

THE IBPA ANNUAL AWARDS FOR THE YEAR 2000

Award Chairman: Barry Rigal (USA)

The IBPA Personality of the Year

Mrs. Anna Gudge (Great Britain)

Anna Gudge is a name familiar to all bridge-players through her indefatigable work for the World Bridge Federation, the European Bridge League, and as Secretary of the former British Bridge League.

The last year has been a very special one for Anna. On 1st January 2000 England, Scotland and Wales were upgraded to National Federations, and the BBL was wound up. This involved Anna in much hard work to bring to an end her main job.

Meanwhile, with her partner Mark Newton, she was involved in designing and implementing the first WBF Simultaneous Pairs via Internet, a project successfully completed this June.

Anna was the key person in the massive task of recording systems via Internet for the World Bridge Olympiad in Maastricht. A wearisome administrative task for players and systems staff has been done before arriving at the venue. This is a major boost to enjoyment at the venue, and in allowing the players to concentrate on the bridge, rather than administration.

Anna Gudge is a member of the EBL Youth Committee, and organiser of the Simultaneous Pairs for Bridge Great Britain, a successor to the British Bridge League.

Mrs. Gudge has been on the staff of most major European and World championships for several years past.

Anna, as Mrs. Brabner, had two daughters, both now grown up. She later married John Gudge, who died some 8 years ago.

The IBPA Hand of the Year

Player: **Vincent Ramondt (Net)**

Journalist: Jos Jacobs (Net)

Bulletin 424 page 5: Politiken Pairs

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

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

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

Bocchi was known to hold a weak two in hearts, but how would you play against the J lead? Ramondt cashed AK, and exited with a spade. Duboin had to win and unblocked his second top spade, before exiting with a third round of diamonds. Ramondt won with the queen and made the key play of cashing A to extract West's most dangerous tooth. Next a low diamond put Duboin back on play and he had to return a club. On the third round of clubs East was squeezed in the majors.

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

Others on the shortlist were: Roberto Mello reported by Bob Hamman (Bull 421 page 5); Michel Lebel by Jean-Paul Meyer (Bull 423 p13); Richard Budd by Richard Colker (Bull 417 p10); Michael Rosenberg by Barnet Shenkin (Bull 421 p6).

The Romex Award for Best Auction

Players: Larry Cohen-David Berkowitz (USA)
 Journalist: Paul Linxwiler (USA)
 Bulletin 426 page 4

The best bid hand award at the US 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		

West	North	East	South
<i>Cohen</i>		<i>Berkowitz</i>	
		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 , 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 making six, 980, for a swing of 460 points to Cohen-Berkowitz's team.

Others on the short-list were: Forrester-Helgemo by ACBL Bull (Bull 420 page 4); Martel-Stansby by Mark Horton (Bull 421 p17); Wilkosczy-Wala by Nissan Rand (Bull 424 p8); Sykes-Wakefield by Onno Eskes (Bull 421 p16).

The Carey Limousine Award for Best Defence

Players: Roger & Terje Lie (Sweden)
 Journalist: Anders Brunzell (Sweden)
 Bulletin 420 page 15

In a match in the local league, Roger Lie of Göteborg realized that his partner, Terje Lie, was about to face a problem hard to solve from his point of view. Help was needed - and delivered!

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Roger</i>		<i>Terje</i>	
-	-	2	2
Pass	3	Pass	3
All Pass			

Terje's opening bid promised at least five clubs and in case of five, a four card major beside. Roger started with his singleton club and Terje won the queen and played the ace. When South showed up with two clubs the distribution was quite obvious for Roger, West, and he was also fairly sure of how to beat the contract. Instead of lazily discarding something he ruffed his partner's ace and returned a *small diamond*, the only defence to set 3 . North won the K and continued with the K. Terje grabbed his ace and returned a diamond to the queen and back came the 9. South had to surrender.

The lesson is: when you know how to beat a contract don't press your partner to find the same answer. Do the dirty work yourself!

Others on the short-list were: Andrew Robson by Patrick Jourdain (Bull 423.3); Steve Weinstein by Jos Jacobs (Bull 424 p6); George Jacobs by ? (Bull 425 p5); Kees Tammens (Bull 417 p13).

The Levendaal Award for a Junior

Player: Marina Kelina (Russia)
 Journalist: Martin Schaltz (Denmark)
 Bulletin 427 page 3: European Junior Teams

In the round 23 match on VuGraph between Russia and Italy, a revealing bid by Bernardo Biondo helped Marina Kelina of Russia to her ninth trick with a special club finesse:

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Kelina</i>	<i>Mazzadi</i>	<i>Krasno-sselski</i>	<i>Biondo</i>
	Pass	Pass	1
1NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Furio</i>	<i>Solnstev</i>	<i>Stelio</i>	<i>Malinovski</i>
	Pass	Pass	Pass
1NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

In the Closed Room North led the queen of hearts taken by declarer's ace. Furio di Bello wanted to find out whether the king of spades was onside before deciding how to play the clubs. So he began with a spade to the queen. This lost so he needed four tricks from the club suit and therefore started by playing the ace and king. When North showed out he had only seven tricks and went two off.

In the Open Room the lead was also the queen of hearts but declarer had the extra information from Biondo's One Club together with the fact that North had chosen a heart lead and not a club. Kelina won the ace of hearts, and played immediately a heart to the ten, which held. Then she tried the jack of clubs from dummy, covered by the queen and king. Noting the fall of the eight from North declarer returned to dummy with a heart and led the four of clubs.

Biondo smoothly played the three. After a small break from Kelina, she decided to let it run. When the four held she had her nine tricks.

I was not surprised that Biondo opened the bidding on his nine points. I was just puzzled that he did not choose to open One Diamond his better suit!

Others on the short-list were: Richard Probst by David Bakhshi (Bull 422 page 7); Anders Hagen by Ib Lundby (Denmark); John Kranyak by Harvey Bernstein (Bull 424 p10, third 7); Stelio di Bello by Andrea Pagani (Bull 427 p3).

Carey Limousine

IBPA has acquired a new sponsor. Carey International Limousine, with headquarters in Washington DC, is the world's largest limousine service. Their Vice-President, George Jacobs, is a member of the USA team at the World Bridge Olympiad in Maastricht. At the time of writing the team has reached the quarterfinal. Carey Limousine is sponsor of IBPA's Defence Award.

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* *David Birman reports:* The 6th Red Sea International Festival is from 5-12th November. The main events are Open Pairs (3 sessions), Teams (2 Sessions). The Invitation Pairs is on 9-10th Nov.

Contact: Tel 972+ 3605 8355; Fax: 3546 5582;
e-mail: birmand@inter.net.il