

**IBPA Bulletin 420,
January 2000**

The Editor and Managing Editor wish to extend warmest greetings to all members, wishing them a peaceful and prosperous New Year. Your Editor has survived the Millennium Bug so far, and trusts other members have been equally fortunate.

What does the new century hold for bridge? Acceptance as a sport, one hopes! And the mind-sports should all benefit from the explosion in use of the Internet. Watching football on Internet is as bad as watching on cricket on teletext. But watching bridge on the Internet is virtually as good as watching on Vugraph at the venue. We expect new records to be set by the number of spectators watching the Vugraph in Bermuda via the Internet. These figures should be impressive enough for any sponsor who can use the Internet version to advertise their name.

See inside for the winner of Orbis \$50,000. Several thousand players from more than a hundred nations competed. The conception and administration of the contest was excellent. Those who thought up the scheme are to be congratulated. In the next issue we hope we can provide more information about the winner.

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In sterling terms the subscription has been unchanged since 1997. The pound and the dollar have both been strong since then so members paying in other currencies may find they are paying a little more than last year. It is worth noting, however, that our annual subscription in US dollars is much the same now as it was in 1992, eight years ago.

My Day with Jesper Parnevik

by Larry Cohen (USA)

I was one of 55,000,000 Americans glued to my TV in late September when the Americans won their stunning come-from-behind victory over a tough European Team in golf's Ryder Cup. None of us will ever forget the dramatic shots of Sergio Garcia-Jesper Parnevik partnership as the European team forged an early lead. What most of us didn't know is that "Sweden's" Jesper Parnevik really lives in Florida (maybe he should play for the Americans next time)? And guess what he does when he's not golfing? One thing, is that he runs the American branch of LiFizz. They make effervescent vitamins that are very popular in Europe. And when he's not at work, he plays bridge!



Photo courtesy of Bruno Pontus
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This past summer he called me (he had read my books and knew I lived nearby) and asked if we could get together. I met him at his company (tried some vitamins, of course), gave him an autographed Swedish-language edition of *To Bid or Not to Bid*, and wished him luck in the Ryder Cup (and he had lots of luck!). Since that time, we have gotten together for golf (the thrill of my lifetime) and bridge (I doubt it was the thrill of his lifetime).

I won't bore ACBL readers with the golfing details (I'll leave that for my *Golf Digest* article), but it was an indescribable pleasure to watch that man play. He shot an effortless 69 (I forget what I shot). I didn't injure anybody, so it was probably a successful round.

After the golf, Jesper and his Swedish college buddy, Pontus Bruno, joined Marty Bergen and me for a game of rubber bridge. No Flight C for them. They wanted to play as partners and challenged Marty and me. And for a penny a point, no less! (I suppose it was only fair, Jesper made me play from the back tees of the golf course – I would have preferred the Ladies' Tees).

We won a little money (I was embarrassed to accept it) - but, until the last rubber, Marty and I were trailing! That's the beauty of bridge. Two "amateurs" can sit down and beat the pros. That could never have happened in the golf game. Jesper and Pontus were quite competent, bidding and

making some games and slams as if they did it for a living. They played mostly an American style (strong notrumps), the only big difference was that they used four-card majors. That explains their auction on this deal from the first rubber:

Dlr: South

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♠ K 8 7 3
♥ K 4
♦ 9 8 3
♣ K 10 4 2

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

♠ A 9 6 5
♥ A 8 7 5
♦ Q 4 2
♣ A 3
  
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South	West	North	East
<i>Jesper</i>	<i>Larry</i>	<i>Bruno</i>	<i>Marty</i>
1♠	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

I led a club, and Jesper won in his hand with the ace. It looks as if he has to lose three diamonds and a trump trick, but....

He drew two rounds of trumps with the ace and king and cashed his high clubs and hearts. That gave him the first six tricks in aces and kings - in much the same manner as my grandma used to play out the hand. Next he trumped a heart in dummy and a club in his hand. That gave him the first eight tricks and left:

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♠ 8
♥ none
♦ 9 8 3
♣ 10

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

♠ 9
♥ 8
♦ Q 4 2
♣ none
  
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He led his last heart and I was doomed. If I ruffed, Jesper would throw a diamond from dummy and score each of his trumps separately for 10 tricks. If I discarded a diamond, he would trump in dummy and ruff the last club in hand to take the first 10 tricks. So, I threw the club jack. Maybe he would be thinking of his next golf tournament and not realise that the club ten was now high. No such luck. He ruffed the heart in dummy and led the good club, throwing a diamond. Our 4 sure tricks

had turned into 3 - maybe Jesper should consider switching occupations.

Now, the next time you watch golf, you can root for the Swede who executes fancy squeezes at the bridge table.

The US Nationals, Boston (contd)

Last month we reported on the Blue Ribbon win of Jill Meyers & John Mohan and the retention of the Reisinger by Rita Shugart's squad. Here are more items from Boston:

* The Life Master Open Pairs was won by Paul Soloway and Steve Catlett, the LM Women's Pairs by Mildred Breed and Shawn Quinn. On their way to victory Breed & Quinn played some good bridge. Here's an example from the first final session Saturday afternoon:

Dlr: East ♠ K Q 8
 Vul: Love All ♥ J 8 7 6 4
 ♦ A Q 10 7
 ♣ 8

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

West <i>Quinn</i>	North	East <i>Breed</i>	South
		1♣	Pass
1♥	Dble	3♣	4♠
5♣	All pass		

South led the ♥10, won by Breed in hand. She then played a spade to the ace and called for dummy's ♣2, playing the queen when North played low. South won the ♣K and shifted to a diamond.

North won the ace. A spade exit would have allowed the defence to prevail, but North erred by playing a heart.

Breed took full advantage. Noting North's takeout double from the auction, she ruffed the heart high and played a low club to dummy, covering South's ♣4 with the 5! Having successfully finessed against the ♣7, Breed then had the entries to establish the heart suit. A low heart was ruffed high in the closed hand, and a low club to the 9 drew the outstanding trump. Breed then ran the hearts, discarding her losing diamonds. Plus 400 was worth 34.5 out of 38 matchpoints.

But wait! South missed her chance to foil declarer's plan. When Breed advanced the ♣3 to take the club finesse, South should play the ♣7, blocking the entry to dummy's five. Now declarer has insufficient entries to pick up the remaining trump and run the hearts.

* This deal is from the OKBridge World Internet Final:

Board 4 ♠ Q J 9 7 6 4 3 2
 Dlr: West ♥ K 8 3

Vul: Both ♦ 10 8
 ♣ void

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

Room 1

West <i>Kholomeev Soloway</i>	North	East <i>Khiouppenen Seligman</i>	South
Pass	4♠	Pass	5♥
Pass	6♠	All Pass	

When Seligman invited, requiring a heart control Soloway was quick to accept. Soloway won the diamond opening lead and quickly got rid of his diamond loser on the ♣A. He ruffed a club and led a heart to the queen, which won. He led a heart back, losing the 8 to the 10, but there was no way he could be prevented from ruffing a heart. Left with the bare trump ace he could not finesse, but the king obligingly came falling down. Had East led ♥A at trick one declarer might well have subsequently lost a trump finesse to the bare king.

At the other table South passed his partner's opening 4♠ bid.

IBPA Editor: *East had a second chance to give declarer on a losing option - rise with ♥A when a heart was led towards the queen! However, this would be a losing play if declarer had seven good trumps and four hearts, so one can support East's normal play of a low heart, even though that left declarer only with a winning line.*

* The ACBL President for the year 2000 is Glenn Smith of St. Louis. ACBL Honorary Member for the year 2000 is Chip Martel, 46, the world champion.

* The ACBL Charity Foundation gave \$5000 to the local charity the Nevins Farm Equine Center.

* A group of 25 players from Venezuela visited the Nationals.

* Concert pianist David Levy, 34, gave two evening performances. Levy, originally from Manchester, now lives near Cannes. Levy and Mike Goldsmith took second place in the LM Open Pairs Qualifier.

* The ACBL 1999 Masterpoint Race was won by Jim Barrow, who broke the record for points won in one year with a month to go. The 15-year-old record was held by Grant Baze with 3270 points.

Barrow is over a thousand points ahead of Jeff Meckstroth, with Eric Rodwell in third.

* *Report from a victim:* George Retek, treasurer of the World Bridge Federation, dropped by the Daily Bulletin office to tell of a hand that was well played by Henky Lasut, Indonesia internationalist. Two members of the ACBL Board of Directors (Chuck Wilkinson of District 10 was Retek's partner) were Lasut's victims in a knock-out match on Friday.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Wilkinson</i>	<i>Lasut</i>	<i>Retek</i>	<i>Manoppo</i>
1♥	Dble	1♠	Pass
2♣	2NT	Pass	3NT
All pass			

Retek led a heart to Wilkinson's jack and Lasut's king. Lasut, who has been a regular in world championship competition since the Seventies, cashed ♠KQ, then, after Wilkinson followed the second spade with the jack, finessed the ♠9 and cashed the ace. On the third and fourth rounds of spades, Wilkinson discarded a club and a diamond. Lasut led the ♦10 to the jack and *ace* and then got out of his hand with a heart. Wilkinson was able to take four heart tricks but then was forced to lead away from his ♣K and present Lasut with his game.

* The winners of the Open Board-a-Match Teams were Rita Shugart, Andrew Robson, Geir Helgemo and Tony Forrester.

Forrester, from England, shared the following deals from the event. His partner was Helgemo, of Norway. The first deal is from the second final session:

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

With Helgemo, West and Forrester, East:

1♦-1♥-2♦-2♠-2NT-3♦-3♠-4♣-4NT-5♥-5NT-7♦-Pass

A very nice auction: after Helgemo revealed a long diamond suit, he temporised on the next round with 2NT, allowing Forrester to show belated support. Cue bids followed. Helgemo eventually instigated a keycard sequence. His 5NT bid confirmed all the keycards, so Forrester was able to bid the grand.

"Geir wouldn't have been able to ask for keycards unless he had some type of heart control, so I was fairly certain he had a singleton", said Forrester.

There was nothing to the play, and the team won the board when the opponents failed to bid the grand slam.

The next deal from the final session is rather amusing. It features Forrester attempting a psychological ploy that nearly blew up in his face:

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Helgemo</i>	<i>Forrester</i>		
	Pass	1♠	2♦
2♠	Pass	Pass	Dbl
Pass	2NT	3♠	3NT
Pass	Pass	Dble	Pass
Pass	Rdbl	All pass	

Forrester, not content to allow the opponents to play in 2NT, persisted with 3♠. The opponents responded by upping the ante - they bid game. Displeased with this development, Forrester tried a penalty double to see if he could talk the opponents into running. This decision, born of desperation, was also influenced by the position of the almost certainly worthless ♦K.

But the opponents were not to be outdone in this bridge version of "chicken" - they redoubled. This ended the auction and Forrester led a spade. The story had a happy ending for the winners of the event, however. Despite the fact that declarer can run the diamond suit, he has only eight tricks available. Down one and plus 400 for the Shugart squad, which won the board.

Barry Rigal (USA) adds a couple of his favourite hands:

This was a challenging competitive hand for North-South.

Board 14 ♠ Q
 Dir: East ♥ A K Q 5 2
 Vul: Love All ♦ Q 8 5
 ♣ J 7 4 3

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

 ♠ K 8 7 4
 ♥ J 7 4
 ♦ K J 9 6
 ♣ Q 8

If the auction started 1♣-1♥ by East-West, North was not really worth a 2♥ overcall. When East rebid 1♠, West could close North out by raising to 2♠. However, if West passes, North-South might get their act together and play 3♥.

Imagine defending 2♠ as North. What should you do after winning the ♥A at the first trick? The answer is that you need to shift to the ♠Q at once! If you play a second heart, declarer gets a crossruff going, and by ruffing the fourth heart with the ♠9 he actually emerges with nine tricks.

But if North shifts to the ♠Q at the second trick, South gets the lead in diamonds (or by ruffing the third round of clubs) and gets to play two more rounds of trumps to hold declarer to seven tricks.

Note, if declarer ducks the ♠Q, South must overtake to play another trump. I believe you need to unblock the ♠6 from hand to win in dummy for the heart ruffs... is this so?

Now look at Board 33 and consider the defence to 3♥ by West.

Board 33 ♠ 9 7 6
 Dir: North ♥ 5 3
 Vul: None ♦ J 9 6 2
 ♣ A 10 4 3

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

 ♠ A Q 10 3 2
 ♥ J 6
 ♦ K Q 3
 ♣ J 7 2

West	North	East	South
	Pass	Pass	1♠
2♥	2♠	3♥	All Pass

On a spade lead and continuation, declarer draws two rounds of trumps, crosses to dummy with ♦A to strip spades, then exits in diamonds. After the defence have cashed two diamonds they have to broach clubs. How should they do this?

The auction and play thus far mark North with the ♣A. From South's perspective, if North has the ♣Q, the defence has two tricks to come in the suit - and if North does not have the 10 the defence has no chance! What's more, North with the ♣10 knows

that if South has the ♣Q the defence have two tricks in the suit, and if he does not have the jack, the defence has no chance! So the key is who has the 8? If South has it, he shifts to a low club to get his two tricks. If North has it, he has to signal South to shift to a low club (by following with his two lowest diamonds on the second and third rounds.) That way South puts in the 10 and gets two tricks in the suit. But if North does not have the ♣8 (and South knows he doesn't have it), he must shift to the ♣J, giving declarer the losing option in the suit. If declarer goes up with the queen and finesses against North's ♣10, he deserves to make his contract!

And, believe it or not, Curtis Cheek, playing with Billy Miller, found the ♣J play - but David Berkowitz guessed right to cover with the queen. Well done, everyone.

Being a journalist is a hard life. Every hand is potential column material. Should you go for the coup to regale tomorrow's readership, or should you more mundanely try to qualify for the next day of the Blue Ribbons?

Board 10 of the first qualifying session provided a typical problem.

Board 10 ♠ J 6 5 4 3
 Dlr: East ♥ 10 6
 Vul: Both ♦ 7 6 4
 ♣ 10 8 4

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

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

After I opened the East hand 1♣ (all right already, sue me!), I declared 4♥. South led a low diamond, having overcalled in the suit, and when I put up the queen it held the trick, with North suggesting that he held only three diamonds. Now the journalist's play, which works, is to lead a heart to the 8, then run the ♥J, playing for the intra-finesse to pin the 10. But South had no bid, and it was much more likely that he had a singleton ♥Q or ♥K, in which case the right play in trumps was to start with the ace. Eventually I went for the supreme journalistic sacrifice and led out the ace, sacrificing my column material and creating the maximum aggravation for myself when I got to see all 52 cards.

Kit Woolsey demonstrated that there are plenty of examples of the genre.

Board 17 ♠ 10 3
 Dlr: North ♥ K 3
 Vul: None ♦ A Q 10 7 4
 ♣ A 6 5 2

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

♠ K 9 6 4	♠ K 9 7
♥ A	♥ none
♦ K J 8 3	♦ K 10 9 6
♣ J 9 8 4	♣ none

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

Kit as North reached 4NT after a heavily contested auction. On a heart lead declarer needs the club suit to produce three tricks. No problem! Win the ♥A, cross to a diamond, take one more top diamond to find West with shortage and then play East for the ♣Q-10 or the ♣K-10 by leading up to the jack, then playing accordingly. Plus 430 was a fine result for Woolsey.

**Netherlands (Under 25) and Britain (Under 20)
 win Channel Trophy**

by Kees Tammens (Netherlands)

* *Scott Cardell* sends a deal from the last session of the Life Master Open Pairs on Saturday evening. After rotation I am sitting South.

Dlr: West ♠ 6
 Vul: Love All ♥ A K 10 7 5 3
 ♦ 8 4 3
 ♣ J 6 5

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

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

West passed in first seat, North bid 2♥ weak, East passed and I took a shot at 3NT. West opened a fourth highest ♠5, covered in turn by the ♠6, ♠Q and ♠A. Needing to keep East off lead, clubs must be started from the board. So I crossed to ♥A. When West showed ♥J, I cashed ♥A ditching ♦2, and West threw ♦6. I followed with a club to the ♣Q and ♣K. (West couldn't afford to duck the ♣Q as I would have had no choice but to cash the ♣A and exit with a club, end-playing West.) West found the best defence at this point and returned the ♣4. I won this in my hand and crossed to the ♣J. Next I tried the effect of the ♦8. East had to cover with the ♦J and I finessed the ♦Q, losing to the ♦K. The ♦10 was returned and it was a simple matter to cash my club winners and throw West in at the end for a spade trick.

If West discards a spade on the second heart, then the situation after ♣J wins would be:

♠ none	♠ none
♥ 10 7 5 3	♥ 10 8 4
♦ 8 4 3	♦ Q 8
♣ none	♦ J 7

♠ K 9 7	♠ J 2
♥ none	♥ none
♦ K 10 9 6	♦ A Q 5
♣ none	♣ A 7

Clearly the ♦8 is the right lead, as it makes the contract by force if East can't cover. However, when East covers with the ♦J, declarer needs to guess the location of the ♦K to succeed. The winning line is to put up ♦A, cash the clubs and then end-play West depending on the cards he keeps.

The Netherlands won the Under 25 event, and Great Britain the Under 20s event in the Channel Trophy four-cornered friendly contest against France and Belgium. The three-day tournament was held in Cadzand in the Netherlands. France was runner-up in both events. The scores were:

Under 25s:

1. Netherlands 114 (*Sjoert Brink, Bas Drijver, Marcel Lagas, Maarten Schollaardt*);
2. France 98;
3. Belgium 76;
4. Great Britain 72

Under 20s:

1. Great Britain 115 (*O. Burgess & A. Woodcock; B. Handley-Pritchard & A. Hydes; D. Happer & S. Stockdale; non-playing captain: P. King*);
2. France 112;
3. Belgium 89;
4. Netherlands 34.

Usually Dutch teams don't score well on slam hands; the new generation presumably is going to change that! Here are two boards as a quiz:

Dlr: West
Vul: EW

West	North	East	South
	<i>(Sjoert Brink)</i>		<i>(Bas Drijver)</i>
1♣	1♦	Pass	?

South's hand is ♠AKQ98632 ♥4 ♦A104 ♣10.

Bas jumped straight to 4NT: RKC for diamonds and was happy to hear 5♠ by North after which Sjoert maybe was a little nervous but rightly passed 6♠. After a heart lead all the tricks were claimed. At the other table North did not overcall and it was East who bid diamonds first, which discouraged South for more action!

West	North	East	South
1♣	Pass	1♦	4♠
All pass			

The full deal:

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

And how about this one?

Dealer: North
Vul: Love All

West	North	East	South
	<i>(Marcel Lagas)</i>		<i>(Maarten Schollaardt)</i>
-	Pass	Pass	1♠

Dbl 3♠ Pass 6♠
?

West's hand is ♠ void ♥A1095 ♦AKQJ4 ♣K983. West doubled (one must have some sympathy with him) and all passed

The full deal:

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

As you can see, 6♠ doubled was cold, declarer losing only to ♥A, and ruffing out the hearts to created his twelfth trick.

IBPA Column Service

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

British Resident in USA wins Orbis \$50,000

We were fortunate enough to receive thousands of entries to the Orbis Hand of the Week competition set by Zia Mahmood. We have now randomly selected the winning entry, contacted the winner and completed the necessary procedures to enable us to tell you that...

Our congratulations go to **Rhona Addison**, who is the winner of the US\$50,000 prize sponsored by Orbis.

Rhona, a UK citizen, lives in the USA. As we discovered when we tried to track Rhona down, she and her husband David are currently on holiday back in England. We hope to add a photo of Rhona to www.bermudabowl.com soon.

When we were finally able to give her the good news, Rhona was a little overwhelmed but said she was "thrilled... it is a fantastic way to end the Millennium". Rhona says, whereas she is an occasional player, David is the keen bridge player who encouraged her to enter the competition. Well done, David!

Rhona won because of her correct answer to week four of the competition.

AND FINALLY, THANKS AGAIN...

Our thanks once again to everyone who entered the Orbis Hand of the Week by Zia. We are delighted that so many people seem to have enjoyed the competition. We would like to thank the many people who wrote to us to express their appreciation, and to all of you for your patience while we identified the winner.

Of course, not everyone could win the prize, but we hope that everyone enjoyed the contest.

Best wishes to you all.

The Organisers
Orbis Investment Management Limited.

The Fifth Red Sea International Bridge Festival

More than 100 visitors from 17 countries and 4 continents competed against some 500 Israeli bridge enthusiasts including all the top bridge masters of the host country. In total, we could count 7 world champions and 5 European champions among the impressive list of competitors including Schapiro and Gordon from England, Zmudinsky, Borewitz and Zaremba from Poland, Drumev and Tanev from Bulgaria, Fucik and Pollak from Austria.

Guests of honour were the EBL President, G. Rona (Italy) and Vice-President, J.C. Beineix (France). Chairman of the festival, David Birman, was a superb organiser, with an international team of directors including I. Shezifi (chief TD), Anda Barber and the Italian guest, Antonio Ricardi.

The first event, an IMP pairs, was won by the young Polish masters, Piotr and Mordrejew, who scored a total of 160 IMPs in 48 hands ahead of the Austrian Pollaks (157 IMPs).

Board 10

Dlr: East ♠ A 9
 Vul: Game All ♥ A 10 9 8 6 3
 ♦ 8 7 3
 ♣ K 6

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

♠ 8 3 2
 ♥ Q 7 5 4 2
 ♦ 6 5
 ♣ Q 7 4

Piotr (West) collected 10 tricks and 8 IMPs in a 4♠ contract, netting 620, after losing a trump, a heart and a club. The contract was defeated at several tables. At one of these, Irving Gordon (North) led the ♥A and noted his partner's deuce. Gordon switched to the ♣K. Declarer won with dummy's ace. A spade was won by the ace followed by the ♣6. South won with the ♣Q, and returned a club ruffed by Gordon as the setting trick. Some North-South pairs sacrificed in 5♥ doubled yielding 500 points to East-West. The field average was -300.

The main Open Pairs event attracted more than 550 players. The event was won by the young Israeli pair Aviram-Barel, finishing with an average score of 66.6%, well ahead of the Polish runners-up Cieslak - Moszynsky on 64.6% and Zmudzinski-Gardynik on 64.4%.

The prestigious Invitational pairs saw a dozen World and European champions competing along with a dozen Israeli champions in a Swiss Pairs event of 32 pairs in ten rounds. The World Senior Pairs champions from England, Schapiro and

November 1999, Eilat by Dr. Nissan Rand
 (Israel)

Gordon, were the popular winners just ahead of the Israelis Mark and Lubinsky (2nd), the Belgians Labaer and Mrs. Polet (most beautiful participant) (3rd) *IBPA Editor: That sounds sexist, Nissan!* and the Italians Di Sacco and Ferramosca (4th).

Board 31

Dlr: South ♠ 10 8 2
 Vul: NS ♥ K J 8 2

♦ 10 6 4
 ♣ 10 9 6

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

♠ A K J
 ♥ A 3
 ♦ A K Q 9 5 2
 ♣ A 4

This hand from the 8th round was most interesting. South, with only three losers, usually opened 2♣. North bid 2♦ followed by 3♦ from South. North followed with 3♥ and South bid 3NT. West led a small club taken by declarer's ace. The ♦A revealed the bad split and several players simply cleared the suit, hoping for clubs 4-4. The defence collected four more club tricks for one down.

Boris Schapiro at best form in his 91st year played magnificently. After winning ♣A and ♦A he returned a club to check whether they were divided or not, before he could decide as to which finesse to take in the majors. The defence took four club tricks on which Boris threw three diamonds. West returned a diamond but now Schapiro was in control. He cashed the ♥A dropping the Q and came home with 9 tricks. Some pairs reached the reasonable final contract of 6♦. When South was declarer a club lead gave him no chance. When North was declarer (at 3 tables), East led the ♥10. Declarer won West's queen in hand and lost his chance. If declarer goes up with the ♥A in dummy he would have prevailed. After giving up a trick to the ♦J, a club return is won by the ace and a club thrown on the high heart. Finally, a successful spade finesse guarantees the success of the problematic slam.

The Swiss Teams event took place on Saturday with six rounds of eight hands, ending with a surprise photo finish. The local Eilat team captained by D. Blum won big in the last round finishing with 122 VPs (out of 150). The Bulgarian Sofia Team captained by C. Drumev came in 2nd with 121 VPs, ahead of the Polish Prokom Team captained by Zak (120 VPs). The two favourite Israeli teams captained by Yadlin and Althuler ended 4th and 5th after knocking each other in the last round (118 VPs each). The team of the

EBL President G. Rona (DiSacco, Ferramosca (Italy), Beineix (France), Birman, Zeligman, Zwillinger (Israel) finished 7th.

Most of the participants will be expected next year in Eilat where the 6th Red Sea Festival will be held during the 2nd week of November 2000, in order to allow more Americans to participate without missing the ACBL Fall Nationals. The guests and Israelis who cannot wait until November 2000 are invited to participate in the 34th International Bridge Festival in Tel-Aviv (February 10th-19th 2000), which will include a new EBL-partnered Seniors International Festival for senior pairs on February 14th-15th and for senior teams on 16th-17th February 2000. We would like to see many guests in Tel-Aviv in February 2000. David Birman is again Chairman of the international festival.

Calendar	Event	Venue	IBPA Contact
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	Dead 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
	6/16	European Youth Championships, Turkey	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

* *Panos Gerontopoulos reports:* The European Youth Championships are to be held in Antalya, Turkey from 6-16th July 2000 at the 'Talya Hotel & Convention Centre. Antalya has its own airport.

The official invitation, with further details, will be sent to NCBOs next month. Play is planned for the evening of the 6th July for the Under 25s. Teams depart on the 17th July.

NCBOs in Europe have been sent a questionnaire about Youth bridge. Please return to PG promptly.

* *In response to a query about the Olympic status of bridge. Panos Gerontopoulos replies:*

An account of the present Olympic status of bridge is posted at the Internet address:

<<http://www.bridge.gr/IOC/IOC.htm>>.

The same will appear in the forthcoming issue of EBL Review.

* On 31st December the British Bridge League ended its sixty years as a National Federation. From 1st January 2000 the Home Unions of England, Scotland, and Wales were upgraded to National status within the European Bridge League. Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland are represented through the Irish Bridge Union.

The five-nations Home Internationals and British Championships such as the Gold Cup are run by a new body called Bridge Great Britain whose secretary is:

Sandra Claridge, 31 Elm Trees, Long Crendon, Aylesbury HP18 9DG UK

T: 44 or 0 1844 208 629

BGB will also run the British Simultaneous Pairs on nine days each year with Anna Gudge as the Organiser.

* *Nissan Rand writes:* The 34th International Israel Bridge Festival takes place on 10th-18th February 2000 at Tel-Aviv. This EBL Event includes 1st International Seniors Tel-Aviv Bridge Festival on 14th-17th February 2000, Tel-Aviv.

The English Bridge Union's Summer Meeting in Brighton will also contain a Seniors' Congress with EBL status.

* *Marty Bergen writes:* For your information, an excerpt from More POINTS SCHMOINTS! can be found at: <http://www.bridge-forum.com>. Just click where indicated on my bio.

* *N. Scott Cardell, referring to the deal from Man v. Machine which won Best Played Hand (see last Postbag) writes:* Having seen numerous reports on GIB's "brilliance" I have been surprised that no notice has been taken of the fact that GIB could and should have made the hand by the standard unblocking play:

Dealer: East	♠ K 10 6 2
E/W Game	♥ 5
	♦ A K Q 8 4
	♣ 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
Saitek	Zia	Bluechip	GIB
		3♥	Pass
Pass	Dble	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Saitek led a heart to the queen and ace. GIB followed with ♦6 which Saitek oddly covered with the seven.

GIB should lead the ♦9 when crossing to the board at trick 2. Then comes a club finesse, losing, the ♠Q switch (*Roth suggested West play a second diamond*), to the king, a spade to West who cashes the third spade and exits with a spade to dummy, leaving:

	♠ none
	♥ none
	♦ A K 8 4
	♣ 8 7
♠ none	♠ none
♥ none	♥ K 10 9 8
♦ J 7 5 3	♦ none
♣ Q 9	♣ 5 4
	♠ none
	♥ J 7
	♦ 6
	♣ A 10 2

GIB can simply repeat the club finesse. This loses, but GIB has nine tricks, with the aid of a finesse to the ♦8.

Even if West plays a diamond at trick four as suggested by Roth, declarer can win by finessing deeply. (*IBPA Editor: Though, at this stage, East still has room to hold ♦J*) Suppose West tries ♦7. Declarer wins with ♦8 and takes a second losing finesse in clubs. West exits with a club. South cashes his last club on which West has to throw a spade, before dummy ditches a diamond. Then comes a spade. West can only make his four black tricks.

*Anders Brunzell of Sweden writes:

In a match in the local league, Roger Lie of Göteborg realized that his partner, Terje Lie, was about to face a problem hard to solve from his point of view. Help was needed - and delivered!

Dealer: East ♠ 7
 N/s Game ♥ K Q 10 5 2
 ♦ K 3
 ♣ 10 9 7 4 3

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

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

West	North	East	South
Roger		Terje	
-	-	2♣	2♠
Pass	3♥	Pass	3♠
All Pass			

Terjes opening bid promised at least five clubs and in case of five, a four card major beside. Roger started with his singleton club and Terje won the queen and played the ace. When South showed up with two clubs the distribution was quite obvious for Roger, West, and he was also fairly sure of how to beat the contract. Instead of lazily discarding something he ruffed his partner's ace and returned a *small diamond*, the only defence to set 3♠. North won the ♦K and continued with the ♥K. Terje grabbed his ace and returned a diamond to the queen and back came the ♠9. South had to surrender.

The lesson is: when you know how to beat a contract don't press your partner to find the same answer. Do the dirty work yourself!

* Ron Klinger is puzzled by de Wael's figures in the last Bulletin. The chance of having 9 points opposite a balanced 14, 15, and 16 gradually decreases, but the chance of having 8 points opposite a balanced 15, 16, and 17 increases. Why? *IBPA Editor*: The chance decreases either side of the median: opposite 15 you are unlikely to hold say 5 points or 12, more likely to hold 8 or 9. The *average* opposite 16 points is 8 (the remaining 24 points are shared between three players). But "mean" (average) and "median" are not the same thing. Nevertheless, I share your unease.

* Ib Lundby sends a hand for "squeeze-lovers":
 The hand was played in the Danish Teams Championships last month:

Dlr: North ♠ Q J 2
 Vul: NS ♥ 8 7 2
 ♦ J 9 8 2
 ♣ 8 7 6

♠ 7 4 3 ♠ 9 6

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

♠ A K 10 8 5
 ♥ A
 ♦ K 6 4
 ♣ A 10 3 2

West	North	East	South
Bruun	Henriksen	Schäffer	Jørgensen
	Pass	Pass	1♠
3♥	Pass	Pass	Dble
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♣ ¹
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

¹ Trying to find the right trump suit

West led ♦10 covered with the J and A, and a low diamond from East was ducked and ruffed by West. The ♥K was taken by the ace, and after the ♣A South used the two trump entries in dummy to ruff both hearts in his own hand. Now, a low club end-played West. He had to play a heart and a club disappeared from dummy, while South ruffed in his own hand. But even worse for the defence, in the very same trick East was squeezed in the minors!

This was the situation with 4 cards left:

♠ 2
 ♥ none
 ♦ 9 8
 ♣ 8

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

♠ A
 ♥ none
 ♦ K
 ♣ 10 3

When West leads a heart and dummy throws a club, what can East throw? a diamond? South will ruff, cash the ♦K and dummy is high. A club? South will ruff, ruff a club in dummy and show his cards. A suicide trump squeeze!

As West, Mathias Bruun said on Sunday evening, when he was asked how he had done:

"This weekend I made only one squeeze - and that was against my partner!"

* David Bird writes: Here is a great hand from the Pachabo It might even be a front-runner in 'Hand of the Year' (Marc Smith tells me modestly.)

The Defenders' Moysian Fit

Would you like to play a heart contract with K J 9 2 of trumps facing 7 4 3? This was the trump holding of the defenders (!) on a deal played by Hampshire's Marc Smith in the 1999 Pachabo

Cup (The England teams-of-four contested by the champion team of each county).

Dlr: South ♠ A Q J 5
 Vul: Love All ♥ 10
 ♦ A 10 8 2
 ♣ A K 9 2

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

 ♠ 8 6
 ♥ A Q 8 6 5
 ♦ J 9 5
 ♣ 7 6 5

West	North	East	South
	<i>Bird</i>		<i>Smith</i>
			2♥
Pass	2NT ¹	Pass	3♦ ²
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

¹ Enquiry

² Lower-range points, good suit

West led a trump to the 10, king and ace. Smith finessed the ♠Q successfully, then planned to score five side-suit winners and all the trumps in the South hand. He cashed the ace of spades and ruffed a spade. He then cashed dummy's two top clubs and led a fourth round of spades. East discarded his last club and declarer ruffed with the 5. Smith surrendered a club trick to West's queen and won the diamond switch with dummy's ace. This position had been reached:

	♠ none	
	♥ none	
	♦ 10 8 2	
	♣ 9	
♠ none		♠ none
♥ 7 4		♥ J 9 2
♦ 7 3		♦ K
♣ none		♣ none
	♠ none	
	♥ Q 8	
	♦ J 9	
	♣ none	

When a club was led from dummy East ruffed with the 9 and Smith discarded a diamond. East cashed the king of diamonds but had to lead into South's trump tenace at trick 12. Game made!

There was interest at the other table, too. North played in 3NT (after 1♣ - 1♥, 2♠ - 3♥ - 3NT) and Julian Pottage, East, found the spectacular lead of the king of hearts! Declarer won with the ace and ran the jack of diamonds to the queen. Pottage now returned ♥2. Making certain of the proffered re-entry to dummy, declarer rose with the ♥Q. When a second diamond finesse lost to the king, Pottage cashed his two heart winners and exited safely with a diamond. Declarer had to lose a spade trick and that was one down. The Hampshire team went on

to win the Pachabo Cup, adding this to their earlier victory in the Tollemache Cup (inter county teams-of-eight).

Keri Klinger 1979-99

Members will wish to express deep sympathy with Ron & Suzie Klinger on the sudden passing of their daughter, Keri, aged 20, from a brain tumour.

Klinger's e-mail in this Postbag was sent, of course, before his daughter's final illness.

* Robert Sheehan has resigned his post as bridge correspondent of the London Times. His last article appeared on the last day of 1999. Sally Brock is supplying articles at the moment pending appointment of a successor. Sheehan is one of the Five Aces publishing company (Mark Horton, Brian Senior, Raymond and Sally Brock).

Sheehan is also a Director of Britain's leading spread-betting company, IG Index, which is planning to go public in March. The founder and principal share-holder, Stuart Wheeler, is a bridge-player and member of the Portland Club. His 44% stake in IG Index has been valued at £26 million.

* *Red MacDougall has a new address:*

245 Peabody Road, Mansonville, Quebec
 Canada J0E 1X0

MacDougall is a member of the Board of Directors for the Montreal Bridge League, which is the host organization for the upcoming World championships in Montreal and offers his services as liaison with IBPA.

IBPA Editor: Please contact Henry Francis and me by e-mail and I will send a copy of IBPA's Press Room requirements to be published in the new Handbook

* *Maureen Hiron, who has taken over from her late husband Alan as bridge correspondent for the London Independent sends one of her first articles:*

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

Today's hand, from rubber bridge, features Desmond Deery, the former Irish, now Spanish, international. It illustrates his thoughtful defence, as the defender who knows the disposition of the outstanding high cards, but also knows that his partner is not privy to the same information. He needed to persuade his partner to continue with the suit to which he had switched and not revert to the suit he had first led.

South opened a weak 1NT (12-14 points) and the final contract was 3NT. West, Desmond Deery, led ♦3 which ran to South's 10. Declarer now played a spade to dummy's king, then ran the jack to West's queen. Deery knew that his partner held ♣K, for declarer was marked with ♦AKQ and ♠A.

His problem was to play the clubs in such a way that when his partner took the king he would return one and not revert to diamonds, as there are diamond holdings from which West might initially have led which would have made this the right play. he solved his problem by leading his queen of clubs, followed by a low one to partner's king. (Deery couldn't take the chance of cashing his ace before leading another, in case partner had started with only three and the suit became blocked.) Now the position was clear to East who duly returned a club.

Declarer should have made this contract. He too was aware that it was only West who knew the true diamond position, therefore he should have finessed the spade the other way. As it happens, this is the winning line, but even if the finesse had failed, the ♣J109 in dummy might well have deterred East from switching to a club and instead dutifully returned his partner's suit.

The Editor and Managing Editor extend warmest greetings to all members, wishing them a peaceful and prosperous New Year. Your Editor has survived the Millennium Bug so far, and trusts other members have been equally fortunate.

What does the new century hold for bridge? Widespread acceptance as a sport, one hopes! And the mind-sports should all benefit from the explosion in use of the Internet. Watching football on the Internet is duller than cricket on teletext. But watching bridge on the Internet is virtually as good as watching Vugraph at the venue. We expect new records to be set by the number of spectators watching the Vugraph in Bermuda via the Internet. These figures should be impressive enough for a sponsor wanting to use the Internet audience for advertising.

Other computer developments to be expected are the possibility of making awards like master-points dependent on the strength of the opponents, as in chess; and a further substantial improvement in the bridge-playing skills of computers so they are a match for the best of the humans.

See inside for the winner of the Orbis \$50,000. Several thousand players from a hundred nations competed in solving Zia's problems. The conception and administration of the contest was excellent. Those who thought up the scheme are to be congratulated. In the next issue we hope to provide more information about the winner.

The Bermuda Bowl rates to be as Open a contest as one can recall with half the twenty teams having realistic hopes of a medal. The Venice Cup has the strongest field ever. The list of contestants (see inside) is full of names who have already proved their ability at the highest level.

If you have not already done so, please complete your Annual Subscription Form at once and send by fax or land-mail to our Membership Secretary whose address is on the left of this page. When giving a credit card number don't forget that you must also record the Expiry Date.

The Annual subscription is £36 (pounds sterling) or its equivalent in other currencies. New members pay an extra £12 i.e. £48 in total.

In sterling terms the subscription has been unchanged since 1997. The pound and the dollar have both been strong since then so members paying in other currencies may find they are paying a little more than last year. It is worth noting, however, that our annual subscription in US dollars is much the same now as it was in 1992, eight years ago.

Patrick Jourdain - Editor

Bermuda Bowl and Venice Cup

BERMUDA PRESS ROOM

Southampton Princess Hotel

The telephone and fax numbers are:

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

Websites:

www.bermudabowl.com

www.bridge.gr

Qualifiers

Zon e	Bermuda Bowl	Tea m No.	Venice Cup	Tea m 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	Pakistan	15	India	9
4	South Africa	20	Egypt	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

Teams to note:

Bermuda Bowl

Argentina : Alejandro Bianchedi, Hector Camberos, Pablo Lambardi, Carlos Lucena, Leonardo Rizzo, Eduardo Scanavino npc Alfredo Suaya

Australia: Khokan Bagchi, Seamus Browne, Ishmael Del'Monte, Bobby Richman, Carole Rothfield, Jesse Rothfield npc Wally Stott

Brazil : Marcelo Castello Branco, Joao-Paulo Campos, Gabriel Chagas, Ricardo Janz, Roberto Figueira de Mello, Miguel Villasboas npc Pedro Paulo Assumpcao

France: Albert Bitran, Marc Bompis, Christian Mari, Franck Multon, Thierry de Sainte Marie, Jean-Michel Voldoire, npc Philippe Cronier

Italy : Dario Attanasio, Norberto Bocchi, Giorgio Duboin, Soldano de Falco, Giuseppe Failla, Guido Ferraro npc Carlo Mosca

Norway : Erik Austberg, Boye Brogeland, Jon-Egil Furunes, Geir Helgemo, Tor Helness, Erik Saelensminde npc Einar Brenne

Poland : Krzysztof Jassem, Aploinary Kowalski, Michel Kwiecien, Jacek Pszczola, Jacek Romanski, Piotr Tuszynski npc Jan Rogowski

Sweden : Lars Andersson, Bjorn Fallenius, Peter Fredin, Tommy Gullberg, Magnus Lindkvist, Mats Nilsland, npc Daniel Auby

USA 1 : Dick Freeman, Bob Hamman, Jeff Meckstroth, Nick Nickell, Eric Rodwell, Paul Soloway npc Sidney Lazard

USA 2 : Zia Mahmood, Chip Martel, Michael Rosenberg, Lew Stansby, Neil Silverman, Jeff Wolfson npc Michael Becker

Venice Cup

Austria : Maria Erhart, Doris Fischer, Diana Lindenlauf, Jovanka Smederevac, Sylvia Terraneo, Terry Weigkricht npc Christian Felderer

Canada : Francine Cimon, Dianna Gordon, Rhoda Habert, Beverly Kraft, Barbara Saltsman, Sheri Winestock npc George Mittelman

China : Ling Gu, Ming Sun, Hongli Wang, Wenfei, Wang, Yalan Zhang, Yu Zhang, npc Jihong Hu

Denmark : Dorte Cilleborg, Mette Drogmuller, Bettina Kalkerup, Charlotte Koch-Palmund, Trine Bilde kofloed, Kirsten Steen Moller npc Lotte Skaanning Norris

France : Danielle Avon, Veronique Bessis, Benedicte Cronier, Catherine d'Ovidio, Christine Lustin, Sylvie Willard npc Alain Levy

Germany : Sabine Auken, Katrin Farwig, Beate Nehmert, Andrea Rauscheid, Barbara Stawowy, Daniela von Arnim npc Klaus Reps

Great Britain : Pat Davies, Heather Dhondy, Sandra Landy, Liz McGowan, Nicola Smith, Abbey Walker npc Jimmie Arthur

Netherlands : Jet Pasman, Anneke Simons, Marijke van der Pas, Wietske van Zwol, Martine Verbeek, Bep Vriend npc Ed Franken

USA 1 : Renee Mancuso, Jill Meyers, Randi Montin, Shawn Quinn, Janice Seamon-Molson, Tobi Sokolow npc Jo Morse

USA 2 : Lisa Berkowitz, Lynn Deas, Connie Goldberg, Beth Palmer, Sue Picus, Rozanne Pollack npc Karen Allison

* *David Parry* reports the Charity Challenge Cup in aid of the Salvation Army will be held on Thursday 16th March, 2000. Entry fee £2.95 per player. All contestants receive a glossy colour magazine with full details of the hands played.
Tel & Fax: 44+ 208 749 4352
P.O. Box 3096 London N14 7BZ

* Wales beat England 57-33 whilst the Republic of Ireland beat Northern Ireland 53-37 in the first round of the Home Internationals for the Camrose Trophy. Scotland sat out. Following the sudden death of Keith Pratt, Wales npc, the IBPA Editor was appointed captain.

England fielded the three pairs which won their trials. These included Nick Sandqvist the former Swedish Junior international who is now eligible to represent England. This deal was of interest:

Board 12	♠ 10 9 4	
N/S Game	♥ Q 9 7 5	
Dlr: West	♦ 7 5	
	♣ J 9 5 3	
♠ A 7 6		♠ K Q 3 2
♥ A 4 3 2		♥ K J 10 6
♦ 8 4		♦ K J 10 3
♣ A K Q 10		♣ 6
	♠ J 8 5	
	♥ 8	
	♦ A Q 9 6 2	
	♣ 8 7 4 2	

Open Room:

West	North	East	South
Sandqvist	Thomas	Cliffe	Denning
1NT	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♥	Pass	4♣	Pass
4♠	Pass	5♦	Dble
Pass	Pass	5♥	All Pass

Vugraph:

West	North	East	South
Luck	Senior	Hirst	Ray
1♥	Pass	4♣	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

In the Open Room after Stayman and a splinter Nick Sandqvist's cuebid as West took the side too high and South's double of the cue by East ensured the right lead for the defence.

Three rounds of diamonds promoted a trump for North. West ruffed high and finessed ♥10 but had to lose a trump later.

On Vugraph, despite the splinter by East, Luck signed off. Brian Senior as North still found the diamond lead, and the defence played three rounds. If West discards he still has to find ♥Q and might well fail. Jim Luck correctly ruffed high, North discarding a spade. Now a heart to the jack risks

South winning and playing another diamond, so Luck correctly played a heart to the king and then returned with a club to play another trump. (An improvement is to cash a second club throwing a last diamond, in case South can win the trump with a doubleton ♥Q and play another diamond for North to ruff.)

When the second trump to the jack showed that North still had two trumps, Luck returned to ♠A, cashed a top club to dispose of his losing spade, and then played a third trump towards the dummy.

Senior won and led a club to put West back in his own hand but he crossed to dummy with a spade to draw the last trump.

Suppose at trick six West had cashed a second club to throw his master diamond from dummy, guarding against a ruff if South has ♥Qx. Then he has to be very careful when the trumps turn out to be 4-1. North is known to have six red cards. If he had four spades and three clubs, he would have had to discard a club when West ruffed high at trick three. If so, when West was in with ♠A at trick eight he would be able safely to play the third club to dispose of the losing spade. He must not do so on the actual hand, where North has three spades and four clubs to the jack, or North can play ♣J when in on third heart.

However, North is squeezed in a curious way when West ruffs the third diamond high. Whatever he discards reveals whether West can safely cash the third club later.

* The draw for the Generali Clippings Prize from those IBPA members who sent in clippings from Malta mentioning Generali will be held in Bermuda. Forty members submitted 140 clippings. Named IBPA members earn a ticket in the draw for each clipping submitted.

Van Cleeff 3; Cronier 1; Dowling 13; Dupont 14; Frennelius 1; Tony Gordon 3; Het Vok "J.S." 2; Jeunen 2; David Jones 2; Labbé 2; Levy 1; Littlewood 1; Merhy 1; J-P Meyer 4; Jeronimidis 1; Jourdain (D.Telegraph) 11; Malta (author unnamed) 5; Neamtzu 1; van der Pas 2; Quantin 1; Rilmington 2; Sigvardsson 5; Sveindal 2; Tammens 1; Torlontano 1; Laura Vandoni 1; Riccardo Vandoni 1; Wignall 2; Zorlu 1; others, authors not named, 50; IBPA Bulletin & EBL Review (excluded from draw) numerous.