

The March issue of American Bridge World raised a debate about the principles behind Law worth a wider airing. The theme is bridge benefits greatly from one worldwide set of Laws, but that recent editions, in order to reach agreement within the Laws Commission, have allowed too many Zonal options, and deliberate ambiguities. The former lead to confusion when players cross Zones, and the latter are a lawyer's delight when each party interprets the wording to suit their case.

The solution lies in debating and establishing principles before the Laws are revised. Committee members should then be prepared to give up wordings which they favour, but which are in conflict with agreed principle. Sadly, on one of the basic principles, opinions at the top are almost evenly split. Current bridge Law allows correction of slips of the tongue or wrist to be made without penalty wherever possible, whereas the player must usually stick with any action that was meant at the time. (An exception to the latter is the ungainly Law 25 allowing correction even of a purposeful call.) This accurately reflects the wishes of the majority of ordinary players who are happy for a card dropped by declarer to be replaced without penalty, or a player to be allowed to change a call or designated play made "inadvertently", or a deficient or ambiguous statement by a player to be interpreted as that player intended. This gives Appeals Committees the task of deciding which actions were meant at the time, which were inadvertent, and, in the case of deficient statements (such as saying "spade" when you mean a specific spade) what you actually meant.

The opposing view, more prevalent at the top, is to want to make players stick with what they actually say or do, however clearly unintended. The Bridge World rightly criticises those who, not liking Law as it is now, attempt to interpret Law in the way they would like it to be.

Other examples: if we establish the principle that "it is permissible to attempt prevention of an infraction, whether by an opponent or partner"; then we would have an argument against those who do not like a defender preventing partner leading out of turn. If we agreed that "dummy may ask for clarification of any ambiguous or incomplete instruction by declarer" we could stop the top players relying on "spade" as being interpreted mostly as "low spade".

Patrick Jourdain - Editor

ZIA & ROBSON WIN CAP GEMINI WORLD INVITATION PAIRS

From Bulletins edited by Mark Horton & Patrick Jourdain, Hotel des Indes, The Hague, March 16-19th

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Zia Mahmood and Andrew Robson finally overcame their main rivals, newcomers Steve Weinstein and Bobby Levin, by virtue of two tremendous results on the last two boards of the event. Zia was recording his fifth win in the event, Robson his second. Krzysztof Jassem & Piotr Tuszynski, were third, ahead of Gabriel Chagas & Marcelo Branco. The fifth and sixth placed pairs were also newcomers, Geoff Hampson & Eric Greco, and Pablo Lambardi & Carlos Lucena.

Round 15 The Photo-finish

The Round opened with Mahmood & Robson just two points short of the lead, facing Nab & Bertens on VuGraph. The packed audience felt that they had closed the gap with some brilliant bidding on the first board they played, actually Board 29:

Board 29. Dealer North. Game All

<pre> [A K J 10] 10 4 3 { K Q J 7 } Q 4 [Q 7 5 2] A Q J 7 5 { 3 } K J 2 [9 8 6] 6 2 { A 8 6 5 4 2 } 9 3 </pre>	<pre> [4 3] K 9 8 { 10 9 } A 10 8 7 6 5 </pre>
--	--

West	North	East	South
<i>Robson</i>	<i>Nab</i>	<i>Zia</i>	<i>Bertens</i>
	1NT	Pass	2NT
Pass	3}	Dble	3{
Dble	Pass	3]	Pass

4] All Pass

South's 2NT was a transfer showing diamonds, and North's Three Clubs indicated he had good diamonds. Zia grabbed the chance to show his clubs, and Robson co-operated by doubling Three Diamonds. As North-South had already shown a good fit, this had to be take-out suggesting major suit values. Zia therefore showed his three-card heart suit and Robson was happy to raise.

South led the ace of diamonds and switched to a spade, but the defence had only three tricks before declarer came in and drew trumps. Zia picked up the clubs without problem to claim his game. No-one else bid this and they gained 12 IMPs against the datum. They were off on the right foot. Later, this indeed proved to be the crucial board, where Robson & Zia overtook Levin & Weinstein. This is what happened at their table:

West	North	East	South
<i>Levin</i>	<i>Mihov</i>	<i>Weinstein</i>	<i>Nanev</i>
	1NT	Pass	2NT
Dble	3{	4}	All Pass

Two Notrumps was again a transfer showing diamonds

Four Clubs just made for 5 IMPs to the Americans but a crucial 7 worse than Zia-Robson.

And so to what at most tables would be the last board of the event:

Board 30. Dealer East. Love All

<pre> [K 7 4] Q J 7 3 2 { A K 8 2 } 8 [A 10 5 2] 9 5 { J 6 } J 6 4 3 2 [J 9 8 3] A 6 4 { 7 } K Q 10 9 5 </pre>	<pre> [Q 6] K 10 8 { Q 10 9 5 4 3 } A 7 </pre>
--	--

West	North	East	South
<i>Robson</i>	<i>Nab</i>	<i>Zia</i>	<i>Bertens</i>
		2{	Pass
3{	3]	Pass	4]
All Pass			

Against North's Four Hearts Zia led the ace of clubs. Robson made the dramatic play of the *jack* to show his ace of spades. But first Zia led another club, on which declarer threw a spade.

Had declarer now played a spade towards his hand the analysts reckoned the game could be made. West may rise and play a third club, but declarer discards a diamond, allowing East to ruff, and has an entry to draw trumps safely.

Instead, at trick three, declarer led a low trump off the table. Zia won, put his partner in with a spade and now a third club promoted a second trump trick for East. One off and 6 IMPs to Zia-Robson. And at the other table in what had become a head-to-head match:

West	North	East	South
<i>Levin</i>	<i>Mihov</i>	<i>Weinstein</i>	<i>Nanev</i>
		1{	Dble
Pass	2{	Pass	2[
Pass	3]	Pass	4]
All Pass			

Same contract, same lead. But this time East switched at trick two to a fatal queen of spades. West took the ace and tried to give his partner a club ruff. Declarer, Mihov, simply discarded a diamond, came to hand with the ace of diamonds and took the trump finesse to claim his game soon after. The Americans had lost 6 IMPs against the datum, but more important, 12 IMPs compared to Zia. Zia and Robson were the champions by a margin of just 6 IMPs.

Patrick Jourdain reported this deal from Round 7 which is a candidate for IBPA's Hand of the Year:

Board 7. Dealer South. Game All

	[K Q 5 2		
	] Q		
	{ K J 2		
	} K 8 7 6 3		
[J 9		[A 10 7	
] K 9 8 3		] 10 7 6	
{ A Q 10 9 8 5		{ 7 6 3	
} 9		} 10 5 4 2	
	[8 6 4 3		
	] A J 5 4 2		
	{ 4		
	} A Q J		

West	North	East	South
<i>Jason</i>	<i>Tuszynski</i>	<i>Justin</i>	<i>Jassem</i>
			1]
2{	Dble	Pass	2[
Pass	4[	All Pass	

Board 7 proved the most interesting deal of the championship. Three pairs made game, two showing the theme we have had before of avoiding the major suit fit, and opting for Three No-trumps. The other was the auction above.

Jason Hackett led his singleton club. Kryzstof Jassem won with the ace, and led a diamond. West went in with the ace, and had to decide what to lead next. When Jason somewhat casually played the jack of trumps Jassem found the brilliancy of playing low in dummy! Justin gave this a long look, but saw there was no solution. If he overtook to give his brother the club ruff, he would lose his second trump trick. So he had to let the jack win, and the defence never obtained the ruff. Four Spades made.

The play went exactly the same way when Robson held the West cards against Nanev, but on lead at trick three he switched to the *nine* of trumps. Declarer might still have made if he ducked, for it is not so obvious for East to put in the ten. But in practice declarer rose with the king and the contract went the normal one off.

The deal also makes a great double-dummy problem in 3NT by North. Can it be beaten? The Swedes used "Magic" to get there:

West	North	East	South
<i>Meckstroth</i>	<i>Andersson</i>	<i>Rodwell</i>	<i>Gullberg</i>
			1}
1{	Dble	Pass	1]
2{	3NT	All Pass	

1} is either unbalanced 12-16 or balanced 15-17

Rodwell led a diamond and Meckstroth put in eight, losing to the jack. Deep Finesse, the amazingly good double-dummy analyser, says the game cannot make against best defence. Andersson tested the clubs, finding them 4-1.

DF says West should discard a middle diamond, retaining the five! (The relevant point later on must be that when declarer tries to endplay West to lead a heart into dummy's AJ, East is able to get the lead with the seven of diamonds!) Meckstroth actually threw a heart. DF also says that when declarer plays a spade, West should play the *jack*, and East let the king hold. Test it yourself. Both declarers in 3NT succeeded.

At the table West discarded a heart on the second club, a spade went to the nine, king and ace, and a second diamond set up declarer's ninth trick as he could unblock clubs and reach hand with the spade. The play was similar when Westra was declarer against Berkowitz & Cohen (diamond ducked to North, one club to dummy, spade to king and ace, second diamond).

Round 4

Little happened in the VuGraph match until this deal came along:

Board 4. Dealer West. Game All

	[Q		
	] 5 2		
	{ A K 10 8 6 3		
	} J 10 8 5		
[K 7 6 2		[J 8 3	
] K J 9		] 4 3	
{ 7 4		{ Q J 9 2	
} A 9 7 2		} K Q 4 3	
	[A 10 9 5 4		
	] A Q 10 8 7 6		
	{ 5		
	} 6		
West	North	East	South
<i>Mihov</i>	<i>Nab</i>	<i>Nanev</i>	<i>Bertens</i>
1{	2{	Pass	2]
Pass	3{	Dble	3[
Dble	4]	Dble	All Pass

1 was Precision and the overcall was natural

The Bulgarians clearly thought they had the Dutch pair on the run, and the defence had an air of casual confidence about it that dissipated as the hand progressed. West led the ace of clubs and another club. Huub Bertens gave them no further chance to beat the game.

He put in the eight of clubs, and Nanev put on a deceptive king, ruffed by South. Declarer crossed to dummy with a diamond and led the ten of clubs. East played low, but declarer had already seen how to make ten tricks without needing a club trick. Declarer ruffed, and continued with ace of spades, spade ruff, king of diamonds throw a spade, club ruff, spade ruff.

This was the ending with the lead in dummy:

	[
]		
	{ 10 8 6 3		
	}		
[K		[
] K J 9		] 4 3	
{		{ Q J	
}		}	
	[10		
	] A Q 10		
	{		
	}		

Bertens played a diamond, and when East covered, simply threw his last spade. East played a diamond that was ruffed and over-ruffed, and West was endplayed to lead away from his trump holding. Well played.

Bertens realised that the club trick he had been given when West played a second club was not needed. Suppose he had thrown a spade on the good club. Then in the ending shown above he would have a trump more and a spade less. He still has to lose two tricks in the ending, as West is able to over-ruff when the diamond is played and exit with a spade.

Ignoring the double-dummy defence at trick one of underleading the ace of clubs to get a trump back, does West have a winning switch at trick two? A diamond is no good: the play goes {A, club ruff, [A, spade ruff, top diamond, club ruff, spade ruff, club ruff. The ending is the same as diagrammed except South is on lead. He simply exits with a spade, and it does not help East to ruff his partner's winner and play a diamond.

What about leading a trump at trick two? No good, I think, even though you prevent a spade ruff. The play goes diamond to the ace, and declarer does best to run the queen of spades, losing to the king. If West plays another trump, declarer loses only two spades and a club. If West exits passively, declarer can ruff out the jack of spades, and lose only one trump, one spade and one club.

No other declarer made more than nine tricks, because they tried to ruff a third diamond before the fourth club. This is what happened when Rodwell was declarer:

West	North	East	South
<i>Lambardi</i>	<i>Meckstroth</i>	<i>Lucena</i>	<i>Rodwell</i>
Pass	1{	Pass	1]
Pass	2{	Pass	3[
Pass	4]	All Pass	

The 3[call showed six hearts and five spades

Lambardi led ace and another club. Rodwell put up the jack (that looks like an error, as to generate a trick in the suit you need to try the eight). He ruffed East's king, took his top diamonds, East cleverly falsecarding with the queen on the second round, took [A, spade ruff, club ruff, spade ruff, and now had to decide what to ruff next. When he tried for West to have a third diamond the game was defeated. West over-ruffed, cashed his spade trick, and exited with a club.

Note that if declarer puts in the eight of clubs at trick two he can dispose of all his losing spades, and afford to lose two trumps.

Round 1

Jeff Meckstroth and Vladimir Mihov of Bulgaria, after identical bidding, both found the same endplay to make their game on this deal from the first round:

Board 9. Dealer North. East-West Game

```

                [ A 9 4
                ] K Q 9 3 2
                { 7 6
                } K J 9

[ J 10 8 7
] 5
{ 10 9 8 5 4
} Q 8 5

                [ Q 6
                ] A J 8 7 6
                { J 3
                } A 10 6 3

                [ K 5 3 2
                ] 10 4
                { A K Q 2
                } 7 4 2

```

West	North	East	South
<i>Berkowitz</i>	<i>Meckstroth</i>	<i>Cohen</i>	<i>Rodwell</i>
<i>Jassem</i>	<i>Mihov</i>	<i>Tuszynski</i>	<i>Nanev</i>
	1]	Pass	1[
Pass	1NT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

The simple auction put Meckstroth at the helm in Three Notrumps on what was their first deal of the championships. Declarer hit the ground running, for the play had an air of inevitability about it.

Cohen led a low club to the queen and king. Meckstroth crossed to dummy with a diamond and ran the ten of hearts, losing to the jack. Cohen exited passively with a diamond. A second heart saw West discard a diamond. The king was taken by the ace and East again exited passively, this time with a heart. Meckstroth cashed his two top hearts, throwing a spade and a club from dummy (West doing the same), then took the king and ace of spades, and threw East in with the fifth heart to be end-played into giving declarer his ninth trick in the club suit. Well played, for a 4 IMP gain.

At the Eastern European table, there was a variation. The club lead went to the queen and king and a diamond was led to dummy. Mihov then chose to lead a low heart to the queen and ace. Tuszynski exited with a diamond. Mihov now ran the ten of hearts, which lost to the jack, and the play then continued as at the American table.

Jassem pointed out that East can make life more difficult for declarer by switching to a spade when he is in with the first heart. If declarer wins this in the dummy to play a second heart, he can be defeated. East wins and plays a second spade. Declarer is in the wrong hand, and has not yet removed East's diamond.

The solution for declarer is that when East switches to a spade, declarer must win this in the dummy and cash all his diamonds before playing the second heart. Now the endplay works as before.

Round 12

Board 26. Dealer East. Game All.

```

                [ 7
                ] K 10 9 8 3 2
                { A Q 4 2
                } A 4

[ K J 10
] A 7 5
{ 10 5 3
} J 10 5 3

                [ A 9 8 4 3 2
                ] J
                { 6
                } Q 8 7 6 2

                [ Q 6 5
                ] Q 6 4
                { K J 9 8 7
                } K 9

```

West	North	East	South
<i>Robson</i>	<i>Lauria</i>	<i>Zia</i>	<i>Versace</i>
		2[	Pass
3[	4]	4[	Dble
All Pass			

Looking at the diagram you can see that North-South make 11 tricks in hearts, so Versace's choice of double was already the wrong one ... and then Zia set up his clubs and picked up the spades to make his game, for a massive swing against the Italians.

LAST DEAL, FIRST TIME, WIN FOR NICKELL IN VANDERBILT

From Daily Bulletins edited by Brent Manley & Henry Francis Cincinnati, Ohio 10-19th March

The Nickell team, Bermuda Bowl champions, completed its long-awaited win in the Vanderbilt, but only on the last deal of the final.

Nick Nickell (Richard Freeman, Paul Soloway, Bob Hamman, Eric Rodwell, Jeff Meckstroth) beat **Richard Schwartz** (Drew Casen, Zia, Michael Rosenberg, Robert Levin, Steve Weinstein) by 161-143.

In the semi-finals Nickell beat former team member Bobby Wolff by 159-29, with the opponents conceding after 48 boards. Schwartz beat Cayne 184-89. 107 teams competed.

Nickell's team has won two Bermuda Bowls (included, of course, the latest), six of the last seven Spingolds, and has collected three Reisingers, but has never managed the Vanderbilt ... until now. This was the dramatic last deal, which featured one of the world's finest players making a simple error, proving that the best, when under stress, particularly on the last deal of a big match, can make the sort of slip that other players manage regularly:

Board 64. Dealer: West. E-W Game

```

      [ A 9
      ] 6 5
      { J 6 3
      } K Q 9 6 5 4
[ 10 8 3 2      [ K 4
] 8 7           ] Q 9
{ Q 9 7 4 2    { A K 10 8 5
} 8 2          } J 10 7 3
      [ Q J 7 6 5
      ] A K J 10 4 3 2
      { None
      } A

```

West	North	East	South
<i>Meckstroth</i>	<i>Levin</i>	<i>Rodwell</i>	<i>Weinstein</i>
Pass	Pass	1{	1]
Pass	2}	Pass	4]
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
Zia			
Pass	2}	Pass	2{
Pass	3}	Pass	3]
Pass	3[	Pass	5{
Pass	5[	Pass	6]
All Pass			

2} was Precision style and 2{ an artificial enquiry. Soloway's 3] showed both majors, and Hamman gave preference to spades. South then used Exclusion Keycard Blackwood asking North to

show how many keycards, counting the king of spades as a key, he had outside diamonds. Hamman showed one, and Soloway settled on the inferior Six Spades.

Weinstein and Levin stopped in Four Hearts making a simple twelve tricks when the trumps came in and the spades played for one loser. This gave the Schwartz team, who trailed by 7 IMPs, a score of 480.

On lead against Six Spades, Rosenberg began with the winning defence of forcing dummy. He underled his {AK! Hamman ruffed and played ace and another spade. East, who could see dummy was all winners, now tried a club, a play that would only be right if declarer had eight clubs. A moment later Hamman had claimed his slam and the Trophy.

But if East continues the forcing game by simply playing his ace of diamonds when on lead, declarer has to ruff, and is down to fewer trumps than West. After the trumps fail to break, the defenders make a further trump and three more diamond tricks to put the slam four off, leaving Schwartz the champion, and the Nickell team still seeking their first Vanderbilt.

The other side of the coin is shown by this deal, also featuring Zia & Rosenberg, from the semi-final, reported by Barnet Shenkin as a potential candidate for our Defence of the Year Award:

Board 19. Dealer: South. E-W Game.

```

      [ K 8 6 3
      ] 10 7 2
      { K Q J 9
      } A 3
[ Q J 9 5 2    [ 10
] None        ] Q J 9 8 6 4
{ 7 6 5 3    { A 10 4 2
} K 10 6 2   } J 8
      [ A 7 4
      ] A K 5 3
      { 8
      } Q 9 7 5 4

```

West	North	East	South
<i>Passell</i>	<i>Rosenberg</i>	<i>Schwarz</i>	Hamman Rosenberg
			1}
Pass	1{	2]	Pass
Pass	Dble	All Pass	

Shenkin writes:

Zia led his singleton diamond to the jack and ace. Declarer played the jack of clubs, and when South did not cover flew with the king to North's ace. Rosenberg cashed one top diamond as Zia pitched a low spade. Now North carefully cashed his [K,

extracting declarer's loser, before crossing to his partner with a club to the queen.

A club was ruffed by the ten of trumps and over-ruffed, and then JQ went to the king, and a further club was ruffed by the seven and over-ruffed. When declarer led the six, Zia let it hold. He now had K5 sitting over declarer's 10-4.

If declarer played another trump Zia would claim the rest, so he exited with a diamond. But now Rosenberg made two diamonds as Zia ditched his remaining side-suit cards, and then came to his two trumps in a trump coup at the end. The penalty was 1100.

IBPA Editor: As Zia himself pointed out later there is a simpler way for the defence to score their nine tricks. When Rosenberg wins the club ace he can give South a diamond ruff, the defence cash their outside winners, and later come to three trumps when declarer has to lead away from his QJ98. But the defence selected by Rosenberg caters for more trump holdings with South.

Barry Rigal reported this deal from the Mixed Pairs, featuring Jill Meyers, who on the new WBF rankings has overtaken Sabine Auken to become the world's highest ranked woman:

[A 7	
] A K 9 8 6	
{ Q J 8 4	
} 8 2	
[8 6	[K J 9 4
] J 10 3	] Q 7 2
{ 10 5	{ A 9 7 6
} K J 10 6 5 3	} 9 4
[Q 10 5 3 2	
] 5 4	
{ K 3 2	
} A Q 7	

West	North	East	South
	<i>Dunitz</i>		<i>Meyers</i>
	1]	Pass	1[
Pass	2{	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

West led }10, and Meyers let this hold! West duly led another club. Declarer can obviously succeed by relying on a 3-3 heart break, but Meyers wanted better odds. She played a spade to the ace and another spade. East does best to play a deceptive *jack*, but he won the king and shifted to a low diamond to the ten and jack. Back came a diamond to the king. Now Meyers cashed the ace of clubs, and this forced East to throw a heart.. Meyers cashed her top hearts and exited with a fourth diamond to East. He had to lead a spade away from the jack and

Meyers guessed right for nine tricks and a great board.

Juanita Chambers found the winning play on this deal from the Board-a-match Teams:

Dlr: South	[Q J 7 6 4
Game All	] A 4
	{ Q 7 4 2
	} 9 8
[A 10 3	[K 9 2
] Q J 10 9 8	] K 7 6 2
{ K J 5	{ A 10 3
} 7 5	} K Q 3
	[8 5
	] 5 3
	{ 9 8 6
	} A J 10 6 4 2

West	North	East	South
		Juanita	
			Pass
1]	1[	2[	3}
3]	Pass	3NT	All Pass

South led }10 showing a strong sequence. When this came round to Juanita she realised from the bidding that South would have good clubs, and North would have the ace of hearts. So she let the ten hold, cutting communications between the defenders. South now switched to a spade to the jack and king, and Chambers started on the hearts. When North won the heart ace he played a club to South's ace, and another spade came through. Chambers went up with the ace, came to hand with heart king, cashed her top club, throwing the jack of diamonds from dummy, and then ran the remaining hearts. In the three-card ending North had to keep the spade queen, so the diamond queen showed up when Chambers led a diamond at the end. Ten tricks was a halved board, as the same had happened at the other table, but this result was enough for Chambers' team to win the event by half-a-point.

Rigal reported a novel play by Steve Sanborn. With ample entries to both hands, how do you handle, for one loser:

9 6 5 4 opposite A J 7 3 2

Cashing the ace first, hoping for singleton king or queen with South appears as good as leading towards the ace-jack, hoping for singleton ten or eight with South. However, Sanborn found a way to distinguish them when he began by leading the *nine* from dummy.

When North happily contributed the *eight* Sanborn took the inference that the ten was with South, and so he put in the jack. Bingo! South held bare ten, and the jack won.

The point is that if North held K108 or Q108 and the nine is led, most players would simply cover with the ten.

Barry Rigal reported this defence by Peter Fredin & Magnus Lindkvist of Sweden, who were teaming up with Bjorn Fallenius and honorary Swede Mike Moss:

Dealer: South	[K 9 3 2	
	] Q J 8 4	
	{ 6	
	} J 10 5 2	
[Q 8 7 6		[J 10 4
] A 7 3 2		] 10 9 5
{ Q 4		{ K 10 7 3
} 9 8 6		} A 7 4
	[A 5	
	] K 6	
	{ A J 9 8 5 2	
	} K Q 3	

West	North	East	South
Lindkvist		Fredin	
			1{
Pass	1]	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Lindkvist as West led the [7, playing third and fifth best. When declarer played low from dummy, Fredin carefully followed low, too! Declarer won the ace, and led }KQ. Fredin could see that if he let both these win, declarer might switch his attention to hearts and build a trick for dummy's eight. So Fredin took the second club and led a deceptive ten of spades, trying to disguise the blockage.

It worked! Declarer ducked, and Fredin switched to a low diamond. Declarer put in the eight, Lindkvist won, and played a third spade.

The defence had now set up two spades, and a diamond, to go with their two aces, to defeat the game.

- Jeff Polisner, ACBL Counsel for the past 15 years, has been appointed Counsel to the WBF. The ACBL is therefore seeking a new Counsel.
- The Silver Ribbon Pairs was won by Rhoda Walsh & Charles Coon who only arranged their partnership 25 minutes before game time.
- The US Trials for the Maastricht Olympiad will be played in May and June : the Women from May 23-30 in Raleigh, and the Open from June 4-12 in Memphis.

* The second Internet world Championship will begin soon with teams from all over the world. The quarter-finalists will come from the USA (three teams), Europe (three teams), the Rest of the Americas (North, South and Middle), and the Rest of the World. The four teams from the Americas will be in the same half of the draw, giving two of the semi-finalists. The two finalists will be invited to the ACBL Nationals in Birmingham for the final to be played on Wednesday, 16th November, the day before the Nationals start.

European Mixed : Italy, France, Russia in Pairs; Denmark, Germany, Russia in Teams

From Bulletins Edited by Mark Horton, Brian Senior & Jos Jacobs in Rimini March 18-24th

A record 426 pairs from 35 nations competed. The leading eight pairs all came from different nations.

Final: (156 pairs)

	%
1. Carlo Mariani & Monica Buratti (Ita)	63.2
2. Michel & Marlene Duguet (Fra)	58.1
3. Dmitri Zlotov & Elena Maitova (Rus)	57.2
4. Bernard Dehaye, Isabel Dewasme (Bel)	56.9
5. Alexander Wernle, Jova Smederevac (Aus)	56.8
6. Apolinary Kowalski, Eva Banaskiewicz (Pol)	56.6
7. Lars Lund Madsen, Nadja Bekkouche (Den)	56.6
8. Tonci Tomic & Nikica Sver (Croatia)	56.2

Consolation (270 pairs)

1. Vadim Kholomeev & Victoria Volina (Rus)	58.7
2. Jean-Louis Stoppa & Daniele Avon (France)	58.2
3. Anton & Maria Guariglia (Italy)	58.1
4. Sebastian Reim & Daniela von Arnim (Ger)	56.8

The Teams final was decided on the last board when the Danish quartet of Peter & Dorte Schaltz, Jens & Sabine Auken (residential qualifications) collected an 1100 penalty to edge out the German team of Robert Maybach, Ulrike Schreckenberger, Anne Gladiator, and Christian Oelker 66-62 IMPs. Third place went to Russia, Volina defeating France's Tissot 40-12.

In the Consolation Teams event the leaders were:

1. Vives (France)	286;
2. Popova (Bulgaria)	278;
3. Georgiev (Bulgaria)	268.

The Duguets won the second session of the final rising from 30th to take the silver medal. Michel found an unusual variation of attacking the danger hand first on this deal. He was in Five Diamonds, but consider first the play in the popular Three Notrumps.

On a heart lead most declarers rose with the queen to take the diamond finesse. East won and played a second heart. Now declarer finished off the diamonds. East had to make two discards, usually a spade and a club. Now declarer had to fail.

The contract can be made double-dummy by playing on spades first. West has to split, and the spade suit produces four tricks when the nine falls. West can clear the hearts, but East has to throw a heart to guard both minor suit kings, and then declarer sets up a diamond.

Needless to say, few found this line, and so Duguet had only to make his Five Diamonds to earn a good score.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Simon</i>	<i>Michel D.</i>	<i>Fischer</i>	<i>Marlene D.</i>
	1	Pass	1NT
Pass	2	Pass	3
Pass	5	All Pass	

East was virtually end-played at trick one as a spade lead sets up the suit. The actual heart lead was won by the queen, and the jack of diamonds was run, and held. However, one suspects East hesitated momentarily before ducking, because declarer did not repeat the finesse. He led a spade off the dummy, winning when West split, and then cleared the trumps by ace and another. Now East could not tackle clubs before the spades had been set up. Declarer won the heart continuation in hand, and set up the spades, later discarding clubs from dummy, and ruffing his last club.

Geir Helgemo, partnering Ase Langeland, used pressure to solve this problem from the first session of the final:

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Helgemo</i>	<i>Rand</i>	<i>Langeland</i>	<i>Waksman</i>
		Pass	Pass
1	Pass	1	Pass
2NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Nissand Rand, North, led a spade to South's ace and a second spade was taken by Helgemo. Declarer

crossed to a heart and took a losing club finesse. Rand cleared the spade.

Declarer has eight top tricks, and some simply took the diamond finesse for their game. Lucky! Helgemo showed that it did not matter who held Q.

First he cashed his clubs. North threw two hearts. So now Helgemo followed with the hearts. North had to keep his spade, so was forced to throw a diamond. When Helgemo played on diamonds,

the queen appeared. But suppose South held the queen. Then if North's diamond which shows up on the second round is the nine or ten, Helgemo planned to cover with the jack and end-play South; and if North's diamond was a small one, Helgemo would simply put in the eight from dummy. South, all diamonds, would have to concede the ninth trick on the return.

Four Hands for You

by Ib Lundby (Denmark) who offers these for use by IBPA members without acknowledgement

Sabine - Super Woman

After marrying Jens and moving to Denmark, Sabine Auken still represents Germany in international competition, where she plays with her partner of 14 years, Daniela von Arnim. The girls planned to practise on OK-bridge, but Daniela works as a software designer and is with her PC all day, while Sabine has her job as a fund raiser and a family to take care of. The meetings at the Internet have therefore been too few. Instead Daniela goes to Copenhagen several times a year to play with Sabine on Jens Aukens' team in our 1st division, and the pair participates in several international events.

This year's results have been disappointing for the Auken team: 8th place of 12 participating teams after the Round Robin. Maybe the result has been influenced by the fact that Jens Auken and Dennis Koch-Palmund have agreed to break their partnership after this season. Instead Jens plans to partner Lauge Schäffer, while Dennis will play with Klaus Adamsen.

Anyway, Sabine still plays like a super woman. Enjoy a couple of endplays from the match against Steen Schou, who came in second in the Round Robin. In both hands the ♠ J seems to be in love with Sabine or vice versa.

The first hand is a standard endplay:

N-S: Daniela von Arnim / Sabine Auken
E-W: Hans Christian Nielsen / Knud-Aage Boesgaard

```

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

      7
10 7 4
Q 9 6
K Q 9 8 4 2
9 6 5

      A J 10 8 2
      5 2
      A J 5 3
      A 7
    
```

West	North	East	South
Pass	1	Pass	1
Pass	2	Pass	4
			All pass

At the other table the same contract was played from the North seat, where the diamond lead was killing.

Here, the ♠ K from West went to the ace, and South cashed three spades observing that West seemed to have no problem when discarding two diamonds. So she concluded that diamonds were 6-1. West hadn't bid diamonds, so Sabine guessed that the strength in hearts and clubs was with East. But then the endplay was easy: a low heart to the Jack. East had to surrender by giving declarer a heart trick or a club trick.

The second example is even more elegant. Same match, second half:

N-S: Daniela von Arnim / Sabine Auken
E-W: Steen Schou / Jacob Røn

```

Dealer: North      K J 10 8
Love All          J 4 2

      10 6 4
      K 5 3

      2
A 10 9 5 3
Q 7 5 2
Q 10 2

      5 4 3
      K Q 8 6
      J 8
      A J 8 4

      A Q 9 7 6
      7
      A K 9 3
      9 7 6
    
```

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	Pass	1
Pass	2	Pass	2NT
Pass	3	Pass	3
			All pass

2NT was a game try with a void or singleton, 3♣ was a relay, followed by showing the shortage.

Sabine and Daniela play a strong club system, so South had maximum strength for her 1 opening bid. So she made a game try after North's support, but 3 was a dangerous contract. Can it be made after the lead of the ♠ A and heart continuation?

Yes, in fact in a very simple way: Sabine ruffed in hand, cashed the ♠ A, the ♠ A and entered dummy with a spade. After a low diamond to the king, both defenders had shown an even number of diamonds (low-high), so she guessed the diamond situation correctly. Her solution was elegant: a third round of trumps to dummy and the ♠ J, discarding a club from her hand. East had to win the trick, but also had to give a trick away again by playing hearts for a ruff and discard or clubs away from the Ace.

Bad breaks

I know a bridge player who is able to relax 100 per cent while his partner is in charge as declarer, but I suppose that he is one in a thousand. I myself belong to the 999, and you ...

In this hand South went down in 6 because of a bad trump break, but North was on his marks and very quickly told his partner how the contract could have been made.

Dlr: North

Vul: Love All

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

West	North	East	South
	1	Pass	2
Pass	4	Pass	4
Pass	4NT	Pass	5
Pass	5NT	Pass	6
Pass	Pass	Pass	

A friendly club lead to the Q helped declarer, but he didn't take advantage of it, because the hand was over when the A at trick 2 revealed the bad break. He now had to go one off. However, North pointed out that had South taken the precaution of unblocking the K at trick two, it would have been possible to cope with the 4-0 trump break!

North: Play it again, Sam. At trick 2 you lead a heart to the King, and a diamond to the Ace tells you that you need a brilliancy to make the hand. Well, throw a club on the A and ruff a heart. Cash the A, enter dummy with the A and ruff the last club in hand. Now, take the K and ruff a spade in dummy. Three cards are left and the lead is in the North hand:

none	J	K 5	none
none	none	Q J 9	none

Q
none
10 7
none

The J from dummy gives East the choice between 12 tricks for declarer and one for the defence. Pure magic!

London Bridges

Under the bridges of London you can still meet the kids begging, because their parents didn't draw trumps in due time (*IBPA Editor: These days, I'm sorry to say, they need the money for drugs, as they have not taken up the healthier alternative, bridge.*) An example from a club team game:

N-S: Klaus Adamsen / Nicolai Kampmann (E-
W: Jens Auken / Dennis Koch-Palmund

Dlr: South

Vul: Game All

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

West	North	East	South
			Pass
Pass	1	4	4
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Lead: 8

Dummy's A won the first trick, and after the Q a second round of trumps to the ace brought the news of the bad break. Your next move?

At trick 4 South played a club to the ace, East took a diamond trick and continued with a third diamond, ruffed and over-ruffed. Suddenly the club situation was of great importance, as West now could play the 10, which locked declarer in dummy. West defeated the contract with another trump trick.

The begging kids of London ... South should have drawn two more rounds of trumps before shifting to clubs. Now, if West has A he will be able to draw South's last trump and play a diamond to partner and 4 goes down (the number of under-tricks depends of how many diamonds East has thrown at this point).

But as East has the A, South is home and dry. East gets one diamond trick, but South can ruff the diamond continuation with his last trump. West may choose to take his trump trick whenever he wants it but 10 tricks are safe.

The Icelandair Open 2000

By Stefán Gudjohnsen (Ice)

The yearly February snowstorms seem to be taking its toll on foreign bridge stars that usually take part in the Icelandair Open bridge festival. Be that as it may, but any way the quality of the visitors is always improving.

The former European Champions from Sweden, Gullberg, Andersen, Fredin and Lindquist, came and that took care of the teams-of-four. Their victory never seemed to be in doubt. From the USA came Katz and Weinstein, their teammates being the Canada stars Mittelman and Carruthers. Also teaming up with them was Iceland's only woman professional, Hjördís Eythorsdóttir and her husband, the USA professional Curtis Cheek. These prominent stars had to be content with the bronze, an Icelandic team taking the silver prize.

The pairs was easily won by Magnusson and Thorbjörnsson of Iceland, with Sweden's veterans Gullberg and Anderson being second.

In the last round of the pairs, the winners took on the Swedes. Here is an interesting deal from the conflict.

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

With the winners in the North-South seats, the bidding went as follows:

West	North	East	South
	1NT	Pass	2
Pass	2	Pass	3
Pass	3NT	All pass	

Gullberg, East, led his fourth best spade and North won West's jack with the queen. He then broke up the club suit, ducked the spade continuation and won the third spade. Alas, when East produced the diamond ace, the contract was doomed, going two down. This was the result at many tables and the result was near middle score. But what's so special with this deal?

At the next table, sitting North, was an old fox by the name of Sveinsson. His play makes this an entry for Hand of the Year:

Lets take a look how he handled the cards, the bidding being:

West	North	East	South
	1NT	2	Dble

2 2NT Pass 3NT
All Pass

2 from East showed a six card major

East led his fourth spade and the first trick went as before. Sveinsson now decided that his priority was to get rid of the diamond ace. He therefore led the queen of diamonds. East was reluctant to give up his entry card and ducked. Now Sveinsson led a small diamond and went up with the king, when East ducked again. He noticed the J9 coming from west and now led a small heart finessing the ten. The ace of hearts came next and East threw a spade. The deal was now like an open book for the old fox. He led the nine of spades and relaxed confidently in his seat. East could now take his diamond ace, but that was giving up completely. He therefore persisted with a spade. Very sure of the distribution, Sveinsson now played ace, king and another club and waited for West to lead into the heart tenace. Eleven tricks and a clear top. Bridge is an easy game!

La Societe Generale by Jean-Paul Meyer (France)

This is a deal from a match between Paris and Bordeaux:

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

In the closed room Pacault sitting West went two down in 6 after Alain Levy had chosen a quiet 1 overcall over the 1 opening.

The bidding in the Open Room:

West	North	East	South
<i>Lebel</i>	<i>Bonafos</i>	<i>Perron</i>	<i>Lamongie</i>
1	2 ¹	2 ²	3
4	Pass	4	Pass
5	Pass	6	All Pass

¹ Both majors

² Stopper in spades, 4, encouraging

The lead was the 10 of hearts. I was commentating as Lebel was thinking deeply: "No chance, one or two down depending on the view taken in Diamonds."

The ace of hearts was played and a trump to dummy's ace. Now came the key play of ruffing a heart in hand. Lebel cashed three more rounds of trumps and a diamond to the ace and a diamond ducked to the king. This was the position with North on lead:

	K J 7	
	Q 9	
	none	
	none	
Q 8		A 9
none		6 4
Q 8		10
7		none
	10 4 2	
	J	
	J	
	none	

North had to play a heart, isolating to himself the menace in hearts, ruffed in hand. On the next two rounds of diamonds North was squeezed. Six Clubs made.

Was this a lay down slam? Not quite. Suppose North plays the king of diamonds on the first round of the suit when West plays a low diamond from hand? Now it is South who gains

the lead in the suit, and a spade lead from South breaks up the squeeze.

To prevent this brilliancy, Lebel, after ruffing a heart in hand at trick three, should have played a diamond, not a trump. Now if North plays the king of diamonds, declarer can let it hold. If North exits with a diamond, it can be taken in dummy, declarer can ruff a second heart, and then establish a simple squeeze, or draw trumps and establish a trump squeeze, baring the ace of spades on or before the last trump.

GENERALI MASTERS
Athens, 13th -15th April 2000
Zappion Congress Centre

Men's event (52 players - 4 sessions)

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

Women's event (28 players - 3 sessions)

Friday 14th April	Afternoon
	Evening
Saturday 15th 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

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

* Sabine Auken writes: Marc Hodler's campaign to make bridge an Olympic sport has received quite a lot of negative and ridiculing press in Germany, and apparently also in "Sports Illustrated" in the US. What is your attitude towards this subject? Personally I am quite upset about the stupid comments of people, who most likely have no clue of what bridge is about. Have you heard of other instances in other countries? Is there anything we can do, like Bridge journalists of the world unite?

IBPA Editor: Sneering from unbelievers is part of the education process. Reply, making the simple point that bridge is indistinguishable from the major sports in all but one thing ... namely that the part of the body tested is the brain, rather than the muscles. Why should sports of the mind be excluded, whilst sports of the rest of the body are accepted? More difficult is to persuade non-bridge journalists to see the evidence for themselves.

* Neil Cohen writes: The article on the Forbo in the March Bulletin discusses a 6 contract:

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

West led A and, after long thought, shifted to a spade. Declarer, Enri Leufkens, (IBPA Editor: who, during the wait showed his hand to East, who gave no indication of conceding), won the spade king, led to the heart king, ruffed a club, cashed the heart queen, and had to find a way back to hand. In practice, he tried spades and went down one.

I believe diamonds is safer. A priori, a 6-1 split is more likely than 5-0, 6.8 to 3.9. Further, if West held a diamond void, and the auction indicated it was the time for desperate measures, he might have tried to underlead his club ace at trick one.

* British phone numbers for London, Bristol, Cardiff, Coventry, Northern Ireland, Portsmouth and Southampton change on 22nd April. London's 0171 becomes 020 with a 7 in front of the old local number, 0181 becomes 020 with an 8 in front of the old local number. Cardiff becomes 029 with 20 in front of the old local number.

* Anna Gudge says: The World Wide Bridge Contest is on 02 & 03 June. Details are now up on: www.worldbridge.org

Clubs should contact their NBO; or me at anna@ecats.co.uk or wbf@ecats.co.uk

Players can watch online as their scores change hour by hour as new results come in.

Details of the On Line Charity Bridge Tournament, supported by the WBF, are on the MSO World Site (www.msoworld.com), in the Mind Zine Section: http://www.msoworld.com/mindzine/news/Card/bridge/charity_tournament/ The Charity World Simultaneous Pairs is to be held just before the World Olympiad in Maastricht in clubs all over the world, on either Tuesday 22nd or Wednesday 23rd August. Details on the MSO Site: (www.msoworld.com), as they are sponsoring the event. There will be special heats of this event held at the Mind Sports Olympiad in London. We expect several players en route to the Netherlands for the Olympiad will play.

* Ib Lundby writes complaining of the analysis of a deal in last month's Postbag, then admits it was his own report! In IBPA Bulletin #422 I sent you this deal as an entry for the Levendaal Award:

A K	
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 led the Q against South's 6. It was won in dummy, South finessed in trumps, cashed the ace and played a club to dummy. West had to duck, so the king made the trick, and South then played a low diamond from dummy, won by East with the 10. East got off with a spade to dummy, and now declarer cashed all his trumps and finally caught West in a show up squeeze.

I thought this was "Well played" but have decided that when declarer wins trick 4 with K in dummy, it is a much better plan to ruff a club, enter dummy in spades, cash the A, ruff the last club and play a diamond towards dummy's queen. This plan works when West has the K or East has the K bare or doubleton.

Oh, give me a break ... You can't win them all!

* The Republic of Ireland won the Camrose for the first time, overtaking Wales in the last ten deals. Final rankings: 1. Republic 218; 2. Wales 213; 3. Scotland 163; 4. England 158; 5. N. Ireland 144.

* Sachen, Mr William F has a new address: The Village at Victory Lakes, 1075 Victory Drive, Apt 227, Lindenhurst IL 60046 USA ☎H: (1) 847 265 3573; E: futilewill@aol.com

* *Pamela Granovetter* (pam@bridgetoday.com) writes: Bridge Today launched a new magazine on 9th March: Bridge Today Digest - Online. It arrives by email (almost) every Monday and Thursday, 100 issues per year, for an introductory price of \$28.

Unlike Bridge Today Magazine, the material in BT Digest is not exclusive. Journalists are welcome to use any of the articles and features for their own bridge columns. The following hand from Monday's BT Digest was played in the Orbis Bermuda Bowl.

Dlr: North	(Hamman)		
Vul: EW	K J 3	K J 6 4 3	A 6
	Q 9 4	(Branco)	Q 10 9 8 7 4
(Chagas)	6 5 2	A Q 9	void
	10 8 7 2	K 8 6 3	(Soloway)
	10 5 4 2	A	5
	10 2	K Q J 9 8 7 3	A J 7 5
West	North	East	South
-	1NT	2	6
Pass	Pass	Dbl	All pass

Opening lead: 2

This deal, from the final between USA and Brazil, demonstrates that the Americans did not win necessarily because their bidding was more scientific than their opponents'. Consider Soloway's leap to 6 after his partner opened 1NT (rather than 1) and East (Branco) bid 2. When six diamonds was passed around to Branco, he doubled to ask his partner not to lead a spade. Chagas led the deuce of hearts and found his partner's strength, but when Branco tried to cash a second heart trick, Soloway ruffed, cashed the ace of spades and led a diamond to the ace. He discarded two clubs on dummy's king of spades and king of hearts, then took a club finesse to make his doubled slam.

At the other table, scientific bidding went astray. North opened 1 and East bid 2. South bid three diamonds and heard North bid 3NT. South then tried a very subtle 4 bid, meaning it as a slam try. But the North player for Brazil passed 4, thinking it was not forcing and they languished in a part score, losing 15 imps. Contrast Soloway's direct jump to 6: simple and practical.

Readers may purchase 100 issues of Bridge Today Digest - Online for a special introductory price of \$28 by emailing [pam@bridgetoday.com] or through the Bridgetoday.com website. It is available by pdf. version or simple email version.

* *Anders Wirgren says:* At long last Scania Bridgekonsult's site is up. Most of it is in Swedish, of course, but there is also an English

section, presenting our English books with excerpts, and the English demo version of my sophisticated hand generator Scania BridgeDealer, which anyone can download free. It exists both for Macintosh and Windows (-95 or later). The captain of the Open Swedish team, Daniel Auby, has praised the program for its functionality and bought 20 copies as a training tool for the players competing for a place on our national team. If you want to have a look at the full version (i.e. to review it), I'd be glad to send you one.

The address of Scania Bridgekonsult's site is: www.scaniabridge.com/ (Swedish pages), and www.scaniabridge.com/eng/ (English pages)

* *Gabor Szots comments on* the article about the Australian Summer Festival by Ron Klingner (last Bulletin page 8 and 9).

On the first hand, I prefer a heart switch at trick two from East. Whether West has K or KJ, he will play accordingly (without the jack of hearts and the king of diamonds he switches to a club). This play is wrong only if West has KJ9xx in diamonds, while the heart king is with South.

In the third hand, East's play of the ten of clubs is terrible. He should have gone up with the king. He would have let the hand make if South had had the singleton jack.

Congratulations to Lazer for finding the club switch on hand four!

Pierre Ghestem 1922-2000

Ghestem, after whom the two-suited overcalls are named, has died aged 78. He won a world title in draughts soon after the War, was then French chess champion, before taking up bridge and forming a partnership with René Bacherich which won the Europeans in 1953, '55, and '62, the Bermuda Bowl in '56, and the Olympiad in '60. Ghestem took third place in the Geneva Par Contest in 1990.