

Congratulations to Antonio Sementa of Italy, Bénédicte Cronier of France, and Miltos Karamanlis of Greece who are, respectively, the new Generali Masters champions in the WBF events for Men, Women and Juniors. It must have been highly popular with the local supporters in Athens that the winner of the first Junior event was Greek.

There is a report inside but the stories of good play in the Daily Bulletin were almost non-existent. More came from a two-session Pairs event in the Poland Seniors Congress than from ten sessions of a gathering of the world's best players. One might use the excuse of unfamiliar system or partnerships to explain the many reports of mishaps in bidding and defence, but what about declarer play? Most journalists prefer to report good play, rather than the all-too-common mistakes. If so, they will have difficulty finding stories to use when referring to the championships.

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The top players have had a busy time recently, dashing from the US Nationals or EBL Mixed in Italy to the Cap Gemini in the Netherlands, a short break, and then a run of the Generali in Athens, the Politiken in Denmark and the Niklas Data in Stockholm (report next month on the latter). They will be grateful to have some time at home. What happens in reality, of course, is that they pick and choose which is convenient to play in. For the journalists this has the advantage of a variety of fields, but it is a struggle for the organisers who seek the strongest list of names.

Meanwhile the future calendar of official events is giving some cause for concern. We know the dates and venues of the US Nationals through to the end of 2001, but what do we know of the major EBL and WBF championships after this November? Certainly some of the countries have been announced, but the latest WBF News has nothing in the calendar for next year's events (is there not a Bermuda Bowl in Bali next year, and a Pairs Olympiad in Canada the following year?), and the EBL News has mentioned Jerusalem in March and Madrid in June without being more precise. One can only suspect the contracts have not yet been signed, which is worrying for major events only a year away.

Most national calendars are set more than a year in advance. If the Zonal and World dates are known one can organise not to clash with them. If they are not known, then the national bodies or organisers of Invitation events will make their bookings and be reluctant or unable to re-schedule when the dates or venues of major championships are finally announced.

Patrick Jourdain - Editor

SEMENTA WINS 5th GENERALI WORLD MASTERS

From Bulletins edited by Mark Horton Zappion Megaron - Athens 13-15th April, 2000

Antonio Sementa of Italy won the Generali World Mens Individual ahead of former champion **Piotr Gawrys** of Poland, and **Andrey Gromov** of Russia. 52 players competed over four sessions, partnering each other competitor for 2 boards.

The **Womens** Individual, with 28 competing over 3 sessions, was won by **Benédicte Cronier** of France from world no. 1 **Jill Meyers** of the USA, and **Martine Verbeek** of the Netherlands.

In the first **Junior** World Individual 20 players competed over 3 sessions. The winner was **Miltos Karamanlis** of Greece from **Andreas Gloyer** of Austria and **Kit Lai** of Hong Kong.

“Given” names were not given by Bulletin

Women	%	US \$
1. Benedicte Cronier (Fra)	55.25	6,000
2. Jill Meyers (USA)	54.53	4,000
3. Martine Verbeek (Net)	54.12	3,000
4. Elizabeth Delor (Fra)	52.37	2,000
5. Eva Harasimowicz (Pol)	52.06	1,000
6. Elizabeth McGowan (Scot)	51.85	800
7. Anneke Simons (Net)	51.54	800
8. Trine Bilde (Den)	51.23	800
9. Vlahaki (Greece)	51.21	800
10. Nicola Smith (Eng)	51.13	800
11. Randi Montin (USA)	51.03	500
12. Sun Ming (China)	50.93	500
13. Levit-Porat (Israel)	50.82	500
14. Colette Lise (Fra)	50.51	500
15. Sabine Auken (Ger)	50.41	
16. Daniele Gaviard (Fra)	50.31	
17. Veronique Bessis (Fra)		49.28
18. Maria Erhart (Austria)	48.97	
19. Kirsten Steen Moller (Den)	48.87	
20. Bep Vriend (Net)	48.77	
21. Daniela von Arnim (Ger)	48.25	
22. Heather Dhondy (Eng)	48.15	
23. Migri Zur-Campanil (Isr)	48.13	
24. Dianna Gordon (Can)	47.84	
25. Catherine d'Ovidio (Fra)	47.53	
26. Marijke van der Pas (Net)	46.30	
27. Sandra Landy (Eng)	45.88	
28. Rita Shugart (USA)	42.49	

Junior

1. Milton Karamanlis (Gre)	56.09
2. Andreas Gloyer (Austria)	53.95
3. Kit Lai (Hong Kong)	53.62
4. Kylie Robb (Australia)	53.62
5. Chen (China)	52.80
6. Lutostanski (Poland)	52.63
7. Josh Heller (Can)	52.30
8. Bernardo Biondo (Ita)	51.81
9. Ochoa (Columbia)	51.09
10. Michael Krasnoselski (Russia)	49.38

Men	%	US \$
1. Antonio Sementa (Ita)	57.15	10,000
2. Piotr Gawrys (Pol)	55.51	6,000
3. Andrey Gromov (Rus)	54.45	4,000
4. Michel Abecassis (Fra)	54.21	2,000
5. Zia Mahmood (USA)	54.13	2,000
6. Jacek Romanski (Pol)	53.88	1,000
7. Magnus Lindkvist (Swe)	53.59	
800		
8. Tor Helness (Nor)	53.55	
800		
9. Geir Helgemo (Nor)	53.19	
800		
10. Berry Westra (Net)	52.12	
800		
11. Krzysztof Martens (Pol)	51.92	
800		
12. Apolinary Kowalski (Pol)	51.88	
800		
13. Peter Fredin (Swe)	51.82	
800		
14. Jon Baldursson (Ice)	51.80	
800		
15. Alexandro Bianchedi (Arg)	51.31	
800		
16. Dano de Falco (Ita)	51.21	
500		
17. Lucas Zotos (Gre)	51.14	
500		
18. Yang (Chi)	50.98	
500		
19. Boye Brogeland (Nor)	50.90	
500		
20. Franck Multon (Fra)	50.82	
500		
20. Hervé Mouiel (Fra)	50.82	
500		
22. Giorgio Duboin (Ita)	50.78	
500		
23. Andrew Robson (Eng)	50.68	
500		
23. Alfredo Versace (Ita)	50.68	
500		
25. Richard Freeman (USA)	50.53	
500		
26. Justin Hackett (Eng)	50.23	
500		
27. Steve Hamaoui (Ven)	50.20	
28. Jens Auken (Den)	50.12	
29. Fred Gitelman (Can)	50.00	
30. Jason Hackett (Eng)	49.90	
31. Alain Levy (Fra)	49.88	
31. Marc Bompis (Fra)	49.88	
33. Eric Kokish (Can)	49.86	
34. Wubbo de Boer (Net)	49.49	
35. Jean-Christophe Quantin (Fra)	49.47	
36. Kapayianidis (Gre)	49.43	
37. Norberto Bocchi (Ita)	48.84	
38. Eidi (Leb)	48.59	
39. Sanje Panelewen (Indonesia)	48.08	

40. Marek Szymanowski (Pol)	47.79
41. Tony Forrester (Eng)	47.61
42. Jan Westerhof (Net)	47.33
43. Paul Chemla (Fra)	47.30
43. Guido Ferraro (Ita)	47.30
45. Jacek Pszczola (Pol)	46.65
46. Henri Szwarc (Fra)	46.36
47. Poddar (Indonesia)	45.51
48. Thomson (Australia)	45.38
49. Donath (Uru)	45.06
50. Michal Kwicien (Pol)	44.44
51. Chris Convery (South Africa)	43.87
52. George Mittelman (Can)	41.08

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Cronier</i>	<i>Myers</i>	<i>v.Arnim</i>	<i>Moller</i>
	1	Pass	2
2	2	Pass	4
Pass	4NT	Pass	5
Pass	5	Pass	6
Pass	6	All Pass	

The spotlight actually fell on East, Daniela von Arnim to find the decisive lead. When she chose a diamond Myers was held to 12 tricks for 3/12 matchpoints, whereas the North-South pairs with 13 tricks scored 10/12. And Cronier won by only 7 match points.

Junior

In the Junior event Biondo & Ravenna handled this well against the home-based winner, Karamanlis:

Board 1		Q 8 4 2	
Dealer: North		Q J 7 2	
Love all		A K 9 5 2	
		None	
	J 7 5		K 10 9 6
	10 8 6 5 2		None
	J 7 4		10 6 3
	K 3		Q J 10 5 4 2
		A 3	
		A K 9 4	
		Q 8	
		A 9 8 7 6	
West	North	East	South
<i>Kar'lis</i>	<i>Biondo</i>	<i>Gloyer</i>	<i>Ravenna</i>
	1	2	Pass
Pass	3	Pass	4
Pass	4	Pass	6
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Biondo's reopening Three Clubs immediately suggested his shape, and they reached the excellent Six Hearts, threatened by the 5-0 trump break. East led Q. Declarer won with the ace, discarding a spade. The Bulletin does not give the rest of the play except to say that declarer cashed the diamonds first and made 12 tricks.

Declarer did well if he did not play even one round of trumps. Had he done so, analysis suggests that the slam requires very careful play. Suppose declarer tries A at trick two. Now it is essential to "unblock" A before cashing three rounds of diamonds, ditching the losing spade. You can take a spade ruff, a club ruff, and, crucially, a second spade ruff low. West is down to four trumps but you can cross-ruff the next three tricks with high trumps to make the slam.

BOCCHI-DUBOIN WIN 3RD POLITIKEN WORLD PAIRS

From Bulletins edited by Jos Jacobs and Barry Rigal, 21-23rd April, Phoenix, Copenhagen

1. Norberto Bocchi-Giorgio Duboin (Ita) 842
2. Knud-Aage Boesgaard - H.C Nielsen (Den) 794
3. Krzysztof Martens - Marek Szymanowski (Pol) 789
4. Jaggy Shivdasani - Rev Murthy (Ind/USA) 787
5. Anton Maas - Vincent Ramondt (Net) 770
6. Boye Brogeland - Erik Saelensminde (Nor) 763
7. Zia Mahmood - Fu Zhong (USA - China) 762
8. Wang Weimin - Zhuang Zejun (China) 755
9. Jan Jansma - Louk Verhees (Net) 752
10. Mads Krogaard - Jorgen Hansen (Den) 751
11. Bettina Kalkerup-Charlotte Koch-Palmund (Den) 740
12. Andrew McIntosh - Tony Forrester (GB) 735
13. Sabine Auken - Daniela von Arnim (Ger) 730
14. Jens Auken - Dennis Koch-Palmund (Den) 729
15. Larry Cohen - Steve Weinstein (USA) 678
16. Eric Kokish - George Mittelman (Can) 629

Barry Rigal suggested these deals:

Game by N-S failed more often than not on this deal, a real beauty by young Dutchman Vincent Ramondt against the leaders:

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Duboin</i>	<i>Maas</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Ramondt</i>
Pass	Pass	2	Dble
Pass	Pass	2	Pass
Pass	Dble	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Bocchi was known to hold a weak two in hearts, but how would you play against the J lead? Ramondt cashed AK, and exited with a spade.

Duboin had to win and unblocked his second top spade, before exiting with a third round of diamonds. Ramondt won with the queen and made the key play of cashing A to extract West's most dangerous tooth. Next a low diamond put Duboin back on play and he had to return a club. On the third round of clubs East was squeezed in the majors.

This declarer play has to be a candidate for IBPA's Best Played Hand. It gained the Dutch pair a well-deserved 11 IMPs.

On the next deal three E/W pairs reached 3NT with nine top tricks but four arrived in 4 and Tony Forrester was the only one to make it (auction not given):

Board 15	4 2		
Dealer: South	J 10 8 7 5 3		
N/S Game	K 4		
	Q 9 7		
A K J 8 6		Q 9 5	
K 6 2		A Q 9	
9 6		A 7 3	
4 3 2		K 10 8 5	
	10 7 3		
	4		
	Q J 10 8 5 2		
	A J 6		

After a heart lead he wisely drew trumps, and then found the unusual play in the club suit of low to the eight (we calculate this to be 69%, better than low to the king .. 50% , or low to the ten .. 62.5%).

On this next deal Steve Weinstein recovered from an early error to defeat Bocchi's Three Notrumps (auction not given).

Board 17	Q 10 9 5		
Dealer: North	K Q 4		
Love all	Q 9 7 5		
	Q 9		
A 7 2		J 8 3	
A 9 6 3 2		J 10 7	
8 4		K J 10	
10 4 2			J 7 6 3
	K 6 4		
	8 5		
	A 6 3 2		
	A K 8 5		

Larry Cohen led J which might have been from KJ10, so Weinstein put up the ace and returned the suit - a potentially fatal error. But when Bocchi led a spade to the king he ducked smoothly, and a finesse of the ten on the next round lost to Cohen who played another heart. Now when West was in he could enjoy the hearts to beat the game.

Weinstein also found a good defensive play on this deal:

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

South reached 4 (no auction given) and Weinstein led a low spade. Declarer won and led a trump. Cohen, East, won and spades were continued. Declarer ruffed the third round, crossed to a diamond, and led another trump. When East showed out he put in the ten, but Weinstein let this hold! Declarer could cash K and play on diamonds, but West ruffed the third round and exited with a club. Cut off from the last diamond declarer had to lose a club and the game.

Note that if West wins the second heart dummy still has a trump to take care of a spade force, and so declarer gets a chance to draw trumps and make all his diamonds.

This was a swingy competitive deal. Most tables played in Four Spades by North, but at one table Jaggy Shivdasani opened the East hand Four Hearts, leading to Five Hearts doubled:

Board 2	K Q 6 5 4	
Dealer: East	Q 9 4	
N/S Game	A 9 2	
	K 2	
A J 8 2		3
K J 7		A 10 8 6 5 3 2
J 6 5		Q 7 4
Q 8 6		9 4
	10 9 7	
	None	
	K 10 8 3	
	A J 10 7 5 3	

West	North	East	South
Murthy	Bocchi	Shivdasani	Duboin
		4	Pass
Pass	4	Pass	Pass
5	Dble	All Pass	

South, Duboin, led 10 against Five Hearts doubled. Declarer won, laid down K, and drew trumps. Duboin threw two clubs and then, somewhat unwisely, a spade. Jaggy followed with a low club. When Duboin played low he put in the eight. North won, and played a top spade. This eliminated South's last spade, so when East led another club, and South won he was endplayed into

leading a diamond. And so the contract went only two light.

North could have saved South by leading a club to South's ace, whilst South had the spade to exit with. (*IBPA Editor: And why did South not put in a middle club on the first round?*)

Whether this was good or bad for the leaders depended on how many made Four Spades elsewhere. The play usually started by East leading heart ace, ruffed, and declarer using K and A entries to ruff two more hearts. Dummy then cashed its minor suit winners, and led a third club, West covering. What should declarer do?

East was usually marked by the bidding with a singleton trump. Saelensminde found the winning line when he ruffed low and East could not over-ruff. He now exited with a diamond and came to two more trump tricks in due course to make his game.

Dennis Koch-Palmund arrived at the same point at trick eight, but he noted that if East's singleton was the jack or eight it would work to ruff the third club high and exit with a top spade to pin East's card. This led to one down when West made three trump tricks and the diamond.

This was another competitive deal, proving how hard it is to keep Bocchi out of the auction:

Board 6	K 3	
Dealer: East	A K J 10 7 5 2	
E/W Game	6	
	Q 7 3	
Q 9 8 7		A J 10 4 2
6		8 4 3
K J 7 5 4 2		8
K 10		A 9 4 2
	6 5	
	Q 9	
	A Q 10 9 3	
	J 8 6 5	

West	North	East	South
Duboin	Maas	Bocchi	Ramondt
		Pass	Pass
Pass	4	4	?

The Bulletin does not give the rest of the auction except to say that Bocchi got to defend Five Hearts and on a diamond lead declarer finessed and went three down undoubled.

There were other auctions of interest:

West	North	East	South
Zia	Krojgaard	Fu	Hansen
		Pass	Pass
2	2 !	2	Pass
3	4	4	Dble
All Pass			

Krojgaard's deliberate underbid on the first round backfired when it let the opponents find their spade

fit. Fu did well to push on to Four Spades and was rewarded with +990 and 13 IMPs.

A weak Two Diamonds was opened at another table, but this time it was South!

West	North	East	South
<i>Auken</i>	<i>Mittelman</i>	<i>K-Palmund</i>	<i>Kokish</i>
		Pass	2
Pass	2	2	3
3	4	4	Pass
Pass	5	Dble	All Pass

East led A, putting declarer in with a chance of going only 100 light, but later he misguessed clubs to concede 300. The datum was 130 to E-W.

WORLD CHAMPIONS SHINE AT ZAKOPANE

By Patrick Jourdain (GB)

Zakopane, Poland was a candidate as venue for the 2006 Winter Olympics, where bridge first hopes to be part of the main event. Though beaten in the IOC vote by Turin it is a most beautiful winter sports resort, with a ski-ing season through to 3rd May.

The four-day Poland Seniors Congress was held there the week after Easter. The Congress has been given European status by the EBL Seniors Committee, which means medals for the top three pairs and teams, and EBL Masterpoint awards. To qualify for this status the Congress must have an international flavour, and this year visiting teams were invited from Britain, Israel, Lithuania, the Czech Republic, and Bielorrussia. The teams event at the Congress also acted as a trial for Maastricht, with the leading all-Poland team earning a play-off against the Poland team which won the Seniors world title in Bermuda, for the right to represent Poland in the Olympiad Senior Teams.

The invitation to Paul Hackett to find a British team, was re-named England after the upgrading of England, Scotland and Wales to national status, but your author, thanks to birth, is eligible to play under the England name in unofficial events without affecting his eligibility for Wales. Hackett partnered Ross Harper, and Jourdain with Joe Dinnen. The Israeli team contained two of the 1998 World Senior team champions, Nissan Rand & Moshe Katz.

The Polish Bridge Union has been undergoing some political upheavals in recent months, but this had no adverse effect upon the excellent hospitality we received. The town, at the foot of the Tatras mountains, is a popular tourist resort, an hour's drive from Krakow. The Easter holiday season in Poland extended through to their Constitution Day on 3rd May and the resort, in glorious Spring weather, was alive with skiers and snow-boarders joining the ordinary holidaymakers enjoying walks in the foothills, rides in horse-and-carriage through the town, or use of the sports facilities where many of Poland's leading teams train.

The two-session Pairs event was a clear win for Aleksander Jezioro and Julian Klukowski, two members of team which won the World Senior Teams in Bermuda. Here are two examples of their skill from the Pairs, the first a beautiful illustration of how card-reading can gain unexpectedly:

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

West	North	East	South
	<i>Jeziro</i>		<i>Klukowski</i>
			1
1	1	Pass	1NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Polish Club is a fairly natural system which presents no major unfamiliarity for visitors. Against 3NT West led a fourth-highest diamond. Klukowski at once placed West with nine red cards. Before tackling clubs he tested the layout of the spade suit by playing two rounds, a spade to the king and a spade to the ace. West threw a heart, suggesting his shape as 1-5-4-3. This meant East had a singleton club, so Klukowski began the suit by leading the *jack* from hand. This would gain by right if East held the bare ten, but it also proved effective when West, holding Q10x, fearing declarer had the king, covered! The trick, with the four top honours, caused some amusement, but the result, 11 tricks, gave the world champions all the matchpoints.

Here Jezioro, East, was at the helm:

Board 12	10	
Dealer: West	A K 10 9 4	
Vul: N/S		A 10 7 5 2
	Q 4	
Q 9 8 4		A K 5 2
Q 6 3 2		8 7 5
K 8		J 6
J 6 2		A 10 8 3
	J 7 6 3	
	J	
	Q 9 4 3	
	K 9 7 5	

West	North	East	South
<i>Klukowski</i>		<i>Jeziro</i>	
Pass	1	1	Pass
2	3	Pass	Pass
3	All Pass		

The popular result was a diamond partial by North-South making 130, so Jezioro's overcall on a four-card suit would succeed if he could hold the loss to 100. Jezioro did better.

South led his singleton heart jack, which held the trick, followed by a diamond to North's ace and two more top hearts, on which South threw diamonds. When North led a fourth heart, Jezioro ruffed high, as South disposed of his last diamond. The king of spades felled North's ten, and, reading North's shape as 1-5-5-2, Jezioro next led a trump to West's eight, and then a low club to the *ten*. By playing North for the bare club honour remaining, declarer picked up both the black suits for no further loss, and -50 proved a good result.

The 1998 World Senior Teams champions shone on this next deal, first finding their way to the superior spot of spades rather than hearts, and then picking up a valuable overtrick by some skilful dummy play from Nissan Rand:

Board 6	Q J 9 3	
Dealer: East	A K 10 3	
Vul: E/W Game	K J	
	A 9 8	
7 6 2		K 5
Q 5 2		J 6
9 8		10 7 5 3 2
J 10 7 3 2		K Q 5 4
	A 10 8 4	
	9 8 7 4	
	A Q 6 4	
	6	

Their unopposed auction (Rand South) was:

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

Rand's decision to respond in spades took the pair to an excellent slam, far superior to hearts, as the losing hearts go away on the diamonds.

West (who had probably not worked out that dummy was short in the suit) chose a diamond lead, but the play goes the same way on a club lead. Rand won in dummy, ran the queen of trumps, and led another trump, on which the king appeared. The slam was now safe, so declarer looked for an overtrick. He realised that if he drew the last trump, the limit would be 12 tricks, but there was no risk in first unblocking the diamonds, and then laying down the top hearts. If anyone ruffed, the trick would come back, as you could now ruff both clubs and throw the losing hearts on the diamonds.

The advantage appeared when the defenders followed suit to the second diamond and both hearts. Now Rand entered hand with the third trump, threw his hearts on the diamonds, ruffed a heart with dummy's last trump, and re-entered hand with a club ruff to reach the thirteenth heart for his thirteenth trick, and all the matchpoints.

The Teams event, 19 matches of 6 boards, was won by *Jozio*, the team containing former European champion Andrzej Milde, who partners Wlodzimierz Stobiecki, and their team-mates Jozef Pochron & Leszek Wesolowski. They will play-off against the world champions Klukowski-Jezioro, and Andrzej Wilkosz-Janusz Nowak, for the place in Maastricht, and either will be favourite for a

medal in the Senior Teams. Nowak, incidentally, is the new Chairman of the Polish Bridge Union following their changes at the top.

In the Teams boards were dealt at the table and so more difficult for a journalist to track, but Nissan Rand reported this auction by his opponents, Andrzej Wilkosz and Wlodzimierz Wala of team Wisla as an entry for the Best Bid Hand of the Year:

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

Wilkosz	Wala
1	1
1	2
3	3
4	7
Pass	

As Wala put down his dummy he virtually named his partner's hand. Seven Diamonds came home without relying on the hearts as the third spade was ruffed high and the fourth disappeared later on the third round of hearts.

At my table the rare smother coup appeared in a humble One Spade, as if by magic, taking even declarer by surprise:

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

Their unopposed auction, with West dealer, was:

1 -1 -1 -Pass

My partner, Joe Dinnen, led 10. Declarer won, led Q, which was not covered, a second club to the ace, a heart back to the king, a club ruff, a diamond round to North, a second top diamond, and a diamond ruff. I cashed my winning heart, on which North threw his last diamond, and led a fourth heart which was ruffed by West's six and over-ruffed with the ten. This was the three-card ending with North on lead:

	Q 5 3	
	None	
	None	
	None	
J 7 2		K 9
None		None
None		10

None

A
None
None
8 5

None

Dinnen, North, led a low trump which declarer ducked to my ace, and I had to return a club. West ruffed with the seven and Dinnen suddenly discovered his apparently sure trump trick had disappeared. If he over-ruffed with the queen, dummy would kill this with the king; and if he under-ruffed, dummy would ditch the diamond! And so One Spade just made.

Our team-mates failed in One Notrump, so the swing was 5 IMPs to the opponents.

How would you play this deal :

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

The bidding was similar at both tables, though I opened a Benjamin Two Clubs (preparing to show eight playing trick in spades) whereas at the other table South opened a Polish Club. West overcalled Four Hearts and South protected with Four Spades, Passed out.

West cashed two top hearts. On the second East threw a discouraging club. West switched to a diamond (at my table it went: 2, 10, ace, king; at the other: jack, queen, ace, king). A second diamond was won in dummy, West following. Now what?

Both declarers decided to take the club finesse. If you run the jack and it wins, what do you propose to do next?

West is known to have eight hearts and two diamonds, leaving just three cards in the black suits. You can only succeed if his shape is 2-8-2-1 because otherwise you must lose either a trump or a club. So the club finesse certainly makes sense.

At the other table J did win, and declarer followed with a finesse of the ten of trumps. That proved correct as the West-East cards were:

x x	J 9 x x
A K Q 10 9 8 x x	3
J 2	A 8 7
x	Q 8 x x x

At my table, oddly, when I led the jack of clubs for a finesse, it did *not* win the trick. That was because, East, IBPA member Ryszard Kielczewski, smartly covered with the queen. I had to concede one off as I could not return to dummy for the spade finesse without West obtaining a ruff.

I might still have misguessed trumps even if the club jack had won. As East should cover whenever he has the guarded trump jack, one might assume when a player as good as Kielczewski did not cover, that his trumps must be four small, and the jack will fall from West, Nowak.

Declarer at the other table, Zdzislaw Laszczak, who partners Jerzy Kniga-Leosz, judged correctly, however, that East had been caught unawares. 10 IMPs away.

Our team was the leading visiting team, but four home teams were ahead:

Teams: 1. Jozio 341.5; 2. Edzio 339.5; 3. Mostostal 332; 4. Wisla 329.5; 5. England 327.

Pairs: 1. A. Jezioro-J. Klukowski 124.5; 2. J. Pochron - L. Wesolowski 121.5; 3. W. Wala - A. Wilkosz 117.6; 4. J. Nowak - R. Kielczewski 116.8.

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

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 Dir: South K 9
 Vul: N/S A J 7 6 4
 9 7 3
 8 4 2
 10 7 6 4 3 J 8 2
 ---- Q 10 8 5
 A 10 5 Q J 8 6
 10 9 7 5 3 J 6
 A Q 5
 K 9 3 2
 K 4 2
 A K Q

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

South has a classical 2NT opening bid and North, who has no real slam interest should be playing transfers (they are even more valuable over 2NT than over 1NT to get the strong hand declarer) to reach 4 the right way up. South's flat hand suggests simply completing the transfer by bidding 3, but the result would be the same whatever he did.

As you can see, if you reach 4 by North a diamond lead and continuation will beat you out of hand. But assuming that as South you reach 4 on a black suit lead, what should you do? Well you have a home for one of the diamond losers, but there is no need to hurry with the discard. All you need to do is exercise a little care. Make your first play in the trump suit the A not the K. After all, you are intending to play for the drop in hearts, but just in case the trumps are 4-0 you can protect yourself by leading the A to start with. Once the 4-0 split comes to life, now a second trump forces East to play the 10. You win, and take your spade winners to pitch dummy's diamond, then lead a third trump. You cannot be prevented from drawing East's trump eventually.

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

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 Sometimes the easiest of contracts at the table can be made harder by an imaginative defence. Rixi Markus put it well when she commented that most successful contracts might be defeated, and most unsuccessful ones might have been made. Which category does this one fall into?

Dir: North	Q J 10 4
Vul: None	A 9 3
	K 8 7 2
	10 8
	K 7 8 3 2
	8 7 6 4 K Q 5
	J 5 3 Q 10 9 6
	A 5 4 2 7 6 3
	A 9 6 5
	J 10 2
	A 4
	K Q J 9

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

West led an informative 8 to the queen, making it clear to East that she should not continue the suit. It looked obvious to play a club to try and get partner in for a second heart. However declarer put up an honour on the club return, and though West took his ace and returned a heart, South could fly with the A and dispose of his heart loser in dummy on the clubs, before losing the trump finesse and claiming +420.

The board looks unexciting, but notice what happens if at trick two East returns, not the automatic club, but a trump. Now if declarer ducks, West wins the K to play hearts again, and declarer is doomed, since the defence still have control of the clubs. It looks as if the spade switch can be overcome if declarer rises with the A at trick two, to play clubs himself, and that is indeed true, but it is not an automatic play -- and would some devious East be able to find the play away from his K to put declarer off the finesse? We'll never know!

Diamonds are this kid's best friend

by Harvey Bernstein (USA)

John Kranyak is a 16 year old bridge player from Bay Village, Ohio, a suburb of Cleveland. He has been playing duplicate bridge since he was twelve. He recently returned from The Netherlands, where he was a member of the ACBL Junior team that came in second. He told me about three interesting hands that he has been involved in over the past few months. Surprisingly, they were all diamond grand slams. I have written columns from each of them for the *Cleveland Plain Dealer*:

Dealer: South K Q J
 Vul: Game All A 10 8 4 3 2
 A J
 K 4

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

South	West	North	East
1	Pass	1	Pass
2	Pass	2	Pass
2NT	Pass	3	Pass
4	Pass	4	Pass
4	Pass	5NT	Pass
7	Pass	Pass	Pass

2 was a Game-Forcing relay; 4, 4 cues; 5NT Grand Slam Force.

This hand was played at the Fall North American Bridge Championships last November in Boston, MA. Ken Kranyak of Bay Village held the South cards. His 16 year old son, John, also of Bay Village, sat North. The auction was very straight-forward, and excellent.

The key to this auction was John Kranyak's willingness to acknowledge the value of his doubleton ace-jack of diamonds and support diamonds as the trump suit.

The play was delicate. A trump was led, but with hearts breaking 3-3 and diamonds breaking 3-2, the defence was helpless. (*IBPA Editor*: fearing trumps 4-1 you must not take a club ruff, but establish hearts instead.) The hand was one of those played in the Open Board-A-Match teams. In this case, the re-play at the other table had North-South playing three no trump, making six, thus losing the board. The Kranyak's team finished 27th in this event.

Dlr: South A J 4 3 2
 Vul: Game All A 4
 A 7 3 2
 Q 10

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

K 6
 5
 K J 10 9 8 4
 A K 4 3

South	West	North	East
1	2	2	3
Pass ¹	Pass	4	Pass
4NT	Pass	5	Pass
7	Pass	Pass	Pass

¹ Forcing 4NT = RKCB; 5 = 0 or 3 keys

This hand was played at the Fall North American Bridge Championships last November in Boston, MA. John Kranyak of Bay Village held the South cards. Joe Grue of Minneapolis, MN was in the North seat. The event was the National Open Swiss Teams. John's father, Ken Kranyak of Bay Village, playing with Alan LeBendig of New Orleans, LA, rounded out the team.

The auction was fairly straight-forward. The opening lead was the king of hearts. The only possible holding that could place the grand slam in jeopardy would be a three-nil division of the trump suit. If that were the case, Kranyak's first play of that suit would be crucial.

Which opponent was more likely to hold three diamonds? West had six hearts and East, four. This would indicate that East had more "empty spaces" in his hand for diamonds than West did. Second, if East had a diamond void and four card heart support, would he be content with a simple raise to three hearts? Probably not. Accordingly, Kranyak won the ace of hearts and called for the ace of diamonds. When West was not able to follow suit, Kranyak was able to claim his grand slam. At the companion table, South opened 1 and West, Ken Kranyak, made a simple 1 overcall. North bid 1 and East bid 2. North-South eventually got to 6 and declarer won the opening heart lead and played a small diamond to the king. West showed out and declarer had to lose one trick to the queen of diamonds, making the small slam and losing thirteen IMPs on the board.

Dlr: East 3 2
 Vul: Game All A
 K 10 7 3
 Q J 9 4 3 2

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

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

Pass 7 Pass Pass
Pass

¹Game values

²"Unbiddable cue bid"

Here is another diamond grand slam attributable to John Kranyak of Bay Village. This was played last month at the International Junior Team Competition in the Netherlands. The event was sponsored by Hero Beverage, a Dutch Corporation. Kranyak was a member of the team sponsored by the American Contract Bridge League (ACBL). His partner was Joe Grue of Minneapolis, MN, and their teammates were: Joel Woolridge of Buffalo, NY, John Hurd of Clemson, SC, Kent Mignocci of Bronx, NY, and Brad Campbell of Atlanta, GA. In an early match against Denmark, East opened a weak 2 bid and Grue doubled. Kranyak bid 3 to show game going values. Grue bid his suit and Kranyak raised to game. 5 was a cue bid which not only showed first round control of the spade suit, but denied first round control of the heart suit. Kranyak would have liked to make a heart cue bid but was painfully aware that he would be forcing his partner to the seven level. Since a 6 bid at this point would end the auction, he bid 5NT. In this type of auction, he was telling his partner he had the ace of hearts and was asking him to determine the final contract. This bid is known as the "unbiddable cue bid". Grue, recognizing the situation, bid the grand slam.

The contract might have been difficult had diamonds broken three-nil, but they did not and Grue ruffed a spade and a heart in dummy to score thirteen tricks. At the other table, the Danes stopped in 5, making seven.

The ACBL team finished second to the team from Austria, winning the silver medal.

* Marc Smith reports some deals from the English National Swiss Teams which his team won saying: "The journalists amongst you are welcome to use them without credit to me as the author."

First, a partscore hand, but one containing a curious position in the diamond suit:

```

A 6 3
8 6 3
A 9 7 3
J 10 4

K Q 9 7 2
Q 9 5 4
Q 6
A 3

```

You reach 2 having bid both majors, and get a low spade lead that you win in hand with the seven. If hearts are 4-2, then you are in danger of losing four hearts and a trick in each minor. I therefore set out to create an extra trick in diamonds, thinking to play LHO for either KJ8 or K108. On 6 LHO put in the 10, which I ducked. I won the spade continuation in the South hand and played the Q to the K and A and duly led the 9. It pinned the 8 OK, but on my right! Although this was not how I had envisioned it going, this also worked fine, as I could ditch my club loser as LHO won his J. LHO could do nothing. If he played anything but his diamond, I could win, cross to dummy drawing the last trump, and cash the 7 to discard a heart. If he played the diamond for RHO to ruff, then I could over-ruff and dummy would then still have a trump for the fourth round of hearts.

Of course, hearts were 3-3 all the time, but still an interesting hand.

OK, now something more exciting. How do you play this game? The hands were something like:

```

Dlr: East      A x x x
Vul: N/S      Q x
              K x x x
              9 x x

10 x x x      K J x
K J 10 8 x    9 x
x x          Q 10 9 x x
Q           A J x x

Q 9
A 7 x x
A J
K 10 8 x x

```

West	North	East	South
	P.Cz		M.S.
		1NT	Dble
2	3	P	3NT
All pass			

1NT was 10-12 and 3 showed four spades and no heart stopper. West led the J. I won the queen and played a club to the king next. A second club went to the 9 and Jack and East returned a heart.

Even though hearts are known to be 5-2, I ducked and won the heart continuation pitching a spade from dummy as East threw a diamond. The 10 was taken by the ace and East exited with a club to leave these cards with declarer needing 5 of the last 6 tricks:

```

A x
none
K x x x
none

10 x      K x
10       none
x x x    Q 10 9 x
none     none

Q x
x
A J
x

```

When I cashed the last club, throwing the small spade from dummy, East was in trouble. A spade pitch is immediately fatal, but the diamond discard was no better, as I then played the A and ran the J. Dummy took the last three tricks (including the 7 at trick 13).

It is often nice when team-mates walk on water, as ours did regularly over the weekend. Here is what looks like a boring part score deal with E/W able to make nine tricks in hearts and N/S cold for 10 in diamonds. Game was bid at most tables though... I'll draw a veil over the defence, and we at least went plus as N/S...

```

Dlr: East      A Q
Vul: NS        x x
              K Q J 10 x
              K J x x

8 x x      K J 10 9
10 x      K Q J 9 8 x x
x x       x
A Q 10 x x x  x

7 x x x
A x
A 9 8 x x
x x

```

West	North	East	South
	P.Cz		M.S.
		1	Pass
1NT	2	4	5
Pass	Pass	5	Pass
Pass	Dble	All pass	

I led a club to the ace, and declarer played a spade. Peter won the ace and led the K. Suffice it to say that we scored those two tricks and the ace of trumps, and never found our spade ruff, but that was still +100. How good a score was that?

Surprisingly, that was 13 IMPs in as team-mates recorded a most unusual score:

West	North	East	South
Zivan		Small	
		4	Pass

Pass Dble Pass 4 !?!
 All pass

Cameron Small's decision to pre-empt found both North and South making questionable decisions. Lior Zivan led a heart and declarer grabbed the ace and immediately took a trump finesse. Cameron won the king, cashed a heart winner, and played a third round of the suit. Declarer ruffed in hand and Lior over-ruffed with the 8. Declarer over-ruffed with the ace and played the K, but that was his last trick. Cameron's hand was now high except for his partner's A. 4 -7 vulnerable meant +700 for East-West!

Curiously, North-South had taken the same three tricks at each table!

Finally, a nicely played hand from Peter Czerniewski (with a little help from his friends, but of course you still have to take advantage of it).

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

West	North	East	South
	<i>M.S.</i>		<i>P.Cz</i>
	1	Pass	1NT
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT
All pass			

West led a diamond to the king. West erred at trick two, capturing the K with his ace, although there is obviously a risk that declarer is trying to steal his ninth trick. Cz won the diamond continuation and played a low heart. East went in with the ten, and West missed his second and last chance to beat the contract - he must overtake and play a club.

When the 10 held, East exited with a heart. Cz cashed dummy's other heart winner, played the J and a spade to the Q, cashed the Q, and exited with the fourth round of hearts to East's jack. The

K and the long spade brought declarer's total to nine tricks.

* *Henry Francis writes:* Here are two good hands with the same theme -- "loose lips sink ships." I played the first one at our local club, and the second occurred in an OKbridge game.

How would you play 6 on the lead of the J?
 Dlr: South. None vul.

J 5
 J 9 4 3
 K Q 6
 Q 10 5 4

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

No doubt you win this in hand and consider the possibilities. There appear to be three -- play for the

A onside, try the heart finesse, or play for a major suit squeeze against West. But you quickly discard the idea of the squeeze -- both A and K have to be with West. For the other two methods, all that is necessary is that you guess which card East has -- the K or the A. It so happens it doesn't matter which one you try -- both fail and you go down one.

But you haven't seen the bidding, which went like this:

West	North	East	South
			2
2 (!)	2NT	Pass	3
Pass	4	Pass	6
All Pass			

Now you know the heart finesse is destined to fail. And chances are West has A as well -- otherwise that's quite an enterprising 2 bid. If this is the case, LHO is in serious trouble and can't escape. You win the first diamond in hand, cash seven rounds of trumps, then follow up by taking dummy's two diamonds, pitching a spade from hand. Now you are down to the K and AQ, while it appears that LHO has A and K10. Maybe LHO has blanked the HK and kept two spades, but it's not at all likely. So you lead a spade to your king, and as expected West wins. But now West has to lead away from the K to give you the last two tricks.

It's another instance of a player doing too much talking -- another case of loose lips sink ships. These were the East-West cards:

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

Here's another example of a defender who talked too much. It occurred during an OKbridge matchpoint game. You hold:

10 4 2 K Q 10 7 4 J 10 7 9 3

and you hear this bidding:

West	North	East	South
	Pass	Pass	1
3	3	Pass	3
Pass	4	Pass	4NT
Pass	5	Pass	5NT
Pass	6	Pass	6
Pass	Pass	?	

Well, did you fall victim and double? Of course you did! It certainly looks safe, and it doesn't appear that the opponents have anywhere to run.

At the table East doubled, and South, Joe Veal, a student at the University of Oklahoma, didn't like the looks of his heart suit (A-J-9-8-2). East's double sounded real. He decided to run. First he thought of 6NT, but he feared that an opening heart lead would kill any hope for that contract. Finally he decided on 6 - maybe partner had four, hopefully to the jack.

This was the full hand:

	7 5 3	
	6 5 3	
	A Q 9 8 2	
	A 5	
J 9 8		10 4 2
None		K Q 10 7 4
6 5 4		J 10 7
K J 10 8 7 6 4		9 3
	A K Q 6	
	A J 9 8 2	
	K 3	
	Q 2	

West led the spade 8, and Veal wasn't at all happy when he saw dummy. "I was amazed that I wasn't doubled - it looked as if I would be going down three or four tricks." Then he thought about the hand a bit. "Probably hearts are 5-0 because West didn't lead one. Clubs probably are 7-2, based on West's bid. That leaves six cards in each hand. Hey, maybe trumps will break three-three! If they do, so will the diamonds! Maybe I've got a chance to make this!"

So Veal won the first trump and led out two more, dropping the suit 3-3. If his figuring was correct, that accounted for 10 cards in each hand, so diamonds were going to fall. Sure enough, they did! On the run of the diamonds, Veal threw a heart and a club and East pitched two hearts. That left this position:

	-	
	6 5 3	
	-	
	A 5	
--		-
--		K Q 10 7
--		-
K J 10 8 7		9
	6	
	A J 9	

-
Q

Veal led a heart. When East put in the queen, Veal ducked and claimed his unlikely slam bonus because East had to lead a heart back. It looks as if East could have saved himself if he had kept both of his clubs. But Veal was ready for that too. In the position above, with East holding three hearts and two clubs, Veal planned to lead a heart first, leaving the ace of clubs in dummy. East of course would put in the queen, and Veal planned to duck. East could get out with a club to the queen, king and ace, but now Veal would take the proven heart finesse - making six spades!

Guess it's true - loose lips really do sink ships.

* In a long letter *Scott Cardell* agrees with the April Editorial and proposes his own changes to Law (summarised next month). In the European Mixed Pairs report he noticed the missing South hand in the diagram on page 9 which readers will have been able to fill in, and spots an analysis error in the Helgemo hand which follows. After the club finesse loses declarer has ten tricks rather than eight, has already lost two and cannot make an overtrick from the endplay. (*IBPA Editor: Sorry, I should have spotted this.*)

Furthermore, in Ib Lundby's "bad breaks" hand on page 11, the hand was not "over" when A at trick 2 revealed the bad break. Declarer can still succeed even after failing to unblock K at trick two, as follows: Q, A, K, A, heart ruff, K, Q (sluffing a heart and a club from dummy), A, club ruff, A. The ending is as shown by Lundby except that South has a losing spade instead of a high one.

Unblocking the K at trick 2 would have been necessary if declarer had held only one spade winner in his hand.

* *Jean-Paul Meyer reports a sentence was missing from his article on Societe Generale.* In the suggested defence North was supposed to discard the king of diamonds on the second trump, to ensure South gained the lead in the suit.