

Congratulations to Indonesia, next year's Bermuda Bowl hosts, on their first win in the IOC Grand Prix taking the Generali Trophy (full report inside), and to Europe on winning the Womens team-of-eight contest against North America. The USA, who won the IOC Round Robin comfortably, had to be content with a third-place win over Poland. All the matches were close.

Juan Antonio Samaranch, IOC President, welcomed contestants at the Opening Ceremony, and attended the Closing Ceremony where Marc Hodler, IOC Vice-President, presented the trophies.

A recent development is that José Damiani, WBF President, and Gianarrigo Rona, EBL President, have been invited to put the case to the Congress of European National Olympic Committees in Warsaw this month, that the NOCs should recognise bridge as a sport. See inside for the list of countries worldwide that have already done so.

If Canada and France succeed in obtaining recognition from their NOCs, the list will be an impressive one. Progress is being made. The major hurdle still to be tackled is that the IOC Executive has not yet put the necessary Constitutional change through the full Council.

* * * * *

During the IOC Grand Prix, on 1st November, the contestants were able to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the founding of contract bridge. On 1st November, 1925 Harold Vanderbilt, the American millionaire, playing auction bridge aboard the cruise ship SS Finland, introduced key scoring changes: vulnerability and slam bonuses.

In auction bridge, the lack of incentive for the auction to continue when one side dropped out of the bidding, meant the play was often a foregone conclusion. Vanderbilt's scoring encouraged the side winning the auction to bid on, to seek the game or slam bonus, making the play a much more exciting affair.

Later developments, including the introduction of the duplication of deals, the worldwide spread of bridge, the single world governing body, worldwide Laws, the development of the competitive side of bridge, and lobbying by the WBF, led to the IOC's decision to classify bridge as a sport.

* * * * *

Don't forget to collect your clippings mentioning e-bridge and Generali. You can send them direct to our Clippings Secretary, Maureen Dennison, or enclose them next month when you complete your Annual Subscription Form.

Patrick Jourdain - Editor

INDONESIA WINS 3rd IOC GRAND PRIX, EUROPE WINS WOMENS

30th October to 3rd November, Olympic Museum Lausanne, Switzerland

Under the auspices of the International Olympic Committee and the World Bridge Federation

Written by Patrick Jourdain using material from Daily Bulletins edited by Mark Horton

Teams:

China: Lixin Yang & Xueliang Cao, 36; Jianming Dai & Haojun Shi; Zhong Fu, 32 & Chuangcheng Ju, 30

France: Paul Chemla, 56, Philippe Cronier, 48, Alain Levy, 52, Hervé Mouiel, 51, Jean-C. Quantin, 34

Indonesia: Henky Lasut, 53 & Freddy Manoppo, 55; Denny Sacul, 52 & Franky Karwur, 35

Italy: Dano de Falco, 57 & Guido Ferraro, 41; Lorenzo Lauria, 54 & Alfredo Versace, 31; Norberto Bocchi, 39 & Giorgio Duboin, 41.

Poland: Krzysztof Jassem, 35, & Piotr Tuszynski, 45; Michal Kwiecien, 43, & Jacek Pszczola, 33; Bartosz Chmurski, 28, & Mariusz Puczynski, 30.

USA: Dick Freeman, 67 – Nick Nickell, 53; Bob Hamman, 62 – Paul Soloway, 59; Jeff Meckstroth, 44 – Eric Rodwell, 43.

OPEN: Format: Round robin: 5 matches of 24 boards; carryover to knockouts; semi-final of 36 boards and a 60 board final, with a 24 board play off between the losers.

Final: **Indonesia** beat Italy 124-119

Semifinal: **Indonesia** beat the USA 65-50

Italy beat Poland 81.5 to 71.

Third place playoff: **USA** beat Poland 56-52.3

Round Robin final scores:

1. **USA** 95; 2= Indonesia, Italy 82; 4. Poland 81; 5. China 59; 6. France 46.

Italy and Indonesia drew their match 15-15.

France and Poland are both past winners of the World Bridge Teams Olympiad, and Italy is the holder. The USA is the Bermuda Bowl holder, China the first winner of the IOC Grand Prix and Indonesia the host of the next Bermuda Bowl, Venice Cup and World Transnational Teams.

Sponsor: The Generali Group, the Insurer Without Frontiers, one of the most important insurance groups in the world.

Press Contact: World Bridge Federation

40, rue François 1^{er} – 75008 Paris (France)

Tel 33 1 53 23 03 15 Fax 33 1 40 70 14 51

Email: cfrancin@worldbridged.com

Websites:

<http://www.bridge.gr>

<http://www.e-bridgemaster.com>

This was the key swing of the final (see next column):

	<i>Open</i>			
West	North	East	South	
	<i>Manoppo</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Lasut</i>	<i>Duboin</i>
	1	3	Dble	
Pass	4	Pass	4	
Dble	All Pass			

In the Open Room Four Hearts doubled went two light for 500 to Indonesia.

Board 21		10 8 3	
Dealer: North		Q J 3	
N/S Game		J	
		A K 7 4 3 2	
2		A J 9 7 6 5 4	
A K 10		8 6	
K 10 9 6		8 5 4	
J 10 9 8 5		6	
		K Q	
		9 7 5 4 2	
		A Q 7 3 2	
		Q	

Closed

West	North	East	South
	<i>Ferraro</i>	<i>Sacul</i>	<i>De Falco</i>
	2	3	3NT

All Pass

In the Closed Room Franky Karwur reached 3NT as South and West led a spade. De Falco won this with the ace, and switched to a diamond, taken by West's king. West returned 8. Declarer won with the queen and played a heart. West won, and played a second club. Dummy won with the king and played the jack of hearts. West won and played a third club. Now declarer was able to claim as he could unblock the hearts and enter hand with a spade to make one spade, three hearts, two diamonds and three clubs. A further 600 and 15 IMPs to Indonesia, more than the margin of victory.

Suppose, however, Ferraro, West, had ducked the second heart. Declarer cannot afford to cash the third club before clearing the hearts, as West has two club tricks. But if he fails to cash the club then, when West is in with the heart, he can lock declarer in the South hand by playing a diamond, and come to a second diamond as the setting trick.

Two key boards cost the USA their semifinal against Indonesia:

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

Meckstroth (East) and Rodwell had an unopposed Strong Club auction:

1 -1 -1 -1 -2 -2 -Pass!

It seems strange that Meckstroth did not correct 2 to 2. Perhaps he thought Rodwell was using Canapé. At the other table Lasut (East) and Manoppo, also using Strong Club began with the same six bids, but Lasut corrected 2 to 2, and Manoppo, with voluntary support, raised to 4.

Nickell led K, and there was no problem in making game. Declarer began with A ditching his losing heart, A felling the king, and then ace and another diamond, claiming ten tricks and wiping out the USA's 12 IMP carryover from the Round Robin.

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

Again both tables began with the same auction: A Multi Two diamonds from West, Pass from North, and 2 from East, implying game interest if West's suit was hearts. West Passed and the spotlight came back to North.

Nickell Passed, earning +50 when 2 went one off. In the Closed Room Denny Sacul protected with 3, and Karwur corrected to 3NT, making ten tricks and 630 for Indonesia, who took the first 12 board segment 36-0.

The key swing in the other semi-final, Italy v. Poland, was a (roughly) 50% slam:

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

Closed

West	North	East	South
	<i>Versace Tuszynski Lauria Jassem</i>		
	1	1	2
Dble	3	Pass	3
Pass	3	Pass	4
Pass	5	Pass	5
Pass	6	All Pass	

The Bulletin did not say whether West's double showed spade support, or simply an honour in the suit, to suggest the lead. One might have expected East's overcall to suggest the club ace was offside.

On a spade lead declarer delayed the club play as long as possible, but he could only dispose of one club on the diamonds and eventually had to lead a club from dummy, going off when the defence made two tricks in the suit.

Open

West	North	East	South
	<i>Kwiecien Bocchi Pszczola Duboin</i>		
	1	Pass	2
Pass	2	Pass	2
Pass	3NT	Pass	4 !
Dble	4	Pass	4
Pass	5	All Pass	

The Bulletin does not say so, but 2 was presumably an artificial game force. 4 was also unexplained. 4 was alerted as showing K and a diamond control. The Bulletin relates: "As East contemplated his lead, dummy peeked at declarer's cards and proceeded to abuse him for not bidding the slam as he must have known from West's double that his K was well placed. Finally East led the J and, after a moment's reflection, declarer claimed six, whereupon East disabused him by putting A on his king."

The swing was 11 IMPs to Italy, whereas it might well have been 11 the other way.

Round robin

Despite the star-studded cast, the Bulletin had few hands played well to report. Here was an instructive error by Alfredo Versace from the Round Robin match between the USA and Italy:

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
	<i>Duboin</i>	<i>Meckstroth</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>
	<i>Rodwell</i>		
	1NT	2	4
4NT	Dble	5	All Pass

1N = 9-12; 2 = + minor.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
	<i>Freeman</i>	<i>Versace</i>	<i>Nickell</i>
	<i>Lauria</i>		
	Pass	1	3
4	All Pass		

Four Spades doubled can go a couple off, but Rodwell's pressure bid led to Bocchi ending in 5. Rodwell led K, then switched to 8, won by Meckstroth's king. A second heart was won by East who ruffed a spade. Next came K felling the bare ten, and the jack covered by queen and ace. Frustratingly, the Bulletin does not give further play except to say that North made both his trumps to defeat the game.

One suspects that East ruffed his last spade. If North over-ruffs declarer makes in comfort so one presumes Meckstroth discarded. Then he comes to both his trumps.

In the Closed Room, South, Lauria, led

A and then, correctly, switched to his singleton diamond, the trick going ten, jack, queen, ace. Nickell, East, ruffed a spade low, returned to

hand with A, and then ruffed his last spade high. What should North throw on this trick?

Versace actually threw a diamond, but this cost the contract. He could win the first round of trumps with king and give South a diamond only at the expense of his remaining diamond trick. He had to keep all his diamonds in order that the defence could come to K, a diamond ruff, and a diamond trick at the end.

The swing was 11 IMPs to the USA.

Board 11	J 2
Dealer: South	9 7 6 4
Love all	10 8 7
	Q J 10 5
5 4 3	A K 9 8
A 5 2	J 10 8
K Q J 2	A 9 5
9 8 7	A 6 4
	Q 10 7 6
	K Q 3
	6 4 3
	K 3 2

Open Room

West	North	East	South
	<i>Duboin</i>	<i>Meckstroth</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>
	<i>Rodwell</i>		

			Pass
1NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
	<i>Freeman</i>	<i>Versace</i>	<i>Nickell</i>
	<i>Lauria</i>		

			Pass
Pass	Pass	1NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

The auction was the same except for the declarer! In the Open Room Meckstroth led Q. Duboin held up to the third round, cashed spade ace, crossed to hand with a diamond, and led a second spade. When North produced the jack, he ducked. North cashed the last club. As South was sitting behind East's hearts and spades, no squeeze operated and the game went one off.

Cashing the first spade was an error. Had Duboin crossed to hand with a diamond, and led a spade to eight on the first round, he could have succeeded. South can exit with a spade to the jack and ace but after declarer cashes his diamonds, if he reads the spades are not breaking he can endplay South with a heart to lead into the spade tenace.

In the Closed Room Nickell, East, was declarer. Lauria, South, led a spade to the jack and ace. Looking as if he was planning an endplay, Nickell crossed to dummy with a diamond and ducked a club, won by North, who led a second spade. This was ducked to South who realised he could not play a third spade. However, when South switched to K, declarer's ninth trick appeared with ease for a further 10 IMPs to the USA.

Had South found the passive exit of a club or diamond, one suspects Nickell, knowing the spades were not breaking, might still have made his game with an endplay in the majors. He has to duck another club, cash minor suit winners, then exit in hearts, to finish off South.

Would you have made a penalty Pass on South cards on this deal from the Round Robin match between Poland and China?

Board 1	A K 7 5
Dealer: North	9 5
Love all	J 10 6
	J 9 8 7
10 6 4 3	9 8
None	K J 10 8 6 2
A Q 9 5 4	8 2
A K 10 5	Q 4 2
	Q J 2
	A Q 7 4 3
	K 7 3
	6 3

<i>Closed Room</i>			
West	North	East	South
	<i>Yang</i>	<i>Pszczola</i>	<i>Cao Kwiecien</i>
	Pass	2	Pass
Pass	Dble	Pass	Pass
Redble	Pass	3	Pass
Pass	Dble	All Pass	
<i>Open Room</i>			
West	North	East	South
	<i>Jassem</i>	<i>Ju</i>	<i>Tuszynski</i>
	Pass	2	Pass
Pass	Dble	All Pass	

North had Passed originally so South should have been nervous of Passing with only two sure trump tricks. Perhaps the Souths were unable to bid a natural Two Notrumps. Anyway they both Passed.

Yang, West for China, used an SOS redouble to reach Three Clubs doubled by East. South led a club. East won, took the diamond

finesse, ruffed out the suit, drew two more trumps, and played winning diamonds, conceding one off when the defence made a trump and four spades.

In the Closed Room Jassem stuck his ground in Two Hearts doubled. Again South led a club and declarer won to take the diamond finesse. Tuszynski then led a spade off the dummy. North rose with the king and played the five of trumps to the jack and queen. South exited with a second club. Declarer won in dummy, took A and a diamond ruff, then exited with a spade. North overtook South's honour, and gave South a club ruff, but they had only one more trump to come. East ruffed the next spade and led a high trump from hand, pinning North's nine. Two Hearts doubled had made and Poland gained 11 IMPs.

France fared poorly in the Round robin, but at least the declarer play of Jean-Christophe Quantin in this questionable grand slam from the match v. China earned credit when good technique brought it home on a non-simultaneous double squeeze:

Board 21	Q J 8 6 4 2
Dealer: North	none
N/S Game	Q 2
	Q 10 8 5 4
A 5	K 9 7 3
A J 10 6 3 2	K 7 4
J 8	A K 5 4
K 7 3	A 6
	10
	Q 9 8 5
	10 9 7 6 3
	J 9 2

West	North	East	South
	<i>Quantin</i>	<i>Yang</i>	<i>Cronier</i>
	Pass	1NT	Pass
3	Pass	3	Pass
4	Pass	4	Pass
4	Pass	4NT	Pass
5	Pass	5NT	Pass
6	Pass	7	All Pass

Nine trumps missing the queen is just acceptable for a Grand Slam, but there was also the problem of taking care of the third club, dummy having such poor trumps. The state of France's position in the table justified the gamble.

North found the best lead of a small spade, won in the West hand. Quantin led a low

trump, getting the good news when North showed out. I say good because at least he now knew what to do in the trump suit. However, as two finesses would be needed to pick up South's queen, it was no longer possible to ruff the club.

Quantin won K, finessed through South, returned to dummy with a diamond, repeated the trump finesse, and drew South's last trump.

North had been forced to discard two spades and two clubs, so West guessed the spades were 6-1. On the last trump he threw a spade from dummy. He crossed to dummy's other diamond, and ruffed a diamond. As dummy's fourth spade had gone, North was able to throw another spade, but when the last trump arrived he had to unguard clubs. Quantin released dummy's small spade, and crossed to K, squeezing South in the minors.

On the last trump declarer could also have discarded a diamond from dummy, cashed the top diamond, and then tested the spades with a ruff. The last trump then operates a normal double squeeze.

WOMENS EUROPE v. NORTH AMERICA

On Thursday and Friday a Women's match for Teams-of-eight over 96 boards took place. At the time of going to Press we had no hands from the contest. These will have to wait until the December IBPA.

Europe beat North America 407-402

Europe: Pony Nehmert-Andrea Rauscheid (Ger) Veronique Bessis, 50-Catherine d'Ovidio, 41 (Fra); Anne-Lill Helleman, 51-Anna Malinowski (Nor); Anneke Simons – Jet Pasma (Netherlands)

North America: Mildred Breed-Shawn Quinn, Petra Hamman-Peggy Sutherlin, Joan Jackson-Robin Klar (all USA), Rhoa Habert-Beverley Kraft (Canada). All Maastricht finalists.

The IOC President, Juan Antonio Samaranch, welcomed contestants at the Opening Ceremony, and the IOC Vice-President, Marc Hodler, presented the Generali Trophy, I.O.C. cups and medals.

IBPA members are invited to send clippings mentioning the IOC and Generali to our Clippings Secretary, Maureen Dennison, who will forward them to the WBF President.

Don't forget to add your clippings from Maastricht mentioning e-bridge. Prizes on offer.

The WBF will again stage the IOC Grand Prix in 2001. In 2002 they hope to be present at the Winter Olympic Games in Salt Lake City as an attraction and hopefully in Turin 2006 as an official discipline.

**ROMANIA MEETS USA IN
OKBRIDGE FINAL** by Henry Francis

For the second straight year Europe will oppose the United States in the final of the second annual Internet World Bridge Championship sponsored by OKbridge. But the teams are different – Europe will be represented by Romania instead of Russia, and the United States will field the surprising Florida Kees who upset the star-laden defending champions.

The 48-board match will take place on Thursday, Nov. 16, at 10 a.m. in Birmingham, Alabama. The event will usher in the American Contract Bridge League Fall North American Championships, which will get under way in the evening.

Romania had to defeat Russia, runner-up in 1999, in the Round of 16. Next came a strong team from Sweden in the quarterfinals, but the Romanians were more than equal to the task, eliminating Sweden, 140-75. A powerful team from China provided the opposition for the final battle for the championship of the Eastern Hemisphere. Once again Romania demonstrated its might, eliminating China, 153-74.

Playing for Romania are P. Catalin, captain; Dorin Petre Musat, Dorin Chergulescu, Alexandre Feber and Marian Radulescu. China's team consisted of Wanfeng Mou, captain; Y.N. Han, Ji Jun, Li Zhang and Sam Wan.

The Florida Kees, now called the United States as a result of winning the American championship, were underdogs against the defending champions, a squad top-heavy with world-class players like Eric Rodwell, Jeff Meckstroth and Paul Soloway. However, the Kees took the lead at the outset and hung on to win by 30 IMPs. The defenders came on strong over the last 18 boards, but it was a case of too little too late.

The U.S. champions are a multi-national team – Jay McKee, the playing captain, is an American, but his partner is Joao Campos, a Brazilian who has competed at the world level for Brazil. Then there's Benito Garozzo, one of the all-time greats as a member of the all-powerful Italian Blue Team that won practically everything in sight for two decades. Now

(USA)

Garozzo is a naturalized American citizen playing with his regular partner, Lea Dupont. Richard Reisig is an American, but his wife Raija is a native of Finland who only recently moved to America.

When this year's event began back in the spring, 186 teams from 47 countries were in competition. They were divided into eight groups set up in such a way that eventually there would be an Eastern Hemisphere and a Western Hemisphere champion.

Throughout all 184 matches leading up to the final, each player sat in front of his computer at home. Each player was in contact with partner and opponents only through the Internet. Monitors supervised the play once the field was reduced to 32 teams.

Bridge enthusiasts throughout the world will be able to watch the final on the Internet as the players make their bids and plays on their individual computers.

OKbridge is the host, organizer and principal sponsor of this championship. Other sponsors are the American Contract Bridge League, the World Bridge Federation, the *Bridge World* and *Bridge Magazine*.

In the Western Hemisphere final, Garozzo and Dupont were extremely aggressive on the following deal, and it paid off.

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

Table 1

West	North	East	South
Catlett	Reisig	Soloway	Raija
			Pass
1	Dble	1	Pass
2	Pass	Pass	2
3	All Pass		

Table 2

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

Garozzo	Rodwell	Dupont	Simson
			Pass
1	Dble	Redbl	2
Dble	Redbl	Pass	Pass
3	Pass	3	Pass
4	Pass	5	Pass
Pass	Dble	All Pass	

The fact that Rodwell and Simson were playing a Forcing Club system made a huge difference on this hand.

At Table 1 Catlett was willing to go to the three level with his aggressive distribution, and he suffered a one-trick defeat when he cashed the trump ace after ruffing the third heart. On the actual layout, a low diamond at trick four would have enabled him to lose only two trumps and make his contract.

DuPont decided to make a slightly light redouble instead of bidding 1 over Rodwell's takeout double. Garozzo liked his distribution so he doubled 2 and then cuebid 3. Dupont tried spades, but Garozzo carried back to 4. Dupont now correctly read that her partner had a minor two-suiter, and she bid 5, doubled by Rodwell.

Simson led his singleton diamond, and Dupont rose with dummy's ace. She was happy to see the queen fall when she cashed the trump ace. Next came a diamond ruff, followed by the

K on which she pitched a heart from dummy. Rodwell won his ace and cashed the K. Next he shifted to a spade, hoping partner had the 10, but Dupont was surprised when her 8 held the trick. After cashing the Q she crossruffed the rest of the way for 11 tricks and a 13-IMP gain.

Rodwell would have been on solid ground if he had led a second high heart. Dupont would have ruffed this and she would have been able to set up her diamond suit. However, this would have done her no good -- she would not have had an entry to dummy to run the diamonds and would have been set.

However, declarer can succeed on a diamond lead, by taking advantage of dummy's six of trumps as a potential entry!

This is how the play could have gone. Win the opening lead with the diamond ace and ruff a diamond high. A high club to the ace, dropping the queen, is followed by a second diamond ruff high. When declarer then leads the club 3, planning to finesse the six, South does best to insert the 7 to force the king, but this does no good. Declarer ruffs a third diamond with her last trump, setting up the suit. Then she ruffs a spade with the deuce and draws South's trump 5 with the 6. Since the diamonds are now good, she loses only two hearts and makes her doubled contract.

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

Table 1

West	North	East	South
Raija	Rodwell	Reisig	Simson
	1 (1)	2	5
Dble	All Pass		

(1) Precision

Rodwell was not strong enough to open 1 , and he didn't have a major, so he opened with a catch-all 1 . After Reisig overcalled with a preemptive 2 , Simson decided the opponents probably had a heart game – he knew East-West had at least a nine-card heart fit and he was aware that partner did not have a strong opening bid – otherwise he would have opened 1 . So he decided to make it as tough as possible for the opponents, forcing them to decide what to do at the five level.

Raija knew her partnership was missing a lot of high cards, so she doubled. The save was a success, of course – the defense could take only two diamonds and a club.

The fate of 5 depends on the lead. A club lead beats it. However, on the likely diamond lead, Reisig would have been able to get rid of his losing club and make 11 tricks at hearts.

Table 2

West	North	East	South
Catlett	Garozzo	Soloway	Dupont
	1	2	Pass
4	All Pass		

Dupont didn't have as much information – Garozzo's opening bid could have been anything from very weak to very strong. So she passed, and Catlett jumped to game with his fine heart fit and three crucial cards. The opening lead was a club, which held declarer to only 10 tricks, but that still was an 9-IMP gain for SIMSON.

IBPA Column Service

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

157

Dlr: North A 3
 Vul: Both K 9 7 2
 9 8 4
 J 7 5 4

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

West	North	East	South
	Pass	Pass	1
Pass	1NT	Pass	3
Pass	4	All Pass	

As an aperitif on the day before the Forbo, there was a four-way international match, this time involving Brazil, Netherlands, France and China. Zia stepped in to play for Brazil with Chagas (they were practicing for the Cavendish) when Marcelo Branco had to withdraw. Although China took the Teams title, Zia played the most interesting hand of the event in the match against the Netherlands.

At one table Ramondt got a diamond lead to his contract of 4 and immediately played a trump to the ace and a trump back to his king. He continued with the Q and a spade to West. The defense cashed the K, the A and played another heart, which left Ramondt with a club loser at the end.

By contrast, Zia won the diamond lead and played the J, realizing that he needed to build a heart trick quickly as a home for his potential club loser. The J was taken by West, who continued diamonds. East won the K and switched to a club. Zia won the A, played a spade to the ace and farsightedly ruffed a diamond in hand. When the

K revealed the 4-1 break, Zia continued with a heart to the king and a heart ruff, after which he played the K and another and claimed the rest with the Q10 when West was forced to win the trick. 12 imps to Brazil.

As the cards lie, West could have defeated the contract by covering the J with the queen. Declarer wins the K in dummy, but East wins the next heart to play a club through, and now declarer is one entry short to reduce his trumps. But on a practical and theoretical basis, Zia's line is probably about the best available.

158

One common factor to almost every successful British women's team over the last 20 years has been that Nicola Smith has been part of those winning teams. Nicola was occupying the East seat on the following hand.

Dlr: South 10 9 8 7 5
 Vul: Both K J
 Q J 9
 K J 10

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

West	North	East	South
			1NT
No	2	2	2
No	4	No	No
No			

When Bob Rowlands, led the 3, it was immediately apparent to Nicola that she could give her partner a heart ruff. But put yourself in her position, and contain your enthusiasm for a second, to plan the defence.

Nicola saw that if she led back a high heart to give her partner a ruff, her partner would dutifully return a diamond, but the location of the queen and jack of spades would be exposed on the third round of hearts, when Rowlands could not overruff dummy. Declarer would be able to finesse twice in trumps, and pick up her queen and jack of spades. Failing to play a third heart would surely also give the game away -- declarer would be able to draw the inference that Nicola had the top trumps from her failure to try to promote a trump for her partner.

Nicola's second thought was to signal to her partner for a club return instead of a diamond at trick two -- but might declarer see through the ruse? Instead, Nicola cashed the A, looking like a person trying to score her side's top tricks, and only then did she give her partner a heart ruff. Rowlands returned a second diamond, and declarer won this, breathing a sigh of relief when Nicola could not trump the trick, and laid down the spades from the top, to go one down.

159

Dlr: North K 9 3
 Vul: Both K Q 4 3
 Q 5
 K 7 4 2

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

 A J 4
 A J 9 8 7
 J 3 2
 Q 5

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

Whatever action East takes, South should find a way to 4 . The defense should start by leading three rounds of diamonds, and that will get ruffed and overruffed.

South should now be working on a way to avoid taking the spade finesse. Since East is likely to have the ace of clubs, lead a low club from dummy to the queen, then duck a club on the way back. East takes his ten and gets out with a trump, and you draw two rounds ending in dummy and try to ruff out the ace of clubs (this works if East has only three clubs or two clubs, for instance).

That line fails, but you are developing quite a count on the hand. East has six diamonds, you know, and exactly four clubs to the ace -- you have seen the three small ones and you know about the ace since West did not take it on the first round of the suit. So now with two hearts, East can't have more than one spade can he? Lead the A from hand, and when the beautiful 10 appears, finesse West for the Q with confidence.

160

Dlr: West 10 9 8 7 4
 Vul: N-S J 10 6
 Q J
 10 5 2

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

 A K Q 2
 A 4
 10 7 3
 Q 7 6 4

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

Board 12 from Saturday's Open Pairs in the Vancouver nationals came right out of the textbook. Defending 3 as East on a trump lead, declarer wins and cashes a second trump, then leads a diamond to the queen. You win and can obviously take five top tricks easily enough. But to get the maximum you must shift to the J. South covers, and West wins, and does best by returning a low club. You put on the 8 to win the trick. Then you shift to a heart to set up the sixth winner for the defense.

Of course, if East shifts to hearts before playing clubs, declarer can escape for down one by setting up a diamond for a club discard. And a low club shift at trick four fails to set up three defensive winners in the club suit.

The club suit here is a variation on a more mundane theme. Normally you hold AJ9 or KJ9 to surround the ten; sometimes the eight is sufficient to create the same position, so long as partner has the nine.

EUROPEAN OPEN PAIRS CHAMPIONSHIP

"Giorgio Belladonna Trophy"

EUROPEAN SENIOR PAIRS CHAMPIONSHIP

1ST EUROPEAN "BRIDGE FOR ALL" EVENT

19-24th March 2001

At: Centro Congressi Sorrento Palace Hotel

Via S. Antonio Sorrento, Italy

Tel. +39 081 8784141 Fax +39 081 8783933

REGISTER through your own Federation before 31st

January 2001 and send to: European Bridge League

Via Ciro Menotti, 11/C, 20129 Milan, Italy

Fax +39 02 70001398 E-mail:

fedbridge@galactica.it

ENTRY FEES

To be paid in cash (Swiss Francs) at the Tournament

Reception and Registration Desk in Sorrento Palace

Hotel as per schedule:

Open Pairs: 500 Swiss Francs (per pair)

Senior Pairs: 400 Swiss Francs (per pair)

Cash prizes will be awarded for all series

HOTEL ACCOMODATION

Please contact: Russo Travel Agency

Via S. Antonio, 80067 Sorrento, Italy

Tel. +39 081 878 1394 Fax +39 081 878 1397

E-Mail: sales@sorrentopalace.it

SPECIAL PRICES SORRENTO PALACE

HOTEL

Single room B & B: L.200.000

Double room (2 pers.) B & B: L.240.000

Junior Suite (1/2 pers) B & B: L.380.000

Additional 1 B & B in double room: L. 40.000

FURTHER INFORMATION

Please contact: Christina MacEachen - EBL

Via Ciro Menotti, 11/C, 20129 Milan, Italy

Tel. +39 02 70008931 Fax +39 02 70001398

E-mail: fedbridge@galactica.it

PROGRAMME & SCHEDULE OF PLAY

March 2001

Mon 19 th	10:00/14:00	Registration
	14:30	Open & Senior Qualifying 1 st
	20:30	Open Qualifying 2 nd Session
Tue 20 th	10:00	Open Qualifying 3 rd Session
	16:00	Open Q4 & Senior Q2
Wed 21 st	10:00	Open 1 st Semi with Grand Masters
	16:00	Open 2 nd Semi & Senior Q3
Thu 22 nd	10:00	Open 3 rd Semi-final
		Senior 1 st Final & Consolation
Fri 23 rd	10:00	Open 1 st Final & Consolation
	16:00	Open 2 nd Final & Consolation
		Senior 2 nd Final & Consolation
Sat 24 th	10:00	Open 3 rd Final & Consolation
	15:00	Open 4 th Final Senior 3 rd Final
	20:00	Prize-giving and Buffet

BRIDGE FOR ALL

Tournaments starting at 21:00 on Sun 18th, Tue 20th,
Wednesday 21st, Thursday 22nd, and Friday 23rd
March.

EBL INVITED TO EUROPEAN OLYMPIC CONGRESS

Gianarrigo Rona, EBL President and José Damiani,
WBF President are to put the case that bridge
should be recognized by individual National
Olympic Committees to the meeting of the
European NOCs delegates to be held in Warsaw on
17-19th November this month.

A demonstration bridge contest with
national teams from England, Italy, Poland,
Sweden, Netherlands and Austria has been arranged
for the benefit of those delegates who wish to
inspect bridge.

National Bridge Organisations recognized by their own National Olympic Committee

At September 2000

With thanks to the WBF who supplied the list

Europe (Zone 1)

Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Estonia,
Italy, Lebanon, Malta, The Netherlands, Poland,
Portugal, Slovenia, Turkey, Yugoslavia

Under negotiation with its NOC

France, Greece, Hungary, Sweden, Switzerland

Belarus recognized by its Ministry of Sports

Denmark Mind Sport organisation

Finland Sport Federation

France recognized by its Ministry of Sports

Greece recognized by its Ministry of Sports

Iceland can be recognized

Israel Sport Federation

Russia recognized by its Ministry of sport

Spain Sport Federation

Sweden Sport Federation

North America (Zone 2)

Bermuda

Canada under negotiation with its NOC

South America (Zone 3)

Argentina, Chile, Peru, Uruguay

Brazil under negotiation with its NOC

Asia and Middle East (Zone 4)

Jordan, Kuwait, Pakistan, Palestine

Central America (Zone 5)

Costa Rica, Guatemala

China (Zone 6)

China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Malaysia,
Singapore

South Pacific (Zone 7) None

Africa (Zone 8) Egypt

**Round-Up: Two items from the Editor's Back
Files**

* Michael Rosenblum reports a deal from the Korona Invitation (Moscow, June, 20 pairs playing 8 board matches) won by Kalish & Pogdur of the Israeli Open team in Maastricht:

The defender's play on the board below is the typical example of "The Greek gift".

Board 121 J 10 2
 Dealer: North K 5 3
 E/W Game Q 9 7 4
 K J 5

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

K 8 5 4
 A Q J 10 9 7
 A 5
 7

North	East	South	West
<i>Marten</i>	<i>Rosenblum</i>	<i>Eidi</i>	<i>Panina</i>
Pass	Pass	1	Pass
1NT	Pass	3	Pass
4	All pass		

Larissa Panina led 2 (4th). Michel Eidi played the Q and took the K with the A. Then he tried the 7, but Larissa played the Ace, the 8 from West showing the odd number and some values in diamonds. One may check that with East having A763 in spades, whatever would be the declarer's spade 4-card holding, he can make no mistake if he needs two spade tricks.

Therefore Larissa played the J and then the diamond. Either West will ruff the third diamond, or declarer will be presented with two discards - and the losing option in spades!

But you should not forget that Michel Eidi, originally Lebanese, lives in Athens. "The Greek gift" was not accepted and Michel, after having discarded two spades on K and Q, nevertheless guessed the suit correctly.

The 2001 Tournament is planned to be held in Moscow along with the next year's IOC session. Prize money this year was \$4000 plus \$5700 from a Calcutta Auction (25% to players)

Results: 1. Kalish-Pogdur (Isr) 707
 2. Kowalski-Romanski (Pol) 677
 3. Birman-Altshuler (Isr) 659
 4. Wang-Zhuang (China) 655
 5. Kholomeev-Kulichkov (Russia) 654

* Scott Cardell reports:

The hand in Column Service 143 (page 11, July IBPA Bulletin), with some extra information for declarer in the bidding, can give rise to an ending gaining two tricks (see my piece about the "Mighty-Delayed-Duck Squeeze, Bridge Today, March 1998):

Dealer: East A 2
 E/W Game 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	1 NT
2 *	3NT	All Pass	

* *My addition:* 5-5 in the majors, weak.

Suppose, as shown above, that West throws in a modern conventional bid that describes a weak 5-5 in the majors. Declarer follows the editor's recommended line, ducks the first spade, wins the next, and finesses hearts at trick 3. However, after winning the spade return at trick 4, as declarer knows East has only one heart left, declarer now cashes A, dropping the Q.

East is down to four cards in each minor. On the lead of the 10 (declarer discarding a diamond) East is squeezed into giving two tricks, and declarer ends up with ten tricks. A club sluff will let declarer set up two club tricks and a diamond sluff lets declarer set up a diamond while endplaying East for a return into the board's tenace in clubs.

Contact: N. Scott Cardell
 1730 Kenny Dr., Pullman WA, 99163-3512
 scardell@pullman.com

Calendar	Event	Venue	IBPA Contact
2000			
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 028322935
13/17	Sicily Open, Hotel Costa Verde, Cefalu		+39 91 225 511
27/30	England Year-End Congress, London		EBU 44 1296 394 414
2001			
JAN 18/21	Cap Gemini Ernst & Young World Invitation, The Hague	Henk van Dalen	
FEB 8/17	Israeli Festival, Tel Aviv with Seniors congress		birmand@inter.net.il
MAR 15/25	ACBL Nationals, Kansas City		ACBL
19/25	European Open & Senior Pairs, Sorrento, Italy		EBL
JUN 16/30	European Teams and Ladies Pairs, Tenerife		EBL
29/Jul 11	Biarritz Festival		hervepacault@wanadoo.fr
JUL 19/29	ACBL Summer Nationals, Toronto		ACBL
AUG 6/15	World Junior Teams, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil		panos@bridge.gr
12/19	European University Teams, Rotterdam		EBL
OCT 20/2 nd Nov	Bermuda Bowl, Venice Cup, Transnational Teams,	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 Bridge Championships, Montreal		WBF
NOV 28/ 8 Dec	ACBL Fall Nationals, Phoenix		ACBL

* *Charlotte Blaiss reports:* The ACBL has its Annual Junior Collegiate Team Championship on okBridge, April 21-22, 2001. College teams from outside North America are invited to join in. The contest is sponsored by the Fifth Chair Foundation and okBridge. Entry is free – no registration fees – and okBridge provides two weeks free membership for team members prior to and including the event.

Further details: www.fifthchair.org

* *Sharon Garfinkel reports:* The English Bridge Union has licensed a Charity Simultaneous Pairs on Wednesday 6 December. The money raised will go to Variety Club of Great Britain, which exists to improve the quality of life for sick, disabled and disadvantaged children.

The event has been given support by many figures from the world of entertainment. Omar Sharif says: "I wish all the best to the Variety Club of Great Britain for a successful National Bridge Day."

The two winners will each receive a holiday for two in Las Vegas, whilst the runners up will each receive a holiday for two in Malta. It is anticipated that 100,000 people in over 2000 clubs will take part. The event will be scored over the internet by Anna Gudge. Within hours of play finishing, most of the results will be available on a national results service.

Many clubs will run non-expert sections where players can compete on a more social basis. Contact: Sharon Garfinkel or Neil Crawford Press Officer 020 8459 4530
The Variety Club 020 7428 8134
sharongarfinkel@varietyclub.org.uk

* The Belgium Pairs Tournament held annually in memory of André Lemaitre will be on 19th Nov at the Romi Goldmuntz Centre, Antwerp.
Tel: + 3239 0571

* *David Muller* is starting a Special Interest Group on Internet for Mensa, the high IQ society. Previously, despite there being over 100 Mensa SIGs, there was none for Bridge. If any IBPA member who is a Mensa member would like to assist, then please contact him by email on: dmuller@dircon.co.uk

* *Federica Zorzoli reports:* The telephone numbers for the Milan Festival is now: +39 028322935 and +39 028322439.

* *Marc Smith reports a deal from the marathon England Trials* (seven weekends) to select teams for the Camrose and next Europeans. Smith asks: Would You Find the Winning Defense?

At two of the ten tables, Chris Dixon and Marc Smith, South, created the problem for their respective Wests with an unusual opening bid. The auction, and the play to the first trick were identical at both tables.

Dealer: South	7 5			
Love all	K Q J 7 3	8 3	Q 4 3 2	
	Q J 8 3	10 8 2	J 9 6 5 2	7
	West	North	East	South
	Pass	Pass	Dble	6 ! All Pass

Both Wests led the queen of spades, which held. What would you do at Trick 2?

In reality, both Wests continued with a second spade. Both are now wiser. They also know the score for conceding Six Clubs Doubled... It's -1090. Here are the other hands:

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

	Q
	A K J 10 9 8 6 5

Had dummy's club spots been slightly better, declarer could have won the opening lead with the ace of spades, crossed to the queen of trumps, ruffed out the ace of hearts and returned to dummy to throw his diamond loser. With the 4-3-2 of clubs in dummy, that was not possible, and thus he had to duck the opening lead.

Should West find the diamond switch? Yes. Declarer can hardly have two losing spades. A heart loser cannot run away. The danger is that a diamond loser may go on dummy's hearts.

Should East play K at Trick 1? Not really. A speculative Q lead, without the jack,

should be more likely than West will fail to switch to a diamond on the actual layout.

* *Anna Gudge reports:* There are four European Simultaneous Pairs events, fully internet-based, on 27, 28, 29 & 30 November.

It would be very helpful if all the European Bridge Press people could help us by giving it as much publicity as possible.

Web site: www.eblsims.org

* *David Burn has a new address :* 69 Ederline Avenue, Norbury, London SW16 4RZ

Commenting on October's Editorial he says: While I agree with most of it, I don't think very many people share your view that there ought to be a playoff for the bronze medal such as exists at the moment. If there has to be a playoff, then let it be a sensible one (i.e. the same length as, say, the semi-final). Hockey playoffs aren't 20 minutes each way instead of 40, or table tennis playoffs 11 points instead of 21. Why are the bridge playoffs over a much truncated distance?

The fact that the bridge playoffs are much shorter (despite a medal being at stake) than any of the other matches indicates pretty clearly that they're being held because they "have to" be, rather than because anyone wants them to be. All the players to whom I spoke (including the bronze medal winners) said, with some vehemence, that the bronze medal playoff was a stupid idea. If there must be only one bronze medal, let it go to the team that loses its semi-final by the smaller margin. At least that way, teams are not likely to concede the semi-final with a set to go, which gives rise to chuntering of a different kind.

IBPA Editor: I was supporting the WBF's policy to have one bronze medal winner rather than two, by pointing out that all sports other than boxing had only one bronze medal.

A majority of players will always argue for double the number of medals just as a majority always ask for greater master point awards. It is the job of the authority giving an award to increase its status by restricting the number given out.

* *Eric Smets writes:* The Belgian Bridge Federation has two members: the "Flemish Bridge League" (Vlaamse Bridge Liga = VBL) and the "Ligue de Bridge Francophone" (= LBF). When sending information, copy to both: Belgian Bridge Federation: l.b.f@swing.be
Ligue de Bridge Francophone: same address
Flemish Bridge League: info@vbl.be

* *Ron Tacchi says:* My email address is now: rontacchi@aol.com

Note there is NOT an underscore in the name.

* *Vlad Racoviceanu reports* from a Romanian team contest in July, declarer Costel Lung:

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

West	North	East	South
	1	Pass	4
Pass	6	Dble	All Pass

West was not sure if East's double was lead-directing, so he began with 8. Lung finessed. If this lost he planned to discard two clubs on the diamonds, try to ruff clubs good, and if that failed rely on the heart finesse.

When the diamond finesse won the contract was safe. He drew trumps, and played a club to the nine endplaying East in three suits. Sad, in a way, that Q was onside!

At the other table South was in Four Spades on a heart lead. 12 tricks were made by playing low on the lead, and later guessing to take the diamond finesse through West.

IBPA Editor: Message to Vlad: I amended your analysis. Your English is fine, but your handwriting difficult to read. If you know someone who has email, you could save the postal expense and I would find it easier too.

* *Matt Granovetter says:* The book published by Bridge Plus and edited by Elena Jeronimidis called "The Joy of Bridge" is highly recommended. It includes a collection of bridge quizzes from a variety of writers. To order, contact your favorite bridge supply house or: bridgeplus@patrol.i-way.co.uk

* *David Bird has a new address:*
19 Bellflower Way, Chandlers Ford
Hants, UK SO53 4HN

It's a 5-bedroom one-year-old house, on the edge of a new estate and backing onto woodland. The main advantage from my point of view is that I

will have a spacious office to work from. Better than my previous pokey room, with the traffic thundering by.

* *Panos Gerontopoulos reports:* The World Junior Teams will be in Mangaratiba, Brazil (August 6-15). Players born in 1975 or later are eligible.

IBPA Editor: This tidies up the anomaly that players who qualified via a Zonal were allowed to play on the age limit for that Zonal, rather than the age limit for the year in which the World Championships took place.

The Erasmus European University Teams is in Rotterdam (Aug 12-19).

* *Herman de Wael of Belgium* expects a plug for his Fifth-Friday Simultaneous merely because the winners in September were Tony Ratcliff and Patrick Jourdain, playing at Penarth Bridge Club near Cardiff. Certainly not! It gets a mention for an entry of 231 pairs from a dozen countries, and the fact that it is run free of charge over the Internet.

Contact: hermandw@village.uunet.be

* *Bronius Zibaitis of Lithuania reports:* The 27th International Bridge Festival Vilnius Cup 2000 was held at the end of September. As usual, the tournament, sponsored by Vytautas Vainikonis, Chairman of the Lithuanian BA, consisted of Invitational Pairs, Open Pairs and Teams.

The Invitational Pairs (32 pairs) was won by Estonian masters Karpov-Laanaemae followed by Polish internationals Martens-Pietraszek and Balicki-Zmudzinski. The winners of the Open Pairs (74 pairs) were Balicki-Zmudzinski, Gardynik-Zaremba (all Poland) and Gromova-Szczepanska (Russia-Poland). The teams (32) was won by Balicki-Zmudzinski plus Russian masters Gromov-Petrounin.

Here is a deal from the Invitational Pairs where a young Russian master Kuznetsov showed his skill.

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

East and South passed, and West opened 1 to show his weak NT. North doubled, East passed, and N-S quickly landed in 4 played from South. West found the best lead of 7 won in dummy. A heart was led to the jack and West's queen. West continued with 10, again won in dummy. Declarer then played trump ace and a club to the queen. When both opponents followed suit (as expected from the carding), South played a small spade. West naturally played his jack and East had to win, leaving:

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

East 'naturally' played a diamond, and now the young Russian took his chance. The position of diamond king was more than evident, so he played the diamond ace followed by a heart ruff. Now a club (South discarding a diamond loser) squeezed West in three suits, including trumps! If West ruffs, he is endplayed. If he discards a heart, the king of hearts is going to be established while discarding a diamond allows the same to happen with the diamond suit.

Later analysis showed that the defence had two chances to beat the game. Either West had to do the "Crocodile", rising with K to swallow East's queen, so he could draw a third trump with the jack. West is endplayed, but only for the ninth trick. Or, in the diagrammed ending, East can beat the game by leading an unexpected heart. This forces declarer to ruff in dummy prematurely, killing the diamond suit because the ace has not been unblocked.

IBPA Editor: Congratulations on finding such an attractive ending. However, suppose declarer had ducked a trump at trick four. Then I don't think the defence can beat him. East does best to rise with the queen (brilliant!) and play a heart (even more brilliant). Declarer ruffs, unblocks ♦A, returns to dummy with ♠A, and then plays his last club,

discarding his diamond, to reach the same ending.

* *Danny Roth* is critical of the over-active bidding style that so often earns bad results. He quotes several examples from the September Bulletin starting with our Hand of the Year (page 2) where East opened second-in-hand, favourable vulnerability, with Two Hearts on:

Q J 8 4 Q J 8 4 3 2 3 7 6

helping Ramondt to reach 3NT and make it on an endplay and squeeze.

IBPA Editor: As East was Norberto Bocchi I suppose his riposte would be that as he is world champion his style can't be all that bad.

Roth continues with a third-in-hand opening at red from the European Juniors of 1 on:

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

helping opponent Marina Kelina to win the Levendaal award with a deep finesse in clubs.

IBPA Editor: *South was Bernardo Biondo, world junior champion, who might use the same riposte as Bocchi. Nevertheless, if world champions make active bids that help opponents, lesser mortals are probably choosing the wrong moment more often.*

* *Alan Truscott says:* My email server seems to be closing down. My new address is alantruscott@aol.com

Messages sent to my old address in October should be resent if you have not had a reply.

Responding to a query about the new African Zone from Dilip Gidwani, Ghana, Truscott says: AFRICAN BRIDGE FEDERATION. This was recognized in 2000 as Zone 8 of the World Bridge Federation. For the four previous years, it was a sub-zone of B.F.A.M.E. It has 10 member countries: Botswana; Egypt; Kenya; Mauritius; Morocco; Reunion; South Africa; Tanzania; and Zimbabwe. The total individual membership in 2000 was 3,978.

President 2000: Bharat Bhardwaj, P.O.Box 41625 Nairobi, Kenya.

Tel: 254 2 211 454; Fax: 254 2 221 219

END