

IBPA Bulletin 419, December 1999

complete

The Editor and Managing Editor send seasonal greetings to all members.

As usual you have an important task to do for IBPA. Inside you should find a copy of the Annual Renewal Form. On it is a label with all the personal data we have about you on the IBPA Membership File. This information will be published in the forthcoming IBPA Handbook which is due out early in the New Year.

Please check the label on the Form with great care. To help you do this instructions are given inside about checking the label. In particular check or add your e-mail address. If you not indicate that this is not to be published, it will be published on the IBPA web-site.

When you have made all necessary amendments to the Form please send it to our Membership Secretary together with your Annual subscription as described on the form. The General Meeting in Malta decided that the subscription for the year 2000 should be the same as for 1999, namely £36 (pounds sterling) or its equivalent in other currencies. The postponed Annual General Meeting to be held in Bermuda next month has the power to change the subscription but it has been agreed that any member who has paid his subscription before the AGM shall not be liable for any increase.

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Congratulations are due to the team led by Rita Shugart who retained the Reisinger (see report inside) by a wide margin. Congratulations also to the USA team which won the first OKbridge World event conducted on the Internet (report inside).

* * * * *

An international player has been banned from tournament bridge by his Federation for ten years for substituting his own pack of cards for those provided by the organiser. Inside you will find the text of an announcement by the Welsh Bridge Union, the first of its kind in the fifty-year history of the Union.

The IBPA Editor, who was one of five witnesses who reported that they had seen the exchange of packs of cards on more than one occasion, wishes to emphasise that no other person was involved in the allegations. In particular the team-mates of the accused player at the event were not involved. The partner of the accused player, who was to be non-playing captain of Wales at the Home International against England on 4/5th December, died suddenly two weeks before the match (obituary inside).

Patrick Jourdain - Editor

Shugart Retains Reisinger; Meyers & Mohan win Blue Ribbon

The North American Fall Championships, Boston, 18-28th Nov from Daily Bulletins edited by Henry Francis

The Reisinger

4. Eric Rodwell.

The team of Rita Shugart, Andrew Robson, Geir Helgemo and Tony Forrester retained the board-a-match title, by the wide margin of 8 boards ahead of the team which, adding Attanasio Failla, will represent Italy in the Bermuda Bowl next month.

Shugart also won the other board-a-match event held at Boston.

The Reisinger is held over three days with an entry of 64 teams, a semi-final of 26, and a final of 10.

1. R. **Shugart** (USA, GB and Norway) 40.05
2. Maria Teresa **Lavazza** (npc) Norberto Bocchi, Giorgio Duboin, Dano de Falco, Guido Ferraro (Ita) 31.90
3. Gerald **Sosler**, Kay Schulle, Andrea Buratti, Massimo Lanzarotti (USA, Italy) 30.08
4. Nick **Nickell**, Richard Freeman, Bob Hamman, Paul Soloway, Jeff Meckstroth, Eric Rodwell (USA) 30.00
5. James **Cayne**, Chuck Burger, Mike Passell, Michael Seamon (USA) 27.97
6. Sam **Lev**, Michael Polowan, John Mohan, Barnet Shenkin, Piotr Gawrys, Jacek Psczola (USA/Pol) 26.46

Blue Ribbon

Jill Meyers & John Mohan were both winning for the first time. Meyers was a member of the USA Ladies team which won the Venice Cup in 1993 and 1997. In Lille in 1998 she won the World Ladies Pairs championship with Shawn Quinn. Mohan won the bronze medal in the World Open Pairs of 1978.

They are only the second mixed pair to win the Blue Ribbon, the previous being Dorothy Truscott & B. Jay Becker in 1963.

Scores:

1. Jill Meyers & John Mohan (USA) 1239
2. John Sutherlin & Russ Ekeblad (USA) 1196
3. Sam Lev & Piotr Gawrys (USA & Poland) 1184
4. Zia Mahmood & Howard Weinstein (USA) 1179
5. Lew Stansby & Steve Weinstein (USA) 1174
6. Geir Helgemo & Richard Freeman (Nor/USA) 1164

Largest single session at Boston was 821 tables. The table count for 11 days and over 20 sessions was 12,749.

North American Player of the Decade

Jeff Meckstroth, aged 45

North American Player of the Year 1999

1. John Mohan; 2. Jeff Meckstroth; 3. Sam Lev;

* **The North American Swiss Teams** for 140 teams not in the Reisinger final, was won by Neil Silverman, Jeffrey Wolfson, David Berkowitz, & Larry Cohen.

One of us is definitely getting older
by David Berkowitz (USA)

I want to thank everyone who has wished me a happy birthday. I was considering my advanced age when I looked across the table and watched Larry Cohen, who recently turned 40, fidgeting with his glasses, having problems getting them focused. Perhaps that explains Board 10 from the second Blue Ribbon session against Lew Stansby and Steve Weinstein.

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

A Strong Club sequence landed us in 3NT from East, and Stansby led a diamond. Now the pin holding Larry's glasses together fell out and everybody was trying to put them back together.

Larry won the diamond, squinted a bit, crossed to his spade and floated the ♣10. He then led a club to the jack, cashed the ace and claimed five. He stated that he would unblock the diamonds, play a spade to his hand, cash the ♦Q and finish the spades. Five spades, three diamonds and three clubs make 11. As he worked on his spectacles, the opponents informed him that the spades were 5-0, Larry having missed the discard (a red card yet!). But look! On the fifth spade (his stated line) Weinstein had to win and give the declarer the ♥K. Making five, as advertised. Shades of the Rueful Rabbit!

I leave it to the reader to determine which one of us is handling his old age better.

When I die ...
by Barry Rigal (USA)

As Mary I of England said, "When I die, the word 'Calais' will be found on my heart". If Eddie Kantar is to have an inscription on his grave, it will be ♣K-10. (Kantar lost a world championship to the famed Italian Blue Team when the Italians reached a grand slam in clubs with Kantar on lead, holding the ♣K-10. Unfortunately, the dummy came down with the ♣A-Q.) Look at Board 5 from the second qualifying session of the Open Board-a-Match Teams.

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

Both tables in Kantar's match reached 4♠, and the North players weren't able to attack trumps. The ♦Q was led to the ace for a trump shift. Declarer ruffed a diamond and led the ♣Q. Kantar's teammates covered and North was subsequently squeezed in the minors for 480.

By contrast Michael Rosenberg, playing against Kantar, DUCKED THE ♣Q. Now the entries for the squeeze are destroyed, so that was yet another chapter to be added to the Kantar misfortunes involving the ♣K-10.

Mark Horton who with Phillip Alder, was in the Reisinger final in Helman's team reports:

This was at the start of the final:

Dealer: East
N/S Game

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

<p>♠ A 4 ♥ Q 6 5 ♦ A K 10 8 6 ♣ J 10 7</p>
--

West	North	East	South
<i>Horton</i>	<i>Robson</i>	<i>Alder</i>	<i>Shugart</i>
			1NT

Pass 3NT All Pass
Shugart's shaded opening bid (15-17 was the official range) saw Robson follow his theory and simply raise to game. In the other room North-South stopped in a part score, so the only issue was would 3NT be defeated?

West led a spade for the queen, ten and four. Now declarer played a heart for the queen and ace. The defenders had not discussed Smith Peters, so West had to follow his nose.

At IMPs it would have been easy to switch to a club, but since it was possible to construct many hands where declarer held the ♣AQ, West exited with a heart, and declarer claimed nine tricks and a winning board – the first of many!

At the start of the final, Rabbi Leonard Helman's team made a dramatic charge from tenth to second in the space of just ten boards.

Dealer: West
Game all

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Helman</i>	<i>Goldstein</i>	<i>Horton</i>	<i>Rothwarf</i>
1♠	Pass	2♦	Pass
3♦	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♥	Pass	7♦	All Pass

For an easy win when they missed it in the other room.

Zia's All Stars retain the Lederer Memorial Trophy

England's most prestigious Invitation team event has been won for the second year running by the team led by Zia Mahmood. The event is run by the London Association over two days at the Young Chelsea Bridge Club in London. A round robin is played with point-a-board scoring combined with some victory points scored on the aggregate within the match. The Mossop team led entering the last round where they met and lost to Zia's team.

1. **All Stars** (Zia Mahmood, Andrew Robson, Gunnar Hallberg, Colin Simpson) 272
2. **Ireland** (Hugh McGann, Tom Hanlon, Pat Walshe, Niall Toibin) 258
3. **Crockfords Winners** (David Mossop, Tony Forrester, Tom Townsend, Tim Rees) 257
4. **Norway** (Geir Helgemo, Per-Erik Austberg, Boye Brogeland, Espen Erichsen) 245
5. **London** (Joe Fawcett, Glyn Liggins, David Burn, Brian Callaghan) 218
6. **British Ladies European Champions** (Nicola Smith, Pat Davies, Heather Dhondy, Liz McGowan, Sandra Landy, Abbey Walker) 178
7. **Gold Cup Winners** (Howard Cohen, Robert Sheehan, Boris Schapiro, Irving Gordon, Nick Sandqvist, Rob Cliffe) 141
8. **President's Team** (Bernard Teltscher, Tony Priday, Willie Coyle, David Edwin, Victor Silverstone, Geoffrey Breksal) 111

Best Bid Hand

Tom Hanlon & Hugh McGann, Ireland

Dlr: East ♠ Q 10 5 4 2
 Vul: EW ♥ K J 10 9 5
 ♦ 7
 ♣ 8 5

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

♠ J 8 7 6 3
 ♥ Q
 ♦ K 8 6
 ♣ A 7 3 2

West	North	East	South
<i>McGann</i>	<i>Sandqvist</i>	<i>Hanlon</i>	<i>Cliffe</i>
-	-	Pass	Pass
1NT	2♣ ¹	2♦	4♠
Dble	Pass	5♣	Dble
5♦	All Pass		

¹ 2♣ showed both majors.

Hanlon did well to recognise that despite his slender values, his side had good chances for game, whereas at the prevailing vulnerability the penalty from 4♠ doubled would not be sufficient compensation. He bid on, showing his second suit,

and McGann was happy to correct to diamonds. In fact 12 tricks were made when the diamond finesse was successful.

Best Defence

Bernard Teltscher & Tony Priday, President's Team

Dlr: East ♠ J 4
 Vul: EW ♥ 3
 ♦ A J 8 4
 ♣ A Q J 10 4 3

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Teltscher</i>	<i>Sheehan</i>	<i>Priday</i>	<i>Cohen</i>
-	-	1♥	1♠
2♦	3♣	Pass	3♦
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

Bernard Teltscher led ♦K to the ace and Howard Cohen played the ♠J from table which ran to the queen. Now Teltscher played his singleton club to the queen on the table and a second round of trumps was played. On winning his ace, Tony Priday now has to decide whether to cash a winning diamond for his side or try for a club ruff. He enlisted partner's help by first cashing ♥A on which Teltscher played his six. This enabled Priday confidently to lead clubs for the ruff to defeat the contract.

Best Play

Andrew Robson, All Stars

No auction is given but the final contract was Three Notrumps by North:

Dlr: North	Robson	♠ A J 8 4
Vul: NS	♥ J 10 5	
	♦ J 4	
	♣ Q J 7 3	
Smith	Davies	
♠ K 6 2	♠ Q 10 7 5 3	
♥ A 7	♥ Q 9 6 4	
♦ 10 8 7 3 2	♦ 6	
♣ K 6 2	♣ 10 8 4	
	Zia	
	♠ 9	
	♥ K 8 3 2	
	♦ A K Q 9 5	
	♣ A 9 5	

Against Robson's 3NT, Pat Davies led her fourth highest spade. Nicola Smith played the king and Robson ducked. On the second spade he played the jack, throwing a club from dummy and putting East back on lead. She now tried a club, won by Smith's king. West then led a third round of spades. Robson won with his ace, throwing a heart, unblocked the ace of clubs and crossed back to hand with a diamond to his jack. Cashing two more rounds of clubs, declarer threw two more hearts from dummy, leaving only the king. West was forced to throw a heart as well.

Now a diamond to the ace exposed the bad break in the suit, but Robson was in control. He exited with ♥K to the now bare ace and Nicola Smith was endplayed, having to lead up to dummy's diamond tenace at the end.

Most Amusing Incident

Sandra Landy, Ladies European Champions

Steve Eginton, announcing the prizewinners, described this incident as not so much humorous as surreal.

“ There was some discussion at the table as to whether a card had been played or not. Sandra insisted that the card in question had not touched the table but, after some thought, she did concede that it had left her hand. The vision of a card hovering in flight above the table came to mind, no doubt awaiting Sandra's permission to alight.”

International Player Banned for Ten Years

This is the text of an announcement by the Welsh Bridge Union released into the public domain on 1st December, and to be published later this month in the Welsh Bridge Union Newsletter:

At an enquiry held on the 12th November 1999 the WBU Laws & Ethics Committee found:

1. That on four separate occasions during the 1999 Welsh Foursomes, Mr. A. Haworth substituted for the cards provided by the organisers a pack of cards prepared by himself and dealt from such prepared pack, contrary to Law 6 of the Laws of Duplicate Contract Bridge; and that on each occasion the resulting deal was played in the match.

2. That such conduct by Mr. Haworth amounted to unfair play, and as such constituted an offence under clause XVIII B (1) (a) of the Constitution of the Welsh Bridge Union.

3. That Mr. Haworth had admitted the offence, and in answer to questioning had indicated that nobody else had had knowledge of his actions.

It was decided that:

1. That Mr. Haworth be suspended from membership of the Union for a period of ten years from 23rd November 1999.

2. That the findings of fact and the decision of the Committee should be published in the Welsh Bridge Union *Newsletter*.

3. That the decision of the Committee be promulgated as follows:-
(a) to the four areas of the Welsh Bridge Union;
(b) to the British Bridge League for international promulgation;
(c) to the English Bridge Union, the Scottish Bridge Union, and the Northern Ireland Bridge Union, and to the Avon Contract Bridge Association.

Note - the effect of the suspension within Wales is that Mr. Haworth is precluded from playing in :-

- (a) Any WBU event;
- (b) Any WBU Area event;
- (c) any BBL event (or any event sponsored by its successor organisation);
- (d) any other event open only to WBU Members.

Keith Pratt 1948-1999

Keith Pratt, who has died suddenly aged 50, was due to be captain of the Wales bridge team against England just ten days later. Pratt had nine internationals for Wales including the last victory of Wales over England.

He died on the very day that his wife, Barbara, and daughter, Rebecca, featured in an hour-long BBC television exposé of the modelling agency business. Rebecca was a courageous whistle-blower in the programme and Barbara said later: "I am sorry that Keith did not see the documentary; he would have been really proud of his daughter."

Keith was born on Boxing Day, 1948 in Malden, Surrey, and lived in Berkshire for some time before moving to Lancashire where he met and married Barbara. They had two children, Rebecca and Ben. In 1979 he moved to Porthcawl. He was an accountant with Ford in Bridgend and was promoted to a senior management post earlier this year.

His early partner in Welsh bridge was Dilys Clare but he and Tony Haworth were first selected for Wales in February 1991 for the match against Scotland in Anglesey, a narrow loss. His nine matches included the Llandudno win over England in 1996, the first for 19 years.

Keith was a jovial fellow, with a laid-back easy-going approach to the game that is rare at international level. This made him a popular and genial team-mate. His generous personality and readiness with a joke will be sorely missed.

CHECKING YOUR RENEWAL FORM

Line 1 **Family name in bold** title given name

We like to know one given name for each member, so please supply it if you have not yet done so.

Line 2 and 3 Your address. Please check carefully and make any corrections either on the label or put a cross and record them on the other side of the form.

Line 4 For postal reasons UK is shown as Zone 0, and the rest of Europe as Zone 1.

Line 5, 6 Your telephone numbers. The first should give country code and but not the leading zero.

H = Home; O = Office; F = Fax

Line 7 Your e-mail address. Please check very carefully. **IBPA PLANS TO PUBLISH MEMBERS' E-MAIL ADDRESSES ON OUR WEBSITE. IF YOU DO NOT WISH THIS, PLEASE SAY SO ON YOUR FORM.**

Line 8 Membership grade/year of birth
If you have not given a reason to be a Full Member (newspaper, magazine etc.) you may have been classified as an Associate Member. Members who have earned Full membership in the past are not changed to Associate when they give up columns.

Line 9 Occupation

Line 10-13 Personal details for Handbook including newspaper details. Frequency is that of the newspaper, not of your column:
D = Daily; W = Weekly; M = monthly, BM = bi-monthly i.e. 6 times per year; Q = 4 times per year.

Please include world championship wins.

The Australian Nationals *by Ron Klinger (Australia)*

For the first time the 1999 Spring National Open Teams (no acronyms, thank you) has been won by New Zealand. Michael Cornell, Dwayne Crombie, Martin Reid and Peter Newell, one of two strong NZ teams in the event, won the final 184 -124 against David Beauchamp, Andrew Peake, Matthew Thomson, Mike Hughes (Sydney) and Ben Thompson (Melbourne). The NZ squad won the first 16-board segment by 36 IMPs and each of the other three sessions by smaller margins.

One of Australia's strongest declarers is Matthew Thomson. He brought home a difficult slam on this deal from the final.

Dlr: North ♠ K 3
 Vul: Game All ♥ J 3
 ♦ A K 8 3
 ♣ A Q 10 6 4

♠ J 7 4 ♥ 10 9 8 6 4 2 ♦ 7 6 ♣ K J 8 5 3	♠ 10 6 5 2 ♥ K 7 ♦ Q 9 2 ♣ 2 ♠ A Q 9 8 ♥ A Q 5 ♦ J 10 5 4 ♣ 9 7
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With East-West silent, Peake-Thomson started: 1♣ - 1♦ - 3♦. Thomson, South, asked with 4NT and bid 6♦ after North showed three key cards.

The lead was ♣5. The sight of dummy indicated that there was some work ahead. Knowing from the Rule of Eleven that, if this was fourth highest, East could not hold a club higher than the five, Thomson played low in dummy and won with his seven. He then ran ♦J, losing to the queen.

East put declarer to the test at once by returning a heart. Although the ♥K was onside, Thomson showed that the slam could be made without needing the heart finesse. He stepped up with the ♥A and drew trumps. After finessing in clubs and cashing the ace, throwing a heart, declarer ruffed a club in hand. He crossed to the king of spades, leaving this position:

♠ J 7 ♥ 10 ♦ - none ♣ K	♠ 10 6 5 ♥ K ♦ none ♣ none ♠ A Q 9 ♥ Q ♦ none ♣ none
----------------------------------	---

When Thomson played dummy's diamond, East was squeezed in the major suits. If West had started with a 4-2-2-5 pattern including the ♥K, West would have been subjected to a triple squeeze earlier.

At the other table, the New Zealand North South bid 1♣ - 1♦ - 3♦ - 3NT.

Neither side reached slam on this deal:

Dlr: South ♠ A 10 9 8 6
 Vul: EW ♥ 4 3
 ♦ Q 6
 ♣ 8 7 6 5

♠ void ♥ A Q J 8 7 2 ♦ 10 9 8 5 4 3 ♣ 3	♠ Q 4 3 ♥ K 10 5 ♦ A K J ♣ Q 10 9 2 ♠ K J 7 5 2 ♥ 9 6 ♦ 7 2 ♣ A K J 4
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At both tables, South opened 1♠, 2♥ from West, 4♠ from North, 5♥ by East, which was passed out. With no chance to misguess the diamonds, both declarers made twelve tricks. Some suggested West should have used a Michaels cue bid of 2♠ as the initial move. That would at least suggest an unbalanced hand pattern.

Be that as it may, it is hard to see East bidding to slam after 1♠ - 2♠ - 4♠. Since West with such freakish shape would later bid 5♦ over 4♠, there is nothing unsound about starting with 2♥. That certainly gives West a better chance of buying the contract later.

A red suit slam is not particularly attractive single dummy since North might easily hold a low singleton diamond for the jump to 4♠. If one is to reach slam, the best chance is for East to bid 5♦, lead-directing, over 4♠. That would certainly encourage West to bid the slam.

* * *

After a closely contested final, the 1999 Grand National Open Teams was won by Sydney (Valerie Cummings, Matt Mullamphy, Peter Newman, Matthew Thomson, Kieran Dyke, Ron Klinger) who defeated Perth (Henry Christie, Ron Cooper, Peter Reynolds, Nigel Rosendorff) by a mere 5 IMPs, 122-117.

Dlr: West ♠ A K Q J 10 5
 Vul: Love All ♥ void
 ♦ 10 9 8 6 3
 ♣ K 4

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

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

On this dramatic deal, both sides can make a slam, 7♥ East-West, 6♦ North-South, but the slams succeed only if played by the hand shorter in trumps.

At one table Newman passed as West and North (Cooper) opened 1♠. Thomson overcalled 2♣ and Christie (South) responded 2♦. West bid 2♥ and North jumped to 4♠ to conceal the diamond fit and protect the ♣K.

East bid 5♣, doubled by South. To beat this South has to lead a heart. On a minor suit lead declarer makes thirteen tricks. Still shielding the ♣K, North removed to 5♠, passed to West who doubled.

On the normal ♥2 lead North drew trumps and claimed thirteen tricks, +850. To defeat 5♠, East has to find the five of diamonds lead, seeking a ruff but actually giving partner a ruff.

At the other table, Rosendorff as West, opened an unorthodox 4♥. Dyke, North, bid 4♠ and Reynolds chimed in with 5♥. South bid 6♦ and North raised to seven. East doubled.

Without the double West might lead a club as North was bound to be void in hearts. After the double, with visions of a spade void in partner's hand, Rosendorff naturally enough led a spade. Thirteen tricks, North-South +1630, +13 Imps to Sydney.

Using the Lightner double (usually asking for dummy's first suit) simply to ask partner not to lead a suit bid by the defenders, Reynolds was unlucky to find partner with so many spades that a spade lead became attractive.

A 4♥ pre-empt and a lead-directing double also featured on this next deal:

Dlr: North ♠ Q 6 3
 Vul: Game All ♥ A 6
 ♦ K Q 5 4
 ♣ A K 8 6

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

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

North opened 1♦ and Dyke jumped to 4♥. North re-opened with a takeout double and South bid 4♠, passed to East. Dyke found an inspired double, asking partner not to lead the pre-empt suit.

West had little trouble now to lead ♦A and give East a ruff. The heart switch was won in dummy and a low spade led. Dyke rose with the ace and played a second heart, ruffed by West, who gave East another ruff. Down two, +500 to East-West.

At the other table, North opened a Strong Club. East jumped to 3♥, passed to North, who similarly re-opened with a double. South jumped to 4♠, passed out. The normal ♥K lead was won in dummy. East took the first spade and gave West a heart ruff. Now ♦A and a diamond ruff took the contract one down. +100, but 9 Imps to Sydney.

Note that had Dyke failed to double, the title would have gone to Perth. Even if the defenders had set 4♥ undoubled by two tricks, +200 would have gained only 3 IMPs and have left Sydney 1 IMP short.

IBPA Column Service

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

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

West	North	East	South
	1♦	Pass	1NT
All Pass			

Suit preference is normally associated with the later stages of a hand, but on the following deal from the 1998 Team Trials in the USA it came as early as Trick Two. Alas, the defenders were not on the same page of the play-book.

When West led a low spade against 1NT, he actually led the ♠3, playing fourth highest, which did not help East to work out what was going on. But the defence started well enough when declarer played low from dummy and East inserted the ♠9. East then cashed the ♠Q, West carelessly following with the ♠7, and East now had to decide how to put his partner in to cash out the spades. Since East knew his partner had the ♠10, he exited with a low club, assuming that the suit preference overtones implied that his partner wanted the lower suit. Arguably the diamond cannot cost at this point in the hand - but his partner had told him otherwise.

The net result was that declarer finished up making nine tricks rather than going two down.

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

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

It would be wrong to reverse as South at the second turn, for that would show longer diamonds. The jump to 2NT shows your high cards, and North can check back for three-card spade support or four hearts if he wants. In 3NT, win the club opening lead and play the ♠Q. When West covers with the king, allow him to win. This all but ensures four spade tricks and a total of nine tricks.

If you take the ♠A at once, your lack of entries to dummy means that you are gambling needlessly on a 3-3 split. The 4-2 split is more likely, and while you are investing an overtrick on some lies of the cards, the safety-play to ensure nine tricks against normal distributions of the cards is clearly the odds play.

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Dlr: South
Vul: E/W

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

West	North	East	South
			1♥
Pass	3♠ ¹	Dble	4♣
Pass	4♦	Pass	4♥
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♥
Pass	6♥	All Pass	

¹ Splinter

On Vugraph in the Junior European Championships, the Greek N/S pair played 6♥. West led a spade, and declarer won, drew trumps, and led a club to the ace to finish his chances. The swing was 11 IMPs to Iceland.

However in another match, Boye Brogeland demonstrated that there were more thoughtful ways to play the hand. He ruffed the second diamond high, and proceeded to use spade and trump entries to ruff out the diamonds entirely. At this point in the hand he found West had four chunky diamonds and had not overcalled - despite some spade length. Since he would surely have been worth a bid with a six-card spade suit, he was favourite to have a 5-1-4-3 distribution. So Boye cashed his top club and finessed West for the ♣Q to make his contract.

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Dlr: West
Vul: N/S

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

On this board from the Auction Pairs at TGR's there was no consensus as to how to deal with the East hand. A 1♥ opening bid attracted a 1♠ overcall. West could make a negative double, and East-West were sure to find their 5♦ sacrifice. But in fact, roughly one third of the field were unfortunate enough to declare 4♠ by North, and now three rounds of hearts sank the game.

However, it was very common for the macho Easts to open 4♥, which backfired spectacularly. South could not act, and now North reopened with a double, allowing South to declare 4♠. With the heart void on lead, ten tricks are easy. On a diamond lead, declarer hopped up with the ace, drew trumps, then eliminated diamonds, pitching a club from hand in the process. Now ace and another club was guaranteed to endplay whichever defender had the club king.

[Of course if declarer errs by throwing a heart on the top diamonds, East must unblock the ♣J under the ace to avoid being endplayed in a different way.]

BERMUDA PRESS ROOM

Southampton Princess Hotel

The telephone and fax numbers are:

Fax: (441) 238-5475 and voice (441) 238-5474.

IBPA AGM & AWARDS MEETING

Bermuda

The postponed 1999 AGM is expected to be held in the morning of Monday 17th January 2000 or Tuesday, 18th in Bermuda at the Southampton Princess Hotel.

Proposed Agenda

1. Apologies for Absence; Homage to Deceased Members
2. President's Report including ratification of significant actions taken since last AGM.
3. Officer's Reports:
 - (a) Secretary
 - (b) Treasurer, including ratification of the Annual subscriptions and joining fees for the year 2000 proposed at the General Meeting in Malta; approval of budgets; election of Auditor.
 - (c) Other Officers
4. Appointee Reports
 - (a) Membership Secretary
 - (b) Editor
 - (c) Other Appointees
5. Election of three Executive members for a three year term:

Concluding their period and available for re-election:
Julius Butkow (S Afr.); Eric Kokish (Can); Barry Rigal (USA)

Already elected with terms expiring at:
AGM 2000 (Maastricht): Dilip Gidwani (India); Patrick Jourdain (GB); Peter Lund (Den)
AGM2001: Panos Gerontopoulos (Gre); Chris Diment (Aus); Jan van Cleeff (Net)
6. The Awards for the year 1998/9 conducted by Awards Chairman Barry Rigal.
7. Any other competent business.

Calendar	Event	Venue	IBPA Contact
1999			
DEC 27/30	England (Millennium) End Congress, London		EBU 44 1296 394 414
2000			
JAN 7/9	Junior Bridge Festival, 's-Hertogenbosch		Tammens
7/21	Bermuda Bowl & Venice Cup, Orbis WBC, Bermuda		WBF 33 1 53 230 315
16/21	Transnational Teams, Bermuda Southampton Princess		www.bermudabowl.com
FEB 10/19	Israeli Festival, Tel Aviv with Seniors Festival		Birman 972 3 605 8355
18/21	Icelandair Open, Hotel Loftleidir, Reykjavik		
25/27	Forbo International, Scheveningen		Ducheyne
MAR 5/12	Dea Sea Festival, Hyatt Regency, Israel		Birman 972 3 605 8355
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
22/23	MSO/WBF Worldwide Charity Simultaneous		
26/9 Sep	World Bridge Olympiad, Maastricht		cfrancin@worldbridgefed.com
NOV 5/12	Red Sea Festival, Eilat, Israel		Birman 972 3 605 8355
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

* The World Bridge Federation and the Mind Sports Organisation have signed a contract to organise two Worldwide Simultaneous Pairs Charity Tournaments to take place on 22nd & 23rd August 2000. These are in addition to the WBF Simultaneous on 2nd and 3rd June 2000.

MSO (see www.msoworld.com) will also organise an Internet Rubber Bridge Tournament next year with the finals at the Mind Sports Olympiad in London.

* Bill Gates, the world's richest man, has won his first national ranking points in a bridge tournament. Gates learned bridge recently after trying the game on the Internet. In a Regional tournament in Washington he partnered Sharon Osberg, a member of the United States Ladies team, the current world champions. Their second place earned Gates his first ranking points on the USA national scale.

Gates, who likes bridge on the Internet said "I love the game, and have made many bridge friends on the Internet." Jesper Parnevik, the Ryder Cup golfer, is another who uses the Internet to play bridge whilst travelling the golf circuit.

* *Alasdair Forbes* reports a club deal from his column and the response from a reader:

Dealer: South ♠ 9 3
 Game All ♥ A Q 7 5 4 2
 ♦ K 7 4
 ♣ A 6

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

 ♠ A Q 10 8 7 5
 ♥ None
 ♦ J 10
 ♣ Q J 5 3 2

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

West led ♦A and switched to a low trump. Forbes, who was declarer, played low from dummy and happily won with the five. ♣Q was covered by king and ace, a club led to the jack and a club ruffed with dummy's last trump. The fifth club was thrown on ♥A, but declarer still lost a club and two more trumps for down one. Forbes asked his readers how to make it, and one replied: "It is vital to put up the nine of trumps from dummy at trick two." You can then ruff a heart, take the club finesse, use

dummy's club entry to take a second heart ruff, ruff the third club, cash ♥A throwing a club, ruff a fourth heart, and throw West in with a club. He has only trumps left and the contract makes. The ♦K is not needed.

IBPA Editor: But you can also succeed even after winning ♠5 at trick two: club finesse, heart ruff, ruff a club, ruff a heart, exit with a club. West, on play with ♠KJx and ♥Kx, exits with a heart. You finesse, taking two hearts throwing a club and diamond, and ruff a heart. West over-ruffs but is end-played at trick 11 into leading a trump.

If West had played a club at trick two I don't believe it can be made.

* As reported last month, Marc Smith's book on *Man v. Machine* has now been published. *Danny Roth* noticed that in our Bulletin report (417, page 5) of the Best Played Hand there was no ♦4 and two ♦4s and this was relevant in the play. The book shows that North held ♦4, and also corrects the play in the diamond suit in 3NT:

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

The book says that the first round of diamonds was: 6, 7, A, 10. Later GIB ran the nine, and later still end-played West to lead into KQ8 and make five tricks in the suit. Obviously West does better not to waste the seven.

Roth adds that West, Saitek, would also have done better to exit with a diamond at trick 4 (the *jack*, if it still has the seven) rather than switch to ♠Q, which helped GIB.

* *Larry Cohen* reports his CDROM: "Play Bridge with Larry Cohen -- 1999 life master pairs -- day 1" is now available. It is in an Interactive "Over-my-Shoulder" style presentation. 56 Deals -- Bid-by-Bid and Play-by-Play with the author's thoughts on every deal. Free demo download for press and public at: www.larryco.com

* *Leah Cohen reports:* The Bobby Wolff Bridge Mentor Series "Trix on Trumps" is now available. The American Bridge Teachers Association (ABTA) presented its award for Best Computer Bridge software of 1999 to Volume I of the "Bobby Wolff Bridge Mentoring Series." (which covers notrump play). This year marks the first year in which software is an award category. Wolff is the author of *The Aces on Bridge*, a daily column distributed to more than 100 newspapers.

Wolff is a ten-time World Champion, most recently the 1995 Bermuda Bowl, and a former President of the ACBL and WBF. He is currently chairman of the WBF Appeals Committee. An

original member of "The Aces," he took over The Aces on Bridge column in 1982.

Volume I of the "Bobby Wolff Bridge Mentoring Series" includes 60 lesson hands and sells for \$29.95 USD plus \$5.20 shipping and handling. Volume 2 includes 76 hands and sells for \$34.95 USD plus \$5.20 shipping and handling in U.S. Both copies can be purchased for \$65.00 which includes shipping and handling in the US. Overseas add \$10 US. Visit us online at: <http://www.bridgetrix.com>.

The Web site also has a demo of volume one of the program and Bobby Wolff's daily bridge column. Contact: leahc@bridgetrix.com
Tel: 1 512-343-9182

* *Herman de Wael says*: I read the criticism of the NT range, and I can say that I have the necessary data to prove, as you suspected, that Kokish is wrong (how often do I get to say that?!), in that it is more likely for responder of a 15-17 to have the awkward 8, than for a responder of 14-16 to have the awkward 9. De Wael adds the back-handed compliment to the Editor: "Your analysis is superficial but turns out to be correct."

I compiled, long ago, the frequency of the point range for a second hand given the points for the first one. Here are the figures:

If A holds :	then B holds :	in % of cases
14	9	10.3834
15	9	10.3599
16	9	10.2441
15	8	10.7874
16	8	10.9304
17	8	10.9975

The range 14-16 comes up with absolute frequencies 5.69/4.42/3.31, so relative ones of 42.40/32.94/24.66). In total 14-16 comes up on 13.4 % of hands, and on average, there are 9 points opposite in 10.3 % of cases.

The range 15-17 comes up with absolute frequencies 4.42/3.31/2.36, so relative ones of 43.82/32.79/23.39). In total 15-17 comes up on 10.09 % of hands, and on average, there are 8 points opposite in 10.88 % of cases.

See

<http://www.gallery.uunet.be/hermandw/index.html>

* Ray Lee reports on Master Point Press, who in July won both the American Bridge Teachers Association Book of the Year Awards, for "25 Bridge Conventions You Should Know" (Barbara Seagram & Marc Smith) and the two-book series from Eddie Kantar: "Eddie Kantar teaches Modern Bridge Defense" and "Eddie Kantar teaches Advanced Bridge Defense". Lee says "since then we have released the following: Focus on Bidding (Danny Roth); Countdown to Winning Bridge (Marc Smith & Tim Bourke);

Around the World in 80 Hands (Zia Mahmood with David Burn); Classic Kantar (Eddie Kantar); World Class (Marc Smith); and new editions of Murder at the Bridge Table; I Shot my Bridge Partner both by Matthew Granovetter.

Many of these authors you will recognize as IBPA members. We plan to release about 12 titles in 2000, as well as an interactive CDROM version of "Modern Bridge Defense".

Our web site is www.pathcom.com/~raylee/ and our email is masterpointpress@home.com

* *Henry Francis says*: I just received the following note from OKbridge headquarters. It makes a small correction on the story I sent you about OKbridge's expanded tournament service.

"There is one minor correction that you may want to forward to the IBPA. The free Ambassador Day tourney has been changed to 10AM on the 2nd Sunday of every month."

* *Mario Dix says*: The 6th Malta Bridge Festival will be from Saturday 26th Feb - Saturday 4th March 2000. Usual Open Pairs and Swiss Teams along with other fun events. We have added an evening "speedball" to the smaller mid-week events for the real bridgaholics. But there is still plenty of time during the mornings and early afternoons to explore, play golf or whatever.

The venue is the Corinthia San Gorg with alternate accommodation at the Corinthia Marina. Half board package including bridge entrance, transfers, gala (but excl. flights) about GBP310 for a week plus GBP 50 supplement for singles. Contact Mario (+356) 320444 or fax 380555 or email mario@bridge.org.mt

Also see URL www.bridge.org.mt

* Robert Breeser of MindRacer Publishing says "we would be interested in getting listed by the IBPA." MindRacer Publishing produces and distributes products for the everyday Bridge player wanting to clear up common bidding misunderstandings. 5 titles of Flashcards, plus Notepads, Memopads, and Better Scorepads. Our website has online quizzes and hands to play.

www.mindracer.com

* *David Birman reports*: The dates next year for the main events in Israel are:

The Israeli Bridge Festival 10-19th February

including a Seniors Festival 14-17th February in Tel Aviv as usual. The Seniors Festival is under the auspices of the EBL and the Chairman of its Seniors Committee, Nissan Rand.

Dead Sea Festival 5-12th March at the Hyatt Regency, Dead Sea.

Red Sea Festival 5-12 November, Eilat

Tel: 972 3 605 8355; Fax: 972 4 833 6343

* *Bridge Today University* have announced that “Snoopy and his friends have joined the promotional efforts for the new Learn Bridge in 9 Minutes booklet and web page.” Go to the top of the website: <http://www.bridgetoday.com/>

* *Tony Gordon* says: There seem to be a couple of problems with the China Cup hand (2♥ doubled by Jet Pasman) reported by Henry Francis on page 4 of Bulletin 418.

Firstly, when Pasman ruffed the 4th club in dummy she had a chance to discard her losing diamond from hand but apparently did not since she later is said to have lost another diamond. So she must have discarded a spade, but then she could not later on cash her good spades as stated but only one spade.

Secondly, after ruffing the 4th club in dummy, finessing ♥J and ruffing a spade in dummy she would have ♥K in dummy and ♥A6 in hand and West would have ♥Q8. So how could she draw trumps when there was no entry to hand?

IBPA Editor: You are right but Henry is in Boston at the moment. Perhaps Simons can tell us. The statement Two Hearts doubled cannot be beaten is, I think, true. If East did not cash a second top diamond before playing the fourth club, then I suspect Simons threw her diamond, finessed ♥J, ruffed a spade, and then overtook ♥K with the ace, to play winning spades. West would make a trump instead of a diamond at the end.

Signature

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