West. Plan the play.

The trump suit has to be played with at most one loser, and the main problem is to play the suit in a way where you guard against 4 hearts with each defender. That's easy but not sufficient here!

Many declarers didn't complete their analysis. In trick 2 they cashed the ♥A and continued with a low heart towards dummy. If West splits his honours – as most defenders did – declarer has an easy task, but if West plays a low heart in the third trick, declarer will go down!

There are two correct solutions for declarer:

- 1) Play the ♥J and duck if West plays low.
- 2) Play a low heart to the ♥9 if West plays low. If West is void you take the ♥K and continue with a heart from dummy in both cases.

A neat but simple solution.

IBPA Editor: A perfect column hand. Declarer must foresee that he has to ruff one diamond and that the normal safety play of ♥A, leaving dummy with bare king, does not work. Hence the need to start with ♥J or a low one to the nine.

Loser on loser endplay

South found a nice way to make his contract, but he made a small mistake, which gave the opponents a chance to defeat him.

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

West	North	East	South
1♣	Pass	1♠	2♥
Dble	Redbl	2♠	Pass
Pass	4♥	All pass	

West cashed the ♦A and shifted to his singleton spade won in dummy. Declarer ruffed a diamond, took three rounds of hearts and ruffed another diamond. West had to duck a club from South, so the ♣K won.

If South had relied on East's club discard (showing an even number), he might have read West's shape as: 1-3-4-5. Instead South guessed that West had 2-3-4-4 and therefore cashed the second spade honour from dummy.

This way West got the chance to unblock his last diamond, but he didn't, and two seconds later he was end-played on the fourth round of diamonds while South discarded his spade loser. The ♣Q became declarer's 10th trick.

West is helpless if South doesn't cash the second spade before the end-play

The Seven Wonders Of The World *By Jan Chodorowski (Poland)*

IBPA member Irena Chodorowska & her husband Jan were on the winning team at the Kusadasi Congress in Turkey:

For many bridge players the only thing they have on their minds during a bridge event is the game itself. They rarely leave the hotel. But participants in the 5th Bridge Congress in Kusadasi, a Turkish spa on the Aegean Sea, had a chance to see Aegean shores that are among the loveliest landscapes in the country. We saw Efes, a magnificent ancient city whose architectural program was dedicated to the goddess Artemis. Her enormous temple, once considered one of the seven wonders of the ancient world and rebuilt many times, dates from the third century BC. It is also in Efes that the Virgin Mary, brought there by St. John, spent Her last days in a small house built for Her. The house, now a popular place for pilgrimage for Christians and Muslims, received the official sanction of the Vatican.

After this magnificent trip it was time to set to the game. From 7-11 November, at the Viking Hotel were played 3 pair tournaments and one team tournament. In the event took part such celebrities as Polish-Turkish pair Jerzy Zaremba & Melih Ozdil or Marcin Lesniewski.

Teams winners: Irena & Jan Chodorowski , Janus Szyszkowski & Zdzislaw Reczek; Jaroslaw Kolton & Waldemar Zajkiewicz.

Ozdil won 3NT on the following deal, taking and advantage of a bit of psychology.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Momcuoglu</i>	<i>Zaremba</i>	<i>Ogus</i>	<i>Ozdil</i>
-	-	-	1NT
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♥
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

West led a small spade to the king and ace. Ozdil then crossed to the dummy with ♥K and played a low club (!) to the queen and king. West continued with a spade lead and after winning a trick with ♥Q, played a low

diamond, convinced that the declarer had established the club suit.

The next deal is from the team tournament.

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

South	West	North	East
Irena C	-Jan C		
1♦	1♠	dbld	2♠
3♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass

West led ♣J. Irena took the trick with the Ace and played a spade to the queen. West won and continued his club lead. Declarer ruffed a club and played ♦A, ♦K and a small diamond towards the Jack. West, reluctant to bare his king of trumps while maybe his partner had the missing queen, did not ruff. The stolen trick drove the contract home beaten at the other table.

I encourage everybody to visit Kusadasi next year. Excellent playing conditions and good organisation provided by the Turkish Bridge World Magazine and supervised by Erdal Sidar combine both, bridge and tourist pleasures.

Internet 1999 Bridge Championships *By Henry Francis (USA)*

The first annual World Championships of Internet Bridge will take place over a period of nine months this year. They will be conducted by OKbridge, with the ACBL as a co-sponsor. The World Bridge Federation may also become a co-sponsor.

The event, open to all, starts on March 1 and concludes in Boston, Massachusetts, U.S.A., November 17 and 18, just before the Fall North American Championships there. There will be two events, Open and Women. All bridge will be played on computer. The finals will be vugraphed in Boston.

A Junior championship will be held as well, but the Junior final will take place strictly on computers -- the participants who reach the final will not go to Boston.

The tournament will take place in three phases -- national, regional and world. Each nation will have its own competition in the first phase, except the USA and Canada. Here the divisions will be by state and province because of the large numbers of players involved. Other countries also may subdivide if there are sufficient entries to justify the division. During this first phase, the majority of each team must reside in the country (or subdivision) they represent.

Matches for the first phase will be on a completely random basis within the various areas. Champions will be decided in each of the following categories:

1. Within Europe, in each of 40 countries.
2. Within the USA, in each of the 50 states.
3. Within South America, each of 8 countries.
4. Asia and Middle East, each of 21 countries.
5. Central America - Caribbean, 21 countries.
6. Far East, in each of 10 countries.
7. South Pacific, in each of four countries.
8. Also in North America: one each from Mexico, Bermuda; each province of Canada.

If there is only one entry from any given country or subdivision, that one entry will advance to the second phase, but without being declared the area champion. If there are more than 16 teams, the field will be divided into two sections qualifying eight teams in a Swiss-type competition on the 20-point Victory Point scale. When the field has been reduced to 16 or fewer teams, the competition will be straight random draw knockout with 24 boards in play. In the event of a tie, there will be a six-board playoff.

The second phase will be the World Regional Competition. A champion will be determined in each of the seven World Bridge Federation zones except Zone 2 (North America). North American will qualify two teams -- one from the United States and one from a competition among Canada, Mexico and Bermuda. This phase will begin on June 1 and conclude by August 26. Matches will consist of 36 boards.

The winners will begin the final phase playing 48-board matches on their home computers. The last two teams to survive in both the Open and Women's competition will be given \$5000 to help defray the expenses involved in getting to and staying in Boston. The finals will be 64-board competitions -- 32 boards Wednesday afternoon and 32 boards Thursday afternoon. In the event of a tie in the final, there will be a six-board playoff.

How does a player go about entering this tournament? Anyone can register by visiting the OKbridge home page at:

<http://www.okbridge.com/wcib>.

There the player can fill out an entry form, naming the members of the team and making payment for the first phase.

Teams may be made up of four, five or six players. Although there is no minimum of boards required in early phases, any team member must play at least one-third of the total boards in the three phases to be considered a world champion.

OKBRIDGE tournament subscribers will play free. The fee for OKBRIDGE Basic members is \$25 per team per phase. Non-members must pay \$50 per phase per team. Non-subscribers who enter will receive a guest account with OKBRIDGE that will continue until the team is knocked out. The guest account can be activated up to 30 days prior to the beginning of the competition. This should be enough time for the participants to become familiar with how OKBRIDGE works.

Conditions of Contest will be published soon by OKbridge.

When players are competing on computers, security considerations always exist. When a team signs up for the event, they must agree that no other bridge player in the household, except an approved monitor if assigned, will be present while play takes place. Tournament officials will reserve the right to require monitors at any time. Monitors definitely will be used in the Round of Four in the second phase and throughout the final phase.

The First Madeira International Festival
16-22nd November From Bulletins by Jan van Cleeff (Netherlands)

Open Pairs	%
1 Wubbo de Boer-Agnes Snellers (Net)	60.5
2 Jorge Cruzeiro-Joao B. Reis (Por)	58.8
3 Jean-Paul Meyer-Mark Horton (Fra-GB)	57.7
4 Hans Gothe-Eva L. Gothe (Swe)	56.9
5 Carlos Castanheira - J.Miranda (Por)	56.8
6 Jan Fucik - G. Szekely (Aus)	56.6

Swiss teams	VPs
1 Matos-Luis, Cruzeiro-Reis (Por)	217
2 Eskes-Van Cleeff, De Boer-Snellers Net	203
3 Horton-Meyer, Lara-Capucho	203
4 Fucik-Szekely, Elinescu-Lungu	202
5 Hjelm-Hjelm, Gothe-Gothe	200

Staying on an island with lots of sun, beautiful flowers, good food and friendly people does sound a little like paradise, doesn't it? However, the real fun starts when you can play bridge there as well.

Thanks to the organization (Rodrigo Martins Soares, Luis Miguel Teixeira and Carlos Luis) and the (international) tournament directors Rui Marques and Jose Julio Curado.

The three-session pairs event was won by Wubbo de Boer and his wife Agnes Snellers. Here is De Boer in action:

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

West	North	East	South
	<i>De Boer</i>		<i>Snellers</i>
			1♦
Pass	1♥	Pass	2♦
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

East led the ♠Q for the king. De Boer played the ♦J. East erred by not covering and De Boer let it ride. Diamonds were finessed again and more followed until (see next column): West prematurely had discarded one spade too much, which brought East under pressure,

COPING WITH A BAD BREAK

By P. S. Gupta (India)

since now he had to guard his doubleton spade.

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

On the last diamond De Boer merrily bared his ♣K and so did East with his ♣A. Declarer cashed the ♠A and end-played East in clubs.

Eleven tricks was a top for the winners.

Onno Eskes reports:

The teams was won clearly by a Portugese squad: Nuno Matos (captain) - Carlos Luis, Jorge Cruzeiro - Joao Beirao Reis. Organizer Carlos Luis has a favourite toy, the scary trouble-double. In Portugal they know what to do when Luis doubles:

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Nuno</i>	<i>Carlos</i>	<i>Matos</i>	<i>Luis</i>
Pass	1♦	Pass	1♥
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♣
Pass	5♥	Pass	6♥
Pass	Pass	Dble	Pass
Pass	Rdbl	All Pass	

The Portugese expert knew the best defense against a Luis double; he redoubled. But the Dutch declarer panicked after the spade lead by Matos. He played low in dummy and was defeated in trick 2. It was North who apologized immediately after the hand: "Sorry partner, I should have bid seven, you would have made it". Deadly.

This deal was written up in P. S. Gupta's column in The Hitavada on 27th Sep '98. He

was declarer on a deal where the trumps were 5-0.:

In this deal, from a weekly VBA pairs event, how do you chalk out your line of play?

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

North	East	South	West
Pass	1 ♦	2 ♣	Pass
2 ♦	Pass	2 ♥	Pass
4 ♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

Three notrumps would have been easier. (IBPA Editor: I am not so sure. A spade lead would remove North's entry to the diamonds. East takes the second diamond and switches to a club. When West gets in with the club jack he pushes through a spade. Now the defence triumph.)

Against South's Four Hearts, West led ♦5 to the ace and East returned the suit, West completing a peter. Declarer won in dummy and finessed the club queen.

(IBPA Editor: I think South is alright if he starts with one round of trumps. Discovering the bad break he then enters dummy with a spade to take the club finesse and start on the cross-ruff.)

After cashing ♣A he ruffed a club in dummy. Next came a top spade from dummy. East won and played a third diamond which South ruffed high, West discarding a spade. The spade king was cashed and declarer came to the closed hand via spade ruff, also ruffed high. West, who by now was down to all trumps had to under-ruff. The next club was ruffed by West with the jack. A low trump was won, and the last two tricks were cross-ruffed whilst West followed with small trumps.

Desperate Measures

By John Wignall (New Zealand)

When East-West defended a four heart contract on this deal, they could both see that desperate measures were needed if it were to be defeated:

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

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

North's double was for takeout, indicating some strength and length in hearts and clubs. From then on it was easy to reach what seemed like the good contract of four hearts.

West started with ♦K and when the dummy appeared both defenders could see that their only hope was to attack his holding in trumps.

East therefore played high-low in diamonds (10-6) to indicate a doubleton. West continued with ♦Q which the declarer ruffed low in dummy and relaxed when East followed suit. But he was still not out of the woods. He played the ace and another heart won by West's king. And now came the killer blow, a fourth round of diamonds, promoting East's ten.

Before cashing the ace of hearts declarer should have led low from hand towards the queen. West can win with the king and continue as before with a fourth round of diamonds but this time when East ruffs with the nine South over-ruffs with the ace. Then the queen draws the remaining adverse trumps. That would have been a nice counter to a nice defence.

The deal comes from the Christchurch Bridge Club's Queen's Birthday Congress.

IBPA COLUMN SERVICE

These hands may be used without credit to either the author or IBPA. The author is Barry Rigal.

89.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Garner</i>	<i>Seamon</i>	<i>Weinstein</i>	
<i>Passell</i>			
1♦	Pass	1NT	All Pass

90.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Freeman</i>	<i>Wang</i>	<i>Perron</i>	<i>Helgemo</i>
	1♠	Pass	Pass
Dble	2♠	2NT	All Pass

In the semi-finals of the 1998 US Trials, the Bramley team never seriously threatened Cayne. The following hand came from the seventh and final set of their match - they conceded with a set to go. It demonstrated the principle that suit preference can be used in all sorts of positions, and it is a powerful tool - so long as both halves of the partnership are on the same wavelength.

Garner as West led his low spade against 1NT. Declarer, Mike Passell, played low from dummy and East, Howard Weinstein, inserted the ♠9. Weinstein then cashed the ♠Q, Garner following slightly carelessly with the ♠7. The opportunity for the Bramley team may well have been lost at that point; had Garner followed with the ♠10, the suit preference might have guided Weinstein into making the killing diamond shift. Weinstein studied the ♠7 for a while before finally deciding to make the seemingly safer exit of a low club, and that meant nine tricks for declarer instead of five.

Arguably Weinstein should have played a diamond anyway, since it is almost impossible for a diamond lead to let the contract through, while there are many layouts where a club is fatal. But if one has confidence in partner, one should follow his direction.

Geir Helgemo is more accustomed to making the deceptive plays than being on the receiving end of them, but on the following hand from the Generali Individual in 1998 Michel Perron got the better of him.

Freeman led a spade against 2NT, to the king and ace. Helgemo ducked the second spade and won the third one, as Freeman discarded a small heart. Now three rounds of hearts followed, and Perron did the best he could by discarding the ♣K (not a small club). Helgemo worked out that Perron was likely to have the ♦Q for the bidding thus far. He boldly led the ♦J, and Perron covered this with the ♦Q. Helgemo took the ♦A and had to decide whether Perron had started life with a 6-2-3-2 shape or his actual hand. If the latter, a second diamond finesse would see him home with eight tricks. If the former, a club exit would end-play Perron to concede two diamond tricks at the end for down one -- no great success, but no tragedy either.

He decided to go for the end-play -- and the defence could now cash out for three down and virtually all the matchpoints. Had Perron discarded a small club, the count in that suit would have been apparent, and Helgemo would have been able to get the diamond suit right, for his contract.

91.

Dlr North
Vul: None

♠ K 10 3 2
♥ A K J 8 3
♦ 5 4 2
♣ 3

♠ 9 5
♥ 7
♦ Q 10 8 6
♣ K Q J 10 7 6

♠ 7
♥ Q 10 6 4 2
♦ K 9 7
♣ 9 8 4 2

♠ A Q J 8 6 4
♥ 9 5
♦ A J 3
♣ A 5

West	North	East	South
	1♥	Pass	1♠
2♣	2♠	3♣	3♦
Pass	3♠	Pass	6♠
All Pass			

South might contemplate forcing with a jump to 2♠ over North's opening bid. But his spade suit is not quite good enough to do that. At his next turn, however, South can look for higher things; after all, if North has an opening bid and can raise spades, a slam must be a good bet for South. When he bids 3♦, he is initially only making a game try; it is a forcing bid, asking North to evaluate his hand in the context of diamond length opposite. When North shows no extras by reverting to the trump suit, South takes a shot at slam; he could use Blackwood on the way but it will not tell him a lot.

North has a suitable if minimum hand, but there is the threat of two diamond losers; nonetheless, even a 4-2 heart split makes life easy. However, the lead of the seven of hearts rings danger bells; what if the suit is 5-1? Fortunately North's good heart spots come to the rescue. South wins the opening heart lead in dummy and can afford to draw trumps with the ace and queen. Then he makes the key play of the ♥9 from hand, ducking in dummy, apparently giving up a trick for nothing. Not so; East takes his ten of hearts and returns a diamond. South wins in hand and ruffs a club. Then he plays the king of hearts, throwing one diamond away, and leads the jack of hearts; East covers this, so South ruffs in hand, and uses dummy's last spade as the entry to cash the precious eight of hearts and throw his last diamond away. South has made his contract by giving up a heart in order to set up two extra tricks in that suit.

92.

Dlr: South
Vul: E/W

♠ A Q 9 8
♥ K 10 2
♦ K 10 6
♣ Q 9 7

♠ K 5 4
♥ 4 3
♦ Q 3 2
♣ K J 10 3 2

♠ 7 6
♥ Q 9 8 6 5
♦ J 8 7 5
♣ 6 4

♠ J 10 3 2
♥ A J 7
♦ A 9 4
♣ A 8 5

This deal arose in the Blue Ribbon Pairs, and resulted in a deserved top for Larry Cohen, playing with David Berkowitz. They had done well to reach 3NT rather than Four Spades, and the deal seemed just to be a question of over-tricks, with eleven tricks being the norm. However, an insignificant defensive slip gave Cohen a chance for glory.

After a Precision Diamond opening bid from North Larry played in 3NT, and West led a club, but chose a small one, when the ten or jack would have worked much better. Larry won the first trick cheaply in hand and ran four rounds of spades, (on which East threw two hearts) before finding the queen of hearts, and taking three tricks there.

In the five-card ending West had to let go of his third card in either clubs or diamonds. If in clubs (his actual choice) he would be thrown in with a club to open up diamonds. Cohen played for split honours when West exited with the queen of diamonds, and made 12 tricks. But had West thrown a diamond instead, Cohen leads a low diamond towards dummy. If West contributes his honour, South has a finesse position; if he plays low, Cohen would have ducked the next diamond to him, to endplay him to lead clubs in the three-card ending, for an even more elegant route to 12 tricks.

* The next Cavendish Invitational will be held May 5-9th at the MGM Grand Hotel, 3799 Las Vegas Boulevard, Las Vegas, report the organisers "World Bridge Productions".

The Teams will be on Wednesday and Thursday. The Pairs will have a three session qualifier, and a 2-session final finishing on Sunday late afternoon.

Entry fee: \$2,000 per pair.

Auction: Minimum bid: \$8,000 for a pair. Pay out after a deduction to cover expenses:

1st: 28%; 2nd: 18%; 3: 12%; 4: 9%; 5: 8%; 6: 7%; 7: 6%; 8: 5%; 9: 4%; 10: 3%.

Last year's auction raised almost 1.5 million dollars.

Teams: Entry fee \$2,000 per team. Minimum bid in auction: \$4,000.

* IBPA member Boris Schapiro has, at the age of 89, become the oldest winner of Britain's historic Gold Cup. The trophy, made of gold, has been competed for annually since 1931, except during the war years. Schapiro last won it in 1965 and first won it in 1946. 1998 was his eleventh win, a record.

Schapiro and his partner Irving Gordon, 58, became World Senior Pairs Champions at Lille, and will be competing in the Macallan Pairs this year in London.

The Gold Cup winning team, containing two Swedes, were all members of TGR's Club in London: Howard Cohen & Robert Sheehan, Nick Sandqvist, 28, & Fred Wrang, 36.

In the semi-final they beat the other TGR team containing one New Zealander and one Swede (David Price, Lionel Wright, Gunnar Hallberg, Colin Simpson) on the final board of the 64. Cohen won the final easily against an unseeded team which had beaten the top seeds (Townsend, Forrester, Hackett x 3, Mossop) in the other semi-final. 375 teams entered last January.

The team led by David Mossop won the British Premier League which acts as the main trial for the British team in Malta, but by only 10 IMPs over 336 boards. The selectors have announced two more days of Trials to resolve the matter. The team led by John Collings, which was leading after four rounds, withdrew when a team-member suffered a heart-attack. The player has recovered.

* Bridge Today, the magazine of Bridge Today University, has announced its Defence Award for 1998. This went to Larry Cohen & David Berkowitz (see IBPA Bulletin 404 page 12) for destroying a menace in a squeeze, from the Spingold, reported by Barry Rigal:

Dlr: West ♠ 9 6 4
Game All ♥ A Q 7

♠ A 7 3
♥ 5 2
♦ A K 7 3
♣ K 8 6 3

♦ J 9 6 4
♣ A 10 4

♠ J 8 2
♥ 10 9 6
♦ Q 5 2
♣ J 9 5 2

♠ K Q 10 5
♥ K J 8 4 3
♦ 10 8
♣ Q 7

West	North	East	South
1♦	Pass	Pass	1♥
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♠
Pass	4♥	All pass	

Berkowitz led ♦A and Cohen played ♦5 to encourage. At trick two Berkowitz led a low diamond to Cohen's queen, and Cohen returned a third diamond, ruffed by declarer. Later, when Berkowitz gained the lead with ♠A, he played a fourth round of diamonds (his king), eliminating all the diamonds.

Without this defence declarer could have squeezed West in the minors.

Berkowitz said of his trick two underlead: "A clue from the auction was that Larry passed 1♦; we play Precision, so he was somewhat more likely to have three diamonds than two. If declarer had three diamonds to the queen, he might have thrown it, or he might have bid two notrump. Adding this all together, and of course noting the press potential, I went for it."

Contact:

website: BridgeToday.com, or e-mail: Matt@bridgetoday.com

Bridge Today Magazine is offering 9 back issues for \$19.99. Also, your choice of three books is only \$19.99, total. Outside USA, add \$5 per order.

* Ib Lundby, sending Christmas greetings, says: Five years ago I told my readers about a hand where you could win any game. In our first division recently this hand came up (computer dealt) where any of the five small slams are possible:

Dlr: South ♠ A K 10 8 7
E/W Game ♥ 2
♦ A K J 6
♣ Q J 3

♠ 6 5 4 3
♥ 10 9 4
♦ Q 9 3
♣ 10 5 2

♠ J 9 2
♥ Q J 7
♦ 10 7 5 4
♣ K 9 4

♠ Q
♥ A K 8 6 5 3
♦ 8 2
♣ A 8 7 6

Now the guy who gave me the hand is looking for a similar one where you can make the five grands!

* The Channel Trophy between the Junior teams of France, Netherlands, Belgium and

Great Britain was won by the Dutch. The Under 20s trophy went to France.

* The Invitation teams of Chile, held in Santiago, was won by an England team with Hackett x 3 and Brigitte Mavromichalis. England beat Brazil in the semi-final and Chile in the final.

END OF BULLETIN 408