

Occasions on which deals apparently newly-dealt by the Duplimate are the same as earlier sets continue to arise. The snag is that people do not seem to take the trouble to investigate why they have arisen, so we are no nearer knowing whether it is operator error or some design weakness.

A letter from Bert Polii received in February gave three instances : the 1998 Australia Summer Nationals reproduced a series of deals from the earlier Melbourne Championships (later shown to be operator error; *reports Per Jannersten*); the 1998 Asean Championships in Bangkok reproduced a series of deals from the 1995 Bermuda Bowl Final. Now Polii reports that the 1999 Pesta Sukan Pairs Final deals played in Singapore turn out to be the same as Round 11 of the 1995 Bermuda Bowl Quarter-final.

Inside this Bulletin Yuri Covalenko reports two sets of deals recognised by players in the Russian Championships. An earlier IBPA Editorial raised the subject after the Junior World Championships had to replay a set recognised by the players. In response Per Jannersten pointed out how operator error could call down a set of deals already stored on file rather than generate a new set. But would that explain how 1995 Bermuda Bowl hands turn up in Singapore four years later?

The point of this Editorial is to request those who know of other instances to write to the IBPA Bulletin with a copy to Jannersten, giving as much information as possible about which computer was used, what sets of deals were already on it on file, where the program came from, how the reproduced set was started off etc. so the cause can be detected.

Computer dealers are not strictly random. Most are “pseudo-random” initiated by a seed number which then generates a set unique to that number. If the seed number is the same, then the set of deals will be the same.

Per Jannersten says “ I welcome this investigation. If you know of a reproduced set of deals, please describe exactly how the deals were created. State if the deals were created on one computer and duplicated off another; and what deal generator was in use.

See also the memo found at www.jannersten.se/pdf/dont_play_again.pdf

(There is a link to the memo from the Duplimate/MkIV page, and you can have it by fax on request.)

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Our Awards Chairman, Barry Rigal, reports that the deadline for hands which can qualify for the Awards made in Maastricht is approaching. July’s Bulletin will be the last he will use to create the Shortlist, but Daily Bulletins at the European Youth Championships that month will also be inspected. If you believe you have a hand that is Award material, but it has not appeared in the IBPA Bulletin by next month, please send it direct to Rigal.

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Last month’s mention of missing calendar items produced the needed information about forthcoming WBF events (there was nothing ominous about their omission from the latest World Bridge News calendar), but established that next year’s EBL events are not yet fixed, either in date or venue, explaining the reticence of reports about them.

Patrick Jourdain - Editor

RODWELL DOUBLE AT MILLION DOLLAR CAVENDISH

By Barry Rigal (USA) Las Vegas

Pairs (50 pairs)	Score	Pool Prize	Pairs Prize	Auction Price
1. Marty Fleisher-Eric Rodwell	3669	\$263K	\$30K	\$17K
2. Steve Garner-Howard Weinstein	3444	169	19	31
3. Larry Cohen-David Berkowitz	2801	112	13	49
4. Zia Mamood-Bob Hamman	2713	85	10	49
5. Michel Abecassis-J-Christophe Quantin	2641	75	8	15
6. Paul Chemla-Alain Levy	2291	66	7	40
7. Giorgio Duboin-Norberto Bocchi	1739	56	6	51

Teams (24 teams)	Score	Pool	Team	Auction Price
1. Johnson (Greco-Hampson Meckstroth-Rodwell)	197	\$93K	\$17K	\$28k
2. Levin (Weinstein Berkowitz-Cohen)	175	62	11	26
3. Shugart (Robson Fredin-Lindkvist)	172	45	8	10

Top price in the Pairs auction was Weinstein-Levin, the defenders, at 55K (16th after a disastrous first set). Total pool was 1.14 \$M. In the Teams, Hamman-Zia Chagas-Helgemo went for 30K (finishing 10th/24). Total pool was 312K.

Every May (coincidentally while the World Series of Poker is taking place) The Cavendish Auction Pairs and Teams take place in Las Vegas, giving the top bridge players the chance to win and lose large amounts of money in all sorts of different ways. The point of the tournament is not just to try to win the event yourself, it is to buy the appropriate percentages of the pairs who you think are under-priced, so that you can pick up a share of the auction pools, which are far more significant than the prizes for winning as a player. The opportunity to gamble at the tables is just a bonus.

This year the events took place at the Desert Inn, a beautiful and slightly old-fashioned hotel, which offered the players a chance to play Golf (the first Cavendish Golf tournament took place the day before the serious bridge started). It also meant that playing conditions were superb in the club-house attached to the hotel.

My role was to help do the Bulletins, much of the material here comes from them.

The Pairs

The organizers have tinkered with the basic format over the last few years, but have now reverted to the idea of an [almost] all-play-all. 50 pairs play a 45-round movement of three boards a round, thus ensuring the sessions last no more than four hours each. This year the field included at least 13 different nationalities, with 30 or more World Champions in the ranks. The pool for the 50 partnerships (the number had been reduced from earlier years to allow for a proper round-robin format) brought in over \$1.1 million, with George Jacobs doing an excellent job. There were precious few bargains available, the exceptions being Abecassis-Quantin and Fleisher-Rodwell both of whom went below the average price for the field.

The Cavendish is scored on cross-IMPs; this means that your result on every deal is impeded up against the result from every other table.

Michael Abecassis took advantage of a defensive slip on Board 8 to bring home a very tough 4♠ against Simon DeWijs and Ricco van Prooijen:

Bd: 8	♠ K 8 4
Dlr: West	♥ A 9
Vul: None	♦ A J
	♣ K J 9 6 4 2
♠ Q 10 6	♠ A J 9 7 5 2
♥ J 6 3	♥ K 7
♦ K Q 10 9	♦ 8 7 2
♣ A 10 3	♣ Q 5
	♠ 3
	♥ Q 10 8 5 4 2
	♦ 6 5 4 3
	♣ 8 7

West	North	East	South
<i>Quantin</i>		<i>Abecassis</i>	
1♦	2♣	2♠	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass

On a club lead Abecassis rose with the ace and drew trumps with the aid of a finesse. Then he led a diamond to the king and ace and back came a sneaky low heart. Michel flew with the king and exited with a low heart. North was forced to win the ace and cash the ♣K, then exit with the ♣J. Abecassis ruffed and ran his trumps, reducing to a show-up squeeze. On the last trump South had to keep his ♥Q and reduce to one diamond, so now Michel could play the queen in the knowledge that the jack would fall from North.

Bd: 16	♠ A K 10 5 3 2
Dlr: West	♥ J 5
Vul: E/W	♦ Q 5
	♣ Q 6 4
♠ 8 4	♠ Q 7 6
♥ Q	♥ 7 6 4 3
♦ J 9 8 7 3	♦ A K 10 4 2
♣ 8 7 5 3 2	♣ K

♠ J 9
♥ A K 10 9 8 2
♦ 6
♣ A J 10 9

Guido Ferraro played the normal 4♠ on a top diamond lead. Eddie Wold led a top diamond, then shifted to the ♣K. Ferraro won and took the spade finesse (wouldn't you?, cashing ♠AK would be wrong if trumps were 4-1). Wold won and led a second diamond, forcing Ferraro to ruff in dummy. But now declarer was stuck in dummy. He could only lead hearts or clubs, so now one defender could get a ruff in one suit and give his partner a ruff in the other. Down one.

IBPA Editor: Not ruffing the second diamond works, as East is on lead .. but an e-mail from Alan Truscott provided two key details:

The auction was: 1♠-2♥-2♠-3♣-3♥-3♠-4♠-Pass
And when Wold was on lead with ♠Q he led a LOW diamond, so Ferraro did not know who would win the trick!

Jeff Meckstroth and Boye Brogeland, both West, made a rather unusual ducking play here:

BOARD 3	♠ J 8	
EW Game	♥ J 8 6 4 3	
Dealer S	♦ A 6 5	
	♣ Q 8 2	
♠ K Q 4 3		♠ 10
♥ K 10 2		♥ Q 9 7
♦ J 4 2		♦ K Q 10 7 3
♣ A 10 4		♣ K 9 5 3
	♠ A 9 7 6 5 2	
	♥ A 5	
	♦ 9 8	
	♣ J 7 6	

When South opens a weak 2♠ the normal continuation is for East to reopen with a double and for West to jump to 3NT, since the penalty available from passing is likely to be unsatisfactory at the vulnerability. Both Boye Brogeland and Jeff Meckstroth were confronted with this position and on the ♠J lead they made the first critical decision to duck. When a spade was continued they pitched a heart from dummy and the defence did well not to win the ♠A but to let declarer score the trick cheaply. Now the declarers drove out the ♦A and the defence won the third round; what next? At the table Levy led a heart against Meckstroth, (the jack might even be the right card but Alain led a small heart). Chemla cashed his two major-suit aces but Jeff had the rest. Perhaps the best defence here is passive: the defence winning an early diamond, and exiting in the suit, putting West to a heart guess.

After two sessions Howard Weinstein and Steve Garner were in the lead. They are a pair who have had some success in Auction Pairs, since they won the inaugural TGR's pairs.

Bd: 14	♠ Q 5 4 2	
Dlr: East	♥ 2	
Vul: None	♦ 8 6 2	
	♣ J 9 8 7 2	
♠ A 10 7		♠ K 9 3
♥ A K 6		♥ Q J 7
♦ K Q 10 9		♦ A 7 4
♣ A K 5		♣ 10 6 4 3
	♠ J 8 6	
	♥ 10 9 8 5 4 3	
	♦ J 5 3	
	♣ Q	

Both declarer and defender had a chance for a really nice play here. Michel Abecassis reached 6NT on an uninformative auction and Brad Moss led the ♣9 which, as it happened, gave nothing away. Abecassis won the ♣A, cashed the ♣K, then played a third club and Moss won to play a fourth club as Fred Gitelman pitched hearts. Abecassis threw the ♠10 from hand and cashed three top hearts, letting Gitelman follow, and on these Moss pitched his club winners and a spade. This was the six-card ending:

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

Abecassis now played the ♠7 to the king and a spade to his ace, on which Moss dropped the ♠Q! He was trying to look like a man with ♦Jxxx left but Abecassis refused to finesse in diamonds, preferring to play the suit from the top on the basis that Brad was capable of the false-card. And right he was!

One of the pairs fighting for the top honours was Bart Bramley, playing with Sidney Lazard. Bart drew an interesting inference to bring home this delicate 4♦ contract with a backward finesse:

BOARD 16	♠ Q 10 9 6
EW Game	♥ A 9 5 4
Dealer West	♦ 10 4
	♣ A 10 8
♠ J 8 2	♠ 3
♥ Q 6 3	♥ K 10 8
♦ K J 7 6	♦ A Q 9 8 5 3
♣ 9 5 3	♣ K Q 6
	♠ A K 7 5 4
	♥ J 7 2
	♦ 2
	♣ J 7 4 2

West	North	East	South
Lazard	Cornell	Bramley	Wright

Pass Pass 1♦ 1♠
 2♦ 3♦ 4♦ All Pass

On the ♠K lead and continuation Bramley put up the ♠J to force the queen and to confirm the location of the spade honours. He ruffed, then drew two rounds of trumps and led a club to the king. Now came a third diamond to dummy and a second club.

Cornell took the ace and played a third club. Bramley won and paused to count up the hand. Since North clearly had both round aces to justify his cue-bid, and had also shown up with the ♠Q he was less likely to have the ♥J (he might have opened with that, playing weak no-trumps). So Bart advanced the ♥10 and whether Wright covered or not, Bramley had his tenth trick.

Going into the fourth session Weinstein and Garner had a big lead over their challengers. Out of the pack emerged Fleisher and Rodwell, aided by results like this:

BOARD 3 ♠ A 7 2
 EW Game ♥ 10 7 5 4 2
 Dealer South ♦ K 8
 ♣ 9 8 6
 ♠ K 6 3 ♠ J 10 8 5
 ♥ A 9 ♥ K 8 6 3
 ♦ A 9 6 5 3 2 ♦ J 7 4
 ♣ 7 3 ♣ K 5
 ♠ Q 9 4
 ♥ Q J
 ♦ Q 10
 ♣ A Q J 10 4 2

At the table I was watching Gitelman's 1NT was Passed out for +90. Not all NS pairs did so well. Where Fleisher-Rodwell were playing Zia, Hamman transferred to 2♥. Fleisher led ace and a second diamond. Zia won the king and led a heart to the jack and ace. Fleisher continued the good work by leading a third diamond. Zia ruffed in dummy and led a club to the king and ace and a second trump. Rodwell won this and could see that he might need to take two spade tricks quickly if the clubs were going to run. So he shifted to the ♠10, hoping for this precise layout. Zia covered with the queen and when Fleisher played the king Zia ducked it, assuming Fleisher held the king-jack. Back came a second spade and Zia was down whatever he did now. Had Rodwell shifted to the jack of spades Zia would surely have wrapped up eight tricks.

Another pair doing well were Berkowitz and Cohen, certainly one of the pre-tournament favourites. However Michael Seamon found an excellent line in 3NT to get one over them on this deal:

BOARD 17 ♠ A Q 7 6 3
 Dealer North ♥ K J 9 6 2
 Love All ♦ 3

♣ J 6
 ♠ K 4 ♠ J 9 8 5 2
 ♥ 10 5 ♥ A Q 4
 ♦ A K J 7 6 2 ♦ 9 8
 ♣ 9 8 2 ♣ K Q 5
 ♠ 10
 ♥ 8 7 3
 ♦ Q 10 5 4
 ♣ A 10 7 4 3
 West North East South
S. Ekeblad Cohen Seamon Berkowitz
 1♠ Pass 1NT
 2♦ 2♥ 2NT Pass
 3NT All Pass

Berkowitz led the ♥8, and Seamon thought for a long while, then put up the ten and ducked the king. Seamon won the next heart, and advanced the ♦8. When Berkowitz played low Seamon ran it, set up a club, and later finessed again in diamonds to bring home nine tricks.

Should South have worked out to block the diamond suit by covering the ♦8? If partner had the stiff nine this would not have been a success. But the pause at trick one might have persuaded Berkowitz that this was precisely what declarer was planning to do and that should perhaps have directed him towards the correct defence.

When Bocchi-Duboin defended 3NT Bocchi led a club. Declarer had to duck this and the defense shifted to the ♥J. Declarer covered and now dislodged the ♣A himself. Back came a second heart, then the ♦8, covered by Bocchi and now 3NT had to go down.

Bd: 22 ♠ K 7 5 2
 Dlr: East ♥ Q 10 9
 Vul: E/W ♦ J 6 5
 ♣ 8 7 4
 ♠ A Q J 10 9 8 ♠ 3
 ♥ 6 3 2 ♥ K 4
 ♦ A ♦ K Q 10 8 4 3 2
 ♣ K 10 5 ♣ A Q 2
 ♠ 6 4
 ♥ A J 8 7 5
 ♦ 9 7
 ♣ J 9 6 3

West North East South
Hamman Chagas Zia Helgemo
 1♦ 1♥
 1♠ 2♥ 3♦ Pass
 3♥ Pass 3NT Pass
 4NT Pass 6♦ All Pass

Bob Hamman's 4NT gave Zia the chance to opt for diamonds, and on a club lead Zia put in the ten. Then he cashed the ♦A, came to hand in clubs, and drew trumps. At this point in the hand he knew Geir had the ♥A and ♣J, so Chagas was favourite to hold the ♠K (and in addition, if this were the case, 6NT would go down). So Zia took the ruffing finesse in spades and made thirteen tricks.

George Jacobs and Ralph Katz were not faring well, but George found a very nice play on the same deal. Norberto Bocchi (East) reached 6♦ on an unopposed sequence on VuGraph and received a club lead from Jacobs. Bocchi won this in hand and played a spade to the ace, ruffed a spade, played a diamond to the ace, ruffed another spade with the ♦10, then cashed the ♦KQ. When he led a club to dummy intending to insert the ten to create an extra dummy entry to finish ruffing out the spades and then cash them, George crossed him up by inserting the ♣J to block the suit. Now Bocchi needed the heart finesse and when it failed he was set one trick.

Garner-Weinstein also reached 6♦, on an unopposed sequence. Weinstein got the ♥A lead and thus did not have to guess spades. Courtney played 6NT as East on an unopposed auction on a low spade lead. North ducked to get a better picture of the hand, and Courtney gave him one by showing his hand a moment later and claiming 12 tricks!!

Going into the last session Weinstein and Gamer held a 500 cross-IMP lead (about 20 real IMPs) over Fleisher-Rodwell with only Berkowitz-Cohen in serious contention. Abecassis-Quantin were fighting hard for third place. In fact Weinstein-Garner started off with a catastrophic system accident when they forgot their defence to a strong 2♣ opening and went for 1400, and never seriously threatened. That left the path clear for Rodwell-Fleisher. With two rounds to go the event was level. This board gave Rodwell the chance to win the event and naturally he grabbed it with both hands.

BOARD 18 ♠ A K 8
 NS Game ♥ 9 6 2
 Dealer: South ♦ A K 9 2
 ♣ A Q 2

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

♠ 10 9 7 4 2
 ♥ 10
 ♦ Q 10 7 4
 ♣ 10 9 7

West	North	East	South
	<i>Fleisher</i>		<i>Rodwell</i>
			Pass
2♥	Dble	3♥	Pass
Pass	Dble	Pass	4 ♠
All Pass			

Best defence is a club lead, and maybe East should have bid 3♣ over the double to make life easier for his partner. Still, perhaps West's choice of the ace of hearts, in order to determine which minor to shift to, is a reasonable one. Unluckily for him the club shift at trick two came too late. Rodwell played

low, and East took the jack and exited with a second heart. Rodwell ruffed, cashed the top spades, ruffed his last heart, then cashed four diamonds. East did not ruff, but Rodwell led a trump, and in the two-card ending East had to play clubs into dummy's tenace to concede the tenth trick.

In the end the margin of 230 cross IMPs (or 109 real IMPs) represented the clearest win in the event for five years. The event has always gone down to the last board, and even on this occasion the winners needed three good results at the end to hold off their challengers.

The Teams

In years past the Cavendish Teams for the Jack Dreyfus Cup was little more than an appetiser. Not any more; once the event moved to Las Vegas, players came down for the whole week, and thus the teams has started to take on equal significance with the Pairs. I have been at the auctions for the last five years, and the prize fund has leapt in that period from \$50K to over \$300K this year. Favourites were the Dream Team of Hamman-Zia and Chagas-Helgemo. The format of the draw saw the top seeded team meeting the second most expensive team in the first round. When Hamman took on Team Brachman the match saw only two significant swings, both going to Hamman. However the action on the first deal was interesting at other tables too.

BOARD 2 ♠ A 9 6
 N/S Game ♥ J
 Dealer W ♦ K J 9 5 3
 ♣ 8 7 5 4

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

♠ K Q
 ♥ 10 8 5
 ♦ A 8 2
 ♣ K Q 10 9 2

West	North	East	South
<i>Seamon</i>	<i>Helgemo</i>	<i>Passell</i>	<i>Chagas</i>
Pass	Pass	1♠	2♣
2♠	3♠	Pass	3NT
Pass	5♣	All Pass	

At the first table Geir took an excellent view to remove 3NT to 5♣ -- his spade length suggested that 5♣ would play well, while hearts might be a danger suit in 3NT. Chagas won the spade lead and ducked a heart. He won the spade return, ruffed a heart, played a club to the king, ruffed his last heart, then led dummy's last club and claimed.

In the other room Wold-Soloway did not judge as well as Chagas-Helgemo. Zia opened 1♠ in third seat, and Wold as South neither overcalled 2♣ over Hamman's third-seat 1♠ opening nor did he balance when 2♠ came back around to him.

When 2♠ made two (+110 for EW) Hamman picked up 12 imps.

Elsewhere, NS got more bidding to contend with. Michael Cornell opened 2♥ as West, raised to 4♥ of course by Lionel Wright and passed out. On a diamond lead to the ace South shifted to a top club to the ace. Cornell led the ♠J from dummy which was covered by the queen as he followed low. Now North produced a less-than-optimal defense by overtaking with the ace to play a club through dummy's jack-six.

Declarer ruffed, drew two rounds of trump, then passed the ♠8 to score up +420, which went nicely with the +600 recorded by Wigoder-Courtney who were in 5♣ as NS at the other table. Andy Robson found himself in an insalubrious spot here after the auction:

West	North	East	South
	<i>Shugart</i>		<i>Robson</i>
Pass	Pass	1♠	2♣
Dble	2♠	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Andy was lucky enough to avoid the heart lead. On the spade lead he won in hand with the king and tried the sucker-punch of leading a low heart from hand toward dummy's stiff jack. West won the queen and rather naively returned a spade. Robson won and tried the ♣Q, which lost to the ace, and a third spade cleared the suit. Now Robson cashed the ♦AK. When the queen did not fall, he finessed in clubs to score nine tricks.

Seymon Deutsch is used to seeing Bobby Wolff extract a quart out of a pint pot -- which perhaps explains why Wolff is called on to perform the odd miracle from time to time. Here he achieved a frozen-suit ending, though there was a defence:

BOARD 16	♠ A 8 5 4	
EW Game	♥ K 4 3	
Dealer East	♦ A 9	
	♣ A 10 7 6	
♠ K Q 3		♠ 6 2
♥ A 10 5		♥ Q 9 8 7 6
♦ K 6 3 2		♦ J 8 5
♣ Q 9 5		♣ J 8 3
	♠ J 10 9 7	
	♥ J 2	
	♦ Q 10 7 4	
	♣ K 4 2	

West	North	East	South
<i>v. Prooijen</i>	<i>Deutsch</i>	<i>De Wijs</i>	<i>Wolff</i>
		Pass	Pass
1♦	Dble	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♠	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Wolff received a club lead to the six and eight, which he won in hand to advance the ♠J, covered all around. Now a spade back to the ten and king allowed the defense to exit with a third spade. Declarer played a club to the ten and jack and East

returned a heart to the ten and king. Now Wolff cashed the ♣AK and the fourth club as both defenders pitched diamonds, then came to hand with a spade. On this last spade West reduced to ♥Ax and ♦Kx and East was also squeezed. If he came down to two hearts and two diamonds Wolff would exit with a heart and collect two diamonds in the end. So East bared his ♦J and Wolff led the ♦Q out of his hand to pin the jack and collect his two diamond tricks to make his contract.

Should West have worked out on the early heart switch to rise with the ace and return the suit? That breaks up the endplay. If South wins the fourth spade in hand he has no heart to exit with, and if he ends in dummy East can safely come down to just one diamond. At the other table 2♠ collected +140, so this represented a gain of 7 imps rather than a loss of 5 imps for the Deutsch team. Andy Robson & Rita Shugart, after a somewhat uninspired first day, put together three nice wins to narrowly miss out on second place. They started a charge toward the medals, aided by this early deal on day two, where their teammates, Peter Fredin and Magnus Lindkvist of Sweden, landed on their feet very nicely after an accident in the auction.

BOARD 2	♠ Q 9
NS Game	♥ 9 5 3 2
Dealer East	♦ K 10 9 7 5
	♣ K 8
♠ 8 7	♠ A 6
♥ None	♥ A 10 8 7 6 4
♦ J 8 6 4 3 2	♦ A Q
♣ J 6 5 4 2	♣ A 7 3
	♠ K J 10 5 4 3 2
	♥ K Q J
	♦ None
	♣ Q 10 9

West	North	East	South
<i>Fredin</i>		<i>Lindkvist</i>	
		1♣(1)	1♠
Pass	1NT	Dble	4♠
4NT	Pass	5♣	Dble
All Pass			

(1) Strong Club

4NT for the minors was not exactly what Lindkvist wanted to hear but he picked his three-card minor and hoped for the best. On the ♥K lead he made the most of his rather poor chances by pitching a spade to win the ♥A. He ruffed a heart to dummy and successfully finessed the diamond -- well, sort of. South ruffed and led a spade.

Lindkvist won the ace and ruffed another heart, and was delighted with the results -- but he was not yet out of the woods. Depending on how the remaining trumps behaved, he could settle for one down, by cashing the ace of clubs and playing on side suits, or he could try for the contract, in which case something very bad might happen if the trumps did not behave. Oh well; faint heart never

won fair lady, and Magnus took his life in his hands by playing ace and another club. When the trumps fell he had eleven tricks, with the heart suit established. Had hearts not split he would not have taken another trick and gone six down!

The event finished up as a decisive win for Perry Johnson (one of Jeff Meckstroth's regular partners, especially in the Cavendish). They played as a team of five, with Rodwell and Hampson-Greco, and took the event with a match to spare.

PESSOA-CASTANHEIRA DO THE DOUBLE in PORTUGESE OPEN
By Patrick Jourdain (GB)

The Portugese Festival of Bridge held in Cascais and Estoril near Lisbon is my favourite because of the leisurely schedule in the Teams which leaves time for golf during the day. This year the Festival was the week before Easter, which restricted the numbers attending, but the welcome was as friendly as ever.

The Festival proved a triumph for Sofia Pessoa and Jorge Castanheira who had already proved it was their season by winning Portugal's trials for Maastricht. They won both the Pairs and the Teams, teaming up with Rui Santos and Jorge Santos (unrelated).

My team (David Kendrick, Steve Ray, Georgia Ray) led the Swiss teams for most of the event, but at the end we suffered from the practice in Portugal of playing Danish for the last two rounds. This means 1 plays 2, 3 plays 4 irrespective of whether they have met before. We found ourselves playing the holders for both the last two rounds, having met them earlier. We cut each other up, and allowed Pessoa, at table two, to overtake both on the last round. With only nine rounds in all, it seems to me that just the last should be Danish.

Jan van Cleeff, of the big group visiting from the Netherlands, submitted this deal as evidence of Castanheira's talent, finding the right lead from:

♠ J 10 7 ♥ 8 5 3 ♦ K J 6 5 ♣ 9 6 4

This had been the auction:

West	North	East	South
<i>Castanheira</i>		<i>Pessoa</i>	
		Pass	1♥
Pass	1♠	Dble	3♥
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♠
Pass	6♥	All Pass	

Five Spades showed two key cards plus the queen of trumps.

East's double had shown some values in the minors, so Castanheira found the clever lead of the *king* of diamonds. His partner duly gave count so (see full layout in next column) he was able happily to lead a second diamond to defeat the slam. Van Cleeff wondered if they might have done better to be in *Seven Hearts*!

This deal arose in the crucial last match, and the lead was vital in allowing the Pessoa team to take the trophy. The other table had stopped in 4♥+1 and the swing was 12 IMPs, which would have gone the other way on any non-diamond lead.

Dealer: East ♠ K Q 6 4 2
N/S Game ♥ K J
 ♦ Q 10 4
 ♣ A Q 5

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

♠ A 8
♥ A Q 10 9 7 6 2
♦ 8 3
♣ 8 7

How often do you obtain 1000 out of a one level contract? The winners managed it on this deal:

Dealer: East ♠ 9 7 6 4
Game All ♥ 9
 ♦ J 8 5 3
 ♣ A J 8 6

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

♠ Q 10 8 5
♥ K Q 10 8 4
♦ K 6 2
♣ K

West	North	East	South
<i>Castanheira</i>		<i>Pessoa</i>	
		1♣	1♥
Pass	Pass	Dble	Redbl
All Pass			

North, taking the redouble as strong, saw no reason to remove. West led ♣10 to South's bare king, and declarer made a good start by leading a low trump to East's bare ace, West wisely playing low. The defenders took ace of spades, king of spades, a spade ruff, and the ace of diamonds. The diamond continuation was ducked to West's queen. West exited with a club to dummy and declarer discarded his spade.

At this point declarer can go only one off if he returns to hand with a diamond. However, he ruffed a club high and West was able to throw his diamond and come to two more trump tricks. 1000 to E/W.

Henk & Elly Schippers are perhaps the Netherlands most highly-rated mixed pair. On this deal from the second session of the Pairs some boldness from Elly nudged the opponents into an inferior contract, and the defenders then caught declarer in a squeeze:

Board 8 ♠ Q 8 6 5 4
Dealer: West ♥ 2
Love all ♦ 10 8 7 3
 ♣ K 9 7

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

♠ K 3 2
 ♥ K 8 7 4
 ♦ K 9 4 2
 ♣ A 6

West	North	East	South
	<i>Elly</i>		<i>Henk</i>
Pass	Pass	1NT	Pass
Pass	2♠	Pass	Pass
Dble	Pass	3♥	All Pass

East opened a strong notrump, which often bought the contract and a certain plus score for East-West. Elly's bold Two Spades showed spades and a minor. West's double was competitive and East removed to what looks a reasonable spot, which one might expect to fail by one on the lie of the cards.

Henk, South, led a trump which declarer won in hand. The queen of diamonds was covered by king and ace, and then the jack of spades was covered by queen and ace. Declarer now crossed back to dummy with ♦J to lead a hopeful trump, but North showed out, so declarer ducked the trick to Henk's king. Henk played a third trump, won in dummy, and declarer ruffed his diamond in hand.

At this point declarer led ♣Q from hand. Henk won, and his fourth diamond forced dummy's last trump. Declarer led a spade to South's king, leaving this position with South on lead:

	♠ 8	
	♥ None	
	♦ None	
	♣ K 9	
♠ None		♠ 10
♥ None		♥ None
♦ None		♣ J 10
	♠ 3	
	♥ 8	
	♦ None	
	♣ 6	

Henk cashed the last trump, and declarer found himself squeezed in the black suits! The contract had gone two light for 100 to the Dutch pair, and most of the matchpoints.

Portugal's best known Junior player is Tiago Caneles. He partnered Carlos Luis in the Pairs, and they combined well here:

Board 25	♠ K J 3	
Dealer: North	♥ A 9	
N/S Game	♦ A K 10 9 7	
	♣ K 3 2	
♠ A 8		♠ 10 6 5 4 2
♥ K 10 2		♥ Q 6 5 4
♦ Q J 6 2		♦ 5 3
♣ A 6 5 4		♣ Q 9
	♠ Q 9 7	
	♥ J 8 7 3	
	♦ 8 4	
	♣ J 10 8 7	

West	North	East	South
	<i>Luis</i>		<i>Caneles</i>
	1♦	Pass	Pass
Dble	Redble	1♠	Pass
1NT	Dble	All Pass	

Where South responded on subminimal values North-South reached Two or Three Notrumps with the result depending on how North played the diamonds. After a spade lead declarer has one entry to dummy with the queen of spades. Should you use this to take a diamond finesse, or lay down the top diamonds from hand? My calculations make playing diamonds from the top the better odds, leaving declarer struggling to make much more than six tricks. However, those who got the diamonds right made eight tricks, and a score of 120.

However Caneles and Luis were defending One Notrump doubled by West. North led a top diamond, followed by a bold switch to ♠K. Declarer let this win, so Luis played a second spade to the bare ace. Declarer led a low club which North allowed to go to the queen, South dropping the jack to show his solid sequence.

Declarer now played a heart to the ten, which North allowed to hold. The heart king was won by North who switched to the king of clubs. Declarer let this hold, and won the next club. Now a heart was led to the queen. Declarer exited with a spade to South, who claimed the rest. The contract was two light, for 500 to North-South and a top.

And, finally, another hand featuring Castanheira and Pessoa, this time from the Pairs:

Dealer: North ♠ Q 7 6 4 3
 E/W Game ♥ J 7
 ♦ J 8 7
 ♣ 8 6 4

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

♠ 5
 ♥ K 6 5 4 2
 ♦ K 10 6 4
 ♣ 5 3 2

West	North	East	South
<i>Castanheira</i>	<i>Pessoa</i>		
	Pass	1♦	2♥
2♠	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♥	Dble	3NT	Pass
6NT	Dble	All Pass	

Those tables that played with spades as trumps had a heart lead which held declarer to 11 tricks, but Six Notrumps by East was always safe. North's first double encouraged South to lead a heart, so Pessoa had a safe line to 12 tricks. She won, ran the eight of spades which held, crossed to dummy with ♣Q, and cleared the spades, claiming five spades, two hearts, a diamond and four clubs.

Results:

Teams:

1. S. Pessoa 168; 2. M. Oliveria 166; 3. S. Ray (GB) 163; 4. C. Real 157; 5. E. Schippers (Net) 152.

Pairs:	%
1. S. Pessoa - J. Castanheira (Por)	63.2
2. P. Fincias - N. Landabaso (Spain)	59.6
3. A. Castells - A. Jaureguizar (Spain)	59.1
4. A. Debonnaire - C. Teixeira (Por)	59.0

FREDIN-LINDKVIST WIN NIKLAS DATA FROM MECKSTROTH-HELGEMO

By Daniel Auby (Sweden)

At Easter the 2nd Niklas Data Championship was played with the financial support of the European computer consultant company Niklas Data (recently renamed eNiklas), experts in the SAS programming language.

This was the third and final stage of the observation tournament cycle for the Swedish elite. Ten Swedish pairs had qualified, among them all six who comprise the Swedish A-troop. Six foreign pairs were also invited, among them the reigning World Pairs champions Jacek Pszczola and Michal Kwiecien from Poland and the very interesting partnership of Jeff Meckstroth, USA, and Geir Helgemo from Norway. There were also hot pairs from Bulgaria, Finland, Holland and Indonesia, all competing for their country in the upcoming Olympics.

It was played as imps across the field, all against all, 15 rounds and 14 boards a round. This is more than is usual in invitation events but I want my players to be tested against conditions that, in the limited time available, are as similar as possible to the championships.

With one round to go Meckstroth-Helgemo was in lead and Lindkvist-Fredin, the

The best part of Peter Fredin's ability may well be his card reading. Peter was in 4♠ as South against Pesonen-Stubb after this bidding

West/EW

West	North	East	South
2♦*	Dble	2♠	Pass
3♥	Pass	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

2♦ was multi and the Double indicated a balanced hand.

♠ 8 5
♥ A 5 3
♦ K 10 4 3
♣ A Q 10 2

Lead: ♥Q

♠ A 9 7 4 3
♥ 10
♦ 9 7
♣ K 7 6 5 3

most successful Swedish pair the last few years, were close behind and as luck (?) would have it they were to meet in the last round. To the cheering of the Swedish supporters Magnus and Peter succeeded in overtaking their famous opponents and won the tournament.

Results

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Magnus Lindkvist-Peter Fredin | SWE A |
| 1075 | \$3000 |
| 2. Jeff Meckstroth-Geir Helgemo | USA/NOR 951 \$1000 |
| 3. Mats Nilsland-Björn Fallenius | SWE A 830 \$500 |
| 4. Jacek Pszczola-Michal Kwiecien | POL |
| 588 | |
| 5. PO Sundelin-Johan Sylvan | SWE A 466 |
| 6. B-E Efraimsson-Kenneth Borin | SWE B 344 |
| 7. Vladimir Mihov-Ivan Nanev | BUL 144 |
| 8. Tommy Gullberg-Lars Andersson | SWE A 127 |
| 9. Santje Panelewen-Robert Tobing | INDO |
| 41 | |
| 10. Anders Morath-Mårten Gustawsson | SWE A |
| -177 | |
| 11. Magnus Eriksson-Ulf Nilsson | SWE A -376 |
| 12. Fredrik Nyström-Peter Strömberg | SWE B -571 |
| 13. Jukka Pesonen-Sakari Stubb | FIN -713 |
| 14. Mats Sjöberg-Olof Bergström | SWE B -741 |
| 15. Huub Bertens-Bart Nab | NED -1004 |
| 16. Hans Göthe-Lars Albertsson | SWE B -1017 |

West led the queen of hearts. Fredin saw that he needed the spades 3-3 and the ace of diamonds in the West hand.

Fredin won the ace of hearts and led a small spade which West won with the queen. He continued with a heart that Fredin ruffed and took stock. With at least five points in the majors West began to look as a man without the ace of diamonds. What to do? Could he survive if East held the ace of diamonds? He counted West for six hearts on the bidding, three spades was a must for Peter to have any chance at all and no minor singleton led, i.e. 2-2 in the minors.

Peter cashed the ace of spades on which West played the two and East the ten. He entered dummy with a club and ruffed dummy's last heart. Now he cashed ♣K, unblocking dummy's ten, and played his last spade. East had to win and had only diamonds, headed by the ace, left.

East's hand: ♠ K106 ♥ K76 ♦ AJ652 ♣ 98. This was worth +86 with only partscores and undertricks at the rest of the tables.

During the tournament I tried an approach that was new for me. The players could appeal the TD's decisions to me as a Chief Tournament Director, according to law 93. i.e. there was no

Appeals Committee. The players could concentrate upon that which they were here to do. I of course asked some players for their point of view on bridge play related questions such as “what would you have done given this or that information from your opponents”. The players seemed to like this and I plan to continue to run my observation tournaments in this way.

Again according to law every contestant has the right to appeal to the Swedish law commission, a practice which is quite common in Sweden. The Commission had a representative on call during the weekend so that we could know their decision before the Prize giving ceremony. An interesting case occurred where two of our absolute best pairs had a somewhat confused auction after a late alert. Three players bid after the alertable bid was made and then the alert came. In the end all three instances ruled that the bad contract the innocent side finally arrived at was only a consequence of their own bad judgement, not the forgotten alert. Consequently the score was not adjusted. But the Law Commission fined the non-alerters a procedural penalty. That is, to my way of thinking, clearly wrong. You should only give procedural penalties when the breach of law is deemed to have harmed the opponents. Else we would have screams for the TD from all over the room all the time since late alerts occur all the time.

After the tournament the Swedish team for Maastricht was announced and it is:

PO Sundelin – Johan Sylvan
Mats Nilslund – Björn Fallenius
Magnus Lindkvist – Peter Fredin

Tommy Gullberg and Lars Andersson, who represented us last year, had declined to participate in this year's championship due to their work commitments, and the pick was the easiest I have done during my appointment as NPC. Without doubt we are sending our best possible team to Maastricht.

P.S. I also calculated a Swing Index for each pair (add the IMP swings whether plus or minus and divide by the number of boards). It was no surprise to see this list led by Meckstroth-Helgemo!

GENERALI MASTERS (contd)

GENERALI CLIPPINGS

IBPA members are invited to send clippings of the Generali Masters to:

J. Damiani
40 Rue Francois 1er, F 75008 Paris, France

Please give the name of the publication, its approximate circulation, and the date of each clipping.

There are prizes on offer.

Mark Horton adds these two deals, the first of which did not make the Daily Bulletins:
Aggressive bidding was rewarded on this deal.

Dealer: North:	♠ A				
E/W Game	♥ A J 4 3	♦ K J 2	♣ A 9 5 4 2	♠ K J 4 2	
	♥ 9 5 3	♦ Q 10 6	♣ K 8 7	♥ Q 8 7	♦ A 9 7 5 3
	♠ Q 10 8 7 6	♥ K 10	♦ 8 4	♣ J 10 6 3	♣ Q

West <i>Zia</i>	North <i>Abecassis</i>	East <i>Brogeland</i>	South <i>Bianchedi</i>
	1♣	Dble	1♠
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Seeing no point in introducing his heart suit after East's take out double, Michael Abecassis rebid in no-trumps. Now South just about had enough to go on to game. At the tables where North preferred a bid of two hearts, South could do no more than give preference to clubs, ending the auction.

The opening lead of the five of diamonds went to the queen and king. Though declarer was prepared to risk the heart finesse, it was clear that West had to be kept off lead when developing clubs, otherwise a second diamond would be fatal.

Declarer played a heart to the ten, and then played the six of clubs to his nine and East's queen. He took the spade switch in hand, crossed to the king of hearts, and ran the jack of clubs. When that held, he could claim ten tricks.

Jill Meyers missed an important chance on this deal, and Ewa Harasimowicz was quick to take advantage:

Dealer: South	♠ A 10 9 6				
E/W Game	♥ A 6 5	♦ Q 8	♣ K 9 6 4	♠ Q 8 5 4	
	♠ 7 2	♥ Q J 10 9 7 2	♦ 10 6 4	♥ 8 3	♦ A J 5 3
	♣ 7 3			♣ A J 10	
		♠ K J 3	♥ K 4	♦ K 9 7 2	♣ Q 8 5 2

West <i>Meyers</i>	North <i>Vlachaki</i>	East <i>McGowan</i>	South <i>Harasimowicz</i>
			1♦
Pass	1♠	Pass	1NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

West led the queen of hearts, taken by declarer's king. Ewa Harasimowicz played a club to the king and ace, and East returned her remaining heart. If declarer was certain the hearts were 6-2 she should win this trick, and can then get home in a variety of ways. However, she ducked when West overtook it, and when Jill Meyers switched to the four of diamonds declarer was in trouble. She put up dummy's queen, but East produced the ace, and returned the suit, ducked to West's ten. At this point a club or a diamond ensures the defeat of the contract, but that was not easy to see, and West played the seven of spades.

Declarer was quick to seize her chance. She put up the ten, and when it held, cashed the ace of hearts, squeezing East in three suits. McGowan parted with a spade, but now three rounds of that suit was more than she could stand.

This was the only table that the contract was made at, so you can probably work out the match point scores.

* *Ib Lundby reports on* “Those silly fractions”
 As a bridge journalist I hate fractions. Very often they result in errors in my newspaper column, and I suspect the TD’s distribute those silly fractions only to irritate me and my readers.

Anyway, I am not the only one who hates fractions. The Danish Teams Championship last year was won by Hans Kristian Sørensen with _ imp, 144–143_ (after an historical TD decision, where the losing team was fined 3 imps according to the time computed by Gianni Baldi’s vu-graph program). And the losing team hates fractions as well.

This year’s championship was played in March, and history apparently repeated itself: Steen Schou won the championship after a victory of _ imp in the final (135–134_) against Nils Mønsted’s fraction-hating team. Other members of the winning team were Jacob Røn, Knud-Aage Boesgaard and Hans Christian Nielsen. 64 boards were played in the final – and the Schou team was not ahead until after the very last board!

In this hand the players demonstrated good thinking:

Dealer: West Love all ♠ 9 4 ♥ A 9 8 5 4 2 ♦ Q 3 2 ♣ 8 6	♠ 10 8 7 3 2 ♥ – ♦ A K J 10 7 5 ♣ J 9	♠ A K J 6 5 ♥ Q J ♦ 9 8 4 ♣ 10 5 2
	♠ Q ♥ K 10 7 6 3 ♦ 6 ♣ A K Q 7 4 3	

West	North	East	South
2♦*	3♦	Pass	3♥
Pass	3♠**	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♦	Pass	5♣
Pass	Pass	Pass	

* Multi
 ** Asking for a spade stopper
 Lead: ♣6.

This was the bidding at the vu-graph with Nielsen–Boesgaard as North–South. After West’s Multi 2♦ the champions managed to land in 5♣, a fair contract. South played his chances, when he drew trumps and finessed in diamonds.

In the closed room Tom Nørgaard as North was declarer in 6♦ with the lead of ♠A from East, Steen Schou. As you can see a spade continuation is the killing defense, because it

eliminates the possibility of the trump finesse. But , at trick 2 East shifted to a club!

Now the contract should be made, right? No, North knows East as a very fine player, so he guessed that diamonds were not divided 3–3 with the queen well placed. Because of the club shift, East obviously had the doubleton queen of trumps! Therefore, declarer played for the drop – one down.

Was the club shift by Schou that bad? No, he chose a better plan than hoping for the trump Q third with his partner. If North instead had a singleton club, a club shift would spoil his communications! Too late North realized this was a plausible explanation of East’s shift, so the Schou team got its well deserved 11 imps.

Favourites win Australian Play-offs for Maastricht

* *Ron Klinger reports in the Weekend Australian of 29th April from the Australian play-offs:*

The opponents have bid 4♣ (very strong four heart opening) : 4NT (asking), 5♠ (two key cards plus the queen of hearts) : 6♥. What would you lead from these cards:

♠ Q 6 3 ♥ 7 4 ♦ 10 9 2 ♣ Q 9 7 5 3

The pre-post favourites won each division of the Australian selection play-offs last weekend. In the Open, Peter Newman - Matthew Thomson, Stephen Burgess - Paul Marston, Matt Mullamphy - Bob Richman headed the qualifying on 199, ahead of the Noble team 183, Neill 169 and Rothfield 160, and won the final easily by 202 - 148 against Terry Brown - Phil Gue, George Bilski - Barry Noble, Peter Fordham - Michael Prescott.

In the Women's, Lidia Beech - Margaret Bourke, Felicity Beale - Di Smart, Sue Lusk - Therese Tully dominated the qualifying on 223 ahead of the Kaplan team 174, and Stern 167, and dominated the final just as convincingly by 216 - 69 against Margot Brown - Rena Kaplan, Pauline Evans - Jenny Thompson, Berri Folkard - Kinga Moses.

In the Seniors playoff, Jim Borin - Bill Haughie, John Lester - Gabi Lorentz, Alan Walsh - Ron Klinger defeated John Brockwell- Neville Moses, John Ashworth - John Mottram, Bob Evans - Bill Westwood by 185 - 80. Each of the winning teams will represent Australia in their respective divisions at the 2000 World Teams Olympiad to be held in the Netherlands in August - September.

Cover the East-West hands on Deal #1 from the play-offs final and check your declarer play in 3♥ (no opposition bidding). West leads the queen of clubs. East overtakes with the ace, cashes the king and leads a third club, which you ruff low. When you cash the ace of hearts West discards a club. How should you continue?

Dealer South	♠ A Q 6 5
E-W Game	♥ 9 4 2
	♦ K J 3
	♣ 9 5 2
♠ J 9 3 2	♠ K 10 8
♥ - - -	♥ Q 10 8 3
♦ Q 8 7 2	♦ 10 6 4
♣ Q J 10 8 6	♣ A K 4
	♠ 7 4
	♥ A K J 7 6 5
	♦ A 9 5
	♣ 7 3

Having lost two clubs and with a trump loser certain, you cannot afford to lose a spade and a diamond. If East began with just three clubs, as seems likely from the play so far, you have a foolproof line for success. Play a spade to the ace, finesse the heart jack, cash the heart king and exit with a heart. East will be endplayed and has to give you a spade or a diamond trick. If East does have another club, you ruff and can still lead up to the spade queen before resorting to the diamond finesse.

Back to that lead problem which arose on Deal #2, from the first qualifying round of the playoffs:

Dealer West	♠ 10 9 8
E-W Game	♥ A K Q J 6 5 2
	♦ K J
	♣ 6
♠ Q 6 3	♠ J 7 4
♥ 7 4	♥ 10 9 8 3
♦ 10 9 2	♦ A
Q 8 6 5	
♣ Q 9 7 5 3	♣ 4
	♠ A K 5 2
	♥ - - -
	♦ 7 4 3
	♣ A K J 10 8 2

A diamond lead will defeat six hearts swiftly and a spade lead will do it less swiftly. Spare a thought for Matthew Thomson who led a low club. This time fourth-best or fifth-best was not best. The club six won in dummy, giving declarer the desperately needed entry to draw trumps and make the slam. Curiously, a third-best club seven (or a higher club) would defeat six hearts. This was merely a minor setback for Thomson who was in the winning open team.

ANDREY GROMOV'S TEAM KEEPS RUSSIAN CUP FOR EVER

Yuri Covalenko (Uzbekistan, Tashkent)

The Annual Russian Bridge Cup was held, as usual, during first week of May in Chelyabinsk among the Ural mountains. 264 participants was a new record for the competition. 124 pairs played in a 4-session pairs, 52 teams played in the team tournament and 53 teams played in the team-of-four. Almost all the Russian EBL and WBF masters took part.

As in 1999 the Pairs was won by young pair from Moscow Alexandr Doubinin - Michael Krasnoselsky (*IBPA Editor: Michael was a competitor in the Generali World Juniors in Athens*). Andrey Gromov (*bronze medallist in the Athens Mens*) from Moscow and Alexandr Petrounin from Sankt-Peterburg were second, with Ivan Semenov from Moscow and Yury Khohlov from Sankt-Peterburg third.

The Russian Bridge Cup - 2000 was won by team of Andrey Gromov (playing captain, Moscow) - Alexandr Petrounin (Sankt-Peterburg), Maxim Khven - Georgy Matushko and Alexandr Doubinin - Michael Krasnoselsky (all Moscow).

This team won for the third time running, and that is why the heavy stone goblet now belongs to them for ever. Next year's organisers have to make a new one. I was the Chief Director of the competition again (by the way - ninth year running...)

Here are two interesting boards from the Pairs. On the first Alexandr Riskin (Chelyabinsk) - Konstantin Gahrussov (Ekaterinburg) met Andrey Gromov (Moscow) - Alexandr Petrounin (Sankt-Peterburg). The defender missed a chance for a Dentist Coup:

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Petrounin</i>	<i>Riskin</i>	<i>Gromov</i>	<i>Gahrussov</i>
-	-	Pass	1♥
2♣	2♥	Dble (a)	Rdbl
3♠	4♥	Pass	Pass
4♠ (!)	Pass	Pass	Dble
Pass	Pass	Pass	

(a) Other suits

Against Petrounin's Four Spades doubled, North led ♥A and then another heart. West ruffed and led a spade to the Queen and the Ace. South switched to ♣2. Petrounin took the queen and ace of clubs and exited with ♦10. Now South had to concede an entry to the table for a finesse of the Jack of Spades. Contract made.

After winning Ace of Spades South had to cash ♦A before exiting with a club. If declarer has only six clubs he always has an entry to the table in diamonds, so perhaps South should play for West to be 4-1-1-7.

By the way - once more about the Duplimate generator. We had a repeat of previous boards again in the same set of sessions. We used duplicate boards, that's why we were forced to re-deal boards of teams semi-final. The same situation occurred in 1999 when Vadim Kholomeev recognised among new boards those that he played in the European Junior Championship.

As a bridge journalist I hate fractions, but I am not the only one. The Danish Teams Championship last year was won by Hans Kristian Sørensen with $\frac{1}{2}$ imp, 144–143 (after an historical TD decision, where the losing team was fined 3 imps according to the time computed by Gianni Baldi's vu-graph program). And the losing team hates fractions as well.

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In this hand the players demonstrated good thinking:

Dealer: West	♠ 10 8 7 3 2		
Love all	♥ –		
	♦ A K J 10 7 5		
	♣ J 9		
♠ 9 4		♠ A K J 6 5	
♥ A 9 8 5 4 2		♥ Q J	
♦ Q 3 2		♦ 9 8 4	
♣ 8 6		♣ 10 5 2	
	♠ Q		
	♥ K 10 7 6 3		
	♦ 6		
	♣ A K Q 7 4 3		

West	North	East	South
2♦*	3♦	Pass	3♥
Pass	3♠**	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♦	Pass	5♣
Pass	Pass	Pass	

* Multi

** Asking for a spade stopper

Lead: ♣6.

This was the bidding at the vu-graph with Nielsen–Boesgaard as North–South. After West's Multi 2♦ the champions managed to land in 5♣, a fair contract. South played his chances, when he drew trumps and finessed in diamonds.

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with the queen well placed. Because of the club shift, East obviously had the doubleton queen of trumps! Therefore, declarer played for the drop – one down.

Was the club shift by Schou that bad? No, he chose a better plan than hoping for the trump Q third with his partner. If North instead had a singleton club, a club shift would spoil his communications! Too late North realized this was a plausible explanation of East's shift, so the Schou team got its well deserved 11 imps.

LIFE MASTER PAIRS will be available for ordering on June 1 (details at website below). If you require a physical sample of the CD for review, please e-mail me. A free demo-download of 4 deals is available at : <http://www.larryco.com>
Thank you to all of you who helped make Day 1 so successful.

* *Anna Gudge says:* MSO World Wide announces an On Line Charity Tournament, with a major part of the proceeds being donated to three different Charities. Players have the opportunity to win a trip to the Alexandra Palace in London for the Mind Sports Olympiad, where they will play in a 4 table final with a top prize of US\$2,000. For full details, please go to: www.msoworld.com/

Anna Gudge and Mark Newton are also doing the scoring of the WBF Worldwide Simultaneous Pairs on 2nd and 3rd June. Anna says : This will be the first time the event has been scored across the whole field and the first time it has been scored using dynamic Internet scoring.

Participants whose clubs upload their results directly to the server using the program provided will be able to see the ranking list develop as individual heat scores come through and are recalculated.

More information can be found at www.worldbridge.org or you can email: wbf@ecats.co.uk for more information.

* *Jean-Paul Meyer reports:* The French teams for Maastricht have been selected by trials in which, in both series, the first three pairs will made the team:

Open: 1. Hervé Mouiel - Maurice Salama
1338
2. Patrick Allegrini - Jean-Jacques Palau
1334
3. Paul Chemla - Alain Levy
1277
4. Hervé Vinciguerra - Christian Mari
1265 was decided on the last boards of an eight pairs final played in 336 boards.
Ladies:

1. Catherine d'Ovidio-Veronique Bessis
1417
2. Benedicte Cronier - Sylvie Willard
1364
3 Catherine Fishpool Babette Higon
1290

Fishpool lives in London and is married to a British. Format as for Open. The two final days can be seen on: www.CANALWEB.net

* *Hans Metselaar reports:* On July 7, 8 and 9 in the city of peace The Hague, a re-match of the final of the Venice Cup will take place between the ladies teams of the Netherlands and the USA. 11 out of 12 players of the line up on Bermuda will be present. Jan and Corrie Louwerse will be TD.

Sponsors P.J. Sisselaar and Arboned made it all possible with \$ 20.000 prizemoney: \$ 12.000 to the winners, \$ 8.000 to the runners up. The world champions receive an appearance fee of F1 25.000 and the organisation will foot the bill of the Kurhaus hotel of the American team.

The match has a lot of media attention, both in the USA as well as in Holland. The ACBL sends its own representative to cover the match. There is a ProAm preceding the match on Friday afternoon. IBPA members attending should contact Hans Metselaar in advance: sbs@bart.nl

* *Gavriel Unger reports:* The Austrian Bridge Magazine team in which he plays, Oesterreichisches BRIDGEMAGAZIN, successfully retained its title as Austrian champions beating the team that plays in Maastricht into second place.
Team: Andreas Babsch, Gerhard Pollak, Gavriel Unger and Daniel Viktor

* *Alan Truscott* seeks help in updating two Encyclopedia entries. If you can, please email him at truscotta@delphi.com, or write: (See front page.)
BRIDGE IN PRISONS? Does your country organize bridge in prisons? If so, how many prisons and prisoners are involved? Do they play duplicate?
BLIND PLAYERS Does your country have any expert blind players competing in tournament? If so, give a name or two.

* *Just van der Kam reports:* On May 21st the Dutch Bridge Federation and sponsor REMU broke the world record of the biggest bridge event! In the Amsterdam ArenA, the football stadium of Ajax, 3086 bridgeplayers played 26 boards for the REMU Bridge Record. After checking the facts the Dutch Minister of Justice, Mr. Benk Korthals, announced that it was official: The REMU Bridge Record will be recorded in the Guinness Book of Records as the biggest bridge event ever held. (*IBPA Editor: I assume you mean " in one venue".*)

The previous record was set in Rotterdam (1990) with 2012 players. More info and photograph's: <http://www.bridgeolympiad.nl/news/news.htm>

* *Matt Granovetter reports that Bridge Today University has a Summer offer:* Any Two Courses for only \$75 (regular price \$98)

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Calendar	Event	Venue	IBPA Contact
2000			
JUN	2/3	WBF Worldwide Simultaneous by Internet	cfrancin@worldbridgefed.com
	7/11	Velden, Grand Hotel Europa, Austria	Babsch +43 1 606 4381
	24/25	Schiphol International, De Aviodome	van Rooy +31 622 388 186
	30/Jul 12	Biarritz Festival, Espace Bellevue	Pacault +33 5 56 52 0046
JUL	1/8	New Zealand Nationals	Solomon +64 9 323 8494
	6/16	European Youth Championships, Antalya, Turkey	Panos G panos@bridge.gr
	14/17	Scottish Summer Congress, Peebles	+44 1324 625 251
	17/30	Deauville Festival, Casino	+33 1 46 03 51 20
AUG	10/20	ACBL Summer Nationals, Anaheim	1 901 332 5586; www.acbl.org
	11/20	England Summer Meeting, Brighton	EBU 44 1296 394 414
	21/29	Mind Sports Olympiad, London	msoworld.com
	22/23	MSO/WBF Worldwide Charity Simultaneous	
	26/9 Sep	World Bridge Olympiad, Maastricht	cfrancin@worldbridgefed.com
SEP	4/9	World Trans-national Mixed Teams, Maastricht	+33 1 53 03 23 10
	16/23	Lebanon Festival, Hotel Beirut	bridgecl@cyberia.net.lb
OCT	30/3 Nov	Angelini Trophy, Lausanne Olympic Museum	wbf
NOV	5/12	Red Sea Festival, Eilat, Israel	Birman 972 3 605 8355
	16-26	ACBL Fall Nationals, Birmingham, Al.	1 901 332 5586; www.acbl.org
DEC	8/10	Milan Festival, Bruzzano	+39 02 653 291
	27/30	England Year-End Congress, London	EBU 44 1296 394 414
2001			
JAN	18/21	Cap Gemini World Invitation, The Hague	Henk van Dalen
MAR	15/25	ACBL Nationals, Kansas City	ACBL
	??	European Pairs, Israel	EBL
JUN	??	European Teams and Ladies Pairs, Spain	EBL
JUL	19/29	ACBL Summer Nationals, Toronto	ACBL
OCT	19/2 nd Nov	Bermuda Bowl, Venice Cup, Transnational, Bali	WBF
NOV	18/28	ACBL Fall Nationals, Las Vegas	ACBL
2002			
MAR	7-17	ACBL Spring Nationals, Houston	ACBL
JUL	18/28	ACBL Summer Nationals, Washington	ACBL
AUG	16/31	World Pairs Olympiad, Montreal	WBF
NOV	28/ 8 Dec	ACBL Fall Nationals, Phoenix	ACBL