

IBPA Bulletin 418, November 1999

The Italian steam-roller continues, flattening opponents. Italy has added the IOC Grand Prix to its Rosenblum and European Open titles. At Junior level Italy also has the European and World trophies, suggesting that, when required, there will be new faces ready waiting in the wings.

The final in Lausanne was one-sided with Italy reaching an early 95-1 lead over Brazil that made the rest of the match an anti-climax compared with last year's tie between China and Brazil. The Angelini Trophy did not actually put in an appearance in Lausanne (it was the IOC that presented gold and silver cups to the finalists) but one suspects that it will soon exist: for one name on it will be that of Francesco Angelini, who heads the large privately-owned pharmaceuticals company that sponsored the Second Grand Prix. In Lille Angelini did not play in the final, but in Lausanne he was at the table when Italy built its lead against Brazil.

The service of results for journalists on Internet was well-presented and speedy, and a useful source for your Editor's newspaper reports, and this Bulletin. Sadly, some key facts (such as names, bidding and details of the play) were missing from deals that looked as if they would have provided good copy for our members. When there is no table recording, it is important for some journalist to obtain the details of the best hands from the players, before they have disappeared back to their separate hotels. And in my experience, the players, tackled soon enough, are more reliable than the table records.

At the Closing Ceremony Juan Antonio Samaranch, President of the IOC, announced further IOC Grand Prix to fill the gap before bridge joins the Winter Olympics. The amendments needed to IOC Regulations to allow in bridge and chess have yet to be made.

In the Womens Grand Prix Europe beat the USA. Two days later, the USA obtained some compensation in that other contest on a Boston golf course. The scoring system used in golf match-play, and also in the Man v. Machine bridge contest reported inside, (point-a-hole or deal; match over the moment the leader cannot be caught) gives greater likelihood of a close contest, and is familiar to those outside the game, increasing entertainment for spectators, and comprehension for the media. Some Invitation Team events in bridge should try it - and it is particularly suitable for any bridge contest on television: no need to understand the complexities of aggregate scoring, IMPs, or VPs; just give the result at one table and say what the other table has to do to beat it.

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The Man v. Machine contest, featuring Zia, and seven computer programs, at Andrew Robson's Bridge Club was magnificent entertainment. The media showed much more advance interest than normal in a bridge contest, yet the space given to reports was disappointing. The organisers were surely on the right track. It may have been just bad luck the event did not command the attention it deserved.

Patrick Jourdain - Editor

ITALY WINS 2nd IOC GRAND PRIX; EUROPE WINS WOMENS

Olympic Museum, Lausanne September 20-24th 1999 From Bulletins Edited by Mark Horton

ITALY (Francesco Angelini & Antonio Sementa, Lorenzo Lauria & Alfredo Versace, Andrea Buratti Massimo Lanzarotti) (\$25,000 + Angelini Trophy)
beat **BRAZIL** (\$15,000) Ernesto d'Orsi (NPC) Gabriel Chagas & Marcelo Castello Branco; Miguel Villas-Boas & Joao Paulo Campos by 140.3 - 85 over 60 boards (6.3 IMPs carry-over)

Italy won the first 12 board segment 68-1!

Play-off for third place (\$10,000) **France** Philippe Cronier (NPC) Albert Bitran & Marc Bompis; Thierry de Sainte Marie & Jean-Michel Voldoire beat by 76-28 **China** Luo Yunhong (npc); Cao Xueliang & Dai Jiamming; Liu Chuan & Shi Haojun; Yang Lixin & Zhang Qiang

Semi-finals **Italy** beat France 114-71.3
Brazil beat China 103-62

Round Robin (24 board matches)
1. Brazil 98; 2. Italy 80; 3. China 78; 4. France 70; 5. Netherlands 66; 6. USA 57.
Brazil as winner chose semi-final opponent.

WOMEN (4 matches of 24 boards, team-of-eight)

EUROPE (\$10,000) beat USA (\$5,000) 278-210.

The Netherlands Marijke van der Pas-Bep Vriend
Great Britain Pat Davies-Nicola Smith
France Véronique Bessis-Catherine D'Ovidio
Germany: Sabine Auken-Daniela von Arnim
North America Mildred Breed & Shawn Quinn; Connie Goldberg & Carol Sanders; Lisa Berkowitz & Rozanne Pollack; Lynn Deas & Beth Palmer.

From the electrifying start to the final:

Board 17	♠ A K 7	
Dlr: North	♥ 5	
Love all	♦ A 10 8 5 4	
	♣ K J 9 2	
♠ J 10 8 6 2		♠ 9 5 3
♥ 7 4		♥ K Q 10 8 2
♦ 7 6		♦ J 9 3
♣ A 8 5 3		♣ 10 7
	♠ Q 4	
	♥ A J 9 6 3	
	♦ K Q 2	
	♣ Q 6 4	

West	North	East	South
<i>Lauria</i>	<i>Chagas</i>	<i>Versace</i>	<i>Branco</i>
	1♦	1♥	Pass
Pass	Dble	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
<i>Campos</i>	<i>Angelini</i>	<i>V Boas</i>	<i>Sementa</i>
	1♣	1♥	Dble
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♥
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♦
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♥
Pass	4♠	Pass	6♦
All Pass			

Versace made 5 tricks in 1♥ doubled for 300 to Brazil. Angelini reached 6♦ as North. Villas Boas led ♥K, and declarer won and tested trumps. Later ♣10 came down for +920 and 12 IMPs.

Women

Sabine Auken found a show-up squeeze here:

Board 24	♠ Q 3	
Dlr: West	♥ 10 6 4 3	
Love All	♦ Q 10	
	♣ K Q J 10 8	
♠ A J 10 9 7		♠ 6 4
♥ 8 7		♥ A K J 9 5
♦ K 9 8		♦ A 4 3
♣ 9 7 2		♣ A 4 3
	♠ K 8 5 2	
	♥ Q 2	
	♦ J 7 6 5 2	
	♣ 6 5	

West	North	East	South
<i>v Arnim</i>	<i>Berkowitz</i>	<i>Auken</i>	<i>Sanders</i>
Pass	Pass	1♣	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♥	Pass
2♠	Pass	2NT	Pass
3NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

1♣ was Precision

Sanders led a low diamond against Auken's 3NT. Auken won the diamond in the East hand and took a spade finesse which lost. North played a second diamond which was allowed to hold, then ♣K which also held. Auken won the next club, and took a second finesse in spades, which held. When they did not break she cleared the suit. As South had no more clubs she exited with a diamond to dummy. However, on the fifth spade North had to keep a club guard, and was therefore known to be down to two hearts. And so Auken dropped the queen offside and made her game.

Semi-final Italy v. France

This deal gave rise to the textbook classic Take a Finesse Both Ways safety play:

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Lanzarotti</i>	<i>Bompis</i>	<i>Buratti</i>	<i>De St Marie</i>
	Pass	1♦	Pass
1♠	Pass	3♠	Dble
Pass	4♥	4♠	Pass
Pass	Dble	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
<i>Bitran</i>	<i>Lauria</i>	<i>Voltaire</i>	<i>Versace</i>
		1♦	Pass
1♠	Pass	3♠	Pass
3NT	Pass	4♣	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

Lauria, who had not doubled, led a low heart to Versace's king. The ♥J came next, and a third heart forced dummy. Voltaire cashed ♠A and could not recover. He played a trump to the jack and Versace let it hold. The game went three down: 300 to Italy

Much better is for declarer to run ♠10 *before* cashing ♠A, but this does not work if North ducks! A spade to the nine is won by North who exits with a diamond and declarer cannot draw trumps.

The winning line at trick four is to play a trump to the nine or jack first. If North lets this hold, you follow with a trump to the ten (!!) and can now draw trumps and make 11 tricks.

IBPA Editor: If West has ♠8 as well it is easier to see the winning line.

Sadly, Lanzarotti, who *was* doubled by Bompis, North, was not put to the test as Bompis led ♥K and a heart to the ace, and a third heart left Lanzarotti an easy 11 tricks for 890 and 15 IMPs.

The Womens match played the same boards. When Nicola Smith, North, led her singleton diamond against 4♠, declarer, in an attempt to avoid a ruff started with ♠KA, and could not recover.

Board 11 ♠ J 10 6 2
 Dlr: South ♥ A J 6
 Love all ♦ J 10 8 6
 ♣ 9 3

♠ 8 7 3
 ♥ Q 5 3
 ♦ A K Q 5
 ♣ A 10 6

♠ A K 9 5
 ♥ K 8
 ♦ 9 3 2
 ♣ J 5 4 2

♠ Q 4
 ♥ 10 9 7 4 2
 ♦ 7 4
 ♣ K Q 8 7

♠ 3
 ♥ A 9 8 6
 ♦ A 10 6
 ♣ 10 9 6 5 2

♠ K Q 8
 ♥ J 10 7
 ♦ 8 5
 ♣ A K Q 8 3

♠ J 9 6 4
 ♥ 3 2
 ♦ K 9 7 4 3
 ♣ J 4

West	North	East	South
<i>(V Boas Yang</i>		<i>Campos Cao)</i>	
<i>Dai</i>	<i>Chagas</i>	<i>Shi</i>	<i>Branco</i>
Pass	1♠	1NT	2♠
3♠	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Both tables reached 3NT by West (no bidding given). At both tables North led ♦J, declarer won, and crossed to the table to lead a low club. The French defender put up the queen. Versace won and played a second club. South won and tried a second diamond. The Bulletin, frustratingly, does not say how the play continued from there except to say that North could not withstand the pressure of the third club. Versace may have ducked a spade, and then squeezed North, or he may have led a heart to the king and then tested the clubs. North can afford to throw a spade (declarer can no longer afford to duck a spade to South) but can be thrown in later with a diamond to concede a second heart trick.

The Bulletin does relate what happened at the other table. The first two tricks were the same, but when de Sainte Marie led a low club from dummy, Lanzarotti played low from South. Declarer's ten won, and he followed with the ace. Lanzarotti innocently dropped the queen! De Sainte Marie was fooled into playing a third club. Now South cashed the last club, putting West to an awkward discard. He chose to throw a spade and Buratti could happily throw heart. South switched to ♠Q which declarer was forced to duck, cutting himself off from the remaining spade. Next came a diamond. Declarer won and led a low heart. Buratti rose at once with the ace putting declarer in a Morton's Fork. When he chose not unblock the king, North cleared the diamonds. Declarer could not untangle his nine tricks. North made a spade at the end to defeat the game.

Round Robin Rnd 1 Brazil v. China (joint holders)

A fascinating duel between Chagas and Shi:

Board 4 ♠ A 10 7 5 2
 Dlr: West ♥ K Q 5 4
 Game All ♦ Q J 2
 ♣ 7

Dai's 3♠, in Lebensohl style, presumably showed four hearts.

The auction at the other table is not given, but Campos reached 3NT after North had opened 1♠, and Cao led a spade. North put on the ace, giving Campos nine easy tricks.

Branco also led a low spade, but this time Chagas put in the *ten*. Declarer won, cashed a somewhat revealing top club, and then ran the jack of hearts. Chagas won with the king and found the switch to ♦J. Declarer ducked that and the next diamond, and had to win the third. He then cashed the remaining clubs. On the last one Branco erred by discarding his second heart.

This left Chagas no choice but to keep both his hearts and bare his ♠A, rather than the other way round. Declarer still had to read the ending, but he led a second heart and the game went one down for 12 IMPs to Brazil, who won the match 105-31 or 25-2 in VPs.

Round Robin Italy v. France

This deal illustrated how alert one has to be in saving partner from error:

Board 16 ♠ 10 9 8 6 5 4
 Dir: West ♥ 9
 E/W Game ♦ A 10
 ♣ K Q 10 3

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

♠ 3
 ♥ 7 4
 ♦ K 8 7 3 2
 ♣ A 9 8 7 6

West	North	East	South
<i>d'St' Marie Buratti</i>	<i>Bompis</i>	<i>Lanzarotti</i>	
4♣	4♠	Dble	All Pass

West	North	East	South
<i>Angelini</i>	<i>Voltaire</i>	<i>Sementa</i>	<i>Bitran</i>
1♥	1♠	Dble	Pass
3♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass

De Sainte Marie showed a good 4♥ opener, and Buratti made a risky overcall which suffered a 300 penalty against a game which had four top losers. However... at the other table Voltaire led ♣K and South encouraged with the nine. Voltaire continued with the king and suddenly things went wrong. South, thinking he knew the winning defence, overtook in order to return his singleton spade, expecting his partner to win the ace and give him a ruff. Alas, it was West who claimed his game.

North could have saved his partner from error by laying down the ace of diamonds at trick two. Then South will realise where the defence's four tricks lie.

Zia has narrow win in Man vs. Machine Contest

by Marc Smith (GB)

A unique individual event was held at the Andrew Robson Bridge Club in London on 3-4 September. The contestants were Zia Mahmood, representing Mankind, and seven of the world's top computer bridge-playing programs. Included in the field were Matt Ginsberg's *GIB* from Oregon, USA, the current world computer champion, and Hans Leber's *Q-Plus* from Germany, which had finished second in last year's computer world championship. In addition

to Britain's two leading bridge brains, the software developers came from as far afield as Germany, America, Hong Kong and Japan. Add to that Zia's Pakistani background, and this was truly an international event.



The event was divided into a series of 7-board matches, with each deal scored on a Board-a-Match basis. The first team to win four points (a win on a deal = 1 and a tie = 1/2) was deemed the winner of the match, earning 1 Victory Point. The winner of the contest was to be the first contestant to score 10 VPs. After each match, contestants changed partners and team-mates.

After 15 rounds, Zia reached the magic target of 10 VPs. Tied for second place were *Q-Plus* from Germany, *Saitek* from Hong Kong and the two British entrants, *Blue Chip Bridge* and *Oxford Bridge*, each of which had accumulated 8 VPs.

The prize for the "best-played hand" went not to Zia, one of the game's premier declarers, but to Matt Ginsberg's *GIB*.

Board 22 ♠ K 10 6 2
 Dealer: East ♥ 5
 Vul.: EW ♦ A K Q 8 2
 ♣ 8 7 6

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

♠ 9 8 5
 ♥ A J 7 2
 ♦ 9 6
 ♣ A J 10 2

West	North	East	South
<i>Saitek</i>	<i>Zia</i>	<i>Blue Chip</i>	<i>GIB</i>
		3♥	Pass
Pass	Dble	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

VuGraph commentators Andrew Robson and David Burn were surprised to see *GIB* bidding 3NT at unfavourable vulnerability. (Indeed, in the replay, *Micro Bridge* passed *Meadowlark's* 2hx-X in the same position). Still, the play's the thing.

Saitek led its partner's suit, and *GIB* won East's queen with the ace. Next came a diamond to the ace, followed by a club to the ten and queen. *Saitek* exited with the ♠Q, and *GIB* played dummy's king. *GIB* then exited with a spade and *Saitek* played three rounds of the suit to put dummy back on lead with the ♠10. *GIB* crossed to hand with the ace of clubs, ran the nine of diamonds, and exited with a third club. West had to win and was end-played to lead into dummy's ♦ K-Q-8 at trick eleven. NS +400.

In the other room, 2♥ dble failed by a trick, giving NS +200, and a win on the deal for *GIB* and Zia.

Zia is renowned around the world for his mastery of the psychological aspects of the game. Yet, on the very first deal of the event, Zia was out-manoeuvred in that very realm by *GIB*. Not that the result at Zia's table was necessarily a disaster for the wily Pakistani. Here's what happened:

Board 1
 Dealer: North
 Love All

<p>♠ K Q J 9 8 6 ♥ K ♦ J 8 4 ♣ K 10 6</p>	<p>♠ 4 ♥ Q 9 8 3 ♦ 3 2 ♣ A 7 5 4 3 2</p> <p>♠ 7 ♥ A J 10 5 4 2 ♦ A K 10 9 7 5 ♣ void</p>
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♠ A 10 5 3 2
 ♥ 7 6
 ♦ Q 6
 ♣ Q J 9 8

West	North	East	South
<i>Q-Plus</i>	<i>Zia</i>	<i>GIB</i>	<i>Meadowlark</i>
Pass	Pass	1♥	1♠
Pass	2♣	Pass!	3♣
Dbl	Pass	3♦	Pass
3NT	Dbl	4♥	Pass
Pass	Dbl	All Pass	

[Closed room auction???

As he doubled 3NT, Zia made a comment to his LHC (left-hand computer), the translation of which was something like, "Welcome to the real bridge world." Of course, GIB just ignored him and clicked and whirred a bit before 'running' to 4♥.

After the lead of the ♠A, Meadowlark led a second spade. GIB inserted the nine and Zia ruffed and was overruffed. GIB cashed the two diamonds and crossed to the ♥K to lead winning spades through the North hand. Zia correctly discarded clubs as GIB threw its winning diamonds, and thus Zia made a trump trick at the end to hold the contract to just one overtrick.

At the end of the hand, Zia expressed his disbelief that GIB had passed Two Clubs holding 6-6 in the red suits. When Ginsberg explained that GIB thought Two Clubs was forcing, and so it had no reason to reveal its wild distribution at that point, Zia was left with a new respect for his electronic opponents.

Despite conceding -690 at one table, Zia's team might still have won the deal, though. At the second table, Saitek declared 6♦. South led ♠A and switched to the queen of clubs, covered all around and ruffed. Had Saitek elected to play for trumps to break 2-2, by playing off the ace-king, then it would have made twelve tricks to score +920 and win the board. However, Saitek 'judged' that South held longer spades and thus North was more likely to have three diamonds to the queen, and thus it led the ♠K at trick three. When North was able to ruff that and South was able to ruff the third round of hearts in front of dummy's jack, the contract was one down.

Early in the fourth match, GIB proved that it understood the Principle of Restricted Choice.

Board 18
 Dealer: South
 Vul: NS

<p>♠ K 10 9 3 ♥ 10 9 5 4 ♦ J 6 4 3 ♣ Q</p>	<p>♠ A 5 4 ♥ 6 ♦ Q 7 5 2 ♣ A 10 7 3 2</p> <p>♠ Q J 8 ♥ K J 8 7 ♦ K 10 8 ♣ J 8 4</p> <p>♠ 7 6 2 ♥ A Q 3 2 ♦ A 9 ♣ K 9 6 5</p>
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West	North	East	South
<i>Saitek</i>	<i>Zia</i>	<i>Blue Chip</i>	<i>GIB</i>
Pass	1♦	Pass	1♥
Pass	3♣	All Pass	

West led a low spade and GIB took the ace. Its first move was to cash the ♣A, and when the queen appeared from West, GIB made short work of picking up the trumps with a second-round finesse. GIB subsequently developed a diamond trick to discard a spade loser for eleven tricks; +150.

At the other table, Micro Bridge would presumably also have managed this suit combination. However, it was starting from a slightly different premise from GIB's. In that room, NS had chosen the higher-scoring part score, reaching a contract of 2NT from the South seat.

West led the ♥10 to the king and ace. Declarer 'decided' that West's heart lead was not from a long suit, and thus placed him and not East with the club length. Consequently, it cashed the ♣K first, and hence could no longer pick up the suit for five tricks. North-South +120 and another winning board for Zia's team.

Our next exhibit provided some amusement for the human audience, and was the source of some embarrassment to Matt Ginsberg.

Board 48 ♠ 10 6 4 2
 Dealer: West ♥ 9 7 6
 Vul: EW ♦ 10 5 3
 ♣ 8 6 3

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

♠ A K 7 5
 ♥ Q 8 5 3
 ♦ 9 7 6 4
 ♣ J

West	North	East	South
<i>Blue Chip</i>	<i>Meadow-</i>	<i>Oxford</i>	<i>GIB</i>
	<i>lark</i>		
1♣	Pass	6♦	All Pass

As Matt explained later, *GIB* has trouble when it doesn't understand the auction. Not having years of human experience, it tried to construct hands that were consistent with East's most unscientific leap to slam. The conclusion it reached was that East's bidding was more consistent with a ♠ void than with any hand with two losing spades. Indeed, there is a risk that dummy might show up with a spade suit headed by the QJ and, if a top spade is ruffed at trick one, declarer may later be able to make a loser-on-loser play to establish a spade winner in dummy. Having evaluated the probabilities, *GIB* elected to lead a heart. That meant +1390 to EW.

In the other room, *Saitek* and *Q-Plus* also reached a slam, although by a slower route. They also made the error of finishing in 6NT by East. Japan's *Micro Bridge* had no problem with cashing the ♠AK against this contract, although Zia commented later, "Did it really have to think for so long before cashing the second spade?"

Although the programs all made the occasional glaring error during the course of the weekend, they also universally played to a much higher standard than anyone had expected. One wonders if, in years to come, we will decide that it is not the computers that are making the stupid mistakes after all.....

The 1999 Australian Championships

Perth

by Ron Klinger, Australia

Open Butler:

1. Peter Newman - Matthew Thomson of Sydney.
2. Terry Brown - Phil Gue
- 3= Seamus Browne - Ishmael del'Monte
- 3= Margaret Courtney - Michael Courtney

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

Women's Butler:

1. Sue Lusk (Adelaide) and Therese Tully (Brisbane)
2. Margot Brown - Rena Kaplan
3. Lidia Beech - Margaret Bourke
4. Berri Folkard - Kinga Moses

For those with internet access, the results and Daily Bulletins are available via the www.abf.com.au website.

From the Weekend Australian:

Regular readers of this column will know the value placed on slam bidding in teams' events. Only one pair, Bob Dalley - Paul Lavings of Sydney, were able to find the laydown grand slam on Deal 1 from Stage 1 of the Butler.

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

West passed and Dalley, North, opened one 1♥. East overcalled 1♠ and, with no urgency to show support for hearts, Lavings responded 2♦. West raised to 2♠ and Dalley found an excellent move. He jumped to 4♠, showing a void in spades and support for diamonds. Lavings checked on aces with 4NT and when North bid 5♥ to show two aces, Lavings jumped to 7♦.

The play was straightforward, drawing trumps, discarding two spades and a club on the hearts and cross-ruffing the rest. Note that with the 3-1 trump split, you cannot make 7♥.

Bob Richman made a thoughtful and decisive bid here:

Dealer: West	♠ Q 4 2	
Love All		♥ Q J 9 8 3
	♦ K 7 3	
	♣ 8 3	
♠ J 8 6 5		♠ K 10 9 3

Gue, West, passed and Rob Van Riel, North, opened 2♥. Brown, East, doubled and, realising that there would be at most one trick coming from hearts, Richman jumped to 4♣ to ask for a club lead. Gue bid 4♠ and everyone passed. Van Riel duly led the ♣8, taken by the ace, and declarer won the club return. The ♠8 was led and run to the ace. Richman played his third club, ruffed by North and as declarer still had a diamond loser, that was one down.

Had South jumped to 4♥ over East's double, North might well have led a heart against 4♠. Declarer can make 4♠ on any lead other than a club. The hand also illustrates the Law of Total Tricks. If West judges that EW have eight spades and NS have ten hearts, the total tricks on the deal should be eighteen, the same as the total number of trumps. If East-West can make ten tricks in spades, then North-South should make no more than eight tricks in hearts. Given the danger posed by the lead-directing 4♣ bid, West might double 4♣ and later double the run-out to 4♥. Indeed, unless East leads a spade, North will be two down in 4♥.

Ron Klinger adds to the story from the New Zealand Championships reported by Richard Solomon in the August Bulletin:

The 1999 New Zealand Open Pairs resulted in joint winners, Ishmael Del'Monte - Ashley Bach and Stephen Burgess - Paul Marston, with Peter Newell - Martin Reid third. There is quite a story behind the NZ Pairs. Running second at the time, Burgess made eleven tricks in four spades. The opponents inadvertently entered the result as twelve tricks. Unaware of this until informed later by a bridge reporter, Burgess-Marston sought to have the score corrected several hours after the session had ended. Normally this would be out of time but the result was amended and their score reduced.

When the tournament ended, Bach-Del'Monte were announced as winners.

As reported in August, Del'Monte discovered, out of time, a scoring error in his favour. If corrected, Burgess-Marston would have won. Eventually the two pairs were declared joint winners, a decision graciously accepted by all four players.

Given the try-any-technicality, look-for-a-loop-hole, win-at-all-costs mentality seen in some world championships and in other countries, it is refreshing to see our top players put honour ahead of winning. Both pairs had corrected scores against

themselves despite the fact that these corrections were 'out of time'.

In some quarters, these actions would generate scorn and jeering but those who believe in active ethics will concur that Bach, Burgess, Del'Monte and Marston are to be lauded. Gentlemen, I dips my lid.

Deal 1 was the four spade contract deal on which Burgess scored eleven tricks:

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

After West opened 3♥ and East raised to four, Burgess, South, bid 4♠, passed out. West led the ♥K, overtaken by East to switch to a trump. Burgess won, cashed the ♦A and exited with a diamond, ducked to East who played a third diamond. Burgess ruffed and ran all the trumps, reducing dummy to the ♦J and king-ten of clubs, while keeping three clubs in hand. East was thus squeezed in the minors.

Burgess pointed out that the ♣Q or ♣J return by East after winning the second round of diamonds will stop the squeeze as West can now guard diamonds.

Eight zonal champions to battle for Internet World Title

By Henry Francis (USA)

Seed			Seed
(1)	USA	vs	China (8)
(4)	Colombia	vs	New Zealand (5)
(3)	Argentina	vs	Canada (6)
(2)	Russia	vs	India (7)

48-board matches.

Winners assume the higher seed position.

Semi-final 1v4 & 2v3.

Final in Boston on Thursday 18th November 1999, starting at 10 a.m., immediately before the start of the North American Championships.

TD Tony Reus, (tuna@okbridge.com).

The match will be shown in its entirety on Viewgraph to those physically present and by Internet around the world as it is being played.

The Zonal champions:

USA – Marty Seligman, Paul Soloway, Eric Rodwell, Doug Simson, John Schuler and Michael Crawford.

Russia -- Andrew Gromov, Alexander Petrunin, Youri Khiouppenen and Vadim Kholomeev.

Argentina -- Pablo Lambardi, Carlos Lucena, Rafael Palazzo, Alejandro Bianchedi, Ricardo Zampino.

Colombia -- Rosie Levy, Jorge Barrera, Jorge Andres Barrera and Jaime Carrera.

New Zealand -- Alan Grant, Anthony Ker, Charlie Cahn, Stephen Henry, Roy Kerr and Patrick Carter.

Canada -- Francine Cimon, Andre Laliberte, Martine Lacroix and Herve Chatignier.

India -- Prakash Paranjape, Vivek Bhand, Sandeep Thakral, Jayesh Goyal, Nishant Avasthi and Shreerang Joshi.

China -- Jun Ji, Bang Xiang Zhang, Shi Dong Li, Shui Nu Huang, Wan Fang Mou and Ya Nong Han.

Now that winners have been decided in the North American and European zones, the first-ever internet world bridge championship is ready to enter the international stage. Eight victorious zonal teams will battle for the right to play for the world title in the final, which will be staged in Boston on Thursday, November 18.

The eight quarterfinalists have survived a series of matches in their home zone during which the original field of 172 teams from 33 countries has been pared down to eight teams from eight countries.

The winners will divide \$10,000 in prize money. The tournament is sponsored by OKbridge in cooperation with the World Bridge Federation, the American Contract Bridge League and *The Bridge World*. All matches are played at the OKbridge website.

The United States team, which includes many-time world champions Paul Soloway and Eric Rodwell, is the number one seed and will face China, the Far East victor, in the quarterfinals.

Russia, with many of the players who reached the quarter-finals of the 1996 Olympiad, won the European title. They will face India, winner in the Middle East-Africa competition.

Three members of the Argentine team, representing South America, have been South American champions in World Bridge Federation competition. Argentina will oppose Canada, which has a two-time Venice Cup bronze medal winner, a former Bermuda Bowl contestant and a qualifier for the 2000 World Team Olympiad.

The other quarterfinal will match Colombia, Central America-Caribbean winner, against New Zealand, victor in the South Pacific zone. Both teams feature stars who have represented their country in international competition, including several Bermuda Bowls.

There has never been a world championship like this one. All matches were played on Internet.

All the remaining matches will be played the same way – even the final. OKbridge will bring both finalists to Boston, but each player will be sitting in a different room, and a monitor will be assigned to each player. Monitors will be used in all quarterfinal and semifinal matches as well. The final, staged just before the ACBL Fall Championships start, will have Viewgraph.

Thousands of bridge enthusiasts all over the world have been kibitzing the qualifying matches on their home computers. However, OKbridge membership is necessary to kibitz on computers. OKbridge is offering a \$10 special, good for 30 days of play plus unlimited kibitzing privileges.

The Seligman team had to fight off a powerful team captained by Robb Gordon in order to claim the United States championship. Seligman eventually won by 21 IMPs against Gordon, Ralph Cohen, Larry Mori, Steve Scott, Aaron Silverstein and Chris Willenken.

Seligman's team gained 8 IMPs on this board when Schuler drew the right conclusions from the opening lead. Rodwell and Simson cooperated by preempting their opponents out of the auction at the other table.

Board 8 ♠ K J 10 5
 Dealer: West ♥ A J 7 6
 Vul: Love All ♦ 9
 ♣ J 10 7 3

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

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

West	North	East	South
Mori	Crawford	Scott	Schuler
Pass	2♦!	Pass	4♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Crawford's 2♦ opening was Precision, showing a three-suited minimum, short in diamonds with four or five clubs (3-4-1-5 and 4-3-1-5 shapes were also possible). South, Schuler, simply jumped to the heart game.

The "book" lead against this auction is a trump, so why did Mori lead a club? It could be a singleton, or perhaps Mori didn't want to lead a trump from the queen. Both were good reasons to play West for the queen of hearts. Schuler played the king of trumps first, intending to finesse on the second round, but West dropped the queen under the king, hoping to persuade declarer that the trumps were not breaking. But Schuler drew trumps and led a diamond from dummy. East, Scott, took his ace and shifted to clubs. Schuler finessed, losing to the king, and Mori led another club.

That left Schuler with the spade guess. However, the opening lead had an effect on the play of the spade suit as well as trumps. Declarer could see why West was reluctant to lead a trump from the queen, and a diamond didn't look productive since dummy was marked with a singleton or void. But a club lead from the Kxx also was unattractive since dummy was known to contain four or five of the suit. Why not a spade lead? Declarer worked it out that a spade lead was even more unattractive than the club lead because West must be holding the ace! So Schuler led a spade to the king to score the game.

At the other table Silverstein passed, and Rodwell's 3♦ preempt, combined with Simson's raise to 4♦, kept North-South out of the auction entirely.

The Hand You've Not Heard About

by Richard Colker (USA)

This is a shortened version of the story told to Colker by Dick Budd of Maine about a deal from the ACBL Nationals at San Antonio:

Dlr: East ♠ 9 x
 Vul: Game all ♥ 10 x x x
 ♦ 10 x x x
 ♣ A J x x

♠ K J x ♠ void
 ♥ x ♥ K Q J 9 x x x
 ♦ A J x x ♦ x x
 ♣ K Q x x x ♣ x x x x

♠ A Q 10 8 x x x x
 ♥ A x
 ♦ K Q x
 ♣ None

West	North	East	South
		3♥	4♠
Dble	Pass	Pass	Pass

"I was South," said Budd. "RHO opened 3♥, so I jumped to 4♠. Now LHO doubled with the calm firmness of a man who has you precisely where he wants you. Not loud, but confident.

LHO led the smallest outstanding heart. (*showing the N/S cards only*) You presumably win the ace. What next?"

After a pause that was clearly longer than Dick could tolerate he said, "Okay, you try the ♠Q. LHO wins the king, RHO pitching a heart, and then leads the ♣K. You duck in dummy, ruff it in hand, and then play ace and another trump. Now LHO is in again. He can't lead a trump or a heart because he has no more of either. He can't lead a club or you'll finesse and pitch your two losing red cards on the ace and jack. He can't lead a low diamond or you'll play dummy's ten (LHO has the A-J), so he leads the ♦A."

"Aha," I said. "Now I can unblock my ♦K to end-play LHO."

"Exactly, and that's what I did. He then had to give me both a dummy entry and an extra trick. If he leads a club, I take the club finesse and pitch my two red-suit losers on the clubs; if he leads a second diamond, my ♦10 becomes a dummy entry and I can then pitch my losing heart on the ♣A."

"That's a really great hand. Why didn't you report it to someone in San Antonio so that it could get published in the Daily Bulletin?" I asked. Dick just shrugged his shoulders as he tilted his head slightly and raised his eyebrows.

Too little, Too Late?

By Robert Sheehan (UK)

This deal is from the Times:

Nick Sandqvist, a member of Howard Cohen's winning team in the 1998 Gold Cup, says he missed the toughest defensive play of 1999 on this hand at rubber bridge.

Dealer: East ♠ A J 8 7 6
 E-W Game ♥ 8
 ♦ 4
 ♣ 10 8 7 6 5 2

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

♠ Q 10 9 3 2
 ♥ J 5 4 2
 ♦ A J 5 3
 ♣ None

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

South was David Mossop, whose team won the 1998 Premier League. After his overcall of East's strong 1NT, Sandqvist as West had an awkward call. 3♥ would not be forcing (after an intervention it is better to use such bids as merely competing the part-score), so his actual 4♥, though risky on a five card suit, was the best bid available.

Sandqvist correctly led a trump when his partner doubled 4♠. That is always right when your side have the preponderance of high cards and the declaring side's main source of tricks is trumps. Now, are you ready for the defence?

Mossop took the first spade with the ace, and played a club, ruffing in hand. Then he played the ♦A ... if the king of diamonds is still in your hand you've let the contract through. After West had played low on the ♦A, Mossop continued with a diamond ruff, a club ruff, a second diamond ruff, and a third club ruff. When West followed with the ♦K on the fourth diamond, Mossop brightly discarded a heart from dummy; West's forced heart return gave dummy a third ruff, and another round of clubs enabled South to score his last trump. Then dummy scored his last trump with another heart ruff. So in all declarer made five trumps in dummy, the ace of diamonds and four ruffs in hand, to make his contract. If West drops the ♦K under the ace on the first round of the suit, then declarer can never get four ruffs in dummy – he has to let East in to cash the ♠K.

Bermuda Bowl and Venice Cup Qualifiers

Zone	Bermuda Bowl	Team No.	Venice Cup	Team No.
1	Italy	18	Great Britain	2
1	Sweden	14	Austria	13
1	Norway	4	France	4
1	Bulgaria	1	Netherlands	17
1	France	12	Germany	10
1	Poland	16	Denmark	11
2	USA 1	13	Canada	18
2	USA 2	8	USA 1	15
2	Bermuda	3	USA 2	6
2	Canada	9	Bermuda	5
3	Brazil	17	Brazil	12
3	Argentina	5	Argentina	16
4	(due in October)	15	(due in October)	9
4	(due in October)	20	(due in October)	7
5	Guadeloupe	10	Colombia	8
6	China	6	China	19
6	Chinese Taipei	2	Hong Kong	3
6	Indonesia	11	Indonesia	14
7	Australia	7	Australia	1
7	New Zealand	19	New Zealand	20

Dutch win 6th European University Teams

Weimar, Germany 9-14th August

reported by Anneliese Schmidt-Bott

Results of Round Robin:

1. Netherlands	203
2. Germany 1	196
3. France	188
4. Rumania	183
5. Poland	178
6. Sweden	174
7. Norway	159
8. Denmark	157
9. GB	154
10. Belgium	128
11. Italy	125
12. Germany 2	109

The winners were Franck Burghout, Bas Drijver, Nik Brink, Simon de Wijs n.p.c. Schelte Wijma.

Poland and Rumania were competing for the first time. France led for most of the championship but lost two matches at the end, one to Germany who took the lead, but then Germany also lost leaving the Dutch to take the title in the final round.

A necklace of ginkgo leaves (the tree introduced to Weimar by Goethe is a symbol of the city) was presented to Rachel Wade of Great Britain as the leading lady in the Butler.

The next University Championships will be 26th August - 3rd September 2000 at the World Bridge Olympiad in Maastricht. It will be the first World University Championships. Contact your NCBO for details.

Who killed the Baba? by Erdal Sidar and Murat Erkel(Turkey)

This is a true story, true characters, true hands. It happened in a small bridge club of ours in the big city of Istanbul. We meet in this club late afternoons and play rubber bridge to rescue ourselves from the day's stress, traffic jams, etc.

None of us are bridge experts. We do make mistakes that are well recognised by other players at the table who also make the same mistakes. Though the story may sound dramatic, we believe fights at the bridge table (especially at rubber bridge) are within the nature of this game, unless people hurt or bear grudge to each other. Game is over, fight is over. Next day we shall play new hands, but with the same people.

Almost all the characters of our rubber bridge players are very colourful as if we have picked up from different parts of the world and gathered in our club. Let me introduce you some of these outstanding characters:

“Operator” Aydan: he is a doctor and makes all kind of surgeries. However, his main operations are at the bridge table and are dreadful to his partners, recovering to the opponents. A narrative says is the real murder of BABA.

Baba (Papa): Died two years ago but still remembered after each disaster around our rubber bridge tables. Before his death he was the eldest member and we were all expecting something bad would happen to him when we saw him shouting all the time. His face became red as blood and every day he went back home, we doubted he would come back next day afternoon. However, he did so, for more than three years and without losing the tempo. Baba played very simple bridge and the only convention he used was the Sputnik double. We could not even convince him to use Stayman and Jacoby transfers. He had a standard comment on almost all hands played: “Let the dogs piss on the bridge you play”.

“Excuse” Osman: Another candidate for responsibility for Baba's passing away. Works on textiles and finds all kinds of excuses after every mistake he makes. So many mistakes and so many reasons impossible to list here. Once Baba told us that Excuse Osman is preparing and memorising his apologies in advance before coming to the club. Otherwise to be that much “creative” at the rubber table.

“Repairer” Deniz: Besides rubber, he plays only afternoon duplicates where women are in majority. He is the very undisciplined bridge player of our club, a sort of guy what knows the right thing to do but always does the wrong one. Maybe the most criticised character and he accepts all the criticism cheerfully, including the standard one, “Dogs piss on ...”.

“Comment” Recep: Mainly kibitzing and not playing. After a hand is played he comments how defenders would have done better or declarer could have made the contract irritating all the players such as indicating a lead from a suit holding AQxx was

necessary while partner has overcalled in another suit or telling the finesse must be taken other way holding KJ9 in dummy and Axx in hand. Still these irritating comments are wrong most of the time even though they are made after the play and seeing all four hands. His comments only help, changing the direction of anger to another destination (himself) so that the guilty player can take a breath.

The day before:

As if Azrael, the angel of death, split his power equally between “Operator” Aydan and “Excuse” Osman, the cards became spears, Baba was the victim:

```

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Repairer</i>	<i>Excuse</i>	<i>Baba</i>	<i>Operator</i>
<i>Deniz</i>	<i>Osman</i>		<i>Aydan</i>
-	-	-	1 ♠
2 ♠ ¹	Pass	3 ♥	3 ♣
4 ♥	5 ♣	5 ♥	5 ♠
Dble	6 ♣	Dble ²	Pass
Pass ³	Pass		

- ¹ ♥ and a minor (forgets playing with Baba. No conventions...)
- ² Don't move!
- ³ Respect to Baba. Besides, partner doubled and he has three aces!

Repairer, on lead, pulled one ace and the other ... picket up the wrong one and led it - the ace of hearts. Playing in a slam contract and missing all four aces, declarer, Operator Aydan, conceded only the ace of trumps. Baba took his club ace and noted three more aces in his partner's hand, none of them took a trick.

This was the first strike. Baba was shaken.

Second one came soon after, changing partners and Baba taking Operator Aydan against the Repairer and Mr. Excuse. They were playing Chicago - 4 deals and then change partners - and the first three boards the Repairer went down in a cold slam, lifted Osman's penalty double to five of a minor and lost 800 instead of gaining 500 and he took another action on the third boards at five level with

a passed hand. The pressure on Osman was too much. Everybody expected mistakes from him but the Repairer got all of them leaving none to Mr. Excuse. Final board, enough is enough, he said. All vulnerable, he was first to bid before Baba and opened 6♥ without looking at his cards.

♠ Q x x ♥ A x x ♦ 10 x x ♣ K x x x	♠ K x ♥ J 10 x ♦ K x x ♣ A x x x x	♠ J 10 x x x ♥ x x ♦ x x x ♣ Q J 10	♠ A x x ♥ K Q x x x ♦ A Q J x ♣ x
---	---	--	--

West	North	East	South
<i>Baba</i>	<i>Excuse</i>	<i>Operator</i>	<i>Repairer</i>
	<i>Osman</i>	<i>Aydan</i>	<i>Deniz</i>
-	6♥	Pass	Pass
Dbf	Pass	Pass	Rdbl
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Excuse Osman still plays in our club and to this day nobody, including himself, knows what made him open 6♥ in the first seat and without looking at his hand. Maybe he was sick of being sold out and wanted his partner, Repairer, to lose. We never heard him making rude and wild bids before. We all admit that insane bid is just contrary to his character. Excuse Osman committed only the errors that he found reasonable excuse. Not this one.

Maybe for the first time in his life, Baba did not speak. He threw a glance at Excuse Osman's face. Stood up, paid and left. Next day he did not come. Only the bad news came. We all went to his funeral.

Members still believe he is somewhere in the club, watching

Thrice fooled

by Kees Tammens (Netherlands)

Dealer: North Vul: NS IMP scoring	♠ A K 8 6 ♥ 10 7 5 2 ♦ K 7 4 ♣ K J
♠ J 5 ♥ Q 8 4 3 ♦ A Q 3 ♣ 10 7 5 2	♠ Q 7 ♥ A 9 6 ♦ J 9 5 2 ♣ 8 6 4 3

The deal was played at the 'Hoenselaar Bridge Home', Amsterdam.

Closed room result: South +620 in 4♠ (declarer took the wrong view in hearts).

Open room:

West	North	East	South
<i>Tammens</i>			
	1♣	pass	1♠
pass	2♠	pass	pass
pass			

West, Kees Tammens, led ♦Q. Declarer, not unreasonably, played low, and Tammens smartly followed up with his small diamond. Declarer played low again and East won the jack. Now East returned a heart and declarer misguessed for a third time, putting in the jack. Tammens won the ♥Q, cashed ♦A and put East in with ♥A. East played the lat diamond and Tammens ruffed with ♠J, promoting a trump trick for East.

So 2♠ went one off!

Kees Tammens(1950) lives with Anneke Simons, a member of the Dutch Woman's Team, and their son Bas (16), already a good bridge player in his own right.

Bridge correspondent of the Volkskrant, BRIDGE and IMP. Freelance designer of bridge problems. Trainer of the Dutch Juniors. Co-organizer of the International Youth Bridge Festival at Den Bosch. Fond of rubber bridge.

IBPA COLUMN SERVICE

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117. On this deal from the 1998 Spingold, Paul Soloway demonstrated nice technique to avoid putting himself to the guess.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Wittes</i>	<i>Hamman</i>	<i>Grabel</i>	<i>Soloway</i>
2♠	Pass	3♠	3NT
Pass	4♠	Pass	5♣
All Pass			

All the four tables in play had similar starts to the auction; two of the tables played 3NT on a spade lead, which is by no means trivial. However the contract makes when declarer plays one round of diamonds before giving up a club, attacking the entry of the danger hand first. One table played a hopeless 6♣, and at the fourth table the auction shown above took place.

Bob Hamman used Minor-Suit Stayman over his partner's 3NT call, and left Soloway in 5♣, a contract that is by no means secure. On a spade lead, would you not carefully draw trumps and then play off the hearts first - to get a count of the side-suits - then play West for three diamonds, and thus the ♦J?

However, Soloway actually got a trump lead. Viewing this not to be away from the ♣K, he rose with the ace of trumps and stripped out the spades, then played three rounds of hearts, ruffing in dummy. After that, he exited with a second trump, and East won his ♣K but had to open up diamonds or concede a ruff and discard. Either way, declarer held his diamond losers to one.

118.

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

West	North	East	South
	1♣	Pass	1♠
Pass	1NT	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

Once North (playing a strong no-trump) rebids 1NT to show 12-14, South is only interested in playing the right game. At his second turn South can bid a forcing 3♣; alternatively, 2♦ as New Minor forcing is another option if you play those methods. North's preference bid of 3♠ shows exactly three spades, allowing South to play the major-suit game.

The defence led and continue diamonds, and South ruffs the second diamond, carefully crosses to dummy with a heart, and takes a spade finesse. When a third diamond is led, he must ensure he retains control by discarding a heart, rather than ruffing and reducing his trumps to fewer than West's. Discarding the heart allows South to keep control of the trumps and take the rest of the tricks thereafter. (Note that if South crosses to dummy with a club at trick three and takes the trump finesse, West wins and leads a third diamond, and East overtakes. If declarer discards a heart on this trick, East gives his partner a club ruff to beat the hand).

119.

Dlr: East
 Vul: E/W

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Baze</i>	<i>Courtney</i>	<i>Katz</i>	<i>Gill</i>
Pass	Pass	1NT	Pass
Pass	2♣ ¹	Pass	Pass
Dble	2♦	Dble	2♥
Dble	All Pass		

¹ majors

It is very important not to let the opponents off the hook when they step out of line. As the following hand shows, do not be afraid to make a penalty double when you have the majority of the high-cards, particularly when your opponents do not appear to have found a fit. On this hand from the TGR Auction Pairs, a very common auction was for North to reopen with 2♣ to show the majors, and to play there when West decided he had his opponents where he wanted them. This resulted in a small penalty for E/W.

Katz and Baze were not so charitable to their opponents. Once Baze had doubled 2♣ on the auction shown above, North-South were in serious trouble; they ran to their seven-card major fit, and the defence found the incisive trump lead. Katz won, cashed the ♠K, a thoughtful play, then returned the ♥K. The defence cleared trumps, cashed out the spades, and on the last spade Baze as West carefully discarded a low club. After much thought, Katz found the excellent switch to a diamond, collecting the extra undertrick for three down and +500.

120.

Dlr: East
 Vul: N/S

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

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

South has a classical 2NT opening bid, over which North has no real slam interest. Playing transfers (they are even more valuable over 2NT than over 1NT to get the strong hand declarer) allows South to reach 4♥ the right way up. As you can see, if you reach 4♥ by North, a diamond lead and continuation will beat you out of hand.

But assuming that South reaches 4♥ on a black suit lead, what should he do? Well he has a home for one of the diamond losers, but there is no need to hurry with the discard. All that is necessary is to exercise a little care. The first play in the trump suit should be the ♥A not the ♥K. After all, South is intending to play for the drop in hearts, but just in case the trumps are 4-0 some caution may be necessary – as indeed is the case here. Now a second trump forces East to play the ♥10. South wins, and takes the spade winners to pitch one of dummy's diamonds, then leads a third trump. At this point declarer cannot be prevented from drawing the trumps eventually and holding his losers to three tricks in the red suits.

This particular safety play is not a gambit that costs declarer a trick as an insurance play (although that is what many safety plays consist of); it is merely taking care to protect yourself against a stroke of ill-fortune. This time it gains a trick; the effort was well worth it, I would say.

England Camrose Pre-Trial

by Marc Smith (GB)

Herewith a few of the interesting hands from this year's Camrose Pre-Trial at which, I am please to report, Peter Czerniewski and myself actually managed to play fairly decent bridge for a whole weekend, finishing 2nd behind Senior/Ray with 8 to qualify for the 14-pair Final Trials later in the month.

I hope you will find some of the hands interesting. If you are so inclined, authors and journalist can feel free to use any of the material contained herein without acknowledgement.

For a change, the eight pairs who qualified are mostly those that might have been expected to do so: Senior/Ray, Czerniewski/Smith, Burn/Callaghan, Green/Link, Dhondy/Pagan, Sandquist/Cliffe, Franklin/Pryor, Selway/Eaton.

First, one of the two rulings from the weekend, both of which, curiously, featured a bum claim by the same player!

These were the NS hands:

```

♠ x
♥ K Q 10 x x
♦ A 10 x x
♣ A x x

♠ K Q J
♥ void
♦ K J 9 x x x
♣ K Q J x
    
```

Curiously, not everyone managed to reach the fairly easy 6♦. This was our auction which seemed fairly normal:

West	North	East	South
	<i>Czerniewski</i>		<i>Me</i>
			1♦
Pass	1♥	1♠	2♣
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♦
Pass	4♦	Pass	4♠
Pass	6♦	Pass	Pass

+920. At another table, NS bid to 7♦ after East had overcalled in spades. East made a Lightner double for a heart lead, and South redoubled. West duly led a club. Declarer drew trumps in two rounds and claimed, saying that he could throw dummy's spade on his fourth club.

The defence agreed, and only while playing the next deal did they realise that declarer had only 12 tricks without taking the ruffing ♥ finesse.

The ruling from both the Directors and the appeal committee, was that had the defenders objected immediately, the contract would have been one down, but that as they had accepted the claim, declarer should be allowed to adopt the reasonable line of taking the ruffing finesse which was marked on the bidding. Any comments?

With IMP scoring and 10 comparisons the swing on the ruling was approximately 300 IMPs. I am glad to report that the claimant did not qualify despite this ruling in his favour, but that the defenders (not us) did.

This was a curious hand from the very last round. West missed a very tough play to give me a chance to go down:

```

♠ x x x
♥ Q 8 x x x
♦ Q x x
♣ Q x

♠ K x
♥ K x
♦ x x x x
♣ x x x x x

♠ J x x x x
♥ J 10 x
♦ A K x
♣ x x

♠ A Q 10
♥ A x x
♦ J x x
♣ A K J 10
    
```

West	North	East	South
	<i>Czerniewski</i>		<i>Me</i>
			1♣
Pass	1♥	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

West led a diamond to the king and East returned a spade. I took the ace and played ace and another heart. West took the ♠K and played a diamond to the ace. Claim 9 tricks. The only chance is for West to unblock the ♥K under the ace. When East then gets in with his ♥J, he plays a second spade. If declarer guesses wrong, then West captures the ♠Q with the king and crosses to the ♦A for East to cash three more spade tricks.

We gained about 70 IMPs on the board, but mainly because pairs either missed game or tried 4♥.

This next hand had some interesting declarer play scope:

```

♠ Q x x
♥ Q x x x
♦ K x
♣ K 10 6 x

♠ A 10 9 x x
♥ K x
♦ A J x
♣ Q 9 x
    
```

First, how do you play 3NT on a diamond lead after the auction 1NT-3NT? If you play a club to the king, East wins and returns a diamond - diamonds are obviously 5-3.

Next, how do you play 4♠ (with no opposition bidding) on the ♣8 lead?

This was the full hand:

```

♠ Q x x
    
```

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

Playing in 3NT, the winning line is either to lead the ♠Q, or to play ace and another. Nick Sandquist tried a spade to the ten, and then could not make the contract. Steve Green was in 4♠ on the ♣8 lead. You would like to score three club tricks, and to do so I think you have to cover with the 10 at trick one. Whatever East does, you can then play ace and another spade. Green allowed the ♣8 to run to the 9, and that left East with the club tenace and the contract had to fail. [IPBA Ed.: *Not if declarer ruffs his diamond before playing trumps.*]

John Froztega played this hand nicely:

♠ A 9
 ♥ Q 8 x x
 ♦ x x x
 ♣ A J x x
 ♠ K 10 x x x
 ♥ void
 ♦ A Q J x x x
 ♣ x x
 ♠ x x x
 ♥ K 10 9 7
 ♦ x
 ♣ Q 10 x x x
 ♠ Q J x
 ♥ A J 6 x x
 ♦ K x x
 ♣ K x

West	North	East	South
Czerniewski	Me	Froztega	
			1♥
2♦	2NT*	Pass	4♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Peter Czerniewski led a low spade and dummy's nine held. A heart to the jack exposed the 4-0 break. Then came, ♣K, ♣A, club ruff, ♠A, club ruff, spade ruff, diamond exit to K and A. I had to ruff at trick 11 and lead away from ♥K for 10 tricks. Fortunately this was only a small minus, as some E/W pairs lost 800 in 4♠X. Peter judged well to defend (sort of)!

I had an interesting problem here at game all:

♠ J 9 x x
 ♥ K 9 x x x
 ♦ x x x
 ♣ x

West	North	East	South
	Me		Czerniewski
		1NT*	Dble
Rdbl**	2♥***	Pass	2♠
Pass	?		
*	12-14		
**	Start of a rescue		
***	Very weak - pass would show values and set up a forcing pass, so 2H is the weakest bid you have and may have a zero count.		

Do you pass, bid 3♠ or bid 4♠?

♠ J 9 x x
 ♥ K 9 x x x
 ♦ x x x
 ♣ x
 ♠ x
 ♥ A x x x x
 ♦ A x x
 ♣ x x x x
 ♠ x x
 ♥ Q 10
 ♦ J 10 x x
 ♣ A K J x
 ♠ A K Q 10 x x
 ♥ J
 ♦ K Q
 ♣ Q 10 x x

I elected to be conservative and raise to just 3♠. Peter continued to game and West doubled! I had enough for a redouble now, and that was +1080.

A strange number of pairs had trouble with this hand:

♠ Q x x
 ♥ K x x x
 ♦ Q
 ♣ K 10 9 x x
 ♠ A x
 ♥ void
 ♦ A K x x x x x
 ♠ A J x x

At the table where a player who has represented Great Britain in the Venice Cup held the South cards, the auctions was 1♦-1♥-3♦-3NT-Pass! We bid:

Cz	Me
	1♦
1♥	2♣
3♣	3♦
3NT	4♠
5♣*	6♣

* More encouraging than 4NT

which seemed fairly reasonable.

The ♠K was offside and they led one. Trumps were 3-1 with no singleton Q, but diamonds were 3-2, so justice was done.

Peter judged this hand well.

♠ K J x x x ♠ x x
 ♥ J x x x ♥ A Q x
 ♦ A ♦ K x x x
 ♣ J 10 x ♣ A Q 9 8

Cz	Me
	1NT ¹
2♥ ²	2♠ ³
3♦ ⁴	3♠ ⁵
4♠	Pass

¹ 15-17
² Transfer
³ Not 4♠
⁴ Transfer to ♥ - at least invitational
⁵ Any minimum without 4♥

3NT has virtually no play - club finesse fails but heart finesse works. 4♠ needs one of the finesses and spades 3-3 with an honour on-side, although you may be able to survive AQxx on-side too. Another game swing to the good guys.

We also reached the making game on this hand:

	♠ K x x	
	♥ A K Q x x	
	♦ K x x	
	♣ J x	
♠ A x x		♠ Q 10
♥ x x x		♥ x x x
♦ x x x x		♦ A J x
♣ Q x x		♣ K 10 x x x
	♠ J 9 8 x x	
	♥ J x	
	♦ Q 10 x	
	♣ A x x	

West	North	East	South
	<i>Me</i>		<i>Czerniewski</i>
	1NT ¹	Pass	2♣ ²
Pass	2♥ ³	Pass	2♠ ⁴
Pass	3♦ ⁵	Pass	4♠

¹ 15-17
² 5-card Stayman
³ 5♥
⁴ 5-2-3-3 invitational
⁵ Maximum with 3-5-3-2 and weak clubs - choice of games.

West actually led a diamond to the jack and queen. Peter played a spade to the king and a second spade. He then won the club return and played four rounds of hearts, throwing clubs while West ruffed, and conceded the ♦A.

Curiously, even a club lead does not beat the hand. Declarer wins and plays four rounds of hearts, throwing clubs. Whoever ruffs the fourth club, declarer can play trumps for one loser. Needless to say, this was over 100 IMPs in as no one else bid and made game.

This was an interesting problem:

Love All

♠ Q x
 ♥ K x
 ♦ K J 10 x x x
 ♣ Q x x

West	North	East	South
	<i>Me</i>		<i>Czerniewski</i>
			1♣
Pass	1♦	1♥	1♠
3♥	?		

I chose to bid 4♣, although I am far from convinced it's right.

This was the full hand:

	♠ Q x	
	♥ K x	
	♦ K J 10 x x x	
	♣ Q x x	
♠ 10 x x x x x		♠ x
♥ 10 x x x		♥ A J 9 x x x
♦ x x		♦ A Q x
♣ K		♣ J x x
	♠ A K J x	
	♥ Q	
	♦ x x	
	♣ A 10 9 x x x	

Over 4♣, East bid 4♥ and Czerniewski bid 5♣, which everyone passed. No one doubled. The defence started with a heart to the ace, spade to the Q, ♥K for a diamond discard, and then ♣Q run to the king and a spade ruff for two down. A good result, though, with 4♥ universally making, although ♥Q lead and North going in with ♠Q when one is led from dummy so he can play a second trump, beats it.

We did get some hands wrong too, of course. Peter forgot the system on this hand, but it might have turned out well....

Dlr: North	♠ A x x
Vul: Game All	♥ J x x x
	♦ Q x
	♣ K Q J x
♠ x x x	♠ K Q J x x x x
♥ A Q	♥ K x x
♦ x x x x	♦ x
♣ x x x x	♣ x x
	♠ void
	♥ 10 x x x
	♦ A K J 10 9 x
	♣ A x x

West	North	East	South
	<i>Czerniewski</i>		<i>Me</i>
	1♥ ¹	3♠	4♦ ²
Pass	4NT ³	Pass	5NT ⁴
Pass	6♣ ⁵	Pass	6♦ ⁶

Pass Pass Pass

- 1 May be a weak NT, as here.
- 2 System says this is fit-showing.
- 3 Intended as discouraging 5♦ bid, assuming 4♦ was natural, RKCB, assuming that hearts are agreed though
- 4 Either a void-showing response to Blackwood or pick a slam
- 5 A suggestion if partner wants you to pick a slam
- 6 I thought the choice was diamonds or hearts and 6C wanted me to choose

This is obviously one down on any lead.
Senior/Ray DID manage to play in 6♣ for +1370!

I let through a game stupidly, but the position is interesting:

```

      ♠ Q x x x
      ♥ Q J 10
      ♦ x x
      ♣ J 10 x x
♠ A K J      ♠ 10 9 8 x
♥ x x        ♥ x x
♦ J 10 x x   ♦ K Q x x x
♣ K x x x   ♣ x x
      ♠ x x
      ♥ A K x x x x
      ♦ A x
      ♣ A Q x
  
```

West	North	East	South
<i>Czerniewski</i>	<i>Me</i>	<i>Me</i>	<i>Me</i>
		2♦*	3♥
4♦	4♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			

* Weak 2 in diamonds

Peter led the ♠K - asking for count. Like a muppet, I played the nine and, needless to say, he played ace and a third spade. Declarer's diamond loser duly went on the ♠Q. I can see what's going to happen, and clearly I should show three spades, leaving Czerniewski with no real option but to play a diamond at trick two.

This hand against Senior/Ray was interesting:

```

      ♠ x x
      ♥ A 10 x x
      ♦ x x x x x
      ♣ 9 x
♠ 9 x      ♠ A J x x
♥ Q x x x  ♥ J x x
♦ Q 10 x   ♦ x x
♣ Q x x x  ♣ J 10 8 7
      ♠ K Q 10 8 x
      ♥ K x
      ♦ A K J
      ♣ A K x
  
```

West	North	East	South
<i>Me</i>	<i>Me</i>	<i>Czerniewski</i>	<i>Me</i>

			2NT
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♠*
Pass	3NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

* 5 spades.

I chose to lead my THIRD-best club, playing fourth-best leads. Czerniewski played the seven and declarer won. He cashed a high diamond and then played ♠K. Czerniewski won and returned the ♣J, which held as I played my lowest club, and the 10 which declarer had to win.

Now declarer has to decide which pointed suit to attack. He cashed ♦K, and when the queen did not drop he crossed to ♥A and took a finesse to the ♠10. He cashed ♠Q and played a spade to set up his fourth spade. This is 100% provided West has ♣Qx left.

When Czerniewski produced the ♣8, I was able to cash my two minor-suit queens for one down.

Perhaps declarer should have spotted that from J107 Czerniewski would not have played the 7 at trick one...?

This is not an easy hand to bid to 6♦:

Dlr: North	♠ J x x x
Vul: Game All	♥ 10
	♦ x x
	♣ A K Q 9 8 x
♠ A 9 x	♠ K 10 x
♥ A Q x x x	♥ K J x x
♦ A K Q x	♦ 9 x x x
♣ J	♣ 10 x
	♠ Q x x
	♥ x x x
	♦ J 10 x
	♣ x x x x

Clearly, 6♦ needs just trumps 3-2. At most tables the bidding began 1♣-P-P to West. After a double and a minimum heart response, most Wests just bid game, or splintered in clubs en route to 4♥. Perhaps 6♦ is impossible to bid. It certainly was at our table, where the auction began 1♣-Pass-1♦ to West. They stopped in 5♥.

The most insane deal of the weekend was the following. The opponents, believe it or not, did qualify, although they shall remain nameless (as Rob Eaton has already bought me a drink not to say that he was North). Declarer could have saved a trick in the play, but it would not have saved him many of the 150 IMPs he lost on the deal. Curiously, until the final bid, North had engineered a 100-IMP swing in the plus column.

Love All	♠ x x
	♥ A 10 x
	♦ Q 10 x x x x x
	♣ Q

♠ K x x	♠ Q J 9 8 x x
♥ 9 8 x x	♥ J
♦ x	♦ A K
♣ K J x x x	♣ A 9 x x
	♠ A 10
	♥ K Q x x x
	♦ J x x
	♣ 10 x x

West	North	East	South
<i>Me</i>		<i>Czerniewski</i>	2♥ ¹
Pass	4♣ ²	4♠	Dbl ³
Pass	5♦	Dbl	Pass
5♠	Pass	Pass	6♥!!!
Dbl	Pass	Pass	Pass

- ¹ Weak Two
² Splinter agreeing hearts
³ Good defence is context

Once North bids 5♦, the best we can do is to collect 300 for about a 40-IMP loss against the series of +420/450 in spades. My decision to bid 5♠ seemed reasonable but, having directed the club lead with his splinter, North has done very well. Perhaps he should double - only if his partner might do something completely stupid.... He did. The defence started with a diamond to the king and a spade switch. Declarer won and led a heart to the ten and jack. Now we played a spade, and then king and a second club, forcing dummy. Declarer then cashed the ♥A. A second diamond was taken by the ace, on which I threw a spade. ♠Q was ruffed and overruffed, and a club to the ace allowed a fourth round of spades, on which declarer pitched his diamond for the seventh undertrick! EW +1700 was a decent board!

Calendar	Event	Venue	IBPA Contact
1999			
OCT 29/31	Tenerife International, Puerto de la Cruz		34 922 380 550
NOV 2/ 8	Turkish Festival, Sheraton, Antalya		90 216 338 9519
6/ 7	Lederer Memorial Trophy, London		EBU Duckworth
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, London		EBU 44 1296 394 414
2000			
JAN 8/22	Bermuda Bowl & Venice Cup, Orbis WBC, Bermuda		WBF 33 1 53 230 315
FEB 18/21	Icelandair Open, Hotel Loftleidir, Reykjavik		
25/27	Forbo International, Scheveningen		Ducheyne
MAR 9/19	ACBL Spring Nationals, Cincinnati		1 901 332 5586; www.acbl.org
18/24	European Mixed Pairs & Teams, Rimini		Panos G panos@bridge.gr
23/26	14 th Cap Gemini World Invitation, The Hague		v. Dalen 31 30 252 6970
APR 20/23	Niklas Data Invitation, Stockholm		Daniel Auby
JUN 2/3	WBF Worldwide Simultaneous by Internet		cfrancin@worldbridgefed.com
JUL 1/8	New Zealand Nationals		Solomon +64 9 323 8494
	European Youth Championships		Panos G panos@bridge.gr
AUG 10/20	ACBL Summer Nationals, Anaheim		1 901 332 5586; www.acbl.org
11/20	England Summer Meeting, Brighton		EBU 44 1296 394 414
21/29	Mind Sports Olympiad, London		msoworld.com
26/9 Sep	World Bridge Olympiad, Maastricht		cfrancin@worldbridgefed.com
NOV 16-26	ACBL Fall Nationals, Birmingham, Al.		1 901 332 5586; www.acbl.org
DEC 27/30	England Year-End Congress, London		EBU 44 1296 394 414

* *Henry Francis reports on a Celebrity Auction Game on OKBridge on 1st to 3rd October to raise money for victims of the earthquake in Turkey:*

Several world champions including Bob Hamman, Benito Garozzo, Paul Soloway, Mike Lawrence and Karen McCallum, have offered themselves for auction for at least one of the three one-session Turkish Quake Relief Tournaments on OKbridge.

The money will be raised through the auction, tournament entry fees and donations. Minimum bid for celebrity partner \$50; entry fee \$20 per 24 board session per player. Zia, perhaps the most colorful player in the world, will draw some big bids. Other stars include Mark Lair & Kit Woolsey of the USA and Ron Klinger and Paul Marston of Australia.

Access: www.acbl.org or www.okbridge.com.
The actual site address is:
<http://home.earthlink.net/~aardvarkweb/turkiye/auction.html>

* *Marty Bergen* has published a sequel to *Points Schmoints*, including an account of the Rosenkrantz kidnap at the 1984 ACBL Summer Nationals and how the Rosenkrantz team (Bergen, Cohen, Meckstroth, Rodwell) went on to win the Spingold.

* *Microsoft's MSN Gaming Zone* has launched the *Microsoft Bridge Club* (<http://www..zone.com/>) MSN offers two months of free (call charges may apply) Internet access and a selection from Audrey Grant's "Better Bridge" book series to the first 1,000 people who sign up for a one-year membership. The MBC has events sanctioned by the ACBL and teaching mode with Fred Gitelman and Audrey Grant.

Members of the MSN Gaming Zone pay an annual subscription rate of \$99.95, or three-month \$29.95, plus any connect-time call charges.

* *Herman de Wael reports:* on the 31st October, the birthday of bridge (*IBPA Editor: I think it is 1st November, my birthday*) the third SS Finland Simultaneous tournament commemorates when Harold Vanderbilt "invented" Contract Bridge on board the ss Finland moored at the Panama Canal.

I organise the event via Internet. I send the hands to regional organisers who see to their duplication, and the results are transmitted back to Antwerp where they are scored as one field world-wide.

In 1997, 263 pairs in 13 cities (6 countries in 3 continents) participated. In 1998, 680 pairs in 29 centres, 10 countries, ranging from Alaska to New Zealand and Reunion to Novosibirsk. All clubs with internet access can participate. Just surf to www.gallery.uunet.be/hermandw/bridge/ffriday.html

A smaller version of the event is held once every 3 months, whenever a fifth Friday occurs in a month.

Jan Wohlin of Sweden, who died in July aged 75, was, for more than quarter of a century, the supplier of the "Four Hand" column service to IBPA. Your Editor's earliest IBPA Bulletin, September 1968, contains Wohlin Hands, and the supply lasted until March 1994. In this capacity his deals were used in newspapers throughout the world under the byline of other authors. As such he has a claim to be the bridge journalist whose copy reached more readers than any other. Yet his name was not well known to the general bridge public.

He was a co-inventor of the EFOS system and the books *Winning Pairs Technique* and *Play Safe - and Win*.

Hans-Olof Hallen writes: In Sweden he was considered the best bridge-player of all time. He played in the 1950 Bermuda Bowl, won the European Team Championship in Dublin in 1952, won the unofficial world championship in Monte Carlo in 1954, won the Swedish National teams ten times, and the Pairs championship eight times. In Sweden we called him "Uncle" and "The Fat Boy". He is sadly missed.

END