

The European Open teams has a record 36 nations entered. The top *six* go through to the Bermuda Bowl. There are proposals to split the field into two Divisions at the next Europeans. If these are approved, the top 16 will automatically qualify for the leading group in the year 2001 (and a further two places would go to best results over the last four Europeans).

This proposal should be welcomed. It retains the popularity of a Round Robin, but solves the major problem of not knowing how many teams there will be. The First Division is a couple of days shorter, saving a weekend, and allowing for package holidays of two weeks. It also allows the Second Division to be run with a shorter and cheaper time scale, which should be popular with the smaller countries.

A remarkable feature of the list of names in Malta is the re-appearance of famous names from the past, some of whom have been missing for over ten years, and the non-appearance of some of the current leading names.

The Open includes revivals such as John Collings of Britain, Steen Moller of Denmark, Hausler-Splettstosser for Germany, Tommy Gullberg of Sweden, and for the younger ones, Wubbo de Boer of the Netherlands and Guido Ferraro of Italy. Missing are Chemla-Levy for France, Helgemo for Norway, the Rosenblum champions for Italy, and the Hacketts for Britain.

Chemla, the world's most successful player in the last two years, will be there, however, as a member of the WBF President's Senior team with Omar Sharif, Henri Szwarc, Jean Louis Stoppa, Pierre Chidiac and the WBF President, José Damiani. France and Poland also field senior teams with several former world champions, and Israel has current world senior team champions. Indeed, the names in the Seniors are better known than many in the Open.

The Ladies event, though only 22 nations, looks very strong, with half-a-dozen countries fielding a string of well-known names with records of success in world events.

Note the changed Press Room numbers for Malta (see notice inside)

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The Cavendish Auction set a new record, raising \$1.23 million for the 64 pairs and \$247,000 for the 28 teams. These are remarkable figures indeed, and a tribute, both to the organisers which include Bob Hamman & Bob Blanchard, and to those prepared to make the bids.

Steve Weinstein & Bobby Levin won both events (with Martel & Stansby in the Teams), a great achievement, very well rewarded financially. Their players' prize was \$17,000 in the Pairs and a half-share of \$15,708 in the Teams. Their backers in the Auction (we do not know what proportion they had of themselves) received, in the Pairs, a return of \$261,000 for a purchase cost of \$40,000; and in the teams \$73,508 for a cost of \$21,000.

These figures far exceed anything else in bridge, and should be used by journalists to obtain publicity outside the game. Of course, there are big dangers with such monies changing hands, but so far your Editor has not heard of any of the problems that one might expect.

Patrick Jourdain - Editor

Bobby Levin & Steve Weinstein Double Triumph at Cavendish

Win Teams & Pairs at 1999 MSN Gaming Zone Cavendish Invitation

Auction Pool Raises \$1.2 million in Pairs; \$250,000 for Teams

| Pairs (20 in Final) | (\$'000s) | | | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------|-------|---------------|---------|-------|
| Name | Country | Score | Auction Prize | Players | Price |
| 1. Robert Levin-Steve Weinstein | USA | 902.5 | 261 | 17 | 40 |
| 2. Billy Miller-Curtis Cheek | USA | 893.7 | 168 | 13 | 15.5 |
| 3. Billy Cohen-Ron Smith | USA | 533.5 | 112 | 11 | 18 |
| 4. Eric Greco-Geoff Hampson | USA | 493.9 | 84 | 10 | 30 |
| 5. Paul Chemla-Christian Mari | FRA | 354.3 | 75 | 9 | 50 |
| 6. Harry Tudor-Gary Cohler | USA | 301.1 | 65 | 7 | 10 |

Consolation Pairs (44 pairs)

1. Enza Rossano-Antonio Vivaldi ITA 2130; 2. Peter Boyd-Steve Robinson USA 1706;
 3. Larry Cohen-David Berkowitz USA 1459; 4. Fred Gitelman-Brad Moss USA 1427.
 Sidegame (22 pairs): Dan Jacob-Rob Crawford

Auction Best (in \$'000) 64 pairs; Minimum bid \$10,000 per pair; Total Raised: \$1,226,000

1. Lauria-Versace 56; 2. Buratti-Lanzarotti 54; 3. Chemla-Mari 50; 4. Martel-Stansby 48; 5. Cohen-Berkowitz 41; 6. Levin-Weinstein 40; 7. Passell-Wold 36.5; 8. Sontag-Weichsel 34; 9. Hamman-Nickell 33; 10. Martens-Szymanowski 33; 11. Mahmood-Chagas 31. Bottom 16 went for minimum.

Teams (28 competed) Auction Pool Total \$247,500; Minimum Bid \$4,000 for team.

| | Score | Auction Prize | Players' |
|---|-------|---------------|----------|
| 1. Steve Weinstein (Levin, Chip Martel, Lew Stansby) USA \$15,708 | | 188 | \$73,508 |
| 2. Peter Boyd (Steve Robinson, Kit Woolsey, Fred Stewart) USA | 187 | \$49,005 | \$10,472 |
| 3. LouAnn O'Rourke (Roger Bates, Billy Miller, Curtis Cheek, Kyle Larsen) | 171 | \$35,460 | \$7,616 |
| 4. Bob Blanchard (Piotr Gawrys, Gaylor Kasle, George Steiner) USA/Poland | 170 | \$26,730 | \$5,712 |
| 5. Lorenzo Lauria (Versace, M'o Lanzarotti, Andrea Buratti, Antonio Sementa) | 164 | \$22,275 | \$4,760 |
| 6. Malcolm Brachman (Passell, Paul Soloway, Eddie Wold, Bobby Goldman) | 163 | \$15,592 | \$3,332 |
| 7. Gabriel Chagas (Zia Mahmood, Michel Abecassis, Boye Brogeland, Espen Erichsen) Bra-USA-Fra-Nor | 156 | | |

Team Auction Prices (\$'000s): 1. Italians 32.5; 2. Weinstein 21; 3. Johnson 15; 4. Brachman 14.

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

Omar Sharif's column in the London Observer on 6th June reports this deal, Board 9 in the second session of the Pairs Qualifying:

It is not often that declarer makes a play that leaves me feeling that I still have a lot to learn about this game. However Jeff Meckstroth of the US is one of those masters of the game who occasionally produce a coup to take your breath away. With that huge hint, put yourself in his shoes as declarer on the following deal:

| West | North | East | South |
|-------------|----------------|------------|-------------------|
| <i>Cope</i> | <i>Johnson</i> | <i>Chu</i> | <i>Meckstroth</i> |
| | | | 1 |
| 2 | 2 | Pass | Pass |
| 2 | 3 | Dble | 3 |
| All Pass | | | |

Cope led ace and another trump on a very

opened on very light values - some would use harsher language than that! Meckstroth could immediately form the picture of West's hand as having four spades and six diamonds, with a probable singleton club honour (no club lead) and with the diamond honours split (no top diamond lead).

At trick three he led his singleton club, won the return of the queen of spades in dummy, and advanced the queen of clubs, covered and ruffed. This was the ending - what would you do with the sight of all four hands?

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

South is on lead, needing six more tricks.

As you can see, playing on diamonds does not work, East will take the trick and draw a round of trumps. Ruffing a spade in dummy brings you to eight tricks, but not to nine.

Meckstroth found the spectacular coup of leading the ten of spades from hand - be honest, would you have thought of it?

If West takes the trick and leads either a spade back (a diamond is no better) declarer wins in hand pitching a diamond from dummy. He plays the ace of diamonds, ruffs a diamond, ruffs a club and leads a losing heart, to endplay East into leading a club at trick 12 into the tenace in dummy.

In fact, at this point Cope decided his best chance was to duck the ten of spades, hoping his partner had the king. That simply let Meckstroth cash K to pitch a diamond, then take A, and ruff a diamond. Now he scored

J and ruffed a club for nine tricks, and put in an entry for the best played hand of the Year.

IBPA Editor: When West did not cover 10 declarer can make 10 tricks by following the line described earlier of an end-play on East. Presumably Meckstroth did not wish to take any risks once his contract was secure.

Barry Rigal reports:

This was the final deal of the qualifying. It brought Miller & Cheek, who eventually finished second, into a qualifying spot:

| | |
|-----------|-----------|
| Dir: West | J 8 4 |
| Game All | K Q 7 5 2 |
| | J 9 |
| | 7 5 4 |

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

| | | | |
|------|--------------|------|---------------|
| West | North | East | South |
| | <i>Cheek</i> | | <i>Miller</i> |
| Pass | Pass | Pass | 1NT |
| Pass | 2 | Pass | 2 |
| Pass | Pass | Dble | All Pass |

Things did not look good when Miller, South, found himself in 2 doubled. As you can see from the diagram West had the World's Fair after East balanced with a double. He went for the jugular, and who can blame him?

West led J. Miller made his first good move by playing low from dummy. East returned 9 to the king and West continued with 10, won by dummy's jack.

Miller came to hand with a third spade (if West ruffed it would be with a trump trick) and then played the last spade.

West chose to ruff with 10 and Miller pitched a club from dummy, while East threw an encouraging club. West switched to J which rode around to the queen. Miller now led 6 to the eight and queen, and returned to hand with A. He ruffed a third club with dummy's 5 as West pitched 10 (West does no better to ruff high). Miller exited with a diamond to West, who cashed his last diamond, but then had to lead into dummy's

K7 from his 93. That was plus 670 for Miller, 387 cross-IMPs, and a place in the main final.

This was a swing deal from the last session of the teams:

| | | |
|------------|--------------|---------|
| Board 23 | A J 10 7 6 3 | |
| Dir: South | J | |
| Game all | 8 | |
| | A 8 7 4 2 | |
| 8 4 2 | None | |
| 10 9 5 | | A K Q 8 |
| 7 4 3 2 | | |
| J 6 | Q 5 4 3 | |
| K Q J 6 3 | 5 | |
| | K Q 9 5 | |
| | 6 | |
| | A K 10 9 7 2 | |
| | 10 9 | |

The Bulletin referred to a defensive play by Fred Gitelman with the North cards against a heart sacrifice. It did not give the auction except to say what happened at several tables:

| West | North | East | South |
|----------|----------|------|-------|
| | Gitelman | | |
| | | | 1 |
| Pass | 1 | 4 | 4 |
| 5 | 5 | 6 | Dble |
| All Pass | | | |

South led AK. On the second round, Gitelman, who wanted a diamond ruff as he could over-ruff the dummy, and knew the defence had no spade tricks, made the spectacular discard of ace of spades.

The Bulletin does not reveal whether South actually continued with a diamond allowing the defence to take its four tricks.

WESTRA team WINS SCHIPHOL INTERNATIONAL

Schiphol, 28 to 30th May 1999

Seventy teams competed over two days at the Wildenhorst Sports Centre near Schiphol Airport. The clear winners were **LOMBARD** (Berry Westra & Simon de Wijs, Willem Van Eijck & Jack Zhao).

1. Lombard NET
272
2. Sittard (Bakkeren-Berendegt, Jeunen-Coentraedts) BEL
245
3. Von Seida (Pol, Drijver x 2) NET
227
4. Onstein (Anton Maas-Vic Ramondt; Jan Jansma-Louk Verhees) NET
224
5. Bakir (Markovic, Borst, Metselaar)
223
6. Norway (Espen Erichsen, Svendsen; Malinowski x 2)
222

There were teams from Sweden, Iceland, Great Britain, Poland. The visitors were invited to a single session curtain-raiser on Friday evening:

1. Sweden (Flodqvist-Gothe, Ljung-Athlesved) 82
2. GB "A" (Rees-Kay, Goodman-Thomas) 72
3. Dutch Juniors 63
4. Journalists 43
5. Norway 40

This problem is from GB v. Journalists:

Dir: East J 10 9
N/S Game 7 3
A K 9 7 5
A 8 6

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

| West | North | East | South |
|-----------------|-------|-----------------|-------|
| <i>Kendrick</i> | | <i>Jourdain</i> | |
| | | Pass | 1 |
| Pass | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| 2 | 2 ? | Pass | 3 |
| Pass | 4 | Pass | 5 |
| All Pass | | | |

To your relief West leads a low heart to East's king. How do you play?

Declarer began correctly with ace, king and another diamond, ruffing high, East showing up with Q42. Then declarer erred by drawing J and A (they were 2-2). He was able to ruff out the last diamond, but had to reach dummy with its last trump, to take a spade discard on the fifth diamond, and fail when the Q was

The winning line after three diamonds is to finesse 8. This wins, you ruff the diamond high, cross to A for the discard, and still have a trump left to ruff the third heart.

My hand was:

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

At the other table the auction began the same way but East bid a simple 3 at his second turn, asking for a heart stop. South bid 3NT which made in comfort for a 13 IMP swing.

This deal was reported in the Times of London:

This hand from the International Tournament at Schiphol Airport contains a couple of points that would escape all but the most alert of declarers.

| | |
|-----------|---------------------|
| Dir: East | A 8 6 2 |
| Love all | J |
| Teams | K Q J 10 9 K 9 7 |
| 5 3 | K Q J 9 |
| K 8 5 4 | Q 10 7 2 |
| 7 5 4 2 | A 8 6 3 |
| J 5 3 | A |
| | 10 7 4 |
| | A 9 6 3 |
| | — |
| | Q 10 8 6 4 2 |

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

**Contract: Five Clubs doubled by South.
Lead: Three of Spades**

South's Two Spades was a transfer to clubs. When North took a rosy view of the king of clubs and ambitiously leapt to game South decided discretion was the better part of valour and retreated to what he hope would be a making part score. However North was not to be denied and he bid one for the road, smartly doubled by East.

Following a style that is popular in the rest of Europe West led the lowest card from his doubleton spade.

Declarer quickly realised he was in with a chance and after winning with the ace he played the king of diamonds. East covered so declarer ruffed and then cashed the ace of hearts and ruffed a heart. After disposing of his two losing spades on winning diamonds declarer ruffed a spade and ruffed another heart. He now had to

his remaining heart. East had cunningly followed to the second spade with the queen and taking that and the opening bid into account declarer played a spade. When East produced the king declarer ruffed low and West was able to over-ruff with the jack and return a club thereby preventing the heart ruff.

Declarer could have done better in two ways but they are both easy to overlook. As the play went he could have ruffed the third round of spades with the queen of clubs. Then he ruffs his losing heart and only loses two trump tricks.

Equally declarer should take the ace of hearts at trick two and ruff a heart. Then he plays the king of diamonds and the play continues as before. The difference is that declarer is able to ruff all his losing hearts without any risk.

IBPA Editor: as the cards lay declarer could also have taken advantage of the 4-4 diamond break to throw his last heart on the fourth diamond. However, the point about ruffing a heart early remains valid.

The Journalist team reached a thin slam here:

Teams N/S game Dealer South

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

With trumps 2-1 and hearts 4-3 Horton was able to ruff out the fifth heart if necessary. As the opponents did not lead trumps, he played on a cross-ruff.

The 2nd IOC Grand Prix

Mon 20th Sep - Fri 24th Sep 1999

Olympic Museum, Lausanne

Under the auspices of the International Olympic Committee & the World Bridge Federation

For the Angelini Group Trophy

Featured on Internet and on Bridgevision in the Olympic Auditorium

www.bridge.gr

www.bridgeplaza.com

Six Open Teams: China, Brazil, France, Italy, The Netherlands, USA will play a round robin of 24 boards to qualify four teams for a semi-final, final, and play-off for third place.

The event is to be sponsored by the Angelini Group, an international company presided over by Francesco Angelini (captain of the Italian team which won the Rosenblum in Lille).

1st Prize US\$ 25,000

2nd Prize US\$ 15,000

3rd Prize US\$ 10,000

| | |
|--------------------------|--|
| Mon 20 th Sep | Opening Ceremony 6 p.m. Round 1 1900-2245 |
| Tue 21 st Sep | Round 2 & 3 |
| Wed 22 nd Sep | Round 4 & 5 |
| Thu 23 rd Sep | Semi-final & Start of Final |
| Fri 24 th Sep | Rest of Final Prize-giving 7.30 p.m. |

There will also be a Womens event for teams of four pairs:

Europe v. USA

The European team is:

Sabine Auken-Daniela von Arnim (Ger)

Maria Erhart-Sylvia Terraneo (Austria)

Pat Davies-Nicola Smith (GB)

Catherine D'Ovidio-Véronique Bessis (Fra)

From Wednesday to Friday

Winner: US\$ 10,000

Runner-up: US\$ 5,000

For further information

Tel: + 33 1 53 23 03 15

Fax: + 33 1 40 70 14 51

e-mail: cfrancin@worldbridgefed.com

European Bridge Championships

St Julians, Malta, 12-27th June 1999

Open & Ladies Teams

Ladies Pairs & Senior Teams

St. Georg Corinthia & SAS Radisson Hotels

A record 36 teams in the Open, 22 teams in the Ladies, and a record 29 teams in the Seniors

The top six teams in the Open & Ladies, and the top team in the Seniors represent Europe in the Bermuda Bowl, Venice Cup and World Senior Teams in Bermuda in January 2000.

Team events are Round Robin; 24 boards in Open/Ladies & 12 in Senior with all playing the same boards. 3 match days in Open are on:

Jun 14, 15, 17, 19, 21, 22, 24, 25

Key times

Sat 12th Jun 1915 Pick-up for Opening

Sun 13th Jun 11.15 Open Teams start

13.30 Ladies Pairs start

Tue 15th Jun 1000 First EBL Congress

1915 Ladies Pairs Prizes

Thu 17th Jun 0845 Press Trip departs

1000 Second EBL Congress

1300 Press/delegates lunch

1530 Senior Teams captains

1715 Senior Teams start

Sun 20th Jun? IBPA Trans-national Pairs

Mon 21st Jun 1000 IBPA General Meeting

Wed 23rd Jun 2000 President's Dinner

Fri 25th Jun 1100 Press Conference

Sat 26th Jun 1930 Closing Ceremony

www.bridge.gr

Press Room Telephone Numbers

from 11th June

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Likely e-mail: press@bridge.org.mt

Mario Dix e-mail: mario@bridge.org.mt

The 44th Generali

European Championships: Teams & Pairs

to note

OPEN TEAMS

DENMARK

Morten Andersen
Soren Christiansen
Soren Godtfredsen
Steen Moller
Dorthe Schaltz
Peter Schaltz
Lars Blakset NPC

FRANCE

Albert Bitran
Jean Michel Voldoire
Marc Bompis
Thierry de Sainte
Marie

Christian Mari
Franck Multon

GREAT BRITAIN

John Collings
Gareth Hyett
Martin Jones
Alan Mould
Gerald Tredinnick
Stuart Tredinnick
Chris Dixon NPC

IRELAND

Tom Hanlon
Gay Keaveney
Hugh McGann
Rory Timlin
Niall Toibin
Pat Walshe
Adam Mesbur NPC

ITALY

Dario Attanasio
Norberto Bocchi
Soldano de Falco
Giorgio Duboin
Guiseppe Failla
Guido Ferraro
Carlo Mosca NPC

NETHERLANDS

Jaap Trouwborst NPC
Huub Bertens
Wubbo de Boer
Piet Jansen
Bauke Muller
Bart Nab
Jan Westerhof

NORWAY

Boye Brogeland
Jon-Egil Furunes
Tor Helness
Arild Rasmussen
Erik Saelensminde
Jon Sveindal
Einar Asb'n Brenne NPC

POLAND

Krzysztof Jassem
Apolinary Kowalski
Michal Kwiecien
Jacek Pszczola
Jacek Romanski
Piotr Tuszynski
Jan Rogowski Captain

RUSSIA

Igor Bavchine

Andrei Gromov
Yuri Khiouppenen
Vadim Kholomeev
Alexandre Petrounine
Leonid Ulanovski
Arseni Chour NPC

SWEDEN

Lars Andersson
Bjorn Fallenius
Peter Fredin
Tommy Gullberg
Magnus Lindkvist
Mats Nilslund
Daniel Auby NPC

LADIES TEAMS

AUSTRIA

Gabriele Bamberger
Maria Erhart
Andreas Feichtinger
Doris Fischer
Sylvia Terraneo
Terry Weigkricht
Christan Felderer NPC

DENMARK

Dorte Cilleborg
Mette Drogemuller
Bettina Kalkeup
Charlotte Koch-Palmund
Trine Bilde Kofeod
Kirsten Steen Moller
Lotte Sk'ing-Norris NPC

FRANCE

Danielle Avon
Veronique Bessis
Benedicte Cronier
Catherine d'Ovidio
Christine Lustin
Sylvie Willard

GERMANY

Sabine Auken
Katrin Farwig
Beate Nehmert
Andrea Rauchheid
Barbara Stawowy
Daniela von Arnim
Klaus Repp NPC

GREAT BRITAIN

Pat Davies
Heather Dhondy
Sandra Landy
Liz McGowan
Nicola Smith
Abbey Walker
Jimmie Arthur NPC

ISRAEL

Daniela Birman
Ruth Levit-Porat
Hanita Melech
Nurit Naveh
Matilda Poplilov
Migri Zur-Campanile
Ben Tovim NPC

ITALY

Gianna Arrigoni
Francesca de Lucchi
Carla Gianardi

Gabriella Olivieri
Annalisa Rosetta
Laura Rovera
Franco Cedolin NPC

NETHERLANDS

Jet Pasma
Anneke Simons
Marijke van der Pas
Wietske van Zwol
Martine Verbeek
Bep Vriend
Ed Franken NPC

POLAND

Ewa Harasimowicz
Danuta Hochecker
Jolanta Krogulska
Katarzyna Michalek
Ewa Sobolewska
Anna Szczepanska
Krzysztof
Korosadowicz NPC
Andrzej Wachowski
Asst Captain

SWEDEN

Pia Andersson
Catharina Forsberg
Ulla-Britt Goldberg
Eva-Liss Gothe
Maria Gronkvist
Catarina Midskog
Anna Jarup NPC
Johan Wedeen Coach

SENIOR TEAMS

FRANCE

1. Pierre Adad
Maurice Aujaleu
Claude Delmouly
Jean Marc Roudinesco
Patrick Sussel

WBF President

3. Paul Chemla
Pierre Chidiac
José Damiani
Omar Sharif
Jean Louis Stoppa
Henri Szwarz

GERMANY

Wilhelm Gromoller
Hans Humburg
Goran Mattsson
Werner Schneider

GREAT BRITAIN

2. Paul Hackett
Ross Harper
Bill Hirst
Victor Silverstone
Tony Waterlow

ISRAEL

Ora Dan
Moshe Katz
Dr Nissan Rand
Neta Saxon
Hanna Shezifi

POLAND

1. Aleksander Jezioro
Julian Klukowski

Stefan Szenberg
Andrzej Wilkosz
4. Israel/Poland

Krzysztof Lasocki
Ervin Otvosi
Andrzej Milde
Wlodzimierz
Stobiecki
TURKEY
Halit Bigat
Ergun Korkut
Sakir Sarmusakci
Ali Yalman

LADIES PAIRS

GERMANY

Beate Nehmert -
Andrea Rauchheid
Katrin Farwig -
Barbara Stawowy
GREAT BRITAIN
Sarah Teshome -
Nevena Senior

ITALY

Gianna Arrigoni -
Gabriella Olivieri
Marinella Canesi -
Marisa D'Andrea
Emanuela Capriata -
Cristina Golin
NETHERLANDS
Carla Arnolds - Bep
Vriend
Jet Pasma - Anneke
Simons

POLAND

Ewa Harasimowicz -
Danuta Hochecker
Katarzyna Michalek -
Anna Szczepanska
SWEDEN
Mari Ryman - Linda
Langstrom
Pyttsi Flodqvist -
Ylva Strandberg

IBPA COLUMN SERVICE

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

105
 Dlr: North A Q 10 2
 Vul: Both J 7 6
 K Q J 10 9
 A

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

J 9 4 3
 10 9 8
 A 5 3
 K J 4

| | | | |
|------|-------|----------|-------|
| West | North | East | South |
| | 1 | Pass | 1 |
| Pass | 4 | All Pass | |

The North hand is a tricky valuation problem after the response of One Spade. No doubt there would be votes for a non-forcing bid of Three Spades, as well as the more aggressive splinter of Four Clubs. The advantage of leaping to game (with the intention of describing your hand as 18 -19 balanced) is that it does not unduly emphasize the club shortage – potentially misleading with the ace -- and does not tip off the lead.

In any event, on West's lead of the K, the defence must cash two more rounds of the suit, and then do best to give a ruff and discard with the 13th heart.

South must ruff low in hand, and when West pitches his diamond, South must cater for the possibility that he no longer has a re-entry to hand in diamonds. He must therefore be careful to start trumps by leading the nine of spades, rather than the jack from hand. Then he can follow up by leading the J and underplaying dummy's ten at the next opportunity, to remain in hand to repeat the trump finesse and draw all the trumps successfully.

Playing the J first leaves the lead in the wrong hand after two rounds of trumps, and declarer cannot succeed from that point on, since when he plays a diamond to the ace West can ruff.

In the semi-final of the 1998 Spingold, Schwartz's team lost to Whitman despite benefiting from this huge result.

106
 Dlr: West Q 6 5
 Vul: E/W ----

A K Q J 9 5
 J 9 6 4

K J 8 4
 K Q 10 7
 8
 Q 10 8 7

A 10 9 7 3 2
 A 9 2
 10 7 2
 3

| | | | |
|--|----------|------|-------|
| West | North | East | South |
| <i>Zmudzinski S. Weinstein Balicki Levin</i> | | | |
| Pass | 1 | Dble | 1 |
| 3 | Dble | 4 | 4 |
| 5 | Pass | Pass | 5 |
| Dble | All Pass | | |

In one room, after the same first three bids, Mark Lair (West for the Schwartz team) had jumped to Four Hearts at his first turn and had been doubled and allowed to make 690 there. Here, however, Zmudzinski's jump to Three Spades (to show spade shortage and a heart suit) timed out very badly, so Levin was always going to be on a winner here, whether he made 10 or 11 tricks in Five Spades doubled.

The 4-1 trump split looks awkward to deal with, but in fact Levin took no time at all at the table to make his contract. He ruffed the second club, and played a diamond to dummy. Then he led the Q, covered all round, and followed up by ruffing a heart to lead a low spade from dummy. Whether East took his jack or not, Levin could hold his trump losers to one, and still had the entries to win the heart return while retaining control, and the diamond entries to dummy. 11 tricks made and a swing of 17 IMPs.

107

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

| | | | |
|------|-------|----------|-------|
| West | North | East | South |
| | | | 2NT |
| Pass | 7NT | All Pass | |

In 1998 after the US Nationals, the ACBL organized a camp for juniors in Wisconsin. This was attended by both Americans and Europeans, and this randomly-dealt deal comes from one of the practice duplicates.

This hand looks like a bidding challenge trap; with 37 high card points but a couple of wasted jacks, you want to stop in 6NT. Not surprisingly, no-one managed that feat, but instead they found themselves with a neat declarer-play problem. In 7NT, the whole hand seems to depend on whether declarer can find a miracle in spades, but there is a little more to it than that. Fortunately, this turned out to be an excellent exercise in counting the hand.

On a diamond lead, one of the successful declarers, David Halasi, saw that he could cash ten plain suit winners, before deciding what to do in spades. Lo and behold; very conveniently, West discarded on the third round of both hearts and clubs, marking East with five cards in each suit. Since East had two diamonds, he could have no more than one spade. David cashed the K, calling imperiously for an honour from East, and when it appeared, he finessed in spades with confidence.

Note that if West had a less revealing distribution (say a 5-2-3-3 shape) he would still have to be very precise in discarding so as not to reveal his side-suit lengths. He must take care not to discard a club on the run of the diamonds; this is a variation on Jean Besse's Bridge tip that refers to trying to avoid giving declarer the complete count of a hand by showing out in a side-suit.

108.

This deal comes from the World Teams in Lille 1998, and features a fine example of Bobby Fischer's dictum about Chess; when you have found a good move, pause for a second and see if you can find a better one.

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

| | | | |
|-------|----------|-------|------|
| South | West | North | East |
| 2 | Pass | 2 | 4 |
| 5 | All Pass | | |

In Five Diamonds, the lead of the two of hearts (3rd and 5th) gives East an awkward defensive problem. It looks as the defence might hinge on whether the 9 is an entry to dummy. If so, it may be necessary to shift to a club now; if not, a trump might be right. At the table the unsuccessful defender played a club, and declarer had an easy route to 400. (Note that even on the trump shift, declarer can prevail in unlikely fashion by winning and leading a spade up at once, since the defence cannot lead a second trump; however, to take a heart ruff and the club finesse looks more tempting).

In another match, defending to Five Diamonds, Claire Tornay found an interesting and technically superior variant when she returned a top heart at trick two, knowing her partner had an odd number of hearts. This disrupts dummy's late entry; Declarer ruffed and took the club finesse of course, for down one.

Tornay knew that if declarer ruffed the heart and played a spade, she could win, and observe her partner's count signal; if her partner showed three, the J would kill the dummy. If her partner showed two spades, a second spade would achieve the same result.

George Rapée 1916-1999

George Rapée, one of the all-time great players and the inventor of the Stayman convention, died of cancer April 1 at his home in Floral City FL. He was 83.

The diminutive former real estate investor was one of the true giants of the game. He was the last surviving member of the winning team in the first Bermuda Bowl in 1950, and he won the event two more times (1951 and 1953). In 1990, he was a member of the bronze-medal squad in the Rosenblum Knockout Teams at the World Bridge Championships in Geneva.

Rapée won 21 American majors and was second 19 times. As recently as last year, Rapée and teammates finished third-fourth in the Vanderbilt.

Three years ago, in an informal study done by *The Bridge Bulletin*, players were ranked according to their performance in major bridge championships. Rapée was ranked fifth on the list. In a 1994 profile of Rapée, former partner Sidney Lazard said he considered Rapée “the best of his bunch, including John Crawford and Howard Schenken.” Rapée was elected to the ACBL Bridge Hall of Fame in 1997.

Rapée was born in New York City, the son of Hungarian immigrants. His father was a concert pianist. Although he earned a law degree from New York University, Rapée never practiced law. He forged a successful career in real estate in New York.

Rapée developed the convention known today as Stayman to solve a problem. Rapée was playing regularly with Sam Stayman when Rapée thought of using 2 by responder to check for a 4--4 major fit. Stayman wrote about the convention in *The Bridge World* magazine and it was thus attributed to him.

At his home in Florida, Rapée enjoyed an entourage of animals, including dogs, cats, horses and peacocks. His wife, Joellen Hall, is an accomplished artist.

Bobby Goldman 1939-1999

Bobby Goldman died on Sunday, 16th May in Dallas, apparently of a heart attack. Earlier in the month he had been competing in the Cavendish.

Goldman was recently selected for induction to the ACBL Bridge Hall of Fame when his 60th birthday (the minimum age required for nomination) made him eligible for election to the prestigious body.

Goldman had four world titles (Bermuda Bowl 1970, 1971, 1979 and World Mixed Teams 1972) and 19 North American championships: Life Master Men's Pairs (1964); Life Master Pairs (1968); Open Board-a-Match Teams (1993); Men's Teams (1968, 1989, 1991); Spingold Knockout Teams (1969, 1978, 1983, 1986, 1988); Reisinger Board-a-Match Teams (1970, 1976, 1980); Vanderbilt Knockout Teams (1971, 1973, 1978, 1997, 1998).

Goldman was a WBF World Grand Master. Goldman was the author of several books on the game, including *Aces Scientific* and *Winners and Losers at the Bridge Table*. His contributions to bidding theory include Super Gerber, Kickback, Exclusion Blackwood and Goldman after Stayman. He was one of the architects of the Aces Scientific System.

Earlier this year, Goldman was named by 1999 ACBL Honorary Member, presented for long and meritorious service to bridge.

Goldman's early career was distinguished by his association with the now-famous Aces, the professional, Texas-based team created by businessman Ira Corn for the purpose of winning world bridge championships. Goldman was a member of the successful squad until 1974.

Goldman enjoyed a 25-year-long partnership with Paul Soloway. Though Soloway's services were recently acquired by the team of Nick Nickell, Goldman and Soloway created somewhat of an on-line following with their “Goldway” matches on OKbridge.

THE IBPA GENERAL MEETING

Malta

The 1999 Annual General Meeting and Awards will be held in Bermuda in January 2000. In Malta there will be a General Meeting, expected to be held on Monday 21st June in the morning for the following purposes:

1. Presentation of the 1998 Accounts
2. Approval of the Budget for the year 2000.
3. Provisional setting of subscriptions for the year 2000, for approval at the AGM.
4. Any other competent business.

There will be a 1-session IBPA Trans-national Pairs at a time to be determined, probably Sunday 20th June, when the Schedule for the Championships is known.

There will be a Press Trip on Thursday 17th June.

6th European University Teams Championship

Weimar, Mon Ami, Goetheplatz, 9-15th
August

Play starts 19.45 on Mon, 9th August
Prize-giving Sat 14th Aug, Depart Sun 15th

Cost of stay: 260 Euro (=DM 508) per player
or official, for bed & full board, sharing twin.

Enter through NCBOs by June 26th 1999.

Contact: Anneliese Schmidt-Bott
Tel/Fax: 00 49 241 171 848

Plain Dealer Deals

** Harvey Bernstein, writing in the Cleveland Plain Dealer last December, gives this example of using modern, but popular conventions to reach an excellent grand slam:*

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

| | | | |
|-------|------|-------|----------|
| South | West | North | East |
| 1NT | Pass | 2 | Pass |
| 3 | Pass | 5 | Pass |
| 5 | Pass | 7 | All Pass |

Thanks to Roger Tiktin of Lakewood for this hand from a duplicate event. His partner, sitting South, was Erin Deloney of Mentor.

Bidding techniques have come a long way and this hand is an example of what you can do if you have the right tools in your "bidding bag". The opening 1NT was standard. Two hearts was a transfer to spades. Deloney's 3 showed a doubleton and a super-accept with four spades. Tiktin's jump to 5 was Exclusion Blackwood. Five Spades shows zero or three key cards outside hearts. *IBPA Editor: Kantar recommends simple steps, and shows the trump queen by a further ask.*

Titkin could now count the three aces he needed and was prepared to rely on ruffing the diamonds good if necessary.

The grand slam, bid and made, was an absolute top board.

Bernstein also submits this deal published in April which features Phil Becker in defence

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

| | | | |
|-------|------|-------|------|
| South | West | North | East |
| 4 | Pass | Pass | 4 |
| Pass | 4NT | 5 ! | 5 |
| Pass | Pass | Pass | |

Eight card suits are not popular with columnists but this hand has good instructional points, and is worth the trouble. It was played at a match point duplicate tournament and Phil Becker of Beachwood held the North cards.

His partner was Dick Early of Cuyahoga Falls. Early opened 4. West and North passed and East bid 4. West then asked for aces.

Becker is aware that his partner's preemptive bid does not promise defensive values. He has only one trick against a spade contract. It appears that East-West certainly have a game and may be able to make a slam. This is a good time to "get in the middle" of the opponents auction.

In the event that East-West play a spade contract, South will be on lead. Becker bid 5 as a "lead director" to help partner get off to the right lead. If the opponents double five diamonds, N/S correct to five hearts, but the opposition bid five spades.

If you look at South's hand, finding the correct opening lead could be difficult without partner's assistance. Early led Q. Declarer played low from dummy because it was very likely that the queen was a singleton. Early continued with J and again declarer ducked.

Becker could count twelve diamonds and could only hope that declarer had number 13. If that was the case, there was still a chance to beat five spades. Becker overtook J with his ace and led another diamond to obtain the killing trump promotion.

The contract is a virtual lock if declarer covers the first diamond lead with the king, but that would be wrong if South held a singleton.

* *Christine Francin of the WBF notes:* I attach an amended prize list for the IOC Grand Prix (see notice). Francesco Angelini was playing captain of the team in Lille (IBPA Editor: True, though he did not play in the later knock-outs or final, and was therefore, in effect, n.p.c. of the Rosenblum champions) The IOC European Ladies Team includes Catherine D'Ovidio-Véronique Bessis.

Malta: The top six teams qualify for the Bermuda Bowl and Venice Cup, compared with five last time.

* The auto-biography of the late GCH Fox has been published by G&T books. The book is titled "Foxy", Grand Master of bridge, after the long-standing IBPA member's nickname. The book is distributed by Gazelle Book Services Ltd of Falcon House, Queen Square, Lancaster, England LA1 1RN and retails at £12.95. The 106 pages concentrate on Foxy's experiences as a bridge-teacher, with many anecdotes which will strike a chord with other teachers, and useful example hands.

The book refers briefly to Foxy's 33 years as bridge correspondent and columnist at the Daily Telegraph, a newspaper with 2 million readers. Some 200,000 read the bridge news and column. On Foxy's retirement, the IBPA Editor became bridge correspondent, and Tony Forrester the columnist.

Contact: + 44 1273 301 600

* *Fritz Babsch reports:* the results of the Austrian Open teams was:

1. Andreas Babsch-Peter Umhaus, Jovanka Smederevac-Gavriel Unger 234 VPs
2. Maria & Peter Erhart-Sylvia Terraneo; Gabriele Bamberger-Doris Fischer 230 VPs

* *At the Schiphol International Hassa Gothe reported this deal where his partner Lars Goldberg found the solution to this problem:*

A Q J 6 4
 J 5
 A Q J 3
 J 3

 5 3
 A Q 6 3
 K 7
 Q 8 6 4 2

| | | | |
|------|-------|----------|-------|
| West | North | East | South |
| 1 | 1 | Pass | 1NT |
| Pass | 3NT | All Pass | |

West led a low heart against South's Three Notrumps. The jack won in dummy, East playing the ten. Goldberg came to hand with a diamond to take the spade finesse, which lost. East returned ♠9. How do you play?

You can read West for four hearts to the king and five clubs to the ace-king. But what about his spades and diamond holdings? If they are 2-2 then, oddly you fail because when you play off dummy's winners you squeeze the South hand, before West discards.

You need West's spades/diamonds to be 3-1. If he has three spades you have no problem, so assume he has three diamonds.

Goldberg rose with ♠A, cashed diamonds, and then, without cashing his spades, exited with ♠J to endplay West who held:

♠ 8 K 8 7 2 10 9 4 A K 10 7 5

* *Ib Lundby reports:* A couple of times I have played OK-bridge with an American friend, Fred Theurkauf from Pasadena, where he runs a bridge travel company, Finesse West Tours. Finesse West? It was the theme in this hand from a match two days ago - Fred was West:

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

| | | | |
|---------------------|-------|----------------|--------------|
| West | North | East | South |
| <i>Scudrum Thak</i> | | <i>Bigdane</i> | <i>AndyY</i> |
| | 1 | Pass | 1 |
| Pass | 2 | Pass | 3NT |
| Pass | 4 | Pass | 4 |
| Pass | 4NT | All pass | |

Our opponents were playing together for the first time, so small accidents like this one happen from time to time. Nevertheless I think that South will make 4NT 99 out of 100 times. But this was time #100!

Fred cashed the ♠A (9, 5, 2), and ... we waited a couple of minutes and then received this routine message: "Thinking".

Two minutes later he had the "sinking" solution: "From the bidding I know, that partner doesn't have very much, but he needs these three key cards: ♠9, ♠9 and ♠J!

Fred cashed ♠A and played ♠J. Goodnight, South.

Why is this defence necessary? If he doesn't take ♠A first and instead plays ♠J at trick 2, declarer wins ♠K, takes a heart finesse and cashes a couple of club tricks, before leading a spade to his queen!

Now Fred has to take A (else a second heart finesse will do), but then he is endplayed to give away another heart finesse or an entry to declarer.

When the hand was over, 4NT with 9 tricks, and I had congratulated him with his brilliancy, he thanked me for having the three keycards. My answer: "So maybe I should have doubled on the little extra, 10?"

* *Henry Francis reports:* In the first round of the OKbridge championships the team led by John Lowenthal (Gail Stanhope, Eddie Kantar, Marshall Miles, Kit Woolsey, Fred Stewart) beat the team led by Ron Smith by 46 IMPs. Kantar, 64, & Miles featured on this deal:

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

| | | | |
|-------|-------|--------|----------|
| West | North | East | South |
| Miles | | Kantar | |
| | 1 | Pass | 1 |
| Pass | 2 | Dble | All Pass |

Kantar's delayed take-out double was converted to penalties by Miles's Pass.

Miles led a club. A low club from dummy (*IBPA Editor: Why not the seven?*) went to Kantar's six and South's queen. Declarer ran 10 to Kantar's queen, and won the trump shift with the ace. A diamond to the ten lost to the jack. Miles led Q to the king. A second spade to the nine forced out the ace. Kantar cashed A, West discarding his last spade, gave West a spade ruff, and a further trump left South with three diamond losers: 800 to the defence.

At the other table Stewart & Woolsey defended 2NT which made for -120 but a gain of 12 IMPs.

Kantar was world champion in 1977 and 1979.

* *Jon Sveindal reports a deceptive, successful lead by Gunn Helness, wife of Tor Helness:*

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

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

| | | | |
|---------------------|--------------------|-------------------|------------------------|
| East | South | West | North |
| <i>A. Hellemann</i> | <i>M. Andersen</i> | <i>G. Helness</i> | <i>S. Christiansen</i> |

| | | | |
|------|---|----------|-----|
| 1 | 1 | 1 NT (!) | 2 * |
| dble | 3 | Pass | 4 |

All pass 2 = sound spade raise
Helness is a household name in the world of bridge. However, it was not Tor but his wife Gunn who was the protagonist in this board from "Mini-Nordic", a practice session for the European Championships at Malta for the Norwegian, Danish and Swedish open and ladies' teams. The bidding was aggressive from both parties, and understandably game was only bid at three out of eight tables. Gunn's 1NT was courageous, but nothing compared to what she did to complete the set-up that left Morten Andersen with no real chance of winning the contract. She led the 2 of spades! To under-lead the ace of trumps is no novelty in bridge. Leading from the queen requires lots of guts and imagination. It's heavy. Morten, hoping for bare queen offside, put up the king and lost two spade tricks and the contract.

IBPA Editor: But West might well have under-led from AQx in trumps.

* *Dick Cummings reports:* In the final of the Autumn National Open Teams in Adelaide the team led by George Smolanko (David Middleton, Zoltan Nagy, and Tim Seres) beat Pauline Gumby (Warren Lazer, Peter Gill and Joshua Wyner) 147-122.

In the qualifying rounds Robert Fruewirth solved this problem well:

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

| | | | |
|-------|------|-------|----------|
| South | West | North | East |
| 1 | Pass | 1 | Pass |
| 1 | Pass | 2 | Pass |
| 3 | Pass | 6 | All Pass |

2 was Fourth-suit. West led 3.

There are ten top tricks. K onside provides one more but the spades do not break.

On the diamond lead, Fruewirth won, drew trumps, ending in dummy with the ten, and led a small spade. East rose with the king and exited with a diamond. Fruewirth ruffed the third diamond in hand, squeezing West in the majors! West actually threw a heart, and declarer ruffed out the suit, re-entering dummy with A to reach the long heart.

If East had ducked the first spade, declarer can duck a spade himself and execute the same squeeze later, with a criss-cross variety (*IBPA Editor: And the same ending as if East had won K and exited with a spade taken by South's queen*).

* *Jude Goodwin-Hanson reports that Bridge Today University is offering a summer special to students who sign up for 2 or more e-mail courses: a free subscription for one year to Bridge Today Magazine. Summer Semester begins on June 21 and Fall Semester starts September 20. There are 11 classes per course. This offer expires on August 31.*

The following deal is from the Granovetters' Comprehensive 301 course, which covers all aspects of the game. It illustrates the importance of thinking at trick one on defense.

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

| | | | |
|-------|------|-------|----------|
| South | West | North | East |
| 4 | Pass | 6 | All pass |

West leads the 3. Declarer calls for the ace in dummy. What signal should East give at trick one?

The natural reflex is to signal encouragement in spades. But East must discourage! East likes spades, but if East has done his counting, he realizes that if his partner gains the lead, a spade return will be ruffed.

East should DISCOURAGE in spades at trick one, asking partner to shift.

After West wins the A at trick two, he must shift to a diamond to defeat the contract. Without a diamond shift, declarer will draw trumps and ruff out the king of clubs, then return to dummy with the DA to use the club suit to discard his diamond losers. A club lead by West is also possible at trick three but East is unlikely to hold a void, because with a void he might have made a Lightner double of the slam.

Contact: To register for any course, contact by e-mail Matt@bridgetoday.com

or go to the bridgetoday.com website.

Reply to: greatlinks@home.com.

| Calendar | Event | Venue | IBPA Contact |
|-----------------|--------------|---|------------------------------|
| 1999 | | | |
| JUN | 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 |
| | 20/24 | 2 nd IOC Grand Prix, Lausanne | cfrancin@worldbridgefed.com |
| 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, Orbis WBC, 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 |
| JUN | 2/3 | WBF Worldwide Simultaneous by Internet | cfrancin@worldbridgefed.com |
| 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 |