

IBPA Bulletin 422, 1st March, 2000

Editorial

Canada (Eric Kokish, George Mittelman, John Carruthers and Drew Cannell) won the Forbo in the Hague in fine style. The sponsor, Forbo-Krommenie, a leader manufacturer of floor-coverings, was celebrating its centenary and it has created the strongest team event in Europe outside the official championships. Restricted to 64 teams, many applicants had to be turned away. The Invitation Team event for The Netherlands, China, Italy and the USA was won by the home team. All four fielded players who had won World or Zonal championships.

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The Generali Masters, the effective World Individual held every two years, is in Athens next month (see announcement inside). The defending champions are Paul Chemla in the Mens, and Migri Zur-Albu in the Womens. There will also be a Junior field of 20 players.

José Damiani, WBF President, says Generali will be running a Clippings Competition for journalists, similar to that for Malta. Generali is also supporting IBPA by distributing the Year 2000 Handbook which goes to press shortly. However, the WBF is not running an Orbis Clippings Competition for Bermuda.

Commenting on the Editorial last month, the President explained that the decision to restrict the number of tables with duplicated boards in the World Transnational Teams was based on security reasons, given the space available for the 76 teams.

The worldwide favourable comment on Bermuda reflects the credit the WBF has earned for its organisation of the 50th Bowl and the Venice Cup there.

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Hotel booking for the Olympiad in Maastricht is already reported to be difficult and journalists hoping to stay near to the Convention Centre are likely to be disappointed.

Membership Dues

If you have not yet paid your dues for the Year 2000 please do so now. This will be last Bulletin for those who remain unpaid. Names are removed from the Membership List before the end of June, and then incur the Initiation Fee on re-joining later.

You can pay by faxing authority to the Membership Secretary (see the panel on the left for the number) for £36 with your credit card number and expiry date. The authority must be signed.

Note: the Editor will not be in Rimini for the European Mixed Teams and Pairs, so those hoping to pay their subs to him there will be disappointed.

Patrick Jourdain-Editor

Canada Wins Forbo; Netherlands Wins Nations Cup

Scheveningen, 25th-27th February 2000 from Bulletins edited by Jan van Cleeff

Forbo 'A' Final

1. Canada (John Carruthers, Eric Kokish, George Mittelman, Drew Cannell) 134
2. Russia (Gromov, Petrounine, Kholomeev, Khiouppenen) 125
3. Modalfa 1 - Netherlands (Westra, Leufkens, de Boer, Muller) 121
4. Magic - Sweden (Göthe, Albertson, Brenning, Flodqvist) 119
5. USA1 (Brachman, Passell, Soloway, Wold, Seamon) 118
6. Poland (Gawrys, Pszczola, Jassem, Tuszinsky) 114

Nations Cup Invitation Teams (four)

1. The Netherlands (Bauke Muller, Piet Jansen, Jan Westerhof, Wubbo de Boer) 59
2. Italy (Bocchi, Duboin, De Falco, Ferraro) 47
3. China (Jianming, Haojun, Fu Zhong, Chuancheng, Yingli, Caiyi) 41
4. USA (Passell, Soloway, Wold, Seamon) 38

An instructive hand from the Nations Cup:

Board 6	K 6 4	
Dlr: East	9 7 4 2	
Vul: EW	A Q J	
	A 6 2	
	J 7 5	Q 10 8 3
	K Q J	6
	K 7 5	10 9 6 4 3 2
	Q 10 8 3	9 7
	A 9 2	
	A 10 8 5 3	
	8	
	K J 5 4	

West	North	East	South	
<i>Jianming</i>	<i>de Boer</i>	<i>Haojun</i>	<i>Muller</i>	
		Pass	1	
Pass	2	Pass	2NT	
Pass	3NT	Pass	4	All Pass

2 was a Strong Heart Raise

After a semi-artificial bidding sequence Bauke Muller ended up in 4 . West led a high heart, which was allowed to hold the trick. Muller won the next heart and East discarded. While your editor was considering how declarer should proceed from here - establishing the fourth club for a spade pitch looks tempting - Muller found the hundred per cent play of a diamond to the queen.

Why a hundred per cent? If East wins the king it makes no difference at all what he plays next: declarer can pitch a spade on the third diamond, cash the two high spades, ruff a spade and end play West with the third trump. In real life, West

turned out to have the K so the spade loser already vanished in the next trick, on the A.

Now, you might think that this safety play is not so difficult to find at the table. Perhaps, but at the other table Fu Zhong missed it. And in the match Italy-USA even this year's Bermuda Bowl winner Paul Soloway did not find this play and went down. Interesting enough, the Italians at the other table ended up in 3NT. And although Michael Seamon as East decided to lead a spade, the Italian declarer ended up with nine tricks, after taking the right minor-suit finesse.

Joost Prinsen, the well-known television actor who opened the tournament so brilliantly on Friday, reported a curious hand. It occurred in the 'A' Final, Modalfa 1 (Netherlands) versus Romania:

Dlr: East	A K J 8 7
Vul: Love All	Q 4 2
	Q 10 5 3
	10
	3
	10 8 6 5
	J 9 8 7
	A K 7 3
	4
	A K J 9 7 3
	A K 6 2
	Q 9
	Q 10 8 6 5 2
	void
	4
	J 8 6 5 4 2

Leufkens-Westra reached the ultra-sound contract of 6 . West started with the A and went into the tank. After some time Enri Leufkens, who was declarer, showed his hand to East, claiming more or less. East did not show much of a reaction, but made it clear that play should continue. In the end, West shifted to a low spade. Leufkens took the king and played a heart to his ace. The fact that East showed out did not seem to bother him much. He ruffed the Q in dummy and cashed the queen of trumps.

One slight problem seemed to materialise all of a sudden: how to cross safely to hand to pull the rest of the trumps? Leufkens of course opted for a spade ruff and got the shock of his life when West over-ruffed.

The hand turned out to be quite expensive for the Dutch because at the other table Muller-de Boer suffered a penalty of 500 points in 2 after East opened a weak two in spades, doubled by South for take-out but passed out by North.

At the dinner table on the Sunday evening, George Mittelman gave IBPA this deal from the Canada-Netherlands match in the 'A' final where he saw through a ploy by Leufkens:

Dlr: North	Q J 9 x
Vul: EW	K x x

A 10 8 3 2
 x
 10 x x x A K x
 A Q J x x x x
 x K x x
 A Q x K x x x x

 x x
 x x x
 Q J x x
 J 10 x x

West	North	East	South
<i>Kokish</i>	<i>Leufkens</i>	<i>Mittelman</i>	<i>Westra</i>
	Pass	1	Pass
1	Dble	1NT	Pass
2 ¹	Pass	3	Pass
4	Pass	4	Pass
5	All Pass		

¹Forcing Stayman

South led the queen of diamonds to his partner's ace and North returned the Q, won by declarer. A heart to the queen now held the trick! After the club queen and ace, and a spade to the king, declarer crossed to the A and ruffed a heart. He ruffed a diamond, ran the jack of hearts for South to ruff and claimed the last two tricks for +600.

At the other table the bidding was as follows:

West	North	East	South
<i>Muller</i>	<i>Cannell</i>	<i>de Boer</i>	<i>Carruthers</i>
	1	Pass	Pass
1	Pass	2NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

The Q was led and allowed to hold. The jack went to East's king. Declarer played a club to the ace and followed with the queen, on which North discarded a heart. De Boer returned to hand with the A and cashed the king of clubs, North discarding a spade. A diamond exit allowed North to cash three rounds of the suit, and North then played the queen of spades, won by declarer's king. De Boer exited a spade and North was end-played to take the contract only one off, but for a gain of 12 IMPs to Canada.

Finally, Mark Horton supplied two hands from the C Final:

Board 11 Q 9 6
 Dlr: South 3
 Vul: Love All A K Q 7 6 3
 J 7 2

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

 K 8
 A 8 7 6
 4
 K Q 10 9 8 4

West	North	East	South
<i>Horton</i>	<i>Panelewan</i>	<i>Rigal</i>	<i>Parasian</i>
			1
1	Pass	Pass	Dble
Pass	Pass	1	Pass
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

In the match against Indonesia, Barry Rigal led 4 to the eight, ace and nine. West switched to a low heart. The winning switch was not found at the other table, so Indonesia lost 10 IMPs on the board.

Board 12 5
 Dlr: West A K 10 8 7 6 5
 Vul: NS 7 6

 6 5 2

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

 A K J 10 8 6 3
 Q 4
 10
 A J 8

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

East led the 3 to the king. West switched to the four of clubs - the queen was also possible - and declarer won. The ace of spades and a spade ruff were followed by two rounds of trumps, but the contract had to go two down when trumps were 3-1. At the other table, declarer got a spade lead against 6 and won and played the J - 13 tricks and 17 IMPs to Horton's team.

Austria wins the 8th International Hero Youth Bridge Festival

's-Hertogenbosch, Netherlands, 2-9th January, 2000

25 national junior teams competed over eight days.

Austria (Arno Lindermann & Bernd Saurer, Markus Jerolitsch & Iris Grimm, Andreas Gloyer & Martin Schifko) beat the **USA A** (Kent Mignocchi, Joel Wooldridge, John Hurd, John Kranyak, Joe Grue, Brad Campbell) 65-54 in the final.

(*IBPA Editor*: The Bulletin did not name the winners, or runners-up but I deduced them from the list of Butler Pairs.)

Semi-final: **Norway**, as round robin winner chose Austria : wrong! Austria won 60-30. USA A beat **Netherlands A** 49-30. An appeal was not pursued as it could only give the Dutch 10 IMPs.

Round Robin:

1. Norway 465; 2. USA A 453; 3. Netherlands A 435; 4. Austria 423; 5. Sweden 423.

Butler (IMPs per board): 1. Kari Mikikangas (Finland) 1.39; 2. Kent Mignocchi (USA A) 1.34; 3= Bas Drijver & Sjoert Brink (Netherlands) 1.23.

In the final, USA earned the first big swing with this decision: partner, West, opens 3 at green, and North Passes. What do you call with :

A Q 10 8 K 6 5 2 K 5 K J 5
?

The Austrian East raised to Four Hearts. This failed when partner proved to hold:

J 2 A Q 10 9 7 4 3 6 7 6 4

North led a club from :

9 7 6 4 J 8 A J 10 8 7 9 5

The defence made two clubs, a club ruff and A.

At the other table the American East bid Three Notrumps which had nine tricks after a club lead from South.

This was the crucial board at the end:

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

West	North	East	South
		1	Pass
2	2	Dble	All Pass

The American North overcalled 2 . East doubled, and took the obvious seven tricks (top heart, diamond ace, diamond ruff, two high trumps, and two clubs) for a penalty of 500, not enough to

compensate for a possible game in hearts, notrumps, or perhaps clubs? Advantage USA. However..... at the other table :

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

The Austrian North overcalled Three Spades, was again doubled, but this time East-West found their way to the risky Five Clubs doubled played, surprisingly, by East. South led a diamond.

East chose to finesse. North won and returned his singleton heart. Declarer won this, played a trump to the king, and a second trump won by North, who now exited with a spade. Declarer had no way back to hand to draw the last trump without the defence gaining a trump promotion. This should defeat the contract by at least two, but the Bulletin, without revealing the play, implies declarer made ten tricks. Enough for a 700 swing to Austria.

Round Robin: Netherlands v. Sweden

Bas Drijver & Sjoert Brink of the Netherlands solved this bidding problem well :

Dealer : South	Q 9 4 3 2	
E/W Game	Q 10 6 4 2	
	K J 5	
	None	
	K J 10 8 7	6 5
	K 8 7	A
	None	Q 9 8 6 2
	A K 10 8 2	Q 9 7 5 3
	A	
	J 9 6 3	
	A 10 7 4 3	
	J 6 4	

Brink & Drijver bid unopposed:

1 -1NT-2 -3 -4 -4 -5 -6 -Pass

Four Diamonds was a splinter and 4 a cue-bid.

The defence led a heart to the ace, and a trump to hand showed Brink the lay-out. He cashed K discarding a spade from dummy, crossed to dummy (the Bulletin does not say how, so let us guess by ruffing a heart), and led a spade. South had to play the ace. The Bulletin, frustratingly, also does not say what happened next, but implies West made his slam. (*IBPA Editor*: It looks to me as if the 3-0 trump break still beats the slam, as South's trumps have to be drawn and West has two spade losers and a heart loser to ruff with only two trumps).

Suppose South tried A. West ruffs. This is the ending as West draws South's trump jack:

	Q 9 4 3	
	None	
	K J	
	None	
K J 10 8		None
None		None
None		Q 9 8 6
? 10		? 9
	None	
	6	
	10 7 4 3	
	J	

North defeats the slam by making the correct discard. (An overtaking trump squeeze is only possible if you swap the king and queen of trumps, and improve dummy's diamonds; then you take a trump finesse (!) through the jack and on the last round of trumps lead Q from West, overtaking or not with the king depending on North's discard.)

I guess North wrongly threw a spade, and then West set up the spades with a ruffing finesse.

England v. Hungary

Richard Probst, partnering David Gold, showed good card reading skills on this deal:

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

West	North	East	South
	Probst		Gold
1NT	2	Pass	4 All Pass

1NT = 12-14; 2 showed spades and a minor.

East led J to the queen, king and five. West continued with A, and then switched to a low trump to East's queen, and another trump won in dummy. The opening marked West with Q, so Probst led the jack from dummy. This was covered by the queen and king, and he drew the last trump. He now crossed back to the ace of hearts, and led the eight, West playing low smoothly. But Probst got it right, running the eight, reasoning that West would be far more likely to cover the jack earlier with Q10xx, than with Qxx.

This play, to make the game, was needed for a flat board as the England West at the other table, after cashing two clubs, had switched a heart into the ace-jack.

Match 18

Simon de Wijs is in his last year as a Junior, but he already made an impact on the Dutch Open events. Here he was on lead as North against West's 5 :

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

East-West bid unopposed:

2 -2 -4NT-5 -5 -Pass

East's 2 was Multi, and could have been weak with hearts, so West bid 2 to show he had heart support. East's 4NT was Roman Keycard Blackwood (and therefore strong with spades), and West showed one of five keycards, whereupon East signed off in Five Spades.

De Wijs knew dummy probably had second round control of every side suit, and tried the effect of under-leading his ace of diamonds at trick one. Success! Declarer played low from dummy, and the defence cashed the first three tricks.

The Pro-Am which preceded the event was won by Makromed (Annemarie vd Berg, Vincent Mes, Ronny Moser & Niek Brink). The Welcome Pairs was won by Fredrik Nystrom (Swe) & Tiago Canelas (Port), with Sergio Bianchi (Ita) & Joel Wooldridge (USA) as runners-up.

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting and Awards in Bermuda, 19th January 2000

Present: 39 members: K. Allison (USA); J. Auken (Den); C. Cook (USA); J. Damiani (Fra); M. Dennison (England); C. Dimint (Australia); S. Dowling (Ire); E. Ducheyne (Net); O. Eskes (Net); A. Forbes (Scot); H. Fox (England); H. Francis (USA); P. Gerontopoulos (Greece); K. Gijnsman (Net); A. Gordon (England); H-O Hallen (Sweden); J. Hoskins (Bermuda); M. Jafri (Pak); P. Jourdain (Wales); J. Kaplan (USA); P. King (England); S. Leckie (Scotland); K. Ljung (Norway); P. Lund (Den); B. Mavromichalis (Swiss); J-P Meyer (France); E. d'Orsi (Brazil); J. Ortiz-Patino (Swiss); B. Rigal (USA); J. Serras (Bel); B. Shenkin (USA); R. Solomon (NZ); J. Sveindal (Nor); R. Tacchi (Malta); A-M Torlontano (Italy); A. Truscott (USA); J. Wignall (NZ); R. Wolff (USA). Also present: J-C Beineix (France); J. Gerard (USA); G. Retek (Canada)

1. Apologies for absence were received from Albert Benjamin (who, aged 90, felt it was a little beyond him), Officers Per Jannersten and Hans Christer Andersson, through business, and Evelyn Senn due to poor health.

2. Deceased Members Tribute was paid in Malta to Alan Hiron, Harold Franklin and Trixie Simmons. Since that time we have lost Jan Wohlin who, indirectly, was probably the most-read journalist in history, having produced hands for the Bulletin Column Service for over 25 years. Many journalists used his copy. More recently Australia's most distinguished bridge journalist, Dick Cummings, one time editor of World Bridge News, died. The meeting stood to pay their respects.

3. President's report Henry Francis paid tribute to the sterling work performed by Evelyn Senn and expressed appreciation to Maureen Dennison for filling-in in her absence. Jannersten reports the website is going well and that Bulletins, currently available to members only, will be 'open' to the general public a year after publication. It is hoped it will raise interest and awareness of IBPA and attract new members. Members' suggestions about expanded use of the website are requested.

Francis expected the June World Simultaneous Pairs and Mind Sports Simultaneous Pairs in August would provide lots of news and features.

IBPA is seeking a new sponsor for the Best Played Hand. The Levendaal Award for Best Play of the Year by a junior produced such excellent material that the Awards Chairman was considering seeking additional prizes from OKbridge for the short-listed juniors who failed to win.

The Meeting would be invited to ratify subscriptions to be unchanged at £36 or equivalent, as proposed in Malta. Ten new members have joined in Bermuda.

Generali again will cover postage costs for the new IBPA Hand book that will be ready in two months. Members were asked to carefully check the labels on the subscription renewal form sent with the December Bulletin, as these details would appear in the Book

We are grateful to the World Bridge Federation that is to donate \$1,000 for 1999 to help with our programmes.

The President expressed thanks to the Bermuda Bridge Federation for the superb facilities both for players and the Press.

Treasurer's report This was published in the Bulletin and there were no questions from the floor. The motion to ratify the decision reached in Malta to maintain the annual subscription at its present level was passed nem con.

Liaison Officer's report There were no problems arising between the IBPA and the bridge governing bodies. Panos Gerontopoulos assured the meeting that the WBF and the EBL were aware of the importance of the press and were pleased to give as much co-operation as possible.

Clippings Secretary's report Evelyn Senn confirmed her intention to retire at Maastricht as she found a major Championship too much of a strain. She forwarded the Generali clippings that she had received, though most had been sent direct to Mr. Damiani.

Bulletin Editor's report The Bulletin is privately available to members on the website including the two Specials after Lille and Malta.

Whilst thanking members who had contributed through the year, the editor requested that any material should be sent to him in Text or pasted into email as the IBPA computer is unable to read many files that are submitted.

Membership Report 1999 There was a slight decline in numbers to 492 Full, 11 Honour and 19 Sponsored members but there is a good influx of young journalists.

More than half of the members outside the sterling area paid by credit card. Though this cost £500 in processing fees it speeds up registration and reduces errors. It obviates the need to quote other currencies. Also it is no longer necessary to have regional collectors. The Membership Secretary and the meeting recognised our debt of gratitude to all who had helped. In particular thanks were extended to Mrs Francis and her predecessors, to Mrs Senn and to Mrs Klinger, the longest serving of all.

Ten journalists have joined in Bermuda and new members present were welcomed.

4. Executive Committee elections In Malta Julius Butkow was proposed as auditor and the committee recommended that his position be ratified. He was also standing for re-election to the Executive. Barry Rigal, Awards secretary, is standing for re-election. Eric Kokish finds himself too busy to take an active role and the committee proposes Maureen Dennison to be the third nominee for election. There were no other nominations from the floor and these three were elected nem con.

5. Honor Member The President read a citation in honour of the nomination : Patrick Jourdain. He was elected as Honor Member in respect of the 18 years he has tirelessly worked on the Executive Committee.

6. Any other business OK Bridge's tournament is now sponsored by ACBL, the WBF and Bridge World Magazine and requests that IBPA also becomes a

sponsor, not in a monetary sense, but that they can quote our name in their publicity. Alan Truscott pointed out that IBPA have never sponsored an individual organisation and Peter Lund said that it could open floodgates. The request was rejected 20 to 5. Jean-Paul Meyer pointed out that there were no French entries in the OK Bridge event and asked that it should be better publicised.

A Journalists' Pairs event was to be held in Bermuda.

A clippings competition on Bermuda is anticipated but no details were yet to hand. The draw was made for the Generali clippings and prizes were won by Dupont, Meyer, Dowling, Vandoni, and Neamtzu.

Rigal asked that there be more publicity on junior events and venues. The 2000 Youth Championships will be in Turkey and it is hoped that the Pairs and Camp in 2001 will be in South America for the first time.

Francis said that the IBPA should look into the costs of the necessary equipment to process digital photos for use in the Bulletin and website. The question of copyright and royalty would also have to be addressed. Koen Gijsman's company has on-line vu graph coverage of all major bridge tournaments including such as the Gap Gemini and the Cavendish and has many photos and biographies of players. Gijsman said journalists may use them providing they acknowledge his company Hot Line as source. His web address is kg@xs4all.nl. Some 10,000 individuals each day logged into the Bermuda website.

Seamus Dowling made the point that, though this did not apply here, at major Championships the journalists tend to get an 'Open Bag' and information on the Women's Series is not included and it sometimes is difficult to get the relevant documentation.

Annual awards: (See previous Bulletin). Presentations were made to JEFF MECKSTROTH for best played hand, the only player to win it twice and that in two consecutive years, to ANDREW ROBSON for the Sender award for Best Defence and to GEIR HELGEMO & TOR HELNESS for the Rosenkrantz award for Best Auction. Reporting journalists were respectively Omar Sharif, Phil King and Patrick Jourdain. The Levendaal award for best play by a junior was won by Martin Schaltz reported by Ib Lundby. Their presentation could be made at the next major junior event.

The award for Personality of the Year was presented to MARC HODLER in respect of his work towards getting bridge as an Olympic sport. Marc Hodler thanked the IBPA for his award and for their efforts in working towards making bridge a popular sport. The objective of all sport is to engender health in mind and body and being an Olympic sport will help promote bridge to the young.

Press conference: José Damiani, Jaime Ortiz-Patino, Panos Gerontopoulos and Marc Hodler were invited to the platform for a press conference.

Mr. Hodler was asked if there would be problems in Salt Lake City for bridge journalists. He said there is a problem of numbers. At the Winter Olympics there are

9,000 to 9,500 media. There are problems both of accreditation and accommodation for journalists, and journalists must get in touch with the Press section of the IOC in Lausanne who will help.

With full consultation with the IOC the WBF constitution and by-laws will be changed in Maastricht to be in accordance with the Olympic rules. As at present only sports played on snow and ice are eligible for the Winter Olympics the IOC, also, has to change some rules to allow for the inclusion of Mind Sports. Whereas if other sports moved it would entail the building of extra stadia, Mind Sports can be played in existing facilities, such as conference centers, hotel ballrooms and cinemas.

Asked about the WBF constitution Panos Gerontopoulos confirmed that we are ready to follow the IOC Code. 28 players in Bermuda willingly co-operated with drug testing and many more are happy to do so when necessary.

José Damiani said the WBF must be willing to accept the IOC Court of Arbitration. Also there will be close co-operation between all Federations and the IOC on the choice of teams.

An important decision was taken by the WBF to make a new zone of Africa, Zone 8, an area which has many IOC members. Also it means that the zones now cover the whole world.

Mr. Damiani was asked how many teams would play in Salt Lake City and how would they be picked. Originally it was to be six Open and two Womens teams, the latter USA v Europe, but he hoped, if the site, reported to be marvelous, would accommodate it, to increase to 8 Open teams to represent every zone; 6 Women's and two junior teams as they are the future of bridge, 16 teams in total.

Mr. Damiani was asked to comment about the Trans-national teams which is the toughest that has ever competed. The concept was close to his heart and he invented it for two reasons. We have the prestigious vugraph and are lucky to have CCTV covering the event but it needs people around. Also the competition associates people from different countries. It was started in Rhodes with 86 teams, there were 76 in Hammamet and here also 76. In view of the difficulty getting into Bermuda and the cost, that is very good and the competition has proved very attractive.

There being no other questions the meeting was closed with thanks to the panel.

The Australian Summer Festival

by Ron Klinger (Aus)

From the Weekend Australian:

In the Brilliancy Prize competition at the Summer Festival of bridge, there were two Honourable Mentions. The first of these occurred on Deal #1. To check your own defence cover the South and West hands. Suppose North opens one spade, South responds 1NT, North jumps to three clubs and South's 3NT ends the auction. West leads the diamond five to East's ace and declarer's seven. How should East continue at trick 2?

Dealer: West	A K Q 9 8 6
Love all	9 5

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

Canberra's Hashmat Ali, West, and Richard Hills, East, combined to take 3NT one down in the qualifying rounds of the National Open Teams. With spades breaking, declarer has eight tricks and one red suit trick would be enough for game. Looking at all four hands, the defence is straightforward but without such vision, there can be many a slip twixt the cup and the lip.

Ali led a low diamond to the ace. The textbook return from the East holding is the diamond three, the original fourth-highest. Hills found the superior return of the diamond ten. This catered for K-J-9-5-2 with West and otherwise would inform partner about East's values in diamonds.

Capturing South's honour with the king, Ali shifted to the heart six. Hills took the ace and returned the heart eight. Ali again captured South's honour with the king and locked declarer in dummy with a spade shift. He chose the spade jack to cater for the chance of a singleton ten with declarer. Marooned in dummy declarer now had to lose a club trick. One down.

The second Honourable Mention arose on Deal #2, also from the National Open Teams qualifying:

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

This time Margaret Abrahams and Hilary Yovich of Perth defeated 3NT. North-South bid : 1 -1 -2 -3NT-Pass. Yovich, West, led Q, ducked. The J came next, also ducked. On the third diamond Abrahams, East, played the king and declarer won with the ace.

Declarer now rattled off five rounds of clubs. On the third club, East shed the heart eight, a suit preference discard showing values in spades. On the fourth club Yovich could afford to throw a low heart but what should she discard on the fifth club?

After East's heart discard, West could not afford to reduce to two hearts, else all of dummy's hearts would come good. To throw a diamond could expose West to an end-play on a spade exit. (As the cards lie, an exit with Q would now save West but not if South had started with three hearts and four spades.)

Trusting partner, Yovich found the spectacular solution. She discarded the ace of spades! To discard an ace is a rarity. To do so in a suit bid by declarer is rarer still. Declarer could not score more than eight tricks.

The defenders on these deals each won a \$40 book voucher redeemable at The Bridge Shop or at Paul Lavings' Post Free Books, supporters of the Summer Festival of Bridge.

The Summer Festival of Bridge is often a fruitful font of fine play. On Deal #1 David Lilley of Canberra found the winning defence in the National Open Teams. If you care to test yourself, cover the East and South cards. Against four hearts, West leads the spade queen, king, ace and East returns the spade three to the jack. What should West play next?

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

Paul Lavings, South, opened one heart and Bob Dalley, North, raised to two hearts. South made a game try with three diamonds and North jumped to four hearts. As the cards lie, declarer appears to have only three losers, two spades and a club, but Lilley, West, was able to boost the defence's tally to four tricks, thanks to a clue from his partner.

Lilley led the spade queen, king, ace, and Nigel Rosendorff, East, returned the spade three to the jack. Reading the *three* as a suit preference signal for the lowest suit, Lilley switched to the *five* of clubs, low from dummy, ten from East. Rosendorff promptly returned a spade.

One down. Note that if Lilley had cashed the club ace first, declarer would have succeeded.

On Deal #2 which arose in the quarter-finals of the National Open Teams, another fine piece of defence was produced by Warren Lazer en route to winning the tournament. To try to match his play, cover the West and South cards on Deal #2.

Against four hearts, where declarer had bid nothing but hearts, West leads the diamond three to East's queen. All follow to the king of diamonds. What should East play at trick three?

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

North opened one club and Lazer, East, overcalled two diamonds. South bid two hearts and North raised to three hearts. Lazer made one more effort with four diamonds but South's four hearts ended the bidding.

Pauline Gumby, West, led the three of diamonds to the queen and everyone followed

to the king of diamonds. Lazer was now in a dilemma since each continuation was fraught with danger. A third diamond would give declarer a ruff-and-discard, and a switch to either black suit would play into dummy's tenace.

In order to defeat the contract, West needed to hold one winner, either the spade ace or a top trump. If West had the spade ace, there was a strong chance that declarer would misguess the spades. A switch to spades was not necessary in this case and could be disastrous if declarer had the spade ace.

As you can see, declarer would succeed on a spade from East at trick three, since the club loser can be discarded on the thirteenth spade. Likewise a diamond would allow the contract to make. Declarer discards a spade from hand and later plays spade ace, spade king and ruffs a spade. Again dummy's last spade allows declarer's club loser to be ditched.

Although it seems a kamikaze move, Lazer found the winning switch to a club. This was in accord with the sound principle of attacking dummy's shorter suit rather than the longer suit. Just in case declarer had started with 9-8-x in clubs, Lazer switched to the ten of clubs to ensure that West retained a club guard.

There was now no way for declarer to escape the heart and spade losers and the contract was one down.

IBPA Column Service

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

133
 Dlr: West 3
 Vul: N/S 10 2
 K 10 8 6 3
 A Q 10 9 3
 J 10 8 6 5 2 Q 9 7
 Q 8 J 7 6 5 4 3
 A 7 2 J 5
 8 2 K 7
 A K 4
 A K 9
 Q 9 4
 J 6 5 4

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

On this deal from the 1998 Spingold West opened 2 and East raised to 3, and North heard his partner bid 3NT -- the same start as at all four tables. In one room, Balicki passed and Zmudzinski collected a comfortable 600, playing the hand in textbook fashion. He ducked the spade lead and won the next, then attacked the danger hand's entries first. He played one round of diamonds and when that held, turned to clubs for his nine tricks.

At another table Hamman used Minor Suit Stayman - he left Soloway in 5. Now, on a spade lead, would you not carefully draw trumps and then play off the hearts first to get a count of the side suits then play West for three diamonds, and thus the J? [Actually if East has the A, which he appears to do from the auction, then the inference about vacant spaces is not so clear]. Whatever the case, this problem did not arise, as Soloway got a trump lead. Viewing this not to be away from the

K, he rose with the ace and stripped off the major suits, then exited with a second trump. East won his K and had to open up diamonds or concede a ruff and discard. Nicely done by Soloway.

134
 Dlr: North J 3 2
 Vul: E/W A J 6
 Q 4 3
 A K 4 3
 K 7 6 5 4
 10 7 5 2 Q 9 4
 J 10 9 8 A K 7 6 2
 7 10 9 8 6
 A Q 10 9 8
 K 8 3
 5
 Q J 5 2

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

If playing standard methods, 3 is forcing here, though 2 as New Minor is another option. North's preference bid of 3 shows exactly three spades. (3NT would deny three spades of course.)

The contract of 4 looks safe enough, but the 4-1 trump split poses problems of control. South ruffs the second diamond, crosses to dummy with a top heart - safer than a club - and takes a spade finesse. When a third diamond is led, if declarer ruffs he loses control. He must discard a heart instead, keeping control of the trumps. Now he can ruff the next diamond in dummy and his hand is high after drawing trumps.

If declarer crosses to dummy with a club instead of a heart at trick three East overtakes the third diamond and leaves South with an insoluble problem. If South ducks the diamond, East gives his partner a club ruff, and if South ruffs, he has lost control of the hand.

135

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

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

¹ Majors

Once Baze had doubled 2, North-South were in serious trouble. The defence actually have a number of hurdles to overcome, but they made it look easy to get the maximum. To start with, Baze found the trump lead. Katz won, cashed the K, a thoughtful play, then returned the K. The defence cleared trumps, then Baze played his Q and another spade. Katz cashed out the spades, and Baze carefully discarded a low club. After much thought, Katz switched to a diamond, collecting the extra undertrick for three down and +500.

136

This deal from the second qualifying session of the Reisinger Board-a-Match Teams does not look like a real problem for North-South. 3NT has nine top tricks, but it may not be so easy to get to the no-trump game.

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

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

North has a tricky bid after hearing his partner overcall at the three-level. While bidding 3NT works fine, the actual choice leads to a respectable contract of 5, on a heart lead.

The contract does not seem interesting, since 11 tricks are lay-down when trumps split 2-2, but the play is not entirely trivial. The point is that if you take the A and play on clubs at once, you are faced with the dilemma of whether to draw two rounds of trumps at once (if you do, you have problems arranging two club ruffs in the North hand, since there is no re-entry to the South hand for the second club ruff, and the defence may play a third diamond and leave you a trick short). The alternative is to play two rounds of clubs before drawing trumps. If you do that, you go down, which is what happened at at least one table.

The winning solution is very simple: duck the first heart - there is no danger even if hearts are 7-1, since even if the defence take a heart ruff you can discard a spade on the A eventually. When East takes the first trick and plays a second heart, you can win and draw two rounds of trumps. Once trumps are 2-2, you can claim 11 tricks, but even if trumps do not split, your duck of the first heart has given you communications back to your hand via a heart ruff if necessary, to arrange the two club ruffs.

Calendar	Event	Venue	IBPA Contact
2000			
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	18/23	Portugese Open, Cascais	np43je@mail.telepac.pt
	20/23	Niklas Data Invitation, Stockholm	Daniel Auby
	21/24	Easter Festival, London	EBU: +44 1296 317 203
	28/May 2	Spring Foursomes, Stratford	EBU: postmaster@ebu.co.uk
MAY	13/18	Cyprus Festival, Palm Beach Hotel	+357 2 516 221
	23/28	European Ladies Festival, Hotel Prague, Prague	anna@ecats.co.uk
	26/Jun 8	Juan-les-Pins Festival, Palais des Congres	+33 4 9361 2899
JUN	2/3	WBF Worldwide Simultaneous by Internet	cfrancin@worldbridgefed.com
	7/11	Velden, Grand Hotel Europa, Austria	Babsch +43 1 606 4381
	24/25	Schiphol International, De Aviodome	van Rooy +31 622 388 186
	30/Jul 12	Biarritz Festival, Espace Bellevue	Pacault +33 5 56 52 0046
JUL	1/8	New Zealand Nationals	Solomon +64 9 323 8494
	6/16	European Youth Championships, Antalya, Turkey	Panos G panos@bridge.gr
	14/17	Scottish Summer Congress, Peebles	+44 1324 625 251
	17/30	Deauville Festival, Casino	+33 1 46 03 51 20
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
SEP	4/9	World Trans-national Mixed Teams, Maastricht	+33 1 53 03 23 10
	16/23	Lebanon Festival, Hotel Beirut	bridgecl@cyberia.net.lb
OCT			
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	8/10	Milan Festival, Bruzzano	+39 02 653 291
	27/30	England Year-End Congress, London	EBU 44 1296 394 414

EBU Save The Children Pro-Celebrity Pairs

White House hotel, London 13th Feb 2000 by Patrick Jourdain and David Bird (UK)

The English Bridge Union has made *Save the Children* their charity for the Year 2000. Sixteen bridge professionals drew celebrity partners for the one session event.

It was a family contest when ITN's Washington Correspondent, James Mates, partnering Patrick Jourdain, met James's father, Michael Mates MP, the former Minister for Northern Ireland, who was partnering Andrew Robson. Robson earned his side a top on this deal:

Board 11	A J 7 6		
Dealer: South	K J 7 6		
Love all	K		
	A J 10 5		
9 3		Q 10 8 5 4	
5 4 3		10 2	
10 9 8 5 4 2		A 3	
9 2		K 7 6 3	
	K 2		
	A Q 9 8		
	Q J 7 6		
	Q 8 4		

West	North	East	South
<i>Jourdain</i>	<i>Robson</i>	<i>James</i>	<i>Michael</i>
			1
Pass	1	1	3
Pass	6	All Pass	

Michael Mates made an aggressive raise on the second round leading to a slam which looks likely to fail with the club finesse wrong. However, Mates Junior felt he might have to establish a club trick before dummy's diamonds were established, and made the attacking lead of a club. Robson won in hand with ten, and started on diamonds. East won and found the best exit of a passive diamond. Robson ruffed his losing diamond in hand, drew trumps, and led the queen of clubs in case it tempted a cover from West (no chance!). However, when West played low he put on the ace (Vienna Coup), returned to K, and cashed dummy's remaining winners, leaving himself with 8 and a spade in dummy, and AJ in hand. East had to concede, squeezed out of either K or his spade guard.

Mates Senior won the three-board encounter 26-16 in matchpoints, but his son had the last laugh, finishing a place ahead of Dad.

David Bird, bridge correspondent of the Mail on Sunday, reports the story when he drew the former England cricket captain, Mike Gatting as partner: We had a couple of minutes to discuss a system and discovered his only convention was Blackwood. I had been delighted to draw such a big name but the prospect of facing such as Robson, Landy, Nicola Smith, Burn and Priday without even Stayman was a bit daunting.

Gatting defended and played the dummy very competently and had good card sense; I really don't think we screwed up any defences at all, but we lost heavily in the bidding, and finished 15th. It was a great event and very enjoyable. Brave of the celebrities to play in front of spectators.

Before the start Liz Fraser, the actress from the *Carry on..* films, and first to draw a partner, raised a laugh by saying loudly 'If I draw that awful David Burn, I am going to put the card back in the hat', then picking David Burn! But she kept the card. Priday drew Evan Harris, the Liberal MP who promotes bridge in the House of Commons. I fancied them to win but they were only 14th, just ahead of us. The winners were Su Burn and Ian Partridge, the operatic tenor.

Two hands to give a flavour:

Dealer: West	A K 2		
Game All	A K 9 8 6 3		
	9 2		
	6 2		
	10 9 6 5 4	void	
	10 2	Q J 7	
	A K 7 4	J 8 6 5	
	Q J	K 9 8 5 4 3	
		Q J 8 7 3	
		5 4	
		Q 10 3	
		A 10 7	

West	North	East	South
<i>P. Donovan</i>	<i>Gatting</i>	<i>B. Whitrow</i>	<i>Dave</i>
-	1	Pass	1
Pass	3	Pass	4

Benjamin Whitrow was Mr Bennett in the recent *Pride and Prejudice* on TV. Peter Donovan, bridge correspondent of the *Daily Mail*, cashed two top diamonds and switched to Q. I saw that I could make an overtrick if both majors were 3-2 (it was pairs scoring). Plan was ace of hearts, AQ of trumps, heart to the king, ruff a heart high and cross to trump K. To follow this line, I did not need to cash Q, pitching a club first. When I played the ace of trumps East showed out. Now I regretted not cashing the diamond. I played K and led a third heart, East following. To cut my losses I had to ruff high, cash the diamond, throwing a club, and ruff a club with the 2. This was one down. There is a make if I do cash Q first. You ruff both clubs, using a high heart ruff as an entry, then ruff a fourth heart with the 8 to endplay West. This is possible only because West cashed both diamonds, rather than switching to a club at Trick 2.

This one was hair-raising:

Dealer: South	A K 9 8 6 3		
N/S Game	2		
	K		
	K 10 7 5 4		

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

Q J
 A J 8 6 4
 A J 10 8 7
 Q

West	North	East	South
Gatting	H.McRae	Dave	P.Mendelsohn
-	-		1
Pass	2	3	3
Dble	All Pass		

Hilton McRae is an actor who appeared in Mansfield Park and French Lieutenant's Woman. Deep Finesse, the double-dummy analyser, states that this contract goes down on a low spade lead only. Mike Gatting led a club (as would everyone, of course) and I won with the ace. I thought at the time that a spade return might have caused problems but declarer can set up tricks in the dummy and make whether the defenders play on hearts or the black suits. Anyway, I returned a trump to the K. A spade to the queen was followed by A (dropping my nine). Declarer (Paul Mendelson, bridge columnist in *the Financial Times*) should just have drawn trumps now but he played on spades, overtaking the jack, cashing the ace and playing a fourth round to West, ditching a heart. After a heart to Q/A, declarer did play on trumps. Now Mike Gatting could win with the Q, cross to K and a club promoted a setting trick in trumps. +200 was a rare good score for us in the second half. Very entertaining.

James Smith, representing Save the Children, partnered his namesake Nicola Smith (no relation) to second place and reported that the EBU had already raised £5,000 for the charity.

Results :

	%
1. Su Burn & Ian Partridge	66.4
2. Nicola Smith & James Smith	61.6
3. Mark Horton & Kit Jackson	60.1
4. Sandra Landy & Tony McWalter MP	55.6
5. Patrick Jourdain & James Mates	53.0
6. Andrew Robson & Michael Mates MP	51.2
7. Paul Mendelson & Hilton McRae	49.7
8. Peter Donovan & Benjamin Whitrow	47.9

GENERALI MASTERS

Athens, 13th -15th April 2000

Zappion Congress Centre

Men's event (52 players - 4 sessions)

Thursday 13 th April	Evening
Friday 14 th April	Afternoon
	Evening
Saturday 15 th April	Afternoon

Women's event (28 players - 3 sessions)

Friday 14 th April	Afternoon
	Evening
Saturday 15 th April	Afternoon

Junior event (20 players - 3 sessions as for women's)

All players play Generali standard system - details on www.bridge.gr.

Money Prizes

	Men	Women
1 st	US\$10,000	\$6,000
2 nd	US\$ 6,000	\$4,000
3 rd	US\$ 4,000	\$3,000
4 th	US\$ 2,000	\$2,000
5 th	US\$ 2,000	\$1,000
6 th -10 th	US\$ 1,000	\$ 800
11 th -14 th	US\$ 800	\$ 500
15 th	US\$ 800	-
16 th -26 th	US\$ 500	-

Special prizes of \$500 per session men and women. Prizes for best session results from the second half of the field (non-cumulative).

* New members joining in Bermuda: Jade Barrett (USA); Isobelle Belio (Fra); Claus Daehr (Ger); Ishmael Del 'Monte (Australia); Steve Eginton (GB); Dr. Harvey Fox (GB); Paul Hanratty (Ire); Krzysztof Jassem (Pol); Jim Kaplan (USA); Michael Yuan (Can).

Re-joining: Koen Gijsman (Net); Fred Gitelman (Can); Mazhar Jafri (Pak); Amran Zamzami (Indonesia).

Re-joining at Forbo: Chris Niemeyer (Net).

Postbag

* *Henry Francis reports:* A daring opening lead scuttled a well-bid grand slam on this deal from a recent matchpoint contest on OKbridge.

Dlr: East		K
Vul: Love All	9 7 4	
	A Q 9 3 2	
	10 4 3 2	
Q 10 9 7 2		J 8 6
10 6 5 2		K Q J 8 3
6 4		10 8 7
Q 7		J 8
	A 5 4 3	
	A	
	K J 5	
	A K 9 6 5	

South and North had an unopposed auction:

1 -1 -2 -4 -4 -4 -4NT-5 -7 -Pass

4NT was RKCB and the response showed 1 or 4 keycards.

West, Ralph Zakar of Florida, figured declarer had five clubs and four spades and that dummy would come down with four clubs and one keycard, with declarer having the other four. Dummy's keycard was likely to be outside trumps, with South having

AK. If West did not lead a trump, South, with nine trumps, would drop his queen. But if his partner held Jx? Yes, West led a low trump from Q7!

"Fate was with me," he said. The layout was exactly what he had hoped for. As a result of the trump opening lead to the jack and ace, declarer now had a losing option available - he could finesse East for the trump queen. And that's exactly what he did! Down one! Who can blame declarer for falling for this play?

IBPA Editor: I recall two previous occasions for this play. Years ago, when opponents reached 7 on an auction showing nine trumps, I sacrificed at favourable vulnerability in 7 holding Qx. The opponents duly went 7NT, declarer started criticising dummy for having only four small hearts, and then angrily bashed out AK, my partner contributing J10 doubleton. Slam made. Declarer would have taken the double finesse through my partner had he not also been missing the ten.

The other was told me by Victor Goldberg who had waited many years to try leading a low trump from Qx against a grand. The layout was exactly right sadly his partner was too mean to put up the jack at trick one! Goldberg is still waiting for his next chance.

* *Anna Maria Torlontano* reports that the European Ladies Bridge Festival will be in Prague from 23rd to 28th May, at the Hotel Prague. A 5-night package, half-board, including three excursions,

costs about 700 Swiss Francs. For a brochure, please contact: Anna Gudge - Fax +44 1787 881920

e-mail: anna@ecats.co.uk

* *Guy Dupont reports:* a unique videotape of the Orbis World Bridge Championships, in English (8-21 January 2000, Bermuda) is now available.

Extracts can be seen on:

www.canalweb.net/vers/bridgtv.asp

You find in this video tape the Championship atmosphere, the emotion of the best players - live!

This is the Bermuda Bowl and Venice Cup's backstage as you never seen it. Interviewed stars include: Bob Hamman, Zia Mahmood, Eric Rodwell, Jeff Meckstroth, Gabriel Chagas, Geir Helgemo, and the ladies new world champions ... About twenty interviews of the organizers and players, by Guy Dupont and Isabelle Bello.

The price of sale : about 29.9 US\$.

The videotape was produced and published by a french production, company, Mercure Creation.

Contact : mercure.c@infonie.fr

(if it is not sold in your country).

* *Sabine Auken* is now working for Save the Children, Denmark in corporate fundraising. New work tel: +45 35248546, Fax +45 70206220.

* *David & Lizbeth Burn* have moved to:

69 Ederline Avenue, Norbury, London SW16 4RZ

Telephone: 020 8764 0918

Fax: 020 8679 8228

David's office: 020 8633 2174, fax 020 8633 2732.

Mobile: 07767 642094 Lizbeth's: 07957 566858.

Your chances of getting in touch with either of us by any of the above means remain as remote as they ever were, of course, but the main thing is that it will not be your fault.

* *Ron Klinger reports:* England (Three Hacketts, John Armstrong and Brigitte Mavromichalis) defeated Japan 170-141 in the NEC Cup held in Tokyo last week. The Australian team of Khokan Bagchi - Seamus Browne, Ishmael Del'Monte - Peter Newman finished third. They defeated Indonesia 134-89 in the quarter-finals, then lost to England by exactly the same score-line, 89-134, in the semi-finals. In the playoff for third place they defeated the USA 107-56.

The Hackett team also went on to win the teams championship in the Surfer's Paradise tournament in Queensland.

* A new name will go on the Camrose Trophy (the British Isles Home Internationals launched in 1937) this year. With one round remaining, Wales and the Republic of Ireland, neither of whom has won it in the 57-year history of the event, are both unbeaten and meet to determine the winner. Scores after round 4 (England having completed their campaign): 1. Wales 179; 2. Republic of Ireland

164; 3. England 158; 4. Scotland 127; 5. Northern Ireland 90.

* *Ib Lundby sends a deal as an entry for the Levendaal Award:*

This deal from our Team Championships contains lots of brilliancy, from declarer as well as both defenders. Declarer, Anders Hagen, was a member of the Danish team that won the bronze medals at the World Junior Championships in Fort Lauderdale 1999.

N-S: Anders Sigsgaard / Anders Hagen (E-W: Peter Kraunsøe / Anders Laustsen

Dealer: North	A K		
Game All	9 8 5		
	A Q 5 3 2		
	K Q 2		
Q J 9 7 6		10 4 3 2	
7		K 6	
J 9 6		K 10	
A 7 6 4		J 10 8 5 3	
	8 5		
	A Q J 10 4 3 2		
	8 7 4		
	9		

West	North	East	South
	1	Pass	1
1	Dbl 1)	3	4
Pass	4 2)	Pass	5 2)
Pass	6	All pass	
1) Shows three card heart support			
2) Cuebids			

Maybe South should have used Blackwood instead of cuebidding 5 , but it was too late to feel sorry about that. Instead South had to be happy that West didn't find the diamond lead which automatically beats the contract.

Anders won in dummy, finessed the Q and cashed the ace. So far, so good. A club towards dummy left West with a Hobson's choice. He did his best by ducking (simple mathematics: to give away one trick is better than giving away two). Alas, the K made the trick, and next it was East's turn to have a problem, as South asked for a sneaky low diamond from dummy.

Again the defense was good: East won the trick with the 10. (In fact West erred at this point. Best is to win with the J and continue with a low diamond! This puts declarer to the test early on. Would you have found that brilliant defense?).

As good as anything East got off with a spade to dummy, and now declarer cashed all his trumps. Before the last one the situation was:

	None		
	None		
	A Q		
	Q		
None		None	
None		None	

J 9	K
A	J 10
	None
	2
	8 7
	None

When South continued with the 2 West was caught in a show up squeeze. He had to discard a diamond, and knowing the position of the A declarer therefore had a 100% safe play in diamonds (he knew that the king was now bare with the East hand and played for the drop. Well played, Anders!

* *Fritz Babsch reports from Austria:*

Austrian Open Pairs: 1. Kurt Feichtinger/Hubert Obermair, 2. Andreas Babsch/Doris Fischer.

Vienna Bridge Congress: Teams Andreas Babsch, Wolfgang Bieder, Peter Umhaus, Terry Weigkricht; Pairs Thomas Burg/Martin Schifko

Austrian Mixed Pairs: 1. Jovanka Smederevac-Martin Schifko, 2. Susi Grumm-Hubert Obermair.

Austrian Bridge Federation: President - Dr Franz Kriftner, Vice-President - Dr. Donna Schiller.

Fritz Babsch was elected an Honorary Member of the Federation by the general assembly.

Babsch also reports the following errors in the EBL Competition Calendar:

Salzkammergut Tournament is July 12th-16th

32nd Loiben Bridge Week is August 6th-12th.

* *Bridge Today Digest - Online* claims to be the first bridge magazine by e-mail subscription: the first regular issue will appear on March 6th. A dummy free issue has already been circulated.

The magazine comes to the subscriber by e-mail every Monday and Thursday for 50 weeks, 100 issues per year. You may subscribe to *Bridge Today Digest - Online* anytime you like and you will receive 100 issues from that point. The introductory cost is \$28 per year, 28 cents per issue.

The magazine is available in plain e-mail or as a pdf file, read with Adobe's Acrobat Reader.

The dummy issue included this deal:

In the Martels' Diary report of the Bermuda Bowl (this issue of Bridge Today), there is a very intriguing hand:

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

West	North	East	South
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- - 4 * 4
 Dble All Pass

*Namyats (shows a strong four-heart bid)

Against Chip Martel, West cashed AK, East playing 4, Q and then West played a third club, ostensibly to kill the J. This resulted in only down one.

So Chip was only -200, and his team-mates were plus 450 in five hearts, making. Obviously, this was a costly swing for East-West, since they had a chance to score 800 (not that Chip did anything wrong by bidding 4). Any ideas about how to get the diamond ruffs?

We suggest East should have contributed Q at trick one. West would probably continue with the king but then knows his partner does NOT want the normal heart shift, (*Switch in Time says low-high to encourage the normal switch*) so he makes an inference that his partner can stand a shift to diamonds (if East cannot stand a diamond shift, he must ask for the heart shift). West plays the ace of diamonds, and when he sees partner is void, the rest is easy; 10 for a ruff, 2 returned by East, indicating he has another spade, and another diamond ruff for 800.

Contact: Bridge Today, Att: Griffin Enterprises, 3329 Spindletop Dr NW, Kennesaw, GA 30144-7336; Phone: 770-529-8088; Fax: 770-529-5289). The introductory price is \$28 (later the price will be higher).

Bridge Today Magazine, our regular snail-mail publication, is available for \$29/year (six issues). For a Canadian address, please add \$5. For an address outside of North America, please add \$12 (or \$24 for airmail). Also, on March 6th the spring semester of Bridge Today University begins. (Summer semester begins on June 5.) We have seven expert courses, including Matthew's new "Hand Study 204" course (there are 11 lessons in each expert course, and they appear by email once a week on Mondays), as well as our learn bridge from scratch course by Larry King (9 lessons, two per week). Anyone who wants more information can email back to us for a detailed course description. The tuition is \$49 per course, or \$44.10 for Bridge Today Magazine or Bridge Today Digest subscribers. An example from the Hand Study 203 course appears below.

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

South	West	North	East
1NT	Dble	All Pass	

West led the king of clubs. The defence is interesting. East signals with the 8 and West must choose a club at trick two. His choice is the queen, jack or 2. Which should he play and why?

This is a crucial point in the defense, though not easily identifiable. The reason it's crucial is that West prefers a heart return from partner and conveying this information is vital. After all, most defenders would simply cash four club tricks and then try to decide what to shift to. West cannot afford to play the 2, because South might be holding up with the A754, leaving partner with the initial 98 doubleton. West should return the queen or jack, where the queen says he prefers a spade return and the jack says he prefers a heart return. Diamonds are OUT. Why? Because dummy's diamond suit makes that suit an illogical play.

When giving a suit-preference signal, and partner has three options, you must eliminate (mentally) one of the suits. Eliminate the strongest suit. West should return the jack of clubs at trick two. East wins the ace and shifts to a heart. Since East has no more entries, he should play a high heart (the queen or ten), so he can hold the trick in case South has Kxx. If he covers with the king, he will lose four heart tricks. Based on the double of 1NT, he should duck the heart, and he'll end up losing 8 tricks, for minus 500.

In real life, East removed West's double to 2 and made 8 tricks for plus 110 only.
 END