

The Internet has been having dramatic effects upon international bridge, as on so many aspects of communication. Two notable examples have occurred in the last month. The WBF Worldwide Simultaneous (report inside) was scored via the Internet. Some problems occurred in the early days due to overloading of the site, but these were solved, and, as far as one can tell, the rest of the exercise went off smoothly enough. However, it still took almost four weeks for results to be considered final. One anticipates that scoring via Internet will become the norm for Simultaneous events, even quite local ones, in future years, and the scoring period should be substantially reduced.

The second example is the approval and publication of systems for the Olympiad in Maastricht. Think back to Lille or Rhodes where for many bridge-players the pleasure of competing in a magnificent event was initially spoiled by the administrative chore of getting one's system completed, approved, photocopied and distributed to opponents. Standing in queues has never been the favourite occupation of bridge-players and there have been plenty of these at the Systems Desks and photocopying rooms of the past. This time around, thanks mainly to the Internet, everything has been pulled forward six weeks and much of the chore will be out of the way before players arrive in Maastricht.

The deadline for registration of systems with Anna Gudge by electronic means was 1st July. One suspects that many will have missed it because, first time round, teams may not have known there was a deadline and that they needed to check the Regulations on the website to find out what it was. There has also been a change in schedule, with the Ladies Qualifying Rounds being extended by a day. That will cause problems for the pessimists who booked their travel home the day after the original Qualifier finished.

The Draw is now available on the website. There are 76 Open teams drawn in four pools of 19 each, and 43 Ladies teams drawn into two pools.

Your Editor, though captain of one of the Open teams, has yet to see any guidelines about what players should do regarding the new drug regulations required by the IOC. No doubt many bridge-players will be taking drugs on the list without knowing it, or realising the risks they are running. (It has been reported that one of the players tested in Bermuda failed, but not seriously enough to warrant sanction other than a letter of warning.)

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This is the last Bulletin that will automatically be scrutinised for our Annual Awards in Maastricht. If you think you have a candidate that has not appeared please send it direct to our Awards Chairman, Barry Rigal.

Patrick Jourdain - Editor

JACOBS WINS US TEAM TRIALS FOR MAASTRICHT

By Alan Truscott, Paul Linxwiler (USA) and Matthew Granovetter

The winners of the International Team Trials, in Memphis, Tenn., were four players from the Chicago area, George Jacobs, Ralph Katz, Howard Weinstein and Steve Garner, together with two from the East Coast, David Berkowitz and Larry Cohen. They were worthy winners, for they defeated the two strongest teams in the country in the semifinal and final. They will have a good chance to win a world title when they represent the United States in Maastricht, Netherlands, in August.

Jacobs beat the favourites, Nickell, in the semi-final by 7 IMPs, and beat Richard Schwartz (Drew Casen, Michael Rosenberg - Zia Mahmood, Steve Weinstein - Bobby Levin) 263-238 in the final of 120 deals. In the final, with 15 deals remaining, George Jacobs led by 68 imps. But their opponents fought furiously and cut the margin in half in the first four deals. An impossible task now looked possible. But the Jacobs players righted their sinking ship and held on to win by 25. In Maastricht the chief opposition is expected to come from Western Europe, particularly Italy, France, Netherlands, Denmark, Norway and Sweden. Poland, Brazil and China are also likely to be in contention.

From the New York Times

Following an exciting semifinal that resulted in the elimination of the top-ranked team, groups led by George Jacobs and Richard Schwartz faced each other yesterday Sunday in the final of the International Team Trials in Memphis, Tenn. Nick Nickell, Dick Freeman, Bob Hamman, Paul Soloway, Jeff Meckstroth and Eric Rodwell, who own bunches of world and national titles, were exempt until the 120-deal semifinal, played Friday and Saturday. They began badly, trailing by 59 imps after the first 15 deals against Jacobs. They fought back and had a one-imp lead going into the final 15-deal segment, but the Jacobs team snatched a 7-imp victory and advanced.

In the other semifinal, the Schwartz team, overwhelmed a group headed by Rose Johnson-Meltzer, winning by 102. 48 hours earlier, the Schwartz team had struggled to defeat a highly talented junior squad.

The diagramed deal above helped the Jacobs team build its lead in the first half of the semifinal. Most players with the South hand would double an opening bid of one diamond by East, but Nickell chose a gentle overcall of one heart. He eventually reached the normal three no-trump contract and Cohen, West, led the diamond deuce. East played the nine, and South won with the ace and led the club jack for a finesse.

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

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

Berkowitz, East, allowed J to win, a fine play that greatly diminished South's chances of using dummy's clubs. A second club finesse lost to the queen and East led the diamond jack. This was ducked, and East continued with the queen.

South gave up a spade and a club from the dummy. He won with the king, and the fate of the contract was in the balance. He cashed the spade ace and finessed the jack. This was not likely to succeed, in view of the opening bid, and when it lost to the queen, he was doomed.

There was a difficult line of play that would have saved the day. The play of the diamond suit strongly suggested that East held the ten and West the eight. Instead of playing the spade ace, South should have cashed his heart winners and led the diamond four, throwing the spade ten from the dummy.

After winning, East would have to lead a spade. South would win in the dummy, lead the club king, and discard his spade ace. East and dummy would be reduced to black cards, and South would make nine tricks.

IBPA Editor: East may jettison his winning diamond on the second heart but declarer has a counter: he crosses to king of spades and then plays a club jettisoning the ace of spades. East can make ♠Q and a club, but dummy has the rest.

In the replay Hamman, East, did not find the play of holding up his club queen. South was subsequently able to overtake the ten with the king, making his game, and the Jacobs team gained 11 imps.

In the final, the diagramed deal, which helped the Jacobs team build its early lead, provided a strong candidate for the best opening lead of the year.

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

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

West led the 4.

Howard Weinstein, as West, heard his opponents bid to four hearts after his partner had made a weak jump overcall in diamonds.

Since North had shown strong slam interest, it was unlikely that a pedestrian diamond lead would produce four tricks for the defense. In such situations a small miracle is needed, and Weinstein decided that his best chance, admittedly a slim one, was to find his partner with a void in clubs.

Having reasoned on these lines, one might expect the lead of the club queen. That would indeed have allowed East to score a ruff, but it would not necessarily have beaten the contract. After East ruffed one of dummy's high honors, he would have to shift to a diamond, not a spade.

Instead Weinstein led the club four, which destroyed the declarer, Rosenberg. He naturally played the ace, and was shaken to see a trump appear from Garner on his right. A spade was returned, and there was no way for the declarer to recover. He could have taken the ace and drawn trumps, but would eventually have lost a trick in each side suit as well as the opening ruff. In desperation he played low, and was defeated when West produced the king and led the club queen. This was covered by the king and East scored a second ruff.

South was able to draw trumps and eventually maneuver a diamond discard on the spade ace. But he was down one, losing a trick in each black suit as well as two ruffs.

In the replay the auction shown in the diagram below was less revealing. West did not know, as Weinstein had done, that North was seriously interested in slam. He made a normal diamond lead, and Jacobs as South played low from dummy.

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

West led the diamond two.

When East won he would probably have defeated the contract by shifting to a spade. Instead he returned a diamond and the contract was still in the balance. South drew trumps ending in dummy, with West throwing the spade seven. A diamond discard would perhaps have been better, but would not have saved him in the ending against accurate play.

South cashed the club ace, planning to continue with a low club and guarantee the contract with any likely club split. The 5-0 division was a nasty blow, but he still led a low club from dummy.

West won with the ten and returned the queen, leading to this ending after dummy's king won:

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

Needing four of the last five tricks, Jacobs found a brilliant way to survive. He led the spade queen from dummy, and ducked it around to West's king.

There was no counter to this. West chose to lead his remaining diamond, and this was ruffed in dummy. South led the spade ten for a finesse, pinning West's nine. If West had had the spade seven in the ending instead of a diamond, South would still have prevailed: After a spade return from West, the spade eight in the South hand could have been established.

This proved to be a gain of 12 imp for the Jacobs team en route to victory.

From the quarter-final:

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

East	South	West	North
1	2	Dble	3
Dble	All Pass		

West led the diamond queen.

The best-ever performance by a junior team occurred at the International Team Trials in Memphis, Tenn., where a group of world-class players were fighting for the right to represent the United States in the world championships in Maastricht, Netherlands, in August.

The unexpected heroes were John Hurd of Charleston, S.C. and Kent Mignocchi of Bronx, N.Y., both 21, Joel Wooldridge of Buffalo, N.Y., 20, Joe Grue of Minneapolis, 18, and John Kranyak of Bay Village, Ohio, 16. To the astonishment of the cognoscenti, they headed the two qualifying stages, in the process eliminating bunches of established stars. In the quarterfinal, ending Thursday night, they played an even match against a world-class team that came within a hair of winning the Vanderbilt Knockout in Cincinnati in March: Richard Schwartz, Drew Casen, Zia Mahmood, Michael Rosenberg, Bobby Levin and Steve Weinstein. With 15 remaining of a scheduled 120, Schwartz led by just fourimps but held on to win by 16.

It was the first time that a junior team has mounted a serious challenge on an occasion of such importance, and all five players can be expected to win major titles in the future.

An apparent loss for the junior team in the second stage of the qualifying proved to be a triumph. On the diagramed deal, East opened one club, strong and artificial. Mignocchi, South, ventured a weak jump overcall of two spades, trading on the favorable vulnerability.

West's double showed at least 6 high-card points, but was not for penalties. Grue, North, raised to three spades, and East doubled for take-out. West

passed for penalties, and South had to do the best he could.

The diamond queen was led, and won the first trick. West shifted to a trump, which rode to South's nine. The heart nine was led and ducked to East's ten, a dubious plan for the declarer. The diamond jack and ace were cashed, West discarding his remaining hearts. The defense scored a heart ruff and West led another trump to dummy's eight.

A club lead from dummy was won by East, who played the diamond king, ruffed and overruffed. The club ace was led, forcing dummy to ruff with the spade ace. South threw his remaining club on the heart ace, but West ruffed. That was down four, and a penalty of 800.

East-West had done well in defense, but they had lost the deal in the bidding. In the replay, Wooldridge and Kranyak were East-West, and against silent opponents bid efficiently to the unbeatable contract of six clubs. Their unopposed auction was:

1 -1 -2 -3 -3 -3 -4 -6 -Pass

By making the slam, the junior team gained 11imps en route to their victory in the qualifying stage.

Paul Linxwiler reports:

The best bid hand award for the trials went to Cohen and Berkowitz for the following hand.

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

Wes	North	East	South
Cohen		Berkowitz	
		2 (1)	Pass
2NT (2)	Pass	3 (3)	Pass
4 (4)	Pass	4 (5)	Pass
5NT (6)	Pass	6 (7)	Pass
7	All Pass		

(1) Weak. (2) Enquiry. (3) Club feature.
 (4) Ace Asking; (5) One Ace
 (6) Pick a slam (7) Confirming a club suit.

Matthew Granovetter comments:

When Berkowitz bid 6 \heartsuit , he indicated four of them, so Cohen was able to bid the grand slam, knowing that wherever his partner had a singleton (in spades or diamonds), he could ruff in hand for an extra trick in a club contract. Seven clubs scored 1440. At the other table, E-W stopped in 6 \heartsuit making six, 980, for a swing of 460 points to Cohen-Berkowitz's team.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Cohen</i>		<i>Berkowitz</i>	
		2	Pass
4	4	5	Pass
6	Pass	Pass	6
dble	All pass		

Berkowitz bid 5 \heartsuit over 4 \heartsuit , and Cohen realized his hand was gold - his partner must be short in spades for this unusual call (normally 4 \heartsuit is a shut-out bid). The subsequent sacrifice by South saved his side 60 points, since 6 \heartsuit was cold with an overtrick. Cohen actually thought about passing over 6 \heartsuit to invite seven, which would have been an extremely lucky contract. Actually, 7 \heartsuit would make simply on the diamond finesse, again because East gets a ruff for his 13th trick.

At the other table, East passed over 4 \heartsuit in the same situation and West doubled for +800 to East-West. Minus 800 at one table and +1400 at the other meant 600 points to the Cohen-Berkowitz team. Well judged!

DENMARK WINS HONEYWELL INTERNATIONAL

Schiphol, Netherlands 23-25th June 2000 By
Patrick Jourdain

Seventy teams, several of them national teams practising for Maastricht, competed in the two-day Schiphol International organised by IBPA member Pieter van Rooy, that has now acquired Honeywell as a sponsor.

Results:	Prize	VPs
1. Denmark	2000 DF	
Auken/Koch-Palmund & Raulund/Pedersen		268
2. Netherlands "A" 1400 DF		
Nab//Paulissen/Bertens & De Boer/Muller		246
3. Belgium	1000 DF	
Engel/v. Middlem & Carcassonne/Labaere		232
4. Bridge Magazine IMP van Cleeff (Neth)		231
5. B. Westra (Neth)		229

For the winners Dennis Koch was quick to take advantage here of an opportunity provided by declarer. Both tables reached Three Spades:

Session 8 Board 1

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Pedersen</i>		<i>Raulund</i>	
	Pass	Pass	Pass
1	2	Dble	3
Pass	Pass	Dble	Pass
3	All Pass		

At the other table East-West bid unopposed:
Pass-1 -1 -1 -3 -Pass

Both Norths led Q against West's Three Spades, won by West's bare king. If declarer draws trumps and uses dummy's two entries to play hearts the partscore succeeds, but both took the risk of crossing to K to take a heart discard on A before running Q to North's king. At one table North tamely played another trump, and Three Spades came home. Koch, however,

hit at declarer's weak point by playing a second diamond. Auken won the next spade, underled his ace of hearts to North who gave him a diamond ruff, and the A broke the contract.

This fascinating exercise in unblocking and avoidance play was from the same match:

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

West	North	East	South
	<i>Koch</i>		<i>Auken</i>
		1	Pass
2	Pass	2NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Ole Raulund & Karsten Pedersen reached the same spot by a simple 1NT-3NT.

South led a low heart to North's bare king (there is a case for declarer putting up the ace to avoid the spade switch), and North returned a spade.

Raulund let the queen hold, won the second spade, took a club finesse and played ace and another. North won and cleared the spades, South discarding a heart. Declarer set up a diamond trick without North gaining the lead. South should ditch one top diamond on the third spade, and the other under K.

Declarer can ensure South wins a diamond by crossing to A (South playing low) and then ducking the next to South's remaining honour ... but now a heart from South removes dummy's last entry whilst the diamonds are blocked!

At the table where Jens Auken was sitting South the play also began a heart to the king and a spade back, but declarer won this in West, and started on the clubs at once. North won the third club and played J which held, so the position was as at the other table.

North does best to play a third spade, as South can begin to unblock, but he actually switched to a diamond, giving declarer a chance to let South win the trick. When declarer took his ace Auken gave him no further chance. If declarer ducked the second diamond, he was ready to play a heart. Declarer chose to cross to K and Auken correctly kept his high diamond (if he ditches it too early declarer can give North the third diamond, and make A on the return).

However, when declarer won K and cashed A Auken carefully disposed of his top diamond on the spade, so Koch could win the next diamond and cash his spades.

This was the main swing in the match between the leading Dutch teams:

Round 11 Bd 6	10 4 3	
E/W Game	K 8 7	
Dealer East	A Q 7 6	
	Q 6 5	
J		8 7 6 2
Q 10 3 2		A 6 5 4
J 10 9 8 2		K 5 4
10 8 2		J 9
	A K Q 9 5	
	J 9	
	3	
	A K 7 4 3	

West	North	East	South
<i>Zhao</i>	<i>Nab</i>	<i>Westra</i>	<i>Bertens</i>
		Pass	1
Pass	1NT	Pass	3 (1)
Pass	4	Pass	4 (2)
Pass	4 (2)	Pass	4NT (3)
Pass	5 (4)	Pass	6NT
All Pass			

(1) Showing Clubs; (2) cue
(3) Keycard (4) One key

Berry Westra (unusually sitting East) led a diamond and it was all over. He took comfort in the fact that even on a passive black-suit lead, North can make the slam by cashing his black winners and endplaying East in the red suits.

Ricco van Prooijen and Simon de Wijs bid:
1 -1NT-3 -4 -4NT-5 -6 -Pass
A diamond lead from West doomed this. As the trumps were 4-1 declarer could not ruff out K, and eventually relied on A with West. One down.

The tournament is preceded by a one-session contest of the invited teams. This was a clear win

for the IBPA Editor's team. This was from the match against Sweden:

Board 13	-	
Game All	Q 8	
Dealer North	K J 10 7 2	
	K J 9 7 6 5 3	
A J 10 9		Q 8 7 6 5 3
A K 5 3 2		J 7
A 9		8 6 4 3
8 2		10
	K 4 2	
	10 9 6 4	
	Q 5	
	A Q 4 3	

West	North	East	South
<i>Garvey</i>		<i>Cooke</i>	
	Pass	Pass	Pass
1	2NT	Pass	3
4	Pass	4	All Pass

1 was strong, 2NT showed the minors, and West simply asked East for a major. Four Spades came home without difficulty.

West	North	East	South
	<i>Kendrick</i>		<i>Jourdain</i>
	1	Pass	1
Pass	2	Pass	3
Pass	3	Pass	3NT
Pass	4	All Pass	

Here East-West never made it into the auction and Four Clubs proved an easy make. On the next deal Martin Garvey hit the jackpot with a lead-directing bid in the match against a Wales-Dutch combination.

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

West	North	East	South
------	-------	------	-------

<i>Rees</i>	<i>Kendrick Thomas Jourdain</i>		
	Pass	3	Dble
4	4	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
<i>Garvey</i>	<i>Rebattu</i>	<i>Cooke</i>	<i>van Rooy</i>
	Pass	3	Dble
4	4	All Pass	

At our table East led his singleton spade, and received a ruff, but the defence could no longer make their club tricks as both clubs disappeared on the good spades.

At Garvey's table the Four Club call caused East to lead the suit, and the defence happily made two clubs and two aces.

Jonathan Cooke found a neat loser-on-loser here for an endplay:

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

When I sat East and opened 1 , the opponents reached 3 just made. On Q lead declarer lost a spade, heart and two clubs.

When Cooke was North, East opened Two Spades (5/4 and up to 10 points), South doubled and North ended in Four Hearts.

The Q lead was won by the ace, and a spade went to the queen, king and ace. A second diamond was ruffed, then a spade ruff, *the ace of hearts*, diamond ruff, spade ruff, diamond ruff and fourth spade. East had to cover and Cooke ditched a club from dummy. East had to lead away from K, or give a ruff and discard.

IBPA Annual General Meeting and Awards
Maastricht, Netherlands
Expected Tuesday, 5th September, 2000, a.m.

The Nominating Committee has nominated the current officers for re-election with the exception of Evelyn Senn, who is retiring as Secretary. Maureen Dennison (England) has been nominated as the new Secretary. The slate is therefore:

President : Henry Francis (USA)
Presidents Emeriti: Alan Truscott (USA) & Tommy Sandsmark (Sweden)
Chairman : Alan Truscott (USA)
Executive Vice-President: Jean-Paul Meyer (Fra)
Organisational Vice-Pres: Per Jannersten (Swe)
Secretary : Maureen Dennison (England)
Treasurer : Hans Christer Andersson (Sweden)

Honorary Officers nominated:
General Counsel: William J. Pencharz (England)
Auditor: Julius Butkow (South Africa)

The Nominating Committee has nominated for re-election the three members of the Executive whose terms are expiring, namely:
Peter Lund (Denmark), Patrick Jourdain (Wales), Dilip Gidwani (Ghana).
Already elected until 2001: Panos Gerontopoulos (Gre); Chris Diment (Australia); Jan van Cleeff (Net)
Until 2002: Julius Butkow (S Afr.); Maureen Dennison (England); Barry Rigal (USA).

Draft Agenda

1. Appointment of chairman; Apologies; Agenda
2. Officers' Reports including approval of Accounts for the year 1999, Budget for the year 2001, and proposals regarding subscriptions for the year 2001.
3. Appointees' reports including motion from Executive to update Constitution and Job Descriptions to take account of the removal of Zonal Collectors.
4. Election of Officers for the two year term.
5. Election of vacancies on Executive
6. Appointment of Auditor
7. Any other competent business.

Awards Ceremony conducted by Barry Rigal

IBPA Column Service

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

141
 Dlr: East 10
 Vul: E/W A 9 7 5
 10 8 7 3
 10 4 3 2

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

3 2

 A 9 5 4
 A Q J 9 8 7 5

West	North	East	South
		2	5
Dble	All Pass		

When the following hand arose in the 1998 Cap Gemini, the majority of the players in the West seat were weighed in the balance and found wanting. Since the opening bid of 2 had virtually denied two aces, West typically doubled 5, and led the K. Dummy produced about what one might have expected, and now it was up to West to decide on a course of action when his lead held the trick.

The natural play is to shift to a top heart, which seems neutral enough. But declarer ruffs in hand and lays down the ace of clubs, then ruffs a spade and ruffs a heart, and goes to dummy with the 10. Now the A and a heart ruff has eliminated all the major suits. A and a second diamond leaves West on play, forced to concede a ruff and discard, on which declarer's last diamond loser is discarded.

Notice that if West does not lead or shift to a heart, declarer cannot arrange to eliminate the major suits -- the trump entries to dummy are insufficient. However at only one of the eight tables did a defender spot the trap. Michel Perron led the king of spades against Five Clubs doubled, and when Chemla contributed the nine, Perron carefully continued the suit to beat the contract.

142
 Dlr: West 4
 Vul: None A 8 6 4
 K J
 A Q J 10 4 2

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

K Q 8
 K 5 3
 A 10 5 4 3
 9 5

West	North	East	South
<i>Kaminski</i>	<i>Moss</i>	<i>Nazamian</i>	<i>Dreyfus</i>
2	3	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Jack Dreyfus is still going strong as one of the keenest bridge players in New York, although well into his ninth decade. His nose for a hand remains impressive -- as witness this deal, which astonished his opponents, and impressed his partner -- and of course there always some additional benefits to making a game at Rubber Bridge!

The play in 3NT looks simple enough to predict on the lead of the J. Declarer will win the trick -- there is little point in ducking -- and take a club finesse, allowing the defense to cash out the spades for two down.

However, Dreyfus decided that he could take the club finesse later, but that he could first play a diamond to the K and then run the J. This would allow him to take nine tricks if the diamonds were very friendly, while not risking the contract. When the Q appeared, Dreyfus cashed the J (on which West pitched a spade) then crossed to the K and cashed the A on which West reluctantly released another small spade; declarer carefully released a club not a heart from dummy on this trick.

When Dreyfus led out his last master diamond West had three options. Pitching a spade would reduce him to two spades -- now declarer could set up the clubs and the defence would have only four winners. Meanwhile, pitching a heart would let declarer establish a third heart trick for the contract. The alternative discard of a club was equally fatal; declarer could cash the A and play two rounds of hearts. Since West only had major suits left, he could take his heart winners, but had to lead spades for the ninth trick for declarer.

143
 Dlr: East A 2
 Vul: E/W 7 6 2

		A 7 2	
		K J 5 3 2	
Q J 10 6 4			9 8 5
K 8 5 4 3			Q 9
J 9			Q 10 6 4
9			Q 10 7 6
		K 7 3	
		A J 10	
		K 8 5 3	
		A 8 4	
West	North	East	South
		Pass	1NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

As South you have to decide how to find your way to nine tricks after the lead of the queen of spades. A 4-1 club split is the most obvious danger. If West has four clubs, you can overcome it with ease, but what if East has four clubs? The interesting case is if West should have a singleton ten or nine of clubs. You can guard against this possibility by a little bit of forethought -- but you do need to consider the problem well in advance, since your play to trick one may well affect your chances of success.

Take the K at the first trick, to preserve dummy's entries, then lead a club to the king; if West plays a small club, then play a club back to your ace and lead a third club up. However if West produces the nine or ten at his first turn, as he will do in this example, you next play a club towards your hand. If East shows out on the second club, you put up your ace and play a third club, and give West his trick; but if East follows suit, you insert your eight. If West can win this, the suit is splitting 3-2, and you are safe; but if the suit is 4-1 with East having the length, he can do nothing to prevent you establishing the clubs for just one loser.

This is a good example of a safety play; you reduce your chances of taking five club tricks in order to try to maximize your chances of taking four club tricks -- which is all you need for your contract.

IBPA Editor: I am not convinced. If you hold up in spades, and at trick three take a heart finesse, then West wins and clears the spades. Now you test the clubs, intending to finesse the jack. West shows out, so you put on the king, take a second heart finesse for an eighth trick, cash the third heart, and then can endplay East in the minors for the ninth trick. Reduce 10 to a small card and the recommended line is clearly best.

144			
Dlr: South		A 5	
Vul: Both		K Q J 7 6	
		9 8 4 2	
		7 5	
6			Q 10 8 7 3
10 5 3			8 4
A K J 10 3			7
Q 9 6 4			K 10 8 3 2
		K J 9 4 2	
		A 9 2	
		Q 6 5	
		A J	

West	North	East	South
			1NT
Pass	2 (1)	Pass	2
Pass	3NT	Pass	4
All Pass			

This hand came up in a second round Vanderbilt match in Vancouver, and both tables reached 4 after a transfer sequence. Of course when a top diamond is led dummy's diamond length marks East with shortage; but the continuation is less clear. At one table, three rounds of diamonds let East ruff. Now, however, declarer had a diamond ruff in hand for his ninth trick, and a spade finesse for his tenth -- and plus 620.

At the other table, Brian Platnick, playing with Connie Goldberg, found the killing trump shift at trick two; now declarer still has three diamond losers, and a slow club loser to cope with. The obvious play is to set up spades. So declarer simply cashed the A K, hoping to develop the suit against normal splits, and Brian ruffed to play a second trump. Now declarer could not avoid three diamond losers and one club loser for two down.

Squeeze one opponent - Step on another
by Villy Dam, Denmark

I wish you to share my joy from this stepping stone squeeze endplay, which took place in the Danish Teams Championships, Division 3. The declarer was Niels Christian Hammelev.

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

West	North	East	South
	<i>Brian</i>		<i>N.C</i>
	<i>Skjonnemann</i>		<i>Hammelev</i>
	Pass	1	1
1NT	2	Pass	Pass
2NT	Pass	Pass	3
Pass	Pass	Pass	

West led J. East took his A and shifted to J to limit ruffs in dummy. Declarer won K and followed with the K, which was allowed to win, while South let go a diamond.

Now Hammelev played to the K and led a small heart from hand. West intervened with the 9 in order to cash A and play a third round of trumps. A fourth spade from South led to this position:

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

Declarer had lost three tricks and still looked upon a loser in each of the red suits. Do you see a glimmer of light ahead?

Niels Christian Hammelev played his last trump, where West and dummy both discarded clubs. But what about East? As he was obliged to protect the red suits he had to discard the A.

South's next move was the A and a small diamond to West's queen, forcing West to lead a club into dummy's Q 10.

The K was sacrificed during the process, but of course South could also have survived by keeping all the diamonds in dummy and letting go of another club.

I don't know the exact name of this kind of squeeze, but a Danish squeeze expert would name it something like "a triple throw-in squeeze with a stranded threat".

A rare fish

Sleight of Hand

By Maureen Dennison (England)

A Japanese team was invited to play in the Spring Fours but they lost in the quarter finals to the eventual winners in spite of this delightful hand – maybe a candidate for this years’ best play – which earned Tadashi Imakura a game swing.

Some years ago Tony Forrester discussed as a BOLS Bridge Tip “The Power of the Closed Hand.” This hand shows how well it can work!

Dealer West	Ayamada	
N/S Game	♠ J 8 2	
	♥ 6	
	♦ K Q J 6 4	
	♣ K J 6 5	
Simpson		Hallberg
♠ A Q 7		♠ K 5
♥ K Q J 10 4		♥ 6 5 2
♦ 7 2		♦ 10 9 8 3
♣ Q 8 7		♣ 10 9 4 2
	Imakura	
	♠ 10 9 6 4 3	
	♥ A 9 7 3	
	♦ A 5	
	♣ A 3	

West opened 1♥, passed to Imakura, who reopened with 1♠, which his partner raised to four. He took the heart lead and immediately finessed ♣J. When this held he played a low spade from table. Declarer was hoping to find West with a doubleton honour – probably A Q and be unable to draw the last trump. With the sight of all four hands it is easy to see that East can rise with the king and the defenders can draw dummy’s trumps and cash three hearts for three down. However Hallberg played low – who can blame him! – so the ten lost to the queen. Simpson returned a heart, ruffed on table. The closed hand was entered with the ♣A and another heart ruffed. Now Imakura discarded his last heart on the ♣K, played a diamond to his ace and led another spade. Thus using “The Power of the Closed hand” he held his losers to three top trumps. Neat!

Technique Department by Matthew Granovetter

Here's a trump coup that involves an unusual play:

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

West	North	East	South
		1	1
dbld	1NT	dbld (1)	3
Pass	4	dbld	All Pass

(1) Shows 3-card heart support
Opening lead: 4

Declarer has one diamond and two club losers, and must pick up the spades. If East has four, as is likely from the double, the only way to pick up the spades will be via a trump coup. How would you play it?

You need to reduce your trumps to the same length as East, and that means ruffing three cards. So you win the heart and ruff a heart. Then suppose you cross to the king of spades, let the ten of spades ride (East cannot cover), then ruff another heart. Then lay down your king of diamonds and hope they take it, so that you can get to dummy for another heart ruff. But if the defence let the diamond king hold you are doomed. Anything you can do about it?

There is! Win the ace of hearts, ruff a heart, and play the king of diamonds at trick three! If the ace of diamonds is with West, you're cold. He can't duck it or you'll play a diamond toward the queen for your tenth trick. He can't win it or you'll have that extra dummy entry. If East has the ace of diamonds, you'll have to hope he makes an error and wins it.

* Bridge Today Digest is available for \$28 per year (100 issues). Bridge Today Magazine subscriptions or renewals can be ordered by return email (just authorize us to use your credit card information on file, or request an invoice). Six issues per year. One year \$29; Two years \$49; Three years \$69. Non-USA postage, per year: \$5 Canada, \$12 overseas surface, \$24 overseas airmail. Order by return

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Vive Aldo Borzi! By Irena
Chodorowska (Poland)

Bridge congresses in Cefalu, a lovely city situated in the northern part of Sicily, have always attracted the strongest players in Europe. Professor Aldo Borzi from a university in Palermo has been known as a great organiser. Apart from all the top Italians that usually take part in the Trophée di Siciliana, Mr Borzi invites the best representative teams to participate. Wonderful playing conditions, comfortable rooms, and great Italian food speak for themselves. The Costa Verda Hotel, located on a hill, becomes the Mecca for players from France, Poland, England, Holland, Latvia, Byelorussia, Israel, Malta and Cyprus. Even players from far off Japan were there last time. After too much excellent Italian food and wine offered generously to all the participants, it is difficult to go on the battlefield, especially as in December (the Congress was held from 15th to 19th December), it is warm in Sicily, and it would be marvellous to go and have a nice nap on the beach.

In the 3-session pair event played 200 pairs. The Pairs tournament went to a pair from Italy – Maugeri – Messina. In the team tournament, with 100 teams, a Polish representative team with Jassem, Tuszyński, Kowalski, Romanski were leading the way for most of the time, before their Waterloo against the Dutch team who eventually won the tournament. The Poles came third after the Burgay team.

Here is a deal from one of earlier matches with the Dutch in which Apolinary Kowalski found the way home in 3NT contract :

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

West	North	East	South
	<i>Romanski</i>		<i>Kowalski</i>
			1
1	Pass	2	2NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

The opening lead at both tables was a spade won by dummy's ten.

In the other room, the Dutch declarer entered hand with a diamond and played a club to the queen and Ace. East won the trick and played through the declarer's spades. The finesse of the J did not work and the contract was down.

At trick one, Kowalski paused to consider. If East raised his partner's suit with only 3 small cards, he must have some solid side values with an Ace. If it is club Ace, he will play through the declarer's spade holding and the contract will depend on J finesse. Kowalski decided to find out what his opponents would tell him about the distribution of honours. He played A and 10 to the King. The opponent on his left played J and 8. The opponent on his right discarded 7 and 9. After careful analysis of the opponents' convention card, Kowalski concluded that his LHO had A and the RHO was the holder of the A. (*IBPA Editor: What signalling system could they have been using that told him this, I wonder?*) He then decided to play hearts. He played J and small from his hand.

West won his trick with the ace but there was nothing he could do. The declarer had his 8 tricks on top and the ninth trick was on its way. If West had had both heart honours, the contract would have also been made.

IBPA Editor: If you decide from the bidding and play to the first trick that the two missing aces are divided, then I think the best play at trick two is a low club towards the king. If this loses to West's ace, you have time later to lead

a heart to the king for your ninth trick. If East has the ace of clubs he has to play low at trick two, and now you have time to enter dummy to run the jack of hearts for your ninth trick. Of course a clever West, holding ace of clubs, will let the king of clubs hold to put you onto the wrong track in hearts ... but East, with ♥A, will also have to play low on the first heart, and you are still safe as West cannot put East into the lead without conceding the ninth trick.

The second board comes from the Pairs tournament. I played against one of top Italian pairs, Mosca & Albamonte, who bid accurately, unopposed:

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

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

My partner, Janek, led 9 (third best). Declarer won the trick with the Ace and discarded a diamond from his hand. He then continued his spade suit.

It was obvious that if the declarer had the A, 12 tricks were there, if not, the contract was doomed anyway. Not many people were likely to reach the grand, the majority would play slam in clubs or in spades. We would have a poor score for 6NT. Therefore, I decided our best chance in defence was that a great player would always care for an extra trick. My job was to persuade him that the K finesse stands. However, that was not enough. My partner had to keep both Q and K, in 2-card ending, stripping the K. So, when I ran out of spades, I quickly discarded K.

Now I had to send a message that I did not have Q. When I ran out of clubs played by the declarer, I discarded 2 and J (2 indicates even number of cards and J denies the Q). At trick 12, when the declarer played the diamond from the dummy, I inserted 10 so the message was clear: I surely must have held K J 10 2. Declarer finessed, and Janek collected the two last tricks. That was the only score on our side.

I have to congratulate my opponent for the way he reacted. He saw the score sheet and then looked at my cards and then started laughing at the way he had been misled.

When Janek was telling the story to his colleagues, he said: "I just intended to discard all my hearts when I saw with horror the king of hearts on the table. That forced me to keep the queen of hearts and bare the king of diamonds."

European Ladies Bridge Festival
Hotel Olympik – Prague, 23-28 May 2000
by Anna Maria Torlontano,
Chairman, EBL Ladies Committee

The European Ladies Bridge Festival is dedicated to the European Lady Bridge players of all levels and ranks.

The Hotel Olympik provided us with a wonderful venue for this event, we were greeted with a friendly atmosphere and welcoming drinks. Prague, 'the town of a thousand towers' was a lovely location, the sightseeing tours of the castles, museums and cathedrals were fascinating and informative, and Prague by night is such a beautiful site, which should not be missed.

But above all the reason we are here, Bridge. The initial friendly competition allowed all the competitors to meet, prior to the more formal individual and pairs events, and have fun competing with players from other countries and cultures. The competition was of a good standard and thoroughly enjoyed by all the entrants.

The whole experience was wonderful and the programme of mixing bridge and tourism was a total success. The Czech Republic Bridge Federation must be congratulated on such a wonderful and well-organised event attended by competitors from 18 different countries.

Individual Tournament

- | | | | |
|----|---------------------|-----|--------|
| 1. | Mrs Gaby Mollart | Eng | 62.20% |
| 2. | Mrs Marit Johnsen | Nor | 60.57% |
| 3. | Mrs Yvone Llobciche | Swi | 60.24% |

Pairs Tournament

- | | | |
|----|--|------------|
| 1. | Mrs Varenée-Hugon (Mon/Fra) | 60.04% |
| 2. | Sigg.re Maria Luisa Cavalli
Rossana Biondi | Ita 58.91% |
| 3. | Sigg.re Marisa D'Andrea –
Margherita Burkhard (Italy) | 57.70% |

European Ladies Bridge Festival

Combined Classification

- | | | |
|----|-------------------------|---------|
| 1. | Gaby Mollart (Champion) | England |
| 2. | Marisa D'Andrea | Italy |
| 3. | Inge Allerman | Norway |
| 4. | Peggy Griffen | England |
| 5. | Saveria Ruffo | Italy |
| 6. | Margherita Burkhard | Italy |

The Norwegian Teams
Championships
by Knut Kjensrod (Norway)

The final of the Norwegian Teams Championships was played in Horten on the South Coast and, as expected, Nidaros of Trondheim turned out winners. The team comprises two thirds of our national team, spearheaded by Geir Helgemo, and after a somewhat ragged opening performance they cruised to a comfortable victory. The only team to represent a real challenge, was Bergen Akademisk from the West Coast who finished 8 VP behind.

As usual, our superstar, Geir Helgemo, won the Best Play Award for this performance in defense. He was South in the match v. Stavanger:

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Egil Skjerpe</i>	<i>Per E. Austber</i>	<i>Ivar Byberg</i>	<i>Geir Helgemo</i>
Pass	1	1NT	Pass
2	Pass	2	All pass

The 7 was led to the queen and king, and a small spade went to the ten and knave. Per E continued with a heart to the ace, and a second spade was taken by Geir's king, while his partner shed a low diamond to indicate strength. The 6 drew the king and ace, and a spade from dummy put Geir in with the ace to reach this position:

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

Quite a few players I know would have played a diamond to partner's ace to get the heart ruff, but Geir saw a bit further (he actually also beat the "rama" commentators): declarer's club loser would disappear on a diamond, and he would land his contract. Instead Geir led a second club to the

knave and queen. Declarer could draw trumps but would be left with a diamond and two other losers, and if he did not, South would get his ruff in addition to the diamond ace and a club trick.

This was one of the better declarer performances during the championships:

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

Cato Sundeng of Norrøna, (near Oslo) declared 3NT as West after his partner had showed five hearts with a transfer bid. He got the most difficult lead, the knave of spades which was allowed to hold the trick. The second spade was taken with the king, North took the second club and cleared the spades. Most of the spectators, including the commentators, predicted Cato to end up one down, but he put the thumb screws on South after a heart to the ace and playing off his clubs:

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

On the last club South could not withstand the pressure. He threw a spade, but Cato put him calmly in with the ace of diamonds, and he finally had to yield the ninth trick by leading into dummy's heart tenace.

From one of the preliminary rounds of the championships, my partner Tommy Birkelund of Sandefjord, East, overcame a bad trump break:

Dealer: East	J 7 4 3 2
Love all	9 4
	10 7 3

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

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

All pass

South led a diamond taken by the ace. Tommy took a second round to his king and discovered the expected trump break on a spade to the queen. A club went to the knave and king, and South returned a heart to dummy's ace. A club to the ace, heart ruff and both minor queens left this position:

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

On the club from dummy, North was left helpless. Tommy over-ruffed his trump, ruffed his heart queen with the king of spades and had the rest.

Love at first byte

A true romance described by Henry Francis (USA)

It seemed like an ordinary OKbridge session. Yes, the spectator area was more populated than usual, but that was because Gerard always puts on a good show at his G-man table. Then suddenly it happened! Gerard called a halt, asked for everyone's attention and then typed the following message to Frostbit, his partner:

"DARLING, WILL YOU MARRY ME?"

Frostbit wasted no time - "Yes I will," she typed.

This was the climax of a whirlwind courtship that started on OKbridge. The scenario is classic - boy meets girl, boy loses girl, boy wins girl.

Boy Meets Girl "We've known each other for about two months," said **Frostbit**, aka Dolly Davis of Sparks, Nevada. "But I knew Gerard (Gerard Cohen of Lake Forest, California) long before I met him. I used to be a spectator at his table because he is such an original person, so wonderfully different. He always thanked the spectators for watching when the table closed. I thought this was so special and considerate.

"Then one day in April I sat down as his partner for the first time. He was totally taken by my picture that I have in my stats. He couldn't believe it was a real photo, and he asked me to talk to him after the game. We spoke briefly and agreed to meet in San Diego for the regional."

Boy loses girl "Well, I went to San Diego, but Gerard never showed up! I was mad! I felt totally stupid! Nobody had ever stood me up before! I went home the next day. I didn't see Gerard on OKB, and I thought that was just as well. I never wanted to talk to that person again!"

Boy wins Girl "Three days later I learned that Gerard had suffered a heart attack and was hospitalized! No wonder he didn't show up at the regional. Kathie O'Connell (oconnell on OKB), a friend of Gerard's, asked all the G-Maniacs to send get-well cards to their hero, to even visit him if they lived close enough.

"I sent Gerard an e-mail Get Well and asked if he still wanted to see me. His answer - an emphatic YES! I booked a flight, expecting to spend the weekend cheering up and taking care of a recuperating older gentleman. But when I arrived, it was instant attraction! We had dinner at a French restaurant, spent the evening talking and had a marvellous quiet weekend. His recovery following my visit was speedy!"

Dolly and Gerard haven't set a date, but "we are not going to have a long engagement," said Dolly. They don't rule out the possibility of getting married at a North American Championship - possibly at Anaheim in August.

Also see website: www.kerbel.com

THE AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL
CHAMPIONSHIPS
By Ron Klinger

27th May:

The final of the 2000 Autumn National Open Teams in Adelaide was between HORTON, David Horton - Phil Markey, Peter Reynolds - Nigel Rosendorff and LORENTZ, Gabi Lorentz - John Lester, Paul Marston - George Smolanko. After 48 boards of the 64-board final, LORENTZ led by 123-83 but a crushing 72-7 final session saw HORTON win by 155-130. To pick up 65 Imps, 4 per board, is a salutary lesson to those inclined to concede when faced with such a deficit.

These were the first three deals from that dramatic final set (directions reversed for convenience).

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

West	North	East	South
	<i>Lorentz</i>		<i>Lester</i>
			Pass
Pass	1	Pass	1NT
Pass	2NT	Pass	3
Pass	3	Pass	3NT
All Pass.			

Rosendorff, West, led the J, ducked to the king, and Reynolds, East, returned the club nine. Rosendorff won with the king and shifted to a heart. When a diamond was led, Reynolds grabbed the ace and returned his last club to give Rosendorff two more tricks and a total of five for the defence. At the other table the bidding stopped in 1NT and declarer made nine tricks. 5 Imps to HORTON.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Rosen-</i>	<i>Lorentz</i>	<i>Reynolds</i>	<i>Lester</i>
<i>dorff</i>			
Pass	Pass	1	Dble
4	4	5	6
All Pass			

With no mistake by the opponents declarer had to lose two diamond tricks. One down.

At the other table,

West	North	East	South
<i>Smal-</i>	<i>Markey</i>	<i>Marston</i>	<i>Horton</i>
<i>anko</i>			
Pass	Pass	1	4
5	5	Pass	6
Pass	Pass	7H	Dble
All Pass			

Marston in seven hearts, doubled and down five. Minus 1100 and 15 Imps to HORTON.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Rosen-</i>	<i>Lorentz</i>	<i>Reynolds</i>	<i>Lester</i>
<i>dorffe</i>			

	3	(1)	3	Pass
3	Pass		3NT	All Pass

1) 2-suited

The very friendly diamond position allows declarer to score four diamonds to go with four spades and two aces.

At the other table

West	North	East	South
<i>Smal-anko</i>	<i>Markey</i>	<i>Marston</i>	<i>Horton</i>
	1	Dble	Pass
1	2	2	All Pass

Two spades surprisingly ended the bidding and declarer was not tested in the play. 10 Imps to HORTON.

17th June:

The Victor Champion Cup, last weekend's national teams championship in Melbourne, was won by CHADWICK (Marilyn Chadwick - Kim Morrison, Ted Chadwick - Avi Kanetkar, all Sydney) on 196 Victory Points from NOBLE (Barry Noble - Terry Brown, Peter Fordham - Michael Prescott, all Sydney) on 189. Equal third on 183 were McCANCE (Ian McCance - Rob Van Riel, Felicity Beale - Di Smart, David Beckett - Chris Hughes, Melbourne) and GILL (Peter Gill - Merrilee Robb - Kylie Robb - Tony Nunn, Sydney).

On Deal #1, Chadwick - Kanetkar landed in one of the making slams. Their opponents did not.

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

West	North	East	South
	<i>Kanetkar</i>		<i>Chadwick</i>
Pass	1	Pass	2
Pass	4NT(1)	Pass	5 (2)
Pass	6		

- 1) Roman Key-Card Blackwood
- 2) 2 key-cards but no queen of trumps

It did not take Chadwick long to rack up twelve tricks for +1370. Single dummy, six diamonds is vastly superior to the slam in hearts. Like 6NT, six diamonds might make even when there is a potential loser in hearts as long as the ace of spades is onside. Six hearts is almost without hope when there is a trump loser.

As did many others, Hughes - Beckett finished in six hearts after their bidding began one heart : two diamonds, two spades : three hearts. Morrison, East, remained sensibly silent with his two trump tricks and collected +200. 16 Imps to Chadwick. At other tables East doubled six hearts, cleverly when the opponents elected to stay there for minus 500 but most unwisely when they recognised the danger and ran to 6NT which can always succeed.

On Deal #2, Kanetkar made a game, which failed at the other table.

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

West	North	East	South
	<i>Kanetkar</i>		<i>Chadwick</i>
Pass	Pass		1
Pass	1		2
Pass	2NT (1)	Pass	4 (2)

- 1) asking about the quality of the spade raise (since a three-card raise is permissible).
- 2) promising four trumps and a good hand (based on the ruffing potential).

The queen of clubs was led to the ace and East switched to a trump. Kanetkar played just

two rounds of trumps before playing on hearts (running the nine if West plays low). He was able to restrict the losers to two hearts and a club. As it happens, declarer can succeed by playing three rounds of trumps as East has the ace of hearts and only three clubs, but this could have failed if the East-West clubs had split more evenly.

At the other table declarer went down when he did not draw a second round of trumps. Now when a heart was led, East took two heart tricks and gave West a heart ruff.

There is a case for an opening lead of the jack of hearts. A short suit lead will often succeed when you hold a very weak hand, as partner is likely to have entries. On the heart jack lead, East takes two hearts, gives West a heart ruff, wins the club return and plays a fourth heart. Now declarer is bound to fail by two tricks as the cards lie.

24th June:

The June issue of Australian Bridge magazine makes riveting reading as Paul Marston recounts how his team, leading by 40 Imps with 16 boards to play in the final of the 2000 Autumn National Open Teams, lost the final set by 72 to 7. The first three deals of this set were reported in this column of 27th May. After Deal #1, the fourth of the set, the whole lead had evaporated.

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

Both tables played in five diamonds on the lead of the heart two. Nigel Rosendorff won in dummy and led a spade. East rose with the ace and gave West a ruff but declarer made the rest easily.

At the other table, George Smolanko also won in dummy but continued with a club to the ace, a club ruff, a spade (low from East) to the king and another club ruff. At this point cashing the diamond ace and leading a spade

brings success but Smolanko played a heart to the ace. West ruffed, played a spade to East and received a second ruff. One down.

Phil Markey and David Horton judged the value of these cards accurately:

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

At both tables the bidding began one spade, two clubs, three clubs. John Lester, East, then bid three diamonds, Gabi Lorentz 3NT and there it ended. At the other table, Horton jumped to 4NT over three clubs and settled in six clubs over the five diamonds reply. There was no problem in the play of the slam, which is a good illustration of the value of the losing trick count.

That was worth 12 Imps to the winners and Deal #2 brought in another 7:

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

At both tables North passed and East opened one club. Markey, South, jumped to four hearts, West doubled for takeout and East bid four spades. This was passed out and went two down.

At the other table, Lorentz bid three hearts over one club, West doubled for takeout and East bid three spades. This was passed to North who bid four hearts. West led a top diamond, East playing the jack, and switched to the trump. Declarer won in hand and played a spade to the ten. When East won and returned a trump, the contract could no longer be made.

Had declarer won the first trump in dummy and led a club, there were chances for success. East must take the ace and play a second trump, else declarer succeeds on a cross-ruff. One option is for declarer to win the trump exit, ruff a club in dummy, return to hand with a ruff and then choose what to do with queen-ten of

clubs. Playing the ten takes out the king and leaves the queen high as declarer's tenth trick.

* *Coriolan Neamtu of Romania reports: At the Tel Aviv Bridge Festival L.Batt found a way to obtain a good result playing a deal in absolute safety. The hand was -*

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

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

- a) 1NT 15-17
- b) 17 and 4 spades

West led the 10 the 3 from North covered with the A. The declarer made a choice to keep control against a 4-2 split in trumps by establishing the secondary suit before pulling trumps.

He played a small club to the queen and East won with the ace. He returned a diamond covered by the Q and ruffed on table. Now a successful heart finesses with the J discoveris the position of the K with East; followed by taking a successful club finesse which was ruffed by East. At this point East does not have winning return. He chooses a trump that was won by K in dummy, followed by drawing three more rounds of trumps, three winning clubs and discarding the losing heart. The A was the last trick.

It is true that declarer could have made twelve tricks if he knew the actual position in clubs, on the fourth round he could play all the trumps, the club and the heart finesses. Eleven tricks with a safety play was a great result.

* The European Youth Championships take place this month in Antalya, Turkey. Contact: <http://www.tbricfed.org.tr/Antalya.html>

* *Fritz Babsch reports:* This was the most discussed hand at the Kitzbühel Tournament (pairs):

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

Very few pairs (four out of thirty) reached the good "Grand". At most tables North passed and East opened 2, 2, or 3. Even when North opened with 3 only 6 was reached. Some very good pairs had misunderstandings about the Grand Slam Force:

West	North	East	South
Terraneo	Fischer	Barnay	Erhart
Pass	Pass	2	Dble
Pass	3	Pass	3
Pass	4	Pass	5NT
Pass	6	All pass	

West	North	East	South
<i>Umshaus</i>		<i>Wernle</i>	<i>Babsch</i> <i>Smederevac</i>
Pass	3	3	5NT
Pass	6	All pass	

Ten pairs did not play in slam, one pair was content with 3!

The Teams was won by Erhart/Smederevac and G. Kriftner/Wernle, the Pairs by Andreas Babsch/Peter Umshaus, with Erhart/Fischer second.

* *Ray Lee reports:* Masterpoint Press and I have a new address: 331 Douglas Avenue, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M5M 1H2

Tel: 416-781-0351; Fax: 416-781-1831

Our web site has also moved to:

www.masterpointpress.com

For Love or Money - the life of a bridge journalist (Mark Horton, Brian Senior) is due next month, and Playing with the Bridge Legends - Barnet Shenkin in October 2000.

* *Nick Fahrner reports on* The Australian Bridge Magazine Bidding Challenge. A prize of at least

\$500.00 for anyone who wins Australian Bridge's new Bidding Challenge for 3 consecutive months.

In the first challenge, two of Australia's most promising Youth Pairs have crossed swords with their pet systems. We need you to knock the winners (see the Jul 2000 AB) off their perches!

If you believe you and your favourite partner have an accurate bidding system, then we'd like to hear from you.

Regulations:

a.. A once-only entry fee of \$100.00 per pair will fund the jackpot pool (which starts at \$500.00).

b.. Outscore your opponents on 3 consecutive months to win the jackpot.

c.. Bidding Challenge scores determined by Australian Bridge magazine.

If you're interested then please contact the Bidding Challenge moderator, Nick Fahrner at:

bridge@bridgeshop.com.au

IBPA Editor: If there are only two pairs competing then the chance that a winner wins twice more is only 3:1 against. What's the snag?

* *Larry Cohen reports:* William Bailey's (Deep Finesse) e-mail is bill@deepfinesse.com

It is a great and easy to use program.

DAY 2 of my CD is now available -- all details at www.larryco.com

* *David Birman reports that* THE 6TH RED SEA BRIDGE FESTIVAL is to take place in Eilat from the 5th - 12th of November 2000. There are over \$10,000 prizes and a good quality field. Events: Open pairs, IMP pairs, Swiss Teams and Invitational Pairs. It will be summer (25 degrees centigrade) on the Red Sea. Details from – Tel- 9723-6058355, Fax-9723-5465582 Mobile - 97250-524979 ,or Email birmand@inter.net.il Birman also reports that he is organising a new sponsorship agreement between the WBF and a new venture called e-bridge.

* *Neil Cohen reports that* Bridge Trix has just released Volume III of the Bobby Wolff Bridge Mentoring Series, on suit establishment. It features almost an hour of computer video of Bobby Wolff discussing the lesson hands. As before, the user plays lesson deals against the program. Anyone interested in a reviewer copy may e-mail me at ncohen@realtime.net

* *David & Sue Lusk report on a new monthly Internet magazine:* BridgeOn.net The new website will go online on 1st July. It is a subscription magazine offering something for every bridge player.

Most of our material is exclusive and will not be seen in other publications.

Some of the features include a "surgery" for subscribers who need help and advice on their

systemic woes, some great fun stuff including a series on monumental disasters (by Mark Horton), Aces on the Astral Plane, online bidding forum and plenty of material for the education of all players.

Material will be added on a weekly or fortnightly basis until the new "issue" rolls around. As a result, all material for August will have replaced the equivalent material for July, creating a new magazine each month.

The subscription cost will be about \$US15 per year (\$Aus24.95). BridgeOn.net is specifically designed as an on-line magazine, exploiting the capabilities of the medium.

<http://www.BridgeOn.net>

END OF BULLETIN