

The continuing lack of a website for the European Bridge League is growing as a problem. The last edition of the EBL Review came out a year ago, and the EBL Calendar for 2001 normally due out last month was also not published. The idea that world- or continent-wide communication is cheaper via the Internet than via the printed page and high international land-mail costs, is sound (with obvious long-term implications for our own publication). But it would have better if the Internet replacement had been functioning *before* the other publications ceased to exist, rather than still be missing a year later.

The EBL Review, like World Bridge News for the WBF, fulfilled these roles: an official record for the EBL (both bridge results and administrative matters); news about forthcoming EBL events; and a shop window for increasing the profile of the EBL. These needs still exist. The Internet, in theory, can provide a better service as it can be updated throughout the year, rather than once every six months. But at the moment there is nothing official to fulfill this role. Web-surfers seeking information about the EBL or its events are reliant on picking up bits and pieces here and there, for example, from Anna Gudge's website: www.ecatsbridge.com.

When the EBL website is up and running it will also need to fill the year's gap in the archives, gathering in one place the results of all European Championships since those reported in the last EBL Review.

And that leads to another topic ... lack of Editorial control over many existing websites. How easily can you find the specific piece of information you are seeking? Those who start websites to provide information, but without the constraints of space-limitation, have as great a need for the Editorial function as traditional magazines. So when the EBL website does start up, let's hope it meets the need of the enquirer efficiently.

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The IBPA Clippings Competition for e-bridge has now closed for entries. If you have more clippings mentioning e-bridge send them direct to David Birman. Other clippings mentioning sponsors of world championships should be sent to the office of José Damiani.

Patrick Jourdain - Editor

ZIA - ROBSON RETAIN CAP GEMINI

Hotel des Indes, The Hague January 18-21, 2001 by Anders Wirgren (Swe) & Mark Horton (Eng)

Results : (Last column: prize money in '000 guilders)

1. Zia Mahmood–Andrew Robson (USA-GB) 859 20
2. Steve Garner – Howard Weinstein (USA) 838 12
3. Krzysztof Jassem – Piotr Tuszynski (Pol) 787 7
4. Franky Karwur – Denny Sacul (Indonesia) 786 5
5. Diego Brenner – Gabriel Chagas (Brazil) 784 3.5
6. Daniela von Arnim – Sabine Auken (Ger) 768 2.5
7. Tony Forrester – Geir Helgemo (GB, Nor) 748
8. Eric Greco – Geoff Hampson (USA) 745
9. Wubbo de Boer – Bauke Muller (Net) 744
10. Benito Garozzo – Antonio Sementa (Ita) 743
11. Gunnar Hallberg – Colin Simpson (Eng) 732
12. Enri Leufkens – Berry Westra (Net) 724
13. Anton Maas – Vincent Ramondt (Net) 706
14. Paul Chemla – Alain Levy (France) 695
15. Zvi Engel – Guy van Middeltem (Bel) 676
16. Pablo Lambardi – Carlos Lucena (Arg) 615

Anders Wirgren reports:

Last year, the *Cap Gemini World Top Pairs 2000* was won by Zia Mahmood, of Pakistan, USA (and the world) and Andrew Robson, Great Britain, after overtaking the leaders, Americans Steve Weinstein and Bobby Levin, in the very last round. In this year's edition, *Cap Gemini Ernst & Young World Top Invitational 2001*, Weinstein is again in the lead with one match to go, but now it is Howard (not Steve), partnered by Steve Garner, one of the hottest American pairs of today. And just to prove that history always repeats itself, Mahmood/Robson do what they did last year and overtake the leaders at the wire.

Before the last match, Weinstein/Garner have 801, Mahmood/Robson 792. Then, this board, the first of Round 15, is placed on the tables:

Board 15	“ 7 6 4		
Dealer: North	' 7 4 3		
N/S Game	♠ J 7 3		
	§ Q 10 8 2		
“ A 3 2		“ K Q 10 8 5	
' A K 10 8 5 2		' J 9	
♠ Q 4		♠ A K 9 6 2	
§ J 7		§ 4	
	“ J 9		
	' Q 6		
	♠ 10 8 5		
	§ A K 9 6 5 3		

West	North	East	South
<i>Garner</i>	<i>Chagas</i>	<i>Weinstein</i>	<i>Brenner</i>
	Pass	1 [♠]	Pass
2 [']	Pass	3 [♠]	Pass
3 [“]	Pass	4 [“]	All Pass

At the leaders' table, Weinstein/Garner get off to a bad start by missing an excellent slam against the Brazilian partnership of Gabriel Chagas, North, and Diego Brenner, South.

In their “two over one forcing to game” style, the 3[♠] rebid might be a full-value high reverse but it doesn't guarantee much extra high-card strength. Because of this, over Garner's 3[“] preference, Weinstein contents himself with 4[“] to show a minimum. The problem with such a bulky rebid is that West doesn't get another below-game chance. And here he needs one. Therefore, many expert pairs agree to have two ways of inviting slam over a forcing three-of-a-major: 3NT or a cue-bid, with one of them showing only mild slam interest. My guess is that Weinstein and Garner will consider adopting such a strategy before they return for next year's World Top Pairs.

At the contenders' table, Mahmood/Robson are North-South against the perennial third-place finishers, Krzysztof Jassem-Piotr Tuszynski of Poland.

West	North	East	South
<i>Jassem</i>	<i>Robson</i>	<i>Tuszynski</i>	<i>Mahmood</i>
	Pass	1 [“]	Pass
2 [']	Pass	2 [“]	Pass
4 [“]	Pass	5§	Pass
5 [']	Pass	6 [“]	All Pass

The Poles reach 6[“], (only two other pairs managed this). Tuszynski takes a dramatically different view of his cards to Weinstein. In effect, he drives to slam when he squeezes a heart cue-bid out of Jassem. Perhaps there is a middle ground, but Tuszynski has little room to manoeuvre over the bulky raise to 4[“].

After losing the first trick to the § A, declarer easily has the rest. It looks like the Americans will extend their lead by a few IMPs. Do you agree?

Don't! The result that is posted is 6[“] down one! Mahmood/Robson gain 12 IMPs on the board, while Weinstein/Garner lose 3 IMPs. It seems almost impossible to go down without a mechanical error like a revoke or an accidentally dropped card. But that is not what transpires. The result is legitimate. And declarer's line is not only reasonable but also perhaps the indicated one.

Before reading on, try to figure out what takes place to bring about this shocking result . . .

Zia leads two rounds of clubs. Tuszynski ruffs the second and lays down the “ K, on which Zia drops the *jack* – partly because he's Zia, partly because it couldn't cost.

Tuszynski stares at the " J and decides to take it at face value. If spades really are four-one, drawing trumps requires either three-three diamonds (or the jack-ten doubleton) or the ' Q onside. That's not bad, but to declarer it looks better to hope for diamonds simply no worse than four-two. Accordingly, he cashes the ♠ Q and the ♠ A and ruffs a diamond with the " A. Then he leads dummy's last trump and – sticking to his original plan – finesses the " 8 . . .

And, just like a magician, Zia pulls the " 9 out of his hat, tables his cards, and claims one down. When Tuszynski sees the ' Q in Zia's hand, he must be wondering, "Why didn't I cash the heart honours first?" If so, of course, there would be no story.

If the slam makes, the datum would be N/S minus 930 (instead of the actual N/S minus 805). Zia/Robson would lose 11 IMPs (instead of winning 12), and Weinstein/Garner would lose 6 IMPs (instead of losing 3). As the final margin between the pairs is 21 IMPs, Zia/Robson would still win . . . by 1 IMP. So, on a strictly arithmetical basis, the match is not decided on this board only, but in practice it is. After such a start, Mahmood/Robson simply couldn't lose.

Mark Horton, Editor of Bridge Magazine, reports:

Zia Mahmood and Andrew Robson made history when they became the first pair to retain this prestigious title. Zia gave everyone hope by announcing his retirement from bridge at the prize giving – in about twenty years time! Andrew Robson revealed he had spotted a car in London sporting the number plate CAP2. Clearly an Omen!

Three new pairs in the top six and the tremendous effort of the German ladies, who fought their way through the field after ending the first day in last place, made this a tournament to savour. Notwithstanding the pedigree of the contestants, a slam deal can still cause the points to fly in all directions.

Dealer: West " J 10 7 5 2

Game All] —
 { A J 5 2
 } 10 6 4 3

[K Q 6 4	[A 8 3
] 10 7 4 2] A K Q J 8 3
{ —	{ 10 3
} A J 9 8 2	} K 5

[9
] 9 6 5
 { K Q 9 8 7 6 4
 } Q 7

West	North	East	South
<i>Lucena</i>	<i>Chagas</i>	<i>Lambardi</i>	<i>Brenner</i>
Pass	Pass	1}*	1{
1[*	4{	4]	5{
6{	Pass	7]	All Pass

Gabriel Chagas, who has an excellent record in this event, was playing with a new young talent from Brazil, Diego Brenner.

South was able to make a natural overcall over East's Blue Club, and West's response promised three controls. Chagas took away some room and East introduced his suit. South tried some further obstruction, but West was not to be denied, showing his first round diamond control at the six level, which was all East needed to know. Bidding the Grand slam was worth 6 IMPs.

The Argentineans were by no means the only pair to reach the top spot.

West	North	East	South
<i>Zia</i>	<i>Hallberg</i>		<i>Robson</i> <i>Simpson</i>
Pass	Pass	1]	Pass
4{*	Dble	Pass	5{
Pass	Pass	5[Pass
6}	Pass	7]	All Pass

But, elsewhere:

West	North	East	South
<i>Von Arnim</i>		<i>Van Middel</i> <i>Auken</i>	<i>Engel</i>
Pass	Pass	1}*	2{
3}	5{	Pass*	Pass
Dble	All Pass		

South made a weak jump overcall of the Strong Club, and when West made a natural positive, North raised the ante. At this point a double from East would have been 'action' rather than penalty, so it was not at all obvious how West-East should continue. Credit the 18 IMPs this cost to the effective North-South intervention.

Balancing is an area of the game where experts generally excel, but things do not always go according to plan.

Dealer: West " K Q J
 Love all ' A 10 9 7 5
 ♠ J 8
 § Q 10 3

" 5 3	" 9 7 4 2
' 8 2	' K Q 6 4 3
♠ A Q 10 9 3	♠ K 6
§ K 9 8 4	§ J 6

“ A 10 8 6
 ' J
 ♠ 7 5 4 2
 § A 7 5 2

} 7 2
 [2 [K 9 7 4
] 6 2] Q 10 3
 { J 10 8 6 4 { 2
 } AKQ 8 3 } J 9 6 5 4
 [Q J 10 8 6
] AK 9
 { AKQ 3
 } 10

West	North	East	South
<i>Helgemo</i>		<i>Weinstein</i>	<i>Forrester</i>
	<i>Garner</i>		
Pass	1'	Pass	1"
Pass	2"	Pass	Pass
Dble	Pass	2NT	Dble
Pass	Pass	Redble	Pass
3♠	Pass	Pass	Dble End

North-South had shown a fit, so in theory it was reasonably safe for West to reopen. However, the enemies guns opened fire at once, and Helgemo finished up in a very poor spot.

Weinstein led the king of spades and continued with the queen, overtaken by Garner who switched to his singleton heart. North won and returned the ten of hearts for South to ruff. Declarer ruffed the spade return and tried a low club. North went in with the queen and played a third heart, ruffed and overruffed. A club went to South's ace and he returned his last spade. When declarer ruffed with the ten North could overruff for +500.

West	North	East	South
<i>Brenner</i>	<i>van Middeltem</i>	<i>Chagas</i>	<i>Engel</i>
Pass	1'	Pass	1"
Dble	Pass	1NT	Dble
All Pass			

Do you prefer Brenner's early re-entry into the auction? It certainly worked better, as after South had led the jack of hearts taken by North's ace there was no way to prevent declarer from arriving at seven tricks for +180.

One of the secrets of being a top class declarer is having the ability to take advantage of a defensive error.

Dealer: South [A 5 3
 Game All] J 8 7 5 4
 { 9 7 5

West	North	East	South
<i>De Boer</i>	<i>Tuszynski</i>		<i>Muller</i> <i>Jassem</i>
			1§*
1♠	Pass	Pass	1"
2§	2"	3§	4"
All Pass			

Four Spades is clearly in jeopardy if the defenders start a forcing game, and the contract usually failed. Here West started with two rounds of the suit and declarer ruffed and ran the queen of spades. If East wins this and returns a spade declarer can win and establish the hearts, but then a trump return ensures that when a heart is played East can ruff, leaving declarer with a losing diamond.

When East made the reflex play of ducking the queen of spades, Jassem was quick to spot his chance. He cashed the top hearts and then cashed the ace of diamonds, removing East's exit card. Now he conceded a heart to East, who was endplayed. He tried a trump, but declarer won in hand, crossed to the ace of spades and played a winning heart. East could ruff, but declarer's losing diamond went away.

Zia adopted an unusual approach on the South hand.

West	North	East	South
<i>Von Arnim</i>		<i>Robson</i>	<i>Auken</i> <i>Zia</i>
			2}* 2}* Pass 4] All Pass

At most of the tables South opened One Spade and the heart suit was not in the picture. Zia picked the perfect moment for his shaded opening as West's overcall, which promised

spades or both minors, combined with East's preemptive leap to put South off mentioning his spades.

East led her singleton diamond and declarer won with the ace and played a club. West won and switched to her spade, but declarer put up the ace, ruffed a club, cashed the top hearts and claimed ten tricks and the same number of IMPs.

It was the Polish/Franco chess grandmaster Dr. Saville Tartakower who coined the phrase 'The mistakes are all there, waiting to be made'. That applies equally well to bridge, but whereas in chess one mistake is usually fatal, in bridge some mistakes are more expensive than others.

Dealer: North [A 7 3
 Love all] J
 { K 8 7 2
 } A 10 9 8 2
 [Q 9 5 [10 8 6 4 2
] A 10 3] Q 9 5 4 2
 { A J 9 5 { 6
 } K J 6 } 5 4
 [K J
] K 8 7 6
 { Q 10 4 3
 } Q 7 3

West	North	East	South
<i>Garner</i>	<i>Maas</i>	<i>Weinstein</i>	<i>Ramondt</i>
	1}	Pass	1]
Pass	1NT	All Pass	

East led the four of spades and declarer tried the jack, taking West's queen with the ace and playing a diamond to the queen and ace. West played a spade to dummy's king, and declarer ran the seven of clubs. When that held he played the queen of clubs, covered by the king and ace. He cleared the clubs, and West exited with a spade, allowing East to cash three winners in the suit.

That left this ending:

[—
] J
 { K
 } 10 9

[— [—
] A 10 3] Q 9 5 4
 { J { —
 } — } —
 [—
] K 8 7
 { 3
 } —

North was known to hold five clubs and three spades, and had played one diamond and discarded two more. He was therefore marked with 3-1-4-5, and East should play the queen of hearts. When he selected the four, declarer knew it was possible East had made a mistake, but which one?

Maas put up the king and was three down, -150, which cost 4 IMPs and probably a certain amount of annoyance. Later on Howard Weinstein told me he knew Maas would go up with the king, and he didn't want to miss the extra under trick if his partner held 'AJ10.

Making a potential error when defending at the one level does not usually cost much, but when the opponents are in a grand slam a defensive slip can be expected to be more expensive.

Dealer: South [—
 Game All] K
 { 10 9 8 3
 } A K Q 9 8 7 6 4
 [8 7 4 [K Q 6 3 2
] Q 8 3 2] 9 7 6 5 4
 { K Q 4 { J 2
 } 10 5 2 } J
 [A J 10 9 5
] A J 10
 { A 7 6 5
 } 3

West	North	East	South
<i>Garner</i>	<i>Maas</i>	<i>Weinstein</i>	<i>Ramondt</i>
		Pass	1[
Pass	2}	Pass	3[*
Pass	4]*	Pass	4NT*
Pass	7}	All Pass	

Three Spades promised five spades, four diamonds and short clubs. North established that South had three aces and took his chances.

East led the king of spades and declarer won with the ace, ruffed a spade and started on the trump suit. East's first discard was the four of hearts, his second was the five of hearts and his third was the three of spades. On this trick West discarded the four of diamonds. On the next club, East parted with the jack of diamonds, and that was a card he could not afford.

Declarer ran all his clubs to reach this ending with West still to discard:

```

          [ —
          ] K
          { 10 9 8
          } —

[ —           [ Q 6
] Q 8 3       ] 9 7
{ K Q         { —
} —           } —

          [ —
          ] A J 10
          { A
          } —

```

As you can see, West was caught in a classic criss cross squeeze. +2140 more than made up for the -150 on the previous board!

The grand slam was also reached at Zia's table:

West	North	East	South
<i>Zia</i>	<i>Hampson</i>		<i>Robson Greco</i>
			1[
Pass	2}	Pass	2{
Pass	4}	Pass	4]*
Pass	5{*	Pass	5]*
Pass	7}	All Pass	

Once North showed a solid club suit with his jump to Four Clubs, South checked on key cards and then made a grand slam try that North was happy to accept. East led the queen of spades, and declarer won, ruffed a spade and set about the clubs.

In due course East parted with a diamond, so once again the slam was made. Zia thought he should have discarded the king of diamonds at an early stage, but it would

still require East to work out that his diamonds were the vital cards.

No one else attempted the thirteen trick contract, but Six Clubs was an almost universal effort elsewhere. The interesting table was:

West	North	East	South
<i>Lucena</i>	<i>Karwur</i>		<i>Lambardi</i>
			<i>Sacul</i>
			1[
Pass	2}	Pass	2{
Pass	3}	Pass	3NT
Pass	4}	Pass	4{
Dble	Redble	Pass	4]
Pass	6}	All Pass	

West's double saw East leading the jack of diamonds. Although there was a risk that West might be able to overtake and give his partner a ruff, declarer played low from dummy and won the diamond continuation with the ace.

The contract can now be made by taking the ace of spades and then running the trumps to catch West in a red suit squeeze, but when declarer forgot to cash dummy's black ace he could not recover. One down cost 16 IMPs.

If declarer goes up with the ace of diamonds at trick one he can make the contract in an elegant way by cashing the ace of spades and then running the trumps. Once again West will not be able to withstand the pressure, and if he reduces to just one diamond and two hearts, declarer can cash the king of hearts and exit with a diamond, using West as a stepping stone to dummy's ace of hearts.

Gunnar Hallberg and Colin Simpson, who had been members of the winning team in the final of the English trials the week before, were making their debut in The Hague. In Round 8 they broke the long standing tournament record for the highest score in one match, amassing 110 points against the luckless Argentinians.

Dealer: South " 7 6 3
 N/S Game ' A 9
 ♠ K Q J 10 7 2
 § A 6
 " J 9 5 " Q 2
 ' K Q 10 3 ' J 8 7
 ♠ 8 5 4 3 ♠ 9 6
 § J 7 § K Q 10 9 4 3
 " A K 10 8 4
 ' 6 5 4 2

♠ A
 § 8 5 2

West	North	East	South
<i>Simpson</i>		<i>Lambardi</i>	<i>Hallberg</i>
		<i>Lucena</i>	
			1"
Pass	2♠	Pass	2'
Pass	3§	Dble	Pass
Pass	Redble	All Pass	

North thought he was simply showing the ace of clubs. South took a different view that cost -2200.

One pair has the unique distinction of having taken part in every single edition of this amazing event, the remarkable Berry Westra and Enri Leufkens, whose partnership has survived the test of time.

The famous Dutchmen can be easily identified at the bridge table, as Berry Westra always occupies the West seat - well unless they are playing North/South!

Dealer: West [A K 8 6 4
 Love all] 7
 { K J 8 6
 } K Q 10
 [5 [Q J 10 9 7 3
 2] J 4 3] 10 2
 { Q 10 9 7 { 4
 } A 8 7 6 2 } 9 5 4
 [—
] A K Q 9 8 6 5
 { A 5 3 2
 } J 3

West	North	East	South
<i>Westra</i>	<i>v. Middel</i>	<i>Leufkens</i>	<i>Engel</i>
Pass	1[Pass	3]
Pass	3NT	Pass	4{*
Pass	5]	Pass	6]
		End	

An efficient auction to a sensible spot, but the play's the thing. If Berry had led the ace of clubs or his singleton spade the play would have been over very quickly, but he selected the ten of diamonds. Declarer put in the jack and realised he might have a problem if both

red suits were 4-1. In that scenario he could play his top trumps and then try to go back to dummy with a diamond. It would be ruffed and the ace of clubs cashed. However there was an easy counter as declarer could cash the top spades and get rid of his losing clubs. Or so it seemed.

West ruffed the second spade and played a diamond for his partner to ruff. One down! South was surely the victim of outrageous fortune.

When the last day started, Zia and Robson enjoyed a reasonable lead, but they had to play the second placed Poles, Jassem and Tuszynski, in the last round. A big win in Round 13 looked to have sealed a sixth victory for Zia and a third for Robson, but they lost in the next round as Garner and Weinstein amazingly broke the one day old scoring record with an incredible 112 – coincidentally against the hapless Argentinians. It looked as if the holders would be denied a first ever repeat victory.

Deception is a weapon that is in the armoury of all the best card players. Even when the defenders are of the highest class they can sometimes be deflected from the right path.

Dealer: East	“ K Q		
Game All	' 8 6 3		
	♠ Q J 4 2		
	§ Q 9 7 6		
	“ J 5	“ 10 9 7 6 2	
	' K 10 9 7	' A Q 5 2	
	♠ 9 8 6 5 3	♠ 7	
	§ K 3	§ J 8 5	
	“ A 8 4 3		
	' J 4		
	♠ A K 10		
	§ A 10 4 2		

West	North	East	South
Chemla	Robson	Levy	Zia
		Pass	1NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Everyone reached this contract and went down, losing four hearts and a club. Chemla

led the eight of diamonds and Zia won with dummy's queen in order to play a heart to the jack! West won and switched to the jack of spades. Declare won in dummy and played a club to the ten and king. Chemla's usually acute sense of danger deserted him for once and when he played back a spade Zia had ten tricks and 12 IMPs.

Horton concluded with the deal also reported by Wirgren (see first hand), adding this point about Zia's false card: *“Rest assured that Zia would also have played the jack from ♥J9x.”*

IBPA Column Service

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

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Dlr: East " A K 9 5
 Vul: Both ' A 2
 ♠ 10 7 6 4 2
 § Q 2

" Q 3 " J 8 6 4 2
 ' Q J 7 ' K 9
 ♠ A Q J 9 ♠ 8 5 3
 § J 10 8 7 § 9 6 3

" 10 7
 ' 10 8 6 5 4 3
 ♠ K
 § A K 5 4

West	North	East	South
		Pass	Pass
1♠	1"	Pass	2'
Pass	3'	Pass	4'
All Pass			

On this deal from the 1999 San Antonio Nationals North-South have an ill-fitting 23 count, but 4' has some decent play. However, South has to be very careful on the § J lead. The point is not entirely obvious, but if declarer takes his club ruff and then cashes the ' A and tries to get off dummy, West will gain the lead and play the fourth club. That lets East score his ' K and sets the hand, because West gets two further trump tricks. If South tries to exit from dummy at the critical moment by leading spades, West overruffs on the third round of the suit and gets the same trump promotion on the lead of the fourth club.

The winning line for declarer is to lead a diamond (this is a sort of Scissors Coup) at trick two. South wins the minor suit return, ruffs a club, and unblocks the ' A. Now he can ruff a diamond to hand to play a second trump, and has killed the trump promotion.

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Sometimes it seems possible to make a very large amount of bricks from surprisingly little straw. Witness the following fine declarer play exhibition by Craig Gower of South Africa, from this year's Cavendish Teams tournament.

Dlr: East " J 5 3
 Vul: E/W ' A J 8 7
 ♠ 10 9 7
 § Q 7 5

" ---- " Q 10 9 8 7 6 2
 ' K 9 3 2 ' 5 4
 ♠ K Q J 6 4 3 2 ♠ 8
 § K 9 § J 10 6
 " A K 4
 ' Q 10 6
 ♠ A 5
 § A 8 4 3 2

West	North	East	South
<i>Schulle</i>	<i>Convery</i>	<i>Sosler</i>	<i>Gower</i>
		2"	2NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

North-South look destined to reach Three No-trumps, whether or not East pre-empts, unless they can stop off to double their opponents if they go overboard in diamonds. However, when the defence to 3NT starts by clearing the diamonds, nine tricks seem a long way off. Nonetheless, in the match between the teams captained by Chu and Sosler both tables reached 3NT, and did remarkably well.

When Craig Gower as South was declarer, West led a top diamond. Craig took the second diamond, led the queen of hearts, covered by the king and ace, and then played off the top spades to try to exert a little pressure on West. When she pitched two diamonds, Gower worked out why, and guessed to take the heart finesse. Now he cashed out the hearts, and threw West in with a diamond to lead clubs, for his ninth trick. Remarkably, this was for a 4-imp loss, since David Berkowitz had made the same play in 3NT doubled in the other room, to land nine tricks.

Note that if West had smoothly bared the § K early on, declarer would almost certainly have misjudged the play.

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One of the secrets of good defence is to make life hard for declarer by forcing him to commit to a line of play before he has a full picture of the hand. Here is an example where the defence have a choice of making life easy or hard for declarer.

Dlr: West “ A K J 7
 Vul: Both ' K 10
 ♠ K 3 2
 § A K 10 4

“ 6 5 “ Q 10 8 4 2
 ' A 8 7 4 3 ' Q J 6 2
 ♠ A 8 ♠ 7 6
 § Q J 7 5 § 9 3

“ 9 3
 ' 9 5
 ♠ Q J 10 9 5 4
 § 8 6 2

West	North	East	South
1'	Dble	3'	Pass
Pass	Dble	Pass	5♠
All Pass			

When North doubles for a second time, South may just bid 4♠ and collect 130 or 150. But if South decides his six-card suit is worth a shot at game (a tad aggressively) he will play 5♠, most probably on the lead of the ' A. Now what?

In these situations the defence must put declarer to the guess at once rather than to let him test things in the order that he would prefer.

Best defence is for West to shift to a low club at trick two -- forcing South to finesse at once to make the hand. The point is that if West instead exits passively in spades or a red suit, declarer could test spades first by playing ace-king and ruffing a spade, and when that fails, he knows to take the double club finesse for his only chance to make the hand.

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Dlr: West “ Q 8 5 4 3
 Vul: None ' J
 ♠ A K 7 5 4 2
 § 8

“ J 10 7 “ K 9 6 2
 ' A K Q 8 7 6 5 3 ' 10 9 4 2
 ♠ 3 ♠ Q 9 6
 § J § 9 7

“ A
 ' ----
 ♠ J 10 8
 § A K Q 10 6 5 4 3 2

West	North	East	South
4'	4"	Pass	6§
Pass	Pass	6'	7§
All Pass			

On this freak deal N/S can easily make 6§, and in fact it looks as if the grand slam is unlucky to go down when diamonds fail to behave. By contrast, E/W's sacrifice in hearts makes ten tricks easily enough, so that -300 in 6' may even be a good save against the N/S game.

However, the Grand Slam in clubs has some intriguing possibilities. The point of the play in the grand slam on a heart lead is that there is little point in trying to ruff out the king of spades. Once West turns up with a likely eight-card heart suit and one club, running the trumps while reducing to a four-card ending without unblocking the ace of spades does nasty things to the East hand. In the four-card ending declarer has three diamonds in hand with the ace of spades, and the two top diamonds in dummy together with the queen-doubleton of spades, and East must either bare the king of spades or come down to only two diamonds. As is typical in a criss-cross squeeze, declarer has the rest -- all he has to do is to read the position; it will be up to South to pick the position by cashing out in the right order.

Two Hands for You
Sveindal (Norway)

By Jon

It rarely pays to save vulnerable against not when an opponent has opened a strong club and received a positive answer from his partner – particularly not at the six-level with a combined 12-point count! But this board played at a local bridge club in Moss recently, proved once and for all that the value of honor cards may be overestimated.

Dealer: South “ K 10 5 4
 E/W Game ' Q J 8 7 5
 ♠ 5
 § K Q J
 “ J 9 7 6 3 “ None
 ' None ' 6 4
 ♠ A Q 10 9 8 4 ♠ J 7 6 3 2
 § 6 4 § A 10 9 7 5 3
 “ A Q 8 2
 ' A K 10 9 3 2
 ♠ K
 § 8 2

South	West	North	East
	<i>Terje Garseg</i>		<i>Egil Hansen</i>
1§	1♠	1'	2♠
4'	4"	Dble	5♠
5'	Pass	Pass	6♠
Dble	All pass		

1§ was Precision

With North declaring a heart contract, East-West could set 5 hearts once by means of a spade ruff in addition to the two minor aces. However, Egil Hansen in the East seat didn't think 6♠ would be expensive – and right he was! There was nothing the defence could do to prevent Terje Garseg from writing 12 tricks and 1540 in the results column.

My partner Helge Hantveit chose to bid once more on this board from the Bergen Teams Championships, and a friendly lay-out helped me make game after an interesting end-play.

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

South	West	North	East
<i>Sveindal</i>		<i>Brogeland</i>	<i>Hantveit</i>
		<i>Sælensminde</i>	
Pass	1'	Dble	Pass
1NT	Pass	2NT(!)	Pass
3NT	All pass		

Boye Brogeland led a small heart, and Erik Sælensminde was allowed to win the king and the jack. Having discarded a club and a spade in dummy, I won the third round of hearts with the ace. My only chance was to make four diamond tricks, and West had to let go a club and a spade while I cashed them. If he had thrown a heart, it would not have been difficult to make the contract by means of four black tricks. Dummy threw another spade, and I played § 8. If Brogeland uses the king, the ace and jack of clubs take the next tricks. Then West is put in with a heart, and eventually has to lead away from his spade king for my ninth trick. When he played low, I let East in on the ten. The ace won the spade return, and three club tricks saw me home.

ST JOHN'S WOOD CHRISTMAS AUCTION

Martin Andressen, the Norwegian footballer who joined Wimbledon FC for £1.8 million, (but now expected to return to his Norwegian Club Stabaek) is a new player in TGR's £10 per 100 game. He also competed in the Christmas Auction partnering football coach Rune Hauge. Kitty Teltscher reports in Bridge Plus a hand, which, for publicity reasons, is a possible candidate for our Defence of the Year Award:

It's that time of year, Christmas lights decorating Oxford Street, trees and decorations being sold on street corners and for bridge players it's the St John's Wood Bridge Club Auction Pairs event. Over £7,500 was raised. Zia Mahmood partnered Emma Lamarque, (IBPA Ed: *daughter of the Scottish Lord Dulmaney*). Glamour and sport was represented by Martin Andressen, the young Norwegian professional footballer. Though having taken the game up very recently, Martin is showing great flair, as he demonstrated on the following hand, defending as East:

Dealer: West " 10 9 3 2
 Love all ' 2
 ♠ K 10 5 3 2
 § K J 4
 " K 6 " A Q 8 4
 ' 9 8 ' 10 7 5 3
 ♠ A 7 6 ♠ Q J 8 4
 § A 8 7 6 5 2 § 9
 " J 7 5
 ' A K Q J 6 4
 ♠ 9
 § Q 10 3

West North East South
 1§ 1♠ Pass 2' End

Rune Hauge led his king of spades, which Martin overtook with his Ace to return his singleton club. Hauge won the ace and, worried that Andersen might try to put him back in with the " Q he did not have, gave him a ruff with the *two* of clubs, to suggest ♠ A.

However, Martin, who held " Q himself, cashed it (sigh of relief from Rune), gave his partner a spade ruff, received another club ruff and played a diamond to the Ace. This inspired defence

defeated 2' by two for a complete top. The results:

1. Norman & Richard Selway 69.39%
2. Zia Mahmood - Emma Lamarque 66.17%
3. J Alper and David Sellman 61.23%

**ZIA'S ALL STARS RETAINED LEDERER
MEMORIAL TROPHY**

Young Chelsea BC, London, 4-5th November 2000

1. **Zia's All Stars** (Zia Mahmood, Andrew Robson, Gunnar Hallberg, Colin Simpson) 259
2. **Crockford's Winners** (Michelle Brunner, John Holland, John Hassett, Bill Hirst) 243
3. **1999 Gold Cup** (Martin Jones, Howard Melbourne, Gary Hyett, Jeremy Dhondy) 241
4. **Ireland** (Tom Hanlon, Hugh McGann, Pat Walshe, Peter Crouch) 238
5. **England** (David Burn, Brian Callaghan, Nicola Smith, Heather Dhondy, Joe Fawcett, Glyn Liggins) 212
6. **London** (Su Burn, Phil King, Rob Cliffe, Ian Payn, David Bakhshi, Andrew McIntosh) 181
7. **Norway** (Boye Brogeland, Espen Erichsen, Tomas Charlsen, Erik Saelensminde) 177
8. **President's Team** (Bernard Teltscher, Tony Priday, Willie Coyle, Victor Silverstone, David Edwin, Geoffrey Breskal, Steve Eginton) 129

Best Bid Hand: Erik Saelensminde & Tomas Charlsen (Norway)

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

Norway v. Gold Cup Winners

West	North	East	South
Charlsen	Saelensminde		
		1'	1"
2§	2"	3♣	3"
Pass	Pass	4§	Pass
4"	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♣	Pass	6§	All Pass

4" was an improvised slam try in clubs, 4NT RKCB and 5♣ showed one key.

The defence led a spade and there were no further problems in the play. On a trump lead, declarer would set up the hearts: ' A, heart ruff, spade won by North, second trump, heart ruff (king falls), claim.

Best Played Hand: Victor Silverstone (President's Team)

Dealer: West " K J 10 7
 E/W Game ' A K 5
 ♠ 6 3
 § J 9 6 2
 " A 2 " Q 9 8
 ' 3 ' Q J 8 6 4 2
 ♣ 9 5 4 ♣ A K Q 10
 § A K Q 7 5 4 3 § None
 " 6 5 4 3
 ' 10 9 7
 ♣ J 8 7 2
 § 10 8

President's v. Norway

West	North	East	South
Silverstone	S'minde	Coyle	Charlsen
1§	Dble	1'	Pass
1NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Victor Silverstone, in 3NT as West, received " Q lead. He cashed ♣ AKQ, North discarding ' 5, and Silverstone continued with ♠ 10 discarding § 4 from his own hand. North, unsuspecting, also discarded a club!. Silverstone now emerged with ten tricks where every other declarer bar one (who received ' A lead) went off.

IBPA Editor: I find this surprising. On the bidding, the spades are very likely to be 4-4 with North holding both ♦AK, so the hand can be made simply (though counter-habit) by entering hand with a spade to the ace at trick two and playing a heart. You don't need ♠AKQ. You make four hearts, three diamonds, and two spades whilst the defence can make only two spades and two hearts.

You can afford to cash one club if you wish, (you still have only nine tricks) but must not cash a second, or North gets a club trick going in time.

Most Humorous Incident: Colin Simpson (All Stars), for reporting a story against himself. The Olympiad semifinalist arrived at a table with Andrew Robson, Nicola Smith, and Heather Dhondy surrounded by spectators awaiting Zia. When Simpson told the players they were at the wrong table, they moved and so did every spectator!

Best Defence: Howard Melbourne & Gary Hyett ('99 Gold Cup Winners)

“ Q 4	“ A 5 3 2	“ K J 9
' J 7	' A Q 10 9 6 3	' K 8 5 4
♠ A K Q 7 5 3 2	♠ 8	♠ 9 6 4
§ 7 2	§ A Q	§ 9 5 3
	“ 10 8 7 6	
	' 2	
	♠ J 10	
	§ K J 10 8 6 4	

1999 Gold Cup Winners v. London

West	North	East	South
<i>Cliffe</i>	<i>Melbourne</i>	<i>Payn</i>	<i>Hyett</i>
		Pass	Pass
1♠	1'	1NT	2§
3NT	Dble	All Pass	

It seems strange to give as Best Defence a hand where the defence have eight top tricks to cash, but it would have been easy to let it home, or perhaps one off where other tables were making a major suit game North-South.

South led his singleton heart. Melbourne won the ace, and bravely switched to § AQ, Hyett remembering to overtake!

The penalty was 1100, a 10 IMP gain even though team-mates had let 4' make +1.

* *Christine Francin reports:* The Worldwide Simultaneous Pairs will be held on Friday , 1st June and Saturday, 2nd June. Applications for clubs to hold heats should be sent to Anna Gudge. Further details later on www.worldbridge.org

* A member of the Portland Bridge Club, London, Stuart Wheeler, founder of the spread-betting firm IG Index, has donated £5 million to the British Conservative Party for its forthcoming election campaign. This represents a third of the amount the Party can spend on the campaign. Friends who each lent Wheeler £5,000 in 1974 to start IG Index were repaid £4,900 early on. The balance of £100, kept as shares, is now worth £10 million each.

Wheeler, who has competed in recent British bridge tournaments, is also a keen poker-player.

* *José Oliveira adds to his information about the Spanish Bridge Federation:* The e-mail address: <aebridge@arrakis.es> has been out of service for some time, although may be back now. Javier Valmaceda, the Secretary of the Spanish NBO, tells me that the following addresses should be used until further notice:

<javalma@arrakis.es>
<www.aebridge.com>

* Brian Senior has a new e-mail address for himself and Nevena:
bsenior@thefreeinternet.co.uk

* *Ernesto d'Orsi* has a new address:
R. Eng. Isaac Milder, 374 ap. 61
05688-010 - SÃO PAULO - S.P. Brazil.
The same address can be used for the Confederação Brasileira de Bridge (Brazilian Bridge Federation)
e-mail: EDorsi@interprint.com.br

* *Danny Roth* says he disapproves (ethically and bridge-wise) of Louk Verhees's use of psychic Exclusion Blackwood holding (Jan, page 2 & 3):
" K Q J 10 8 ' Q ♠ None § A K Q 8 7 6 5
His partner had opened INT (range not specified but within a point of 13-15) and RHO had overcalled 2' . Verhees used a transfer to set clubs as trumps, then bid Five *Hearts as EKB*. Partner showed two keys outside hearts. (" A and ♠ A), and Verhees bid SEVEN. Jason Hackett, holding ' A, but expecting a heart void, led a diamond and the grand made.

Roth says that partner, holding " A and ' A, would have shown ONE key (perhaps just ♠ A) and North would have had no idea whether the right level was five, six or seven.

IBPA Editor: He was committed to Six anyway, so the psyche might gain a small slam when South just has ♠ A (though, on the lead of " A, the defence will see dummy has psyched). It does no harm when partner has all three aces as he is intending to bid Seven opposite a response of two keys. It loses when South has " A and ' A, shows one key, and he bids only Six, and it gains on the actual, slightly more likely, layout.

On balance, a small gain, and certainly imaginative (unless he pulled the wrong bidding card by mistake!).

I don't see that it can be improper. The sponsoring organisation says whether it forbids psychic use of conventions. If they didn't, he can; if they did he would have been in a no-win situation.

Roth also comments on the *Bridge Gourmet* hand reported by Tommy Sandsmark (page 13). He suggests South could have beaten the slam by covering ' 10 with the queen as it spoils the entries for the trump squeeze.

IBPA Editor: I agree, but this does not detract from Saetre's play. South did not know if East had ' 9, or whether he would guess the hearts right, and could hardly foresee the squeeze.

Ruth McConnell 1912-2000

Ruth McConnell, who has died aged 88, gave her name to the McConnell Cup, the world knockout teams event for women played each four years since 1994 in Albuquerque.

McConnell was the first woman to be elected to the WBF Executive (1985-93) and the first woman to be President of the ACBL (1974). She was WBF Treasurer from 1985-90 McConnell captained US womens teams to at least three world titles. She was n.p.c. of the 1976 and 1980 Olympiad teams, and the 1974, '76, and '78 Venice Cup teams. She played a role in the upgrading of the Venice Cup to world championship status in 1977.

* *Christine Francin of the WBF reports:* A new edition of World Bridge News is now available. It will be posted to IBPA members with the next IBPA Bulletin.

* *Anna Gudge says:* If any IBPA member is not receiving regular Press Releases from the WBF please contact me with your e-mail address at: wbf@ecats.co.uk

* *Nikola Tcholakov comments on the Column Service deal 163 (previous Bulletin, page 9):* If declarer unblocks a high spade at trick one under East's ace, there is no defence. Suppose East finds the club switch mentioned as a winning defence. Then declarer can unblock hearts, cross to dummy's jack of spades, cash the fourth heart, and cut loose with a diamond as suggested in another line. The defence have only their ace of spades and three diamonds to cash before giving South three tricks in the black suits.

* *Jude Goodwin-Hanson says:* E-bridge Headline News invites you or your organisation to send your promotional pieces, press releases and news items, and mail to: news@e-bridgemaster.com where you can receive free publicity. Contact: jude@e-bridgemaster.com

* *Emmanuel Jeannin-Naltet* has a new address:
4 cours de Verdun, 69002 Lyon France
Tel: 33+ 478 381 190
Fax: 33+ 478 421 078
e-mail: bridgazur@aol.com

e-bridge and **WBF** sign sponsorship agreement
January 26,2001, Paris.

e-bridge and the World Bridge Federation (WBF) today signed a sponsorship agreement, with e-bridge undertaking to sponsor worldwide Junior bridge activities in the year 2001 to an amount of \$30,000.

Included in the junior events planned for 2001 are the World Junior Teams Championship to be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, August 6-15, and the European University Teams Championship, to be held in Rotterdam, the Netherlands, August 12-19.

e-bridge's sponsorship funds will be used by the WBF to sponsor various world junior events and those of ACBL, EBL, the other WBF zones, and perhaps to develop junior bridge in conjunction with certain national federations.

Pinhas Romik, Founder, Chairman, and CEO of e-bridge said: "The ACBL plans to use a portion of e-bridge's sponsorship funds to allow two US junior teams selected to represent the US at the World Junior Teams Championship in Brazil, and to participate in the International Team Trials (to be held in Memphis, June 3-12) for the 2001 Bermuda Bowl."

WBF President José Damiani said: "With bridge being recognized by the International Olympic Committee, we need to provide more playing opportunities for young players. This additional activity demands more resources, and therefore we are delighted to accept the sponsorship of new events by e-bridge. We need to do more to promote bridge in colleges, with the ACBL taking an initiative in May this year to run a North American College Championship on the Internet, with a live final. Internet Bridge is well-suited for young people, and e-bridge is leading the effort to provide comprehensive bridge services over the Internet."

e-bridge Inc. is a private company. See: www.e-bridgemaster.com.

e-bridge provides full Internet coverage of major bridge events (for events calendar see: www.e-bridgemaster.com/news/eventc_hub.asp see also the WBF site: www.bridge.gr

Contacts:e-bridge: Eric Kokish +1-416-544-9910 kokish-kraft@home.com

WBF: Christine Francin +33-153230315 cfrancin@worldbridgefed.com

* *Anna Gudge says:* Please help us with as much publicity as you can for the 2001 World Wide Bridge Contest on 01 & 02 June ... it is going to be an excellent event and we want as many clubs as possible to enter from all over the world.

The participants will receive a souvenir brochure of the hands with a commentary by Eric Kokish, and, as last year, the event will be scored dynamically over the web, with results appearing on the website as clubs start uploading. More information will be available on the site as well, this year, with each player's personal score card displaying their local and overall matchpoints and the percentage obtained on each board.

The website for the event is at: www.worldbridge.org and has full details of how it will be played and scored and how clubs should enter. You can also find the results there from last years events with some interesting hands that you could add to your articles.

On the same site you will also find a link to the Web Version of World Bridge News, which contains articles about the Olympiad, the IOC Grand Prix, the Generali Masters, the World Wide Bridge Contest, Bill Gates, and information about the World Championships in Bali. The direct link to these pages is:

www.worldbridge.org/wbn

You can also find a copy of the presentation made by José Damiani to the European Olympic Committee at:

www.worldbridge.org/presentation

You may also wish to publicise the World Transnational Teams. An email has been sent to all NBOs recently. It contained these items:

"You will soon be receiving World Bridge News, which gives you details of the World Championships to be held in Bali from 20 October - 02 November 2001, but I particularly want to draw your attention to the Transnational Open Teams, which will start on Sunday 28 October.

This event is open to all players of a good standard who may apply to you, the NBO, for nomination to participate in the event.... There is no quota imposed - an NBO can nominate as many teams as it wishes. They can make a team with players of different nationalities and from different NBOs. The entry fee for the Transnational Teams is US\$ 800, but it is free for players who participated in the Bermuda Bowl and Venice Cup.

More information can be found at:

www.bridge.gr and

www.ecatsbridge.com

(in the Championship section) and we hope you will visit these websites in order to find out more about this event and also publish the addresses when you write about it."

For further information, email: wbf@ecats.co.uk

* *Jan van Cleeff submits* the next deal as a possible candidate for the IBPA Award for the Best Defence.

Dutch National Team Championship, 2000
semi-finals: Onstein vs. Lombard

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Jansma</i>	<i>Eskes</i>	<i>Verhees</i>	<i>Von Seida</i>
	1“	Pass	1NT
Pass	2“	Pass	3“
Pass	4“	All Pass	

After Ruud von Seida's inspired raise to 3“ , Onno Eskes pushed on to game, a contract that in fact depends more or less on reasonable breaks in diamonds and spades. Even with both spade honours offside the contract appears to have chances.

East led a heart for the Ace and declarer immediately passed the “ 10 to East's Queen. Louk Verhees recognized the problem - how to win two club tricks- and found the answer to the puzzle. He returned the § Q! This gave declarer an unexpected club trick, but it also cost him his game. If he cashes the ace of trumps and then tries to get a discard on a diamond, East will ruff and cash two club tricks. If declarer crosses to dummy for another trump finesse, Verhees would win, lead a club to partner's Jack and win the setting trick with his § A.

On the actual layout a low club lead would have worked equally well. However,

leading the § Q is a much better play as it caters to a possible § 10 in declarer's hand. In that case, had East led a LOW club to the Jack and King, declarer would return a club, which East would have to win. East can now not prevent declarer from ruffing a club in dummy without sacrificing his second trump trick. Thus, leading the § Q created an essential entry in West's hand for a trump return, as well as establishing a second defensive club trick. At the other table the NS pair stopped at a partscore which they made.

The deal is a double IBPA award candidate because Erik Kirchhoff, player of Hok Transfer Solutions, defending the same contract in the other semi-final match versus Modalfa, led exactly the same brilliant card as Louk Verhees did! Kirchhoff gained for this team 13imps since the declarer at the other table went one down in the same contract.

* *Nissan Rand, Chairman of the EBL Seniors Committee, says:* The 1st Mediterranean European Seniors Congress will be held in Malta between April 19 to April 25, 2001, organized by Bridge Malta under the patronage of the EBL.

For details contact Mario Dix
e-mail: Mario@bridge.org.mt

Tel: (356) 323638 Fax: (356) 320444

In Sorrento, there will be a meeting of the EBL Seniors Congress on Wednesday, March 21, 2001, at 10:30 A.M. to which all Seniors are invited, and a meeting of the EBL Seniors Committee to be held on Tuesday, March 20, 2001, at 11:00 A.M. The exact venue and agenda will be published in the Daily Bulletin in Sorrento.

* *Bernard Marcoux of Canada, in an article too long to give in full, reports this deal as a sequel to his 1996 article "Man about Universe", that won the IBPA Bols Bridge Press Award:*

Seeing the following hand played by Nicolas L'Écuyer in the finals of the Canadian National Team Championships, the same title popped into my head and I thought that Nicolas had all the qualities of a man about universe, and then some.

Dealer: North	" 8 5 2	
	' A 9 6	
	¤ K J 4	
	§ A Q 9 6	
	" Q J 9 6 4	" A 7 3
	' ---	' 10 8 7 4 3
	¤ Q 10 9 8	¤ A 6 5 2

§ J 10 8 5		§ 4	
	" K 10		
	' K Q J 5 2		
	¤ 7 3		
	§ K 7 3 2		
West	North	East	South
<i>Mittelman</i>	<i>Marcoux</i>	<i>Kokish</i>	<i>L'Ecuyer</i>
	1§	1'	3NT
All Pass			

Against South's 3NT, George Mittelman leads the " 4 (attitude: the lower the card, the higher the interest); Kokish wins the Ace and plays back the 7, showing probably 3 cards (*IBPA Ed:* with six spades West would have led the *three*).

You have 8 sure tricks : 1 spade, only 4 hearts (your spots are not good enough to pick up Kokish's hearts) and 3 clubs.

After winning the second trick with " K, L'Écuyer cashed 4 hearts tricks, noting with interest the discards from Mittelman: he pitched three diamonds (the 8, the 9 and the 10), and the " 9. L'Écuyer read West's shape as 5-0-4-4. With 5 diamonds, he might have led one in preference to a spade.

Finally Nicolas played his § 2, and Mittelman played the 5, in tempo, if not with this little haste of a player trying to act as if he has no problem.

So Nicolas called for the 9 of clubs, making 4 tricks in the suit, winning 13 Imps and the CNTC eventually.

Only a man about universe has access to this supernatural arithmetic, and has enough confidence in himself, has enough **courage** to play like L'Écuyer did on this hand (many players would go wrong and say afterwards: «I knew it»).

IBPA Editor: Declarer could not afford the luxury of cashing ♠K to find out whether East's club singleton was an honour because, at trick seven, he had no other entry back to hand for the second finesse in clubs. If declarer can read West as having four clubs after the first two discards, then, at trick five, he should cash ♠K and, when East follows small, lead a club towards dummy using the third heart as re-entry for the second finesse should West split his honours.

* *Alan Truscott says:* The last hand in the China report (January, page 4) is a bogus brilliancy. Finessing the ¤ 10 risks losing to the singleton

jack and is not necessary. Playing top diamonds succeeds without finessing.

IBPA Editor: Certainly something is wrong. Perhaps declarer took the diamond finesse after winning the second trump. Then there would be no need to guess clubs. Declarer would ruff out the clubs using dummy's last trump, and play winning diamonds, discarding three winning clubs from hand if East did not ruff. If East ruffed the diamonds low declarer would over-ruff and play winning clubs. East only makes the master trump.

Herman de Wael submits his unofficial world ranking of nations, sponsored by IMP Magazine. After the EOC trophy in Poland here are the top fifty :

1	United States	21,09
2	Italy	20,98
3	Poland	20,08
4	Indonesia	19,70
5	Norway	19,50
6	Netherlands	19,08
7	Sweden	19,07
8	Brazil	18,82
9	France	18,70
10	Russia	18,06
11	China	18,01
12	Great Britain	17,88
13	England	17,66
14	Argentina	17,65
15	Belgium	17,63
16	Austria	17,50
17	Israel	17,38
18	Spain	17,35
19	Australia	17,25
20	Iceland	17,07
21	Denmark	16,95
22	Chinese Taipei	16,87
23	Ireland	16,58
24	Hungary	16,40
25	India	16,35
26	South Africa	16,29
27	Greece	16,28
28	Germany	16,19
29	Bulgaria	15,98
30	Japan	15,63
31	Scotland	15,56
32	New Zealand	15,41
33	Wales	15,22
34	Croatia	15,17
35	Portugal	15,09
36	Lebanon	15,05
37	Finland	15,04
38	Aruba	15,00
39	Turkey	14,43
40	Morocco	14,33
41	Romania	14,29
42	Canada	14,04
43	Northern Ireland	13,83
44	Estonia	13,54
45	Czech Republic	13,51
46	Switzerland	13,45
47	Slovenia	13,43
48	Chile	13,36
49	Belarus	13,04
50	Egypt	13,01

Calendar	Event	Venue	IBPA Contact
FEB 8/17	Israeli Festival, Tel Aviv with Seniors congress		birmand@inter.net.il
23/25	Forbo International, The Hague		Ducheyne
MAR 15/25	ACBL Nationals, Kansas City		ACBL
19/25	European Open & Senior Pairs, Sorrento, Italy		EBL
APR 19/26	Malta Bridge Festival with EBL Seniors		mario@bridge.org.mt
MAY 9/13	Cavendish Invitation, The Mirage, Las Vegas		robert@thecavendish.com
JUN 1/2	WBF Worldwide Simultaneous Pairs		www.worldbridge.org
16/30	Generali European Teams, Ladies Pairs, Tenerife		EBL
29/Jul 11	Biarritz Festival		hervepacault@wanadoo.fr
JUL 6/8	World Junior Pairs		panos g
9/18	World Junior Camp		panos g
19/29	ACBL Summer Nationals, Toronto		ACBL
AUG 6/15	World Junior Teams, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil		panos g
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 9/18	England Summer Nationals, Brighton		EBU 44+ 1296 394 414
16/31	World Bridge Championships, Montreal		WBF
NOV 28/ 8 Dec	ACBL Fall Nationals, Phoenix		ACBL
2003			
MAR 6/16	ACBL Spring Nationals, Philadelphia		ACBL
AUG 8/17	England Summer Nationals, Brighton		EBU 44+ 1296 394 414