

The selection of the teams to represent Italy and Britain for the European Team Championships in Malta has raised points of principle that will be familiar to our American members, but are becoming relevant in more countries. The main points are:

- (a) Should National Federations field the best *available* team even if this is one including players that would not earn selection in their own right?
- (b) To widen availability should the National Federation pay fees to players to compete for their countries?

Your Editor believes the answers to these questions are fairly clearcut, namely, yes to the first, and no to the second.

Consider (a) first. Selectors have always known that their “dream” team is often just that a dream. Combinations of players or pairs may not be available for various reasons, of which money is only one. Commitments such as family or job, incompatibility with team-mates, or low expectations of success are other reasons for not being available. To say “I will only compete if a particular team-mate is there to pay me a fee”, is little different from saying “I will only compete if my spouse is in the team”, or “the baby comes with me” or “I only stay in five-star hotels”.

Selectors should try to find out what conditions the players have in advance, stating publicly where possible what is unacceptable, otherwise taking the conditions into account when selecting the team. The more that can be settled in advance the better, else the trials may be a waste of time and expense for both the players and the authorities.

On the second point, even if it was merely a matter of negotiation, the Federations remain in a much stronger position than the players. The events which reward players with long-term fame in bridge are almost wholly the World and Zonal Championships. The three American team majors are similar to Zonals, but Invitation events mean less, however strong the field. The Invitations arise because you have a World or Zonal title to your credit.

Players have to be very short-sighted to give up the chance of becoming European or World Champion for the sake of a few weeks earnings elsewhere. There are still at least forty weeks in the year when they can earn a satisfactory living if they are good enough.

But the point about fees is not just a negotiating matter. It goes deeper. Federations rightly try to pay as much as they can of the players’ expenses, so that players are not excluded from representing their country merely through lack of money, and to ensure that all members bear the cost of the team that is representing them.

However, bridge is far from the point where players in the national team can expect to negotiate a fee. By a large majority the members they are representing would rather have a weaker team than a stronger one with such conditions. Players who think otherwise over-rate their own value.

Patrick Jourdain - Editor

This is the last Bulletin for those who have not paid their 1999 dues.

Young Dutch Squad wins Forbo International

From Bulletins supplied by Elly Ducheyne

1. Wijma (Brulleman, ten Brink, de Vrind) 126
- 2= Tuwanakotta (van Eijck, Nurmohamed, Zhao)
- Denmark C (Andersen M, Harries, Jorgensen, Henriksen) 123
4. Paulissen (Ramer, Jansma, Verhees) 121
5. France (Levy, Chemla, Mari, Cronier) 115
6. Italy (de Falco, Ferraro, Bocchi, Duboin) 112
7. Sweden (Nilslund, Fallenius, Lindberg, Nilsson) 111
8. China (Wang Xiaojing, Li Xin, Wang Weimin, Sun Shalin, Liu Chuan) 107

Format: 64 teams seeded into 8 groups of 8 for a 1-day Round Robin. Top 2 in each qualify for 16 team top section playing Swiss. Each lower placing goes into a lower Round Robin of 8 each.

The IBPA Editor was occupied elsewhere representing Wales v. Northern Ireland (match lost on the last deal of 90!). Of the two IBPA teams Francis, Francis, Rigal & Teukolsky qualified for the "C" Final with the USA Ladies (Wei-Sender, Chambers, Levitina, Kennedy, Cohen). Horton (Novrup, Lund & Werge) qualified, if that is right word, for the "G" Final. The team of Mahmood, Chagas, Campos, Villa-Boas did better, taking second in the "E" Final.

The Bulletin failed to give the auction on this deal from the "A" Final between China and Denmark:

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

The Chinese made Four Hearts: two rounds of spades, the second ruffed in dummy; a low diamond to the nine and ace, a trump to dummy's ace, a second diamond taken by East's jack, and another trump removing the last trump in dummy.

Declarer still had a losing spade, but disposed of it by taking a ruffing finesse in diamonds against East's king.

It appears that West, Fu Zhong, at the other table began by leading a low diamond to East's jack! The play then went: two rounds of spades, the second being ruffed in dummy, and a second diamond, cleverly taken by East with the king. East exited with a trump, and declarer, feeling sure that East held

A, drew a second trump, and ran the Q, throwing his last spade from hand. It was shock when West turned up with the ace to beat the game.

When Sweden scored up this deal in their match against the Dutch Juniors it took a moment to realise that the 850 scored at each table meant, not a flat board, but 17 IMPs to Sweden:

Dir: West	K 10 8 7 4
Game All	None
	K 10
	K J 10 5 4 2
J 2	A 3
A K Q 9 7 2	J 8 5 4 3
8 3	A 2
9 7 3	A Q 8 6
	Q 9 6 5
	10 6
	Q J 9 7 6 5 4
	None

West	North	East	South
<i>Fallenius</i>	<i>Brink</i>	<i>Nilslund</i>	<i>Drijver</i>
1	2	2	4

Dble Pass 5 Dble
All Pass

2 showed spades and a minor

West	North	East	South
<i>Lagas</i>	<i>Nilsson</i>	<i>Schollardt</i>	<i>Lindberg</i>
3	4	5	5
Pass	Pass	Dble	All Pass

South's double at the first table was intended as a sort of Lightner double (here: Lead your other suit). This was not clear to Brink

IBPA Editor: The Bulletin does not say which Brink. There are two in the Dutch Junior team, and the family had five at the Junior Europeans in Cardiff.

Brink led a spade. If Fallenius goes in with ace, draws trumps, and tackles clubs with a deep finesse he can set up a club trick for a diamond discard. Thinking, however, that North's minor was diamonds, Fallenius gave the defence a chance by ducking the first spade. But South, instead of switching to diamonds, continued spades.

Fallenius drew trumps and led a club, and the ten from North saved any guess in the suit.

At the other table the defence, with four aces, must have thought they were on safe ground in doubling Five Spades, but the contract proved an easy make for another 850 to Sweden.

Rigal reported his first deal with Ros Teukolsky:

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

West	North	East	South
	<i>Ros</i>		<i>Rigal</i>
			1
Pass	1	Pass	2
2NT	3	Pass	3
Pass	4NT	Pass	5
Pass	6	All Pass	

West's 2NT was a belated way of showing the black suits.

All my really good partnerships have begun with bidding and making a slam on the first deal played together. I did not tell Teukolsky this, but perhaps she surmised it anyway.

Six Diamonds on a spade lead looked a poor spot. I won the lead in hand, drew two rounds of diamonds, West throwing clubs, played off the king of spades, entered hand drawing the last trump, and ruffed my last spade.

Now should I play for Kx or bare king on my left, or 10x on my right? East was marked with three spades and three diamonds, and, not having bid clubs, probably only four. So I read him as 4-3-3-3, entered hand with a fourth trump, and played a heart to the queen, wrapping up 1370.

The Icelandair Bridge Festival
By Stefan Gudjohnsen (Iceland) & Barnet Shenkin (USA)

The Icelandair Bridge festival was played over the weekend 13-16 of February. As in the past many of the world best players took part.

The teams was won by Zia, Barnet Shenkin, Ralph Katz & Steve Garner from the USA and the Pairs by the Nordic Champions from Norway, Tor Helness & Jon Egil Furunes who teamed up with Saelesminde & Brogeland.

Helness, fresh from winning the Macallan in London, made short work of capturing the pairs title, with Furunes as his partner. In second place were a pair of Icelandic bridge champions, Ragnar Magnusson & Sigurdur Vilhjalmsson. Zia Mahmood and Shenkin got the bronze medal.

In the teams-of-fours, Zia won easily for the seventh time. A strong team from Denmark, headed by Lars Blakset, was second and the Norwegian champions third.

An interesting deal came up in the last round of the teams, between Zia and the Norwegian champions. A sparkling defence by Shenkin & Zia set a good contract of 4 , that was made at almost all other tables, the same deals being played over all.

The match was played on Bridge-Rama, entertaining a big crowd, who saw the stars perform at their best.

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

With Saelesminde - Brogeland N-S, and Zia and Shenkin E-W, the Norwegians bid to a close 4 contract (1 -2 -4 -Pass). It seems as if the contract depends on the trump situation, which in this case is favourable. But observe the deadly Shenkin-Zia defence!

With a choice of two jacks to lead from, Shenkin chose to lead a small spade. The declarer captured Zia's king with the ace and dislodged KQ. Next he led a small heart, and Shenkin paused for a moment. He had noted 8,7 from Zia (upside-down count, with the use of the highest two cards to suggest interest in the lead of a higher ranking suit) and decided to go up with the ace.

When Zia contributed the jack of trumps on the ace, the message was clear. A small spade appeared, trumped by Zia and 10 came back. Brogeland paused for a second, but took his only chance for the contract and played the king. Two down in a contract that was made at the other table, where West led

A, gave Zia the 11 points he needed to win the tournament and \$3,400 first prize.

Shenkin adds:

Zia awards \$100 at Icelandair Open

The barometer pairs was won by Tor Helness and Jon Egil Furunes. Zia and I finished in third place but influenced the final result with this board against the second place Icelandic pair Magnusson and Vilhjalmsson.

Dlr:North	None
Game All	K J 10 9 7
	A Q 10 9 8 7 5
	6
Q J 10 8 7	A K 9 3
6 4 2	8 5 3
J 2	K 4 3
A K 5	J 3 2
	6 5 4 2
	A Q
	6
	Q 10 9 8 7 4

West	North	East	South
	?	Pass	Pass

2	3	4	Pass
Pass	4 NT	Pass	5
Dble	5	Dble	5
Dble	All Pass		

4NT implied undisclosed length outside .

Zia, North, ruffed the spade ace lead and played ace and queen of diamonds, which he ran when East played low. He then ruffed a diamond with the ace of trumps, drew trumps and claimed six.

Zia's team of Katz ,Garner and myself won the teams narrowly from Blakset of Denmark. Knut Blakset - Bjeregard; Christiansen - Lars Blakset. Zia was not so fortunate on this hand against an Icelandic women's pair:

Dir: North	A Q 8
Vul: None	A K 10 7 5
	A J 6 4 3
	None
J 9 3	10 7 6
9 8 6 2	None
Q 5	K 10 9 8
K 8 4 2	A J 9 6 5 3
	K 5 4 2
	Q J 4 3
	7 2
	Q 10 7

West	North	East	South
<i>Anna</i>	<i>Zia</i>	<i>Gudrun</i>	<i>Barnet</i>
	1	Pass	2
Pass	3	Pass	4
Pass	6	All Pass	

Opening Lead: A

Zia ruffed the opening lead and played Ace of diamonds and Jack of diamonds. East let that run to West who returned a second club, a low one. Zia ruffed this and could no longer make the hand, thanks to the 4-0 trump break.

It was a very nice defence and Zia awarded the women \$100. Had West returned a spade Zia would win, cash one high trump to find break and then cash his spades ending in hand. A diamond ruff with the Queen and the last spade would leave West with no resource. If she ruffed Zia could then over-ruff and ruff a second diamond and draw West's trumps. If she did not ruff the spade, Zia would pitch a diamond and cross-ruff.

Had East won the second diamond and played a third diamond West could pitch a spade and declarer would be down, although this was not easily apparent.

It looks as though declarer cannot make the hand either starting with a high trump or the ace of diamonds as the defence have counters. The winning line is to duck a diamond at trick 2. If West wins this to play a low club you must run it to the queen. If West plays anything else declarer follows the previous successful line.

IBPA Editor: For example, if either defender plays a second club, declarer can set up a winner in the suit and use this for a diamond discard. The other two can be ruffed high.

COMPUTER BRIDGE

By David Bird (UK)

For many years bridge-playing PC programs have been moderate in their level of play. This is about to change! The program, GIB, was developed by Matt Ginsberg, Professor of Artificial Intelligence at Oregon University. I sat West on this deal, with GIB in the other three seats.

Dealer: West A 9
E-W Game J 9 8 7
 J 6 4
 A 8 7 6

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

 Q J 2
 A 6 5
 A K 3
 Q J 5 3

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

South's 1NT showed 15-17 points. North's 2NT may seem conservative, but there are no tens in the hand and it is better to hold honours in combination (such as A J 6 2) rather than one in each suit. Perhaps the computer program knows better than we do how to judge such hands.

Not inspired enough to find a spade lead, I led 10. East won with the king and switched to a spade. South won with the queen, cashed A (!), then led a low heart towards dummy. I went in with the queen and cleared partner's spades. GIB was not finished. It cashed three good clubs, East throwing a diamond and a heart. Then came the key move - A.

East's remaining cards were K 8 7 Q 10. If East threw a diamond, declarer would score a ninth trick with the diamond jack.

When East threw a spade, declarer exited with the spade jack to the king.

After cashing one more spade, East had to lead from the diamond queen. Game made!

How does GIB work? At each stage it generates random hands which match the bidding and play so far. It then tests all possible plays against these hands, using an extremely fast double-dummy processor. The play which works best against most hands is the one chosen.

IBPA COLUMN SERVICE

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

93.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Lair</i>	<i>Soloway</i>	<i>Schwartz</i>	<i>Hamman</i>
		Pass	Pass
1	3	Pass	Pass
3	Pass	4	All Pass

The semi-finals of the US trials in 1998 between Nickell and Schwartz resulted in a comfortable win for the former. The match started out well for Nickell, when on the second board Schwartz was faced with a difficult defensive problem which he got wrong, letting Hamman take full advantage. Over Lair's jump to 3 Hamman reopened with 3, and Soloway (who could not bid 3 initially since the 1 opening could have been a four-card suit in a weak no-trump hand) drove to game. On the Q lead Hamman won in hand and led a club to the king, a good start. Then he tried a heart from dummy. Schwartz played low, allowing Lair to ruff. Lair now underled in clubs to Schwartz's queen. At this point Schwartz needed to play a third heart, however he returned a diamond to the queen and ace. That gave Bob Hamman a second chance -- and one is normally enough for him. He ruffed a club to hand dropping the A, led the A from hand to fell the J, and then ruffed a heart to dummy. He cashed the 10 to which Schwartz had to follow, as a heart loser went away, then ruffed a diamond to hand and ruffed his last heart in dummy. At trick 12 Hamman could lead a plain card from dummy for the trump coup and +420, with his Q poised over Schwartz's K9.

94.

Dir: South K 6 4
 Vul: E/W J 7 5 2
 J 10 6
 A 6 2

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

A 3 2
 A K Q 10 9 8
 K
 9 4 3

West	North	East	South
			1
Pass	2	Pass	2
Pass	4	All Pass	

South has a routine opening bid of 1 \spadesuit ; when North raises to 2 \spadesuit , South has enough in reserve to make a game try, despite the fact that he only has a 15-count with a singleton king. The 2 \spadesuit bid asks for help in spades, and North, with a maximum and four trumps accepts the offer, and bids game. A club would be the best attack against 4 \spadesuit , but West makes the normal spade lead; now it is up to South to exploit the chance he has been given. It is not immediately obvious perhaps that South can't afford to take the spade in dummy to lead diamonds, because of the shortage of entries to dummy - look at those inconvenient heart spots! However, there is a 100% line, if declarer is careful. South wins the opening lead in hand, cashes the ace and king of hearts, then leads the king of diamonds. West wins and returns a club, too late. South can arrange to cross to dummy in trumps and throw a club on the jack of diamonds. This loses to West's queen, and the defense can cash one club winner, but that is all. The ten of diamonds in dummy will take care of the spade loser eventually. To make the contract, South turned the unpromising diamonds in dummy into a trick, as a discard for one of his eventual losers in a black suit.

95.

Dir: West K 2
Vul: Both A 5 2
 K J 10 9
 A K J 7
 A Q 5 4 3 J 7 6
 Q 4 10 9 7
 A 7 4 Q 8 2
 9 4 2 Q 10 6 3
 10 9 8
 K J 8 6 3
 6 5 3
 8 5

West	North	East	South
<i>Berkowitz</i>	<i>Moss</i>	<i>Cohen</i>	<i>Fallenius</i>
1	Dble	2	3
Pass	4	All Pass	

This board arose in the 1998 Cavendish Teams tournament. Fallenius-Moss play relatively straightforward methods, so the South hand could not use 2NT to distinguish between a constructive and competitive raise to Three Hearts, and thus Moss was playing with the odds when he pushed on to game.

Berkowitz led the two of clubs playing third-and-fifth leads, and Fallenius had no real clue as to the location of the cards, except that the ace of spades was surely onside. Taking the club finesse at trick one could have been right, but he judged that if that the club finesse were working, West might have led a passive trump. In fact West's failure to lead a heart rather suggested he had the queen of trumps - this was not an auction where West would have wanted to risk leading away from an unsupported honor if he had had a safe alternative. Accordingly, Fallenius went up with the ace of clubs and laid down the ace and king of hearts. When the queen of trumps fell, declarer simply played on diamonds, and established two tricks in that suit for an eventual home for his spade loser, drawing the last trump after setting up the diamonds.

It would have been easy to have relaxed a little and to have drawn the third trump prematurely as soon as the queen fell. That would have been a recipe for disaster - the defense could win the queen of diamonds and play spades, beating declarer by force.

96.

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

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

It is not uncommon in the expert community for players to use simple preference to partner's first suit to be forcing after a reverse. But this hand arose at rubber bridge, where agreements tend to be less well defined. Since North and South were on different wave-lengths on whether North's 3 bid showed extra values, South drove to the testing contract of 5 where Three No-trumps would have been considerably less challenging.

West did well to avoid the club lead, selecting a low trump as his opening salvo, and declarer, Mehmet Odzil, handled his awkward contract with aplomb. He took the diamond lead in hand, unblocked the ace of spades, then drew a second round of trumps finishing in dummy. He carefully refrained from cashing the king of spades now, which would have allowed him to discard his club loser, but would have broken up the tension of the position. Instead, he immediately took the heart finesse. West won the king of hearts, but now had the choice of three exits, all of which were fatal. He tried a spade, but Odzil took the king and threw his club loser away, then played a second heart, and East could only score one more trick in that suit, since the fourth round of hearts could be ruffed in dummy.

After the deal East was kicking himself for failing to spot the very tough defense. He can rise with the A at his first opportunity, and play a club through, setting up the defense's third trick before declarer has the hearts going.

The Double Bay Double *By Dick Cummings (Australia)*

This New Year offering from the gnawing drama of the Double Bay cut-in game features a virtuoso performance by Stephen Burgess, helped in no more small measure by a tip-off about the trump position :

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

West	North	East	South
---	---	1	2
Pass	2NT	Pass	4
Pass	Pass	Dble	All Pass

East has reason to suspect 4 will be hard to make but whether his hand is a penalty double against a declarer of this calibre is another matter. Put me down for mum's the word. The potential loss outweighs the potential gain.

Declarer ruffed the heart, led 8 over to dummy's ace and then pulled 2, 6, king, 5. With entries to dummy at a premium, his next move was to lead 3 from the closed hand and the news was good. Down came the ace.

David Stern continued the forcing defence with a second round of hearts. Burgess ruffed and led the good Q, on which a heart was thrown from the table. Stern ruffed and persisted with a third round of hearts, at which point declarer came up with the key play of discarding a club instead of ruffing again. This was the position with East on lead

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

Now when a fourth round of hearts was led the ruff was accepted in dummy. East covered the Q continuation with the king, but declarer won with the ace, crossed to the jack of trumps and had the queen of diamonds up his sleeve as an entry to draw the last trump.

Tim Seres is known the world over as a master of the art of making life difficult for the opposition. A hand from a New Year rubber in Sydney may be another candidate for his memoirs :

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

West	North	East	South
------	-------	------	-------

1 Pass Pass 1 *
2 3 Pass 4 End

* Superior to a takeout double because it protects the king of diamonds.

West led Q. Seres took K-A and ruffed a club. He continued with Q-A, fetching high-low signals from the defence which he had no reason to mistrust. That meant a ray of hope. The bidding and early play were consistent with West having 2-2-6-3 distribution and most of the stuff. With that shape and both top trumps, West would be unable to escape an end play. True to form, the great man spotted an extra chance.

At trick six he pulled 2 from dummy and covered East's 7 with the 8. He was rewarded when West took the trick with the 10 and had to open up the diamond suit, which was curtains for the defence.

Readers may care to speculate whether, sitting East, they would have risen with the king on that first round of trumps or whether sitting West, they would have taken the 8 with the ace and got out with the 10. Be honest.

Four Hands for You *By Ib Lundby (Denmark)*

Ib offers these hands without requiring credit:

Stop and think – Part 1

Routine play is a dangerous habit. Stop and think. What information do you have from the bidding and play so far? Very often the solution is easy to pick up. Try this one from the East chair, and please be awake:

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

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

* Longer clubs than diamonds

The lead is the 7 to your Queen; South follows with the 3. Your next move?

Seeing all four hands this one is easy, but several of the good players I gave the problem played a club at trick 2. Why? You know almost everything from the bidding, and this layout can't be a big surprise:

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

The club shift went to dummy, a spade was ruffed with the A, low club to dummy, another spade ruff high and finally a club to dummy and all the spade tricks. 6 made.

Best defence is K and heart continuation – two off. If East instead shifts to a diamond, South can still make his contract if he guesses to finesse the 9.

Stop and think – Part 2

Icelandic Isak Örn Sigurdsson told me about this hand from a teams tournament:

North/E-W	J 7	
	J 9 6 5 3	
	Q 10 7 4	
	9 6	
K 5 3 2		A 9 8 6
10 2		A K 8 7 4
J 9 6 5		K 8 3 2
J 5 3		–
	Q 10 4	
	Q	
	A	
	A K Q 10 8 7 4 2	

West	North	East	South
	2 *		2NT **

Pass 3 *** Pass 3NT End

* Tartan 2-bid (Acol 2 in hearts, 20-21 NT or weak with a minor sidesuit)

** Asking. *** Weak, 5 + 4 .

The lead was a spade to the Ace, and when East returned a spade, South got 10 tricks. Next hand.

After the bidding East knows that South must have a solid club suit. Suppose in the second trick East cashes a high heart and continues with his second honour. Whether South throws a low diamond or, as here, is forced to let go one of his club winners, East is in charge, simply by shifting to a low diamond at trick 4.

Young but strong

In our national pairs championship my partner jumped into a classic trap set up by one of our best junior players, Claus Sørensen:

West/N-S	A K Q 6 5	
	Q 7	
	6	
	K 10 8 5 4	
J 9 2		10 8 4 3
10 6 5 3 2		9 8
8 3 2		9 5 4
A 3		Q 9 7 2
	7	
	A K J 4	
	A K Q J 10 7	
	J 6	

N-S: Ib Lundby/H K Sørensen

E-W: Carsten and Claus Sørensen

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

* RKCB ** 2 aces of five plus the Q

Lead: 3!

It was easy to blame partner for playing low from dummy, thereby losing trick 1 and 2. My argument was that West will sometimes lead from the Ace, but seldom from the queen.

Well, at one of the other tables South received the very same lead, but by playing the 9 East showed why my partner's play wasn't that bad.

A few West players started with the A instead, and that was a good idea in a pairs tournament. With any other lead than clubs South has 13 tricks.

Aukens brilliancy

Jens Auken and Dennis Koch-Palmund have chosen to have a break from international bridge in the last couple of years, but very soon I think they will be back in business.

In this deal from our national pairs final Jens played his very best:

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

A J 7 6 2

N-S: Dennis Koch-Palmund/Jens Auken

E-W: Villy Dam/Mads Krøjgaard

West North East South

1NT * 2 ** 3

Pass 4 All pass

* 12-14! ** Escape

Lead: 5.

“But they told me how to play it”, Jens said afterwards. Right he was, but still the top he got on the board was well deserved.

Because East had shown five diamonds, West’s lead told where all the honours were placed. After the

A declarer played a club to the ace, finessed to the Q and discarded the Q on the A. Now a cross ruff: spade ruff, club ruff, diamond ruff, club ruff and spade ruff. The four card ending:

	10	
	A	
	8 2	
	None	
None		None
Q 10 6 2		4
None		K J
None		9
	None	
	K J	
	None	
	J 7	

A club was ruffed with the A (West “discarded a trump loser”) followed by a diamond (not a spade!). South discarded the J, and West was end played in trumps. 12 nice tricks.

Spade Trap
By R. Shamir (Israel)

On holiday in the Black Forest I was seeking playing cards of a particular type for a friend in Israel. A bridge-player of Swiss origin called Mann found the cards and told me this story which he reported from his local bridge club tournament:

```

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

```

West	North	East	South
2	Pass	2	Pass
3	Pass	4	Pass
4 NT	Pass	5	Pass
5 NT	Pass	6	Pass
7	Pass	Pass	Double
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Most tables reached a grand slam by South after an auction such as the one above. The wise ones finished in Seven Notrumps, for Seven Spades proved unmakeable.

Where West led a diamond, the grand went two off, unless, when declarer led the second diamond and East ruffed high, (*IBPA Editor: Isn't it safer for East to discard, in case declarer has enough entries for a trump coup?*) declarer threw off a heart.

At one table South woke up after Seven Spades was doubled, and removed to Seven Notrumps. Even on a diamond lead this gave no problem as declarer ditched the blocking ace of clubs on the second diamond, and then had enough winners in dummy to throw all his losers from hand.

East wanted

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

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

From Rob Sheehan:

Today's hand was originally published in The Bridge World, an American magazine founded by Ely Culbertson in 1929, now under the editorship of Jeff Rubens.

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

Contract: Six Hearts

Lead: queen of diamonds .

When it originally appeared over 50 years ago the "right" line was to throw a spade on the ace of diamonds, cash two top spades, play two top hearts ending in dummy and try more spades. This works when spades are divided 3-3, or 4-2 when the opponent holding the outstanding trump also has four spades.

Twenty years later The Bridge World described an improvement; their line also seems to have been discovered independently in the book 'You have to see this', by Diosy and Lee (who don't mention the original source of the problem). Ruff the opening lead and play spades immediately. If the second or third spade is ruffed, draw two rounds of trumps ending in dummy, and if necessary discard any remaining spade from the South hand on the ace of diamonds. The new line succeeds when the spades divide 3-3 or when the defender with three trumps has the short spades, which is more likely than finding him with spade length.

Three Defensive Plays
By Erdal Sidar (Turkey)

Dealer West A J 10 9 8
 Game All A 9 8 7 2
 K
 K 5

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

 K 3
 Q 5
 J 9 8 3
 Q J 10 9 8

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

2 showed both majors.

National player, Hakan Eosksu, West, made the unexpected lead of Q, giving declarer a dilemma. If he took with the ace from dummy he would have a problem using the spades and if he played the king from his hand similarly he couldn't bring his clubs into the game.

Declarer took the queen with the ace and played the king of clubs. Goksu held up and took the second club, continuing with the king of hearts, leaving the declarer helpless.

Our second hand is also from Goksu's match.

Dealer East J 6 3
 Love all 4 2
 A 10 5
 A 10 9 4 2

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

 Q 10 7 4 2
 A 8 7
 K 8 3
 7 5

West	North	East	South
---	---	1	1
Dble	2	Pass	Pass
Dble	All Pass		

Hakan Goksu, West, led his king of clubs, to the uncertain contract. Declarer probably would have made his contract if he held up his ace. But he took the trick with the ace and played a heart to his ace, continuing with another heart. East took the trick and played his ace, king of spades and a third spade. Goksu discarded two small diamonds. When declarer played a club Goksu took the trick. Now if he cashed his remaining hearts he would be squeezed himself later. So he played the nine of diamonds. Declarer was helpless. He took the trick with K and cashed his spades, but Goksu discarded his hearts.

Dealer South 8 7 6 2
 Love all K 7 3
 J 3
 A 7 4 2

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

 A 5
 T 6 4

K Q 8 6 2
Q J 5

West	North	East	South
<i>Akgul</i>		<i>Tarhan</i>	
---	---	---	1
Pass	1	Pass	1 NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Mustafa Akgul, West, led a small heart; Wmit Zarhan, East, took with his queen and shifted to a small spade. Declarer won with his ace and then led a diamond to dummy's Jack. East won the second diamond and cashed his two remaining spades, then played a heart. Akpul, let dummy's king take the trick. The contract now went down one, losing 3 spades, 3 hearts and one diamond trick.

The Niklas Data Championship by *Daniel Auby (Sweden)*

The Niklas Data Championship was played from 18th to 21st February in Stockholm and was sponsored by the Niklas Data group. It is a multinational computer consultant company with its origin in Sweden but with its head office in Amsterdam. It specializes in the SAS programming tool. The company is owned by Niklas and Lisbeth Karlsson. Niklas won the Swedish junior team bridge title in 1986 before embarking on a successful computer consultant career which now has expanded into five countries (Sweden, Norway, Finland, Holland and U.K.) and around 130 employees. The company sponsors our open national team with SEK 100.000 (about \$12,500) a year. The money was put to use for the third and final stage of the trial rounds for the selection of our national open team for Malta. There were 14 Swedish pairs and four foreign pairs from Iceland, Holland, Finland and Norway. 1st prize was 25,000 SEK.

Although the Swedish team is picked at the discretion of the captain this third and final stage always carries a special weight when it comes to deciding the team.

Niklas Data was won by Tommy Gullberg & Lars Andersson. Tommy played on the Swedish team regularly until 1992 after which he became captain of the team. He won the Europeans in 1987. Lars represented Sweden in Montecatini.

In the The Niklas Data they crushed the field and won by a record margin.

It was played as a straight imps across the field for 18 pairs. If you want the average imp per board divide the total by 1800. It may be of interest to note that five pairs (among them the pairs finishing 2, 5 and 6) began the tournament at -39 due to the fact that they hadn't deposited their convention cards in electronic form at the predetermined date. I believe these pairs will deposit it in time next year!

The first ten were:

- 1 Tommy Gullberg - Lars Andersson +1423
- 2 Anders Palmgren-Bengt-Erik Efraimsson +634
- 3 P-O Sundelin - Johan Sylvan +612
- 4 Fredrik Nyström - Peter Strömberg +607
- 5 Magnus Lindqvist - Peter Fredin +563
- 6 Mats Nilslund - Björn Fallenius +499
- 7 PG Eliasson - Tomas Magnusson +399
- 8 Jon Baldursson-Magnus Magnusson(Ice) +385
- 9 Anton Maas - Vincent Ramondt(Net) +285
10. Kauko Koistinen - Osmo Kiema(Fin)+182

If you would believe the advice of all the voluntary advisors who approach me Gullberg-Andersson and Fredin-Lindkvist are on the team. The team will be chosen after the Forbo tournament.

On this deal the winners made use of an agreement in a situation which few pairs have cleared up.

You are West, defending against South's contract of 4 .

S/None 8 7 5
 Q 9 5 2
 Q 6
 A 9 7 4

 10 9 6
 None
 A K J 9 5 4 2
 J 10 6

West	North	East	South
			1
3	Pass	Pass	3
Pass	4	All pass	

You lead the ace and king of diamonds and partner discards an encouraging club on the second round. Playing reverse signals what do you lead at trick three?

Partner and declarer had

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

Lars knew that Tommy now demanded a club shift. Lars thought this looked strange but decided to trust his partner. Either Tommy couldn't over-ruff dummy or, as in this case, he preferred not to. When Lars continued with a club declarer totally lost control and went two down instead of one down, which would have been the result if Lars had continued with a third round of diamonds. As a reporter you wish the contract had been 3 ! IBPA Editor: Only a hot defence beats Four Spades: Two rounds of diamonds, East ruffing to lead a heart which West ruffs, and then a third diamond removes dummy's entry before declarer can take the heart finesse.

In 4th place where Sweden's best junior pair, Fredrik Nyström, 22, and Peter Strömberg, 23. They recently won the Butler score at the round robin in the Hero Youth Championship for juniors in Holland and on this deal they nearly made the Guinness book of records.
Do you know the highest score you can make as declarer non-vulnerable?

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

Fredrik as West opened with 1NT (14-16), North doubled and East redoubled. South stood his ground which by some would not be criticized; it is a question of partnership agreement (after all, North may have 7 tricks on his own). However, North also passed! He led a heart. West won the jack and finessed North for the club queen. On the 3rd and 4th clubs North discarded a diamond and a spade. On the last club North thought he must avoid the second overtrick (he could count declarer for five club tricks and one in each other) so he saved his heart winners and chose to play partner for the spade queen rather than the diamond queen. Accordingly he discarded a second spade. Declarer now proceeded to run his spade tricks. Peter, dummy, claims that when Fredrik played a small spade to the ace and North's king appeared Fredrik's eyes began to glow. You may well imagine that. On the last spade North would have been squeezed if declarer had spared the ten of hearts in dummy instead of the Jx in diamonds as he did. But this far North was so shocked and just wanted to leave the table as fast as possible so he erred on trick 12 and declarer made the last trick with dummy's jack of diamonds while North was clinging on to his ace of hearts until the bitter end.

Unfortunately (?) this was not vulnerable so the score was just 1760. Had it been vulnerable the score would have been 3160, the largest possible score there is for making a contract!

Hungarian Goulash *By Gabor Szots (Hungary)*

The Budapest Pairs Championships was won by internationally well-known names of Dumbovich–Linczmayer. This board greatly contributed to our drop-out from the first division.

Dealer East 10 9 7 2
 Love all A
 6 5 3 2
 Q 10 5 3
 Q J 5 4
 J 5 2 A Q 7 6 4 3
 A Q 9 J 10 7
 A 9 7 4 J 8 2
 A K 8 6 3
 10 9 8
 K 8 4
 K 6

West	North	East	South
		<i>Me</i>	<i>Balásy</i>
	Pass	2	2
3	4	Pass	Pass
Dble	All Pass		

Only a diamond (!) lead beats this contract, as was shown by declarer, István Balásy. He won the opening lead of a small heart and led a club to his king and the ace. On the club return he took the right view by going up with the queen and ruffing out my jack. He proceeded with heart ruff, ace of spades, heart ruff, high club for a diamond discard, and another high spade. Now a spade put West on lead, and he had to concede a trick to K.

The following board was played by me during the qualifying sessions of the Hungarian Pairs Championship, held on the 12–14th February. The event was won by a hair by Gyula Argay - Róbert Zoller, runners-up were András Fogaras - András Kovács. We didn't qualify for the final.

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

South	West	North	East
<i>Me</i>			
1	1	2	4
Dble	Pass	5	All Pass

West led K which I let hold. I took the club continuation, ruffed a club, cashed A, came to hand with A, and ruffed Q. Now a trump end-played West.

West does better leading a high diamond at trick two. This removes an entry prematurely, and I have to decide which opponent to play for Q. The play might continue as follows: A, A, club ruff, A. Now I either take the heart finesse or come to hand with A, ruff my spade, and lead a diamond for the endplay.

This is one of my favourites. It goes back to 1997, when I played with Csaba Széles, a talented player who deserves his name (Széles means broad; his weight is 160 kg!). The hand was played in a team event of lesser importance.

Dealer North. A J 7 2
 N/S Game Q J 9 8 7 6
 6 3
 3
 Q 9 8 5 K 6
 A 5 K 3 2
 8 5 O 1 9

A Q 9 5 4

J 10 8 7 6

10 4 3
10 4
A K 10 7 4 2
K 2

West	North	East	South
<i>Me</i>	2 ¹	<i>Széles</i> Pass	2NT ²
Pass	3 ³	Pass	3
Pass	4	All Pass	

¹ weak two; ostensibly no four-card spades

² asking ³ good hearts, ostensibly

Partner led J, which was covered by the king and ace. Thinking we have only one trump trick, I switched to spades, leading the queen in case declarer has the king and won't know whether to cover or not. Declarer won with his ace, and partner, also thinking we have only one trump trick, unblocked his king (!). Declarer led a low heart, and partner went up with his king in order to continue spades. I saw his jaw fell as declarer won with the jack. Nothing was lost, however, since I took the next trump lead, and a further spade lead would see partner ruff.

However, confused because of what had happened, I tried to cash a club instead. Not only did our ruff disappear, declarer now had an entry for the diamonds after they had been ruffed high.

Calendar	Event	Venue	IBPA Contact
1999			
MAR 15/20	European Open & Senior Pairs, Warsaw		Pencharz 44 171 242 3001
18/28	ACBL Spring Nationals, Vancouver		ACBL 1 901 332 5586
24/28	Kalamata Festival, Greece		Kyriakos 30 1 778 6245
APRIL 2/5	Easter Festival, Royal National, 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
20/25	Portugese Open, Estoril		351 1 388 4844
MAY 5/9	Cavendish Invitation Teams & Pairs, Las Vegas		1 212 725 2135
7/20	Juan-les-Pins Festival, France		33 4 93 61 28 99
29/30	Schiphol International, Badhoevedorp, Net		van Rooy 31 20 657 3364
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
29/11 Jul	Biarritz Festival		Pacault 33 5 56 52 00 46
JUL 9/11	World Junior Pairs, Sports Centre, Nymburk		Panos G panos@bridge.gr
12/20	World Junior Camp, Nymburk nr Prague, Czech		
22/1 Aug	ACBL Summer Nationals, San Antonio		ACBL 1 901 332 5586
AUG 5/14	World Junior Teams, Fort Lauderdale, Florida		Panos G panos@bridge.gr
9/15	European University Championships, Weimar, Ger		Schmidt-Bott 49 241 171848
13/22	England Summer Meeting, Brighton		EBU 44 1296 394 414
SEP 9/12	Minsk International, Belarus		Feranchuk 375 172 277 617
OCT 29/31	Tenerife International, Puerto de la Cruz		34 922 380 550
NOV 14/21	Red Sea International, Eilat, Israel		Birman 972 3 605 8355
18/28	ACBL Fall Nationals, Boston		ACBL 1 901 332 5586
DEC 27/30	England (Millennium) End Congress		EBU 44 1296 394 414
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
23/26	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

* The IBPA outing in Malta is to be on the 17th June. IBPA will also have a General Meeting at which the 1998 accounts will be presented, and subscriptions set for the year 2000. Awards and other AGM business will be dealt with in Bermuda. There will also be a one-session Pairs for IBPA members in Malta.

* *Anna Maria Torlontano, Chairman of the EBL Ladies Committee, writes:*

Brochures giving full details of the Generali European Ladies Pairs in Malta from 13-15th June can still be obtained by contacting Anna Gudge. (e-mail anna@ecats.co.uk or fax +44 1787 881339).

The Championship is one that can be entered not only by the very highest ranked players, but also by Ladies Pairs of a good standard. It is a very special event on a wonderful island, so we ask all members of the Press to assist in promoting it widely.

Anna Maria also reports on the following charity event held last November:

A bridge tournament was organised in collaboration with the Italian Bridge Federation in Rome at the Villa Wolkonsky - Residence of the Ambassador of Great Britain.

The Ambassador Sir Thomas Richardson and his wife Alexandria received the proposal by Anna-Maria with enthusiasm. The total entry fees were entirely donated to the "Alzheimer Roma". Beautiful prizes were offered to the 300 participants by many sponsors, and dinner was offered by the Ambassador. Mr Bill Pencharz, President of the EBL, also attended.

* The EBL Seniors Committee will meet on Wednesday, 17th March in the Palace of Culture Warsaw, during the European Pairs.

* Entries for the World Junior Pairs 9-11th July and World Junior Camp 12-20th July should be made through National Federations. Entry fee for the Pairs is 200 Swiss Francs per pair. Players must have been born in 1974 or later. Participants at the Camp should be in the age range 17-23. Cost at Nymburk Sports Centre near Prague depends on number in room. Details from your NCBO or: Panos Gerontopoulos: youthcmte@bridge.gr

* Matt & Pam Granovetter have moved to: 15, Meir Nakkar St, Jerusalem 93803, Israel
Tel/Fax: 972 2 671 8027.
e-mail: matt@bridgetoday.com

* Sam Leckie has spotted an error in the Official Encyclopedia of Bridge (*action Henry Francis to correct?*) and asks for a refund (*IBPA Editor: Wouldn't we all like such a wonderful rate of pay! I would be happy to receive a penny for each typo I spot, to spend as I please.*) If you check the probabilities of the various ways in which six cards can divide (page 278) you find the sum comes to well over 100%. The error is in the 6-0 break which, Leckie says, instead of being 6.78% should be 1.49%.

The deal from the Scottish Cup which led him to look up the probabilities was this:

Game All; Dealer East; Teams

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

East was in an excellent Six Clubs:

West	North	East	South
		1	Pass
1	1	2	2
4	Pass	6	All Pass

West's 4 was a splinter.

South led a spade. How should you play?

Declarer played on hearts. Leckie does not say whether declarer failed, but one guesses he did or why were they discussing it?

Leckie thinks it is better to play on diamonds.

IBPA Editor: For it is worth, I agree. There seems little risk in starting with A, and a ruff, and then crossing to dummy with a trump. As North held Kx and the trumps were not 4-0, the slam would have been home at once. A second diamond ruff sets up the suit, and you draw trumps ending in dummy. If the trumps are 2-2 you make 13; if 3-1, you cash three more diamonds, taking the heart finesse for the overtrick

* *Dick Cummings reports*: Results of the Australian Youth Butler Pairs Championship in Canberra were :1. Nicholas Croft & Luke Matthews; 2. Leigh Gold & Kylie Robb; 3. Paul Brayshaw & Greg Dupont.

Congratulations to all three pairs, who thereby win the right to represent Australia in the World Junior Teams Championship to be held in Florida in August.

* *The Bridge World says*: Over several decades we have surveyed experts and other readers to determine the most popular bidding methods. We package those agreements in a standard system that allows any two players to sit down as partners and immediately have a decent understanding of each other's calls.

In the February issue, the magazine extends this technique to defensive signalling. The new set of standard agreements, called Bridge World Standard Defense, will be discussed and illustrated in a series by the Technical Editor, Kit Woolsey, renowned as a leading authority on partnership defense and the author of an acclaimed book with that title.

Having an understanding about what plays mean is important in a wide variety of frequent situations, such as this one:

```

Dir: West      Q 10 5 3 2
Game All      7 3 2
              J 6 4
              4 3

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

              A
              5 4
              A K 10
              A K Q J 10 9 8
  
```

South	West	North	East
--	1	Pass	Pass
5	Pass	Pass	Pass

West began with the three top hearts. South ruffed, and a parade of clubs followed. East wanted to give West information about spades and diamonds, but did not know how to accomplish that. Had he signalled weakness, he would have concealed count information, which is critical here. But showing where East's strength lies will be vital in many other layouts. There are many effective discarding methods, but that will do East-West little good unless they know which one is in use.

Bridge World Standard Defense alleviates these problems. It helps on the deal shown by specifying what discards mean (strength or number?), how one shows attitude or count (high, low or another way?), and what a count signal refers to (the original holding or the remaining cards?). Using "BWSD," the first discard in a suit describes strength (here, East would discourage by playing a low spade or diamond), a second pitch from the same suit refers to present count (here, East would play a second low card in the same suit to show an odd number remaining). When there are understandings about such matters, contracts that should be easy to defend will not be allowed to slip through.

* *Bridge Forum International*, launched on Internet last month by co-founders Ellen (Caitlin of Canada, not USA as wrongly described in Bulletin 409) & Harold Schogger, is now offering a 6-week introductory course by Mike Lawrence to the Two over one system and a conventions courses, on Constructive Bidding conventions, including DONT, weak jump raises of partner's overcall, responding to a three-level preempt, Michaels and Unusual Notrump, Key Card Blackwood and Gerber.

Ron Klinger, renowned for his work on Losing Trick Count, is offering a three-part mini series on LTC. As Klinger says, "bridge is a trick-taking game, it makes sense to use a valuation method which focuses on the partnership trick-taking potential."

A two-hour session for any course offered by Bridge Forum is \$10.00 U.S.

During it's launch week, a special forum held by Mike Lawrence on "When RHO Opens With A Preempt," is yielding approximately \$500.00 for Y-ME Breast Cancer Organization (<http://www.y-me.org/>) as donations are still being accepted for this very worthy cause, the fastest rising form of cancer.

In the first monthly bid contest, there was a tie for first between Gokhhan Yilmaz of Istanbul, Turkey and Marcin Przywitowski of Zuzomin, Poland with 66/80. Sponsors Master Point Press awarded

prizes to both. Each of the winners will be invited on the panel in the near future. Of the experts, Tim Bourke of Australia scored 76, followed by Eric Kokish of Canada with 73 and 72 for Fred Gitelman, also of Canada. For those who wish to 'Bid With The Experts', a monthly feature conducted by Marc Smith of the U.K., visit 'Bid With The Experts' at Bridge Forum's site: <http://www.bridgeforum.com>

* Gary Zavoral reports that the Okbridge International starts this month.

* Svend Novrup submits a candidate for the Romex Award: He says the award should be given to a sequence combining logic and imagination with system and -- at its best -- inferences drawn by the opponents' bidding, and not to an auction where some convention works ideally.

This hand from the Danish 2nd league is a worthy candidate, featuring the Olympic gold medallists from Venice 1988, Bettina Kalkerup and Charlotte Koch-Palmund N-S:

		9 8 7			
		A J 9 7 6			
		K 10			
		A J 10			
K 5 3 2			A Q J 10 6 4		
10 8 5 2			Q 3		
6 5 4			J 7 2		
K 2			5 4		
		-			
		K 4			
		A Q 9 8 3			
		Q 9 8 7 6 3			
South	West	North	East		
1	Pass	1	1		
Pass	2	Dble	Pass		
3	Pass	3	Dble		
4	Pass	6	All Pass		

The Pass over 1 denied three or more hearts (no "support" double). North's double of 2 was forcing, and the 3 response somewhat surprising. 3 asked for a spade stopper for 3NT. East's double offered extra opportunities as N-S play "Manco". 3NT would show a stopper, redouble would have shown two or more small spades and a new suit bid a singleton. Ruling out all these possibilities 4 had to show a void. South would be minimum in high card strength, but with a delightful 0-2-5-6-distribution. Maybe South had no K but in that case she would hold K instead -- after all she had opened.

With these considerations Bettina Kalkerup bid the cold 6. The pair will probably lead the Danish ladies team in Malta and will do so as winners of the 2nd league. Moreover they were very sure winners of the Butler scoring of the 2nd league and seem to be top fit.

The Danish 1st league has finished with four teams qualifying for the championship play-off in April. The winners once again included Dennis Koch-Palmund - Jens Auken who won the Butler as well, but in the team you find also Søren Christiansen - Morten Andersen and, probably to the surprise of many, Sabine Auken - Daniela von Arnim.

* Phillip Alder has a new e-mail address:
phillipalder@cwix.com

* The Portugese Open will be held in Cascais near Lisbon from 21st - 23rd April for Swiss Teams followed by the Pairs in Estoril on 24th and 25th April.

Contact: Tel: 351 1 388 4844 ;

Fax: 351 1 383 2156

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* Fritz Babsch reports that the Austrian Open Pairs was won by his son Andreas Babsch partnering Peter Umhaus. Kurt Feichtinger & Franz Terraneo were the runners-up and both these pairs have been selected for Austria's team in Malta.

The Babsch family also did well in the Austrian Mixed Pairs with Inge Babsch winning in partnership with Andreas Wernle.