

The television cameras and autograph hunters filled the lobby of the Hotel Mencey in Santa Cruz, Canary Islands, where the European Bridge League delegation were staying on the first stage of their inspection of the site for June's European Championship. But it was to see Chayanne, the Puerto Rican star of the Tenerife Annual Carnival taking place that night, that the TV crews were there. Your Editor joined the group at the invitation of the Canary Island Tourist Board, so, in traditional journalist fashion, declares that favour.

After meetings with local press, the Tourist Board and the University, the EBL delegation moved to the Mare Nostrum Resort in Arona, south Tenerife, 20 minutes from the Reina Sofia Airport. Bridge-players will like the set-up. All the bridge, Open, Ladies and Seniors, and other activities (Press Room, Vugraph etc.) are in the four hotels that make up the Resort. There are hundreds of eating places nearby, and if your budget does not stretch to staying at the Resort, there are many alternatives, including self-catering apartments, within walking distance. Inside this Bulletin are details of the official travel agent for the championship to assist you. Many European countries have cheap package tours to Tenerife. Plugs and voltage in Tenerife are European standard (i.e. like French).

If you want to check how close your hotel or apartment is to the Resort there is a good map on www.canary-guide.com. Click on the language you want, select the island of Tenerife, then the map, and zoom in on the area you want. All hotels and apartments are listed.

IBPA usually has some 80 of its 500 members present at the Europeans, mostly playing in some event. The AGM and Awards will be held in Bali, but in Tenerife we should have our European IBPA Pairs (one session when the Seniors are not playing), a General Meeting, and a Press Trip. (The IBPA outing is to a spectacular site near the volcano in the centre of the island.) All these should be early in the second week.

The playing space available allows the Programme to contain a new event. Following the Ladies Pairs there will be a four-day Transnational Ladies Teams Cup. This gives some extra bridge for those women who are not in the main Ladies Teams.

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If you have not yet paid your Annual subscription please do so now. The annual subscription is £40 (pounds sterling) payable to the Membership Secretary, Stuart Staveley. If paying by credit card include the full number and the expiry date.

The Editor will be in Sorrento for the European Pairs to receive some late payments.

Patrick Jourdain - Editor

Lavazza Team Wins Forbo; North America Takes Nations Cup

From bridgeplaza website; Scheveningen, Netherlands, 23-25th February, 2001

The prestigious Forbo Teams, limited to 64 high-quality entry was won by the Lavazza team containing the four Italian Olympiad champions: Norberto Bocchi-Giorgio Duboin, Lorenzo Lauria-Alfredo Versace, led by Maria-Theresa Lavazza.

The format is a first day of teams seeded into 8 sections playing a full round robin. The top two in each go through to the "A" Final, the remainder go to one of six finals depending on their finishing position on day one. (Your IBPA Editor feels it would be better to have at most three other finals: who wishes to be known as the winner of the "G" final?)

Results of "A" Final:

1. Lavazza (Italy)	138
2. Auken Jens, Lauge Schaeffer, Lars Blakset-Matthias Bruun (Denmark)	125
3. Hackett (Justin, Jason, Fu Zhong-Tom Townsend) England-China	121
4. Burgay (Italy)	115
5. Moller (Denmark)	111
6. t Onstein	110
7. Morath (Sweden)	108
8. Sundelin (Sweden)	107
9. Bulgaria	99

"B" Final

1. Norway	134
2. Fallenius (Sweden)	120
3. Kalkerup (Den)	117
4. Russia	104

"C" Final winner: Winkel (Netherlands) with North America fifth.

"D" Final winner: Poland

The Nations Cup is an Invitation event for four teams held on Friday. Results:

1. North America (Fred Gitelman, Brad Moss, John Carruthers, Howard Weinstein)	51
2. Italy (Versace-Lauria, Bocchi-Duboin)	46
3. Neth (Jansma-Verhees, Jansen-Westerhof)	44
4. Poland (Balicki-Zmudzinski, Jassem-Tuszynski)	39

The Friendship Cup, on Friday, for politicians, press, and sponsors, was won by Just van der Kam & Hanneke Kreijns.

From Round 1 of the Nations Cup:

Jan Jansma of the Netherlands, the former world junior champion, showed his skill on this deal from their 23-7 win over Italy:

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Lauria</i>	<i>Verhees</i>	<i>Versace</i>	<i>Jansma</i>
1§	Pass	1♠	Dble
2§	2'	Pass	2"
Pass	3"	Pass	4'
Pass	4"	All Pass	

Some aggressive bidding by Louk Verhees got N-S to a thin game.

West led a club. If declarer tries to ruff both his clubs he loses three trump tricks and a diamond. But Jansma made the key play of a diamond at trick two. West won and played another club. Jansma ruffed this in dummy. East appeared to have good diamonds and a doubleton club, so West was likely to have the king of trumps. Jansma therefore followed with a trump to the *ace* and a low trump.

West won and played a third club, East throwing a diamond. Jansma won and cleared the trumps. East exited with a diamond. The last trump forced West to throw a heart, in order to keep the last club, so Jansma did not have to guess the suit for his tenth trick.

At the other table Bocchi-Duboin stopped in Two Spades.

Gitelman avoided a threatening trump promotion On this deal from their match against Poland (see next page). At the other table Poland did not reach game when North Passed over West's 1" overcall:

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Zmudzinski</i>	<i>Moss</i>	<i>Balicki</i>	<i>Gitelman</i>
			1'
1"	1NT	2"	2"
Pass	3§	Pass	3'
Pass	4'	All Pass	

West led " J overtaken by the queen. Gitelman ducked, won the spade shift with the ace, and played a second spade. West won and played a third spade, ruffed and over-ruffed. Now Gitelman led a heart to the queen, took the club finesse twice, and then played a second trump.

The defence could make only one diamond, one spade, and the ace of trumps. If South wins the first diamond, West's ten of trumps comes into play.

Barry Rigal reports:

If you are going to be outplayed by someone, better make it a world champion. When my team (Rigal-Horton, Levit-Zur-Campanile) met the German Ladies, Pony Nehmert featured as declarer:

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

South opened one notrump, and West's overcall of 2" showed both majors:

West	North	East	South
	<i>Horton</i>		<i>Rigal</i>
			1NT
2"	Dble	2'	Pass
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

' 8 was led to jack and ace. A spade switch now beats the game, but East led a second heart which I ducked. I won the third heart and led a low diamond. West won, cashed a heart and exited with a club, leaving me with no chance.

At the other table after the same first three tricks, Nehmert laid down " A. Next came four rounds of clubs, the " Q, and a spade finesse. West won and could cash a heart, but was then endplayed into leading a spade into South's tenace.

The *defence* found a trump criss-cross squeeze on this deal, Guido Hopfenheit and Claus Daehr being the heroes:

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

West	North	East	South
	<i>Hopfenheit</i>		<i>Daehr</i>
	1"	Pass	1'
Dble	2"	Pass	Pass
2"	All Pass		

North led " K for declarer's ace. After two rounds of trumps, and one top club, declarer exited with a diamond. A third diamond was ruffed by West as South discarded a heart. West now cashed the rest of his trumps, and exited with a low heart, won by North's 10. North played another diamond and this squeezed West! If he threw a heart, North could cash the ace, and South would have the last two tricks with a trump and a heart. Alternatively, if West threw a club, North could lead a club for his partner to ruff and ' A was re-entry to reach North's good club.

**Egypt win Open; South Africa the
Ladies in 1st African Zonal
Championship**

By Mark Horton (GB) Cairo, February 7-12
2001

Zone 8 is the newest star in the World Bridge Federation's firmament having been created at the end of 2000. It immediately faced the task of staging its first qualifying contests for the 2001 Bermuda Bowl and Venice Cup in Bali.

If my maths is correct, there are 53 countries in the Continent of Africa and it was probably a relief to the organisers, the Egyptian Bridge Federation, that they did not all attend the inaugural event in Cairo. Eight teams contested the Open series while four battled out the Women's event. However, the potential for expansion is obvious and it will be interesting to see how many teams assemble in two years time when the tournament will be in Botswana.

The Egyptians staged the Championships in style, using VuGraph right from the start – the first time it has ever been seen in Egypt.

The teams in both contests would play two and four round robins respectively with the top two qualifying for a 48 board final. Egypt and South Africa were expected to dominate the Open series and that is exactly what happened in the first round robin. South Africa then appeared to relax and Ivory Coast moved into contention. The greater experience of the South Africans told and it was they who faced Egypt in the final.

It was a similar story in the Women's event with the host country and South Africa expected to be too experienced for Tunisia and Reunion. However, whilst the South Africans qualified easily enough, the Egyptians found themselves in a struggle with Tunisia. When the two teams faced each other in the last round robin it was the Tunisians who held their nerves, winning 23-7 to book a place in the final.

The standings at the end of the Round Robin were:

Open Series		Women's Series	
Egypt	287	South Africa	209
South Africa	251	Tunisia	186
Ivory Coast	236	Egypt	178
Tunisia	235	Reunion	138
Kenya	186		
Mauritius	170		
Tanzania	148		
Reunion	132		

The carry forward gave Egypt and South Africa a 12 IMP start in their respective finals. The South African women hardly needed it, winning 181-29 to book their tickets to Bali.

The Open Final was keenly contested, with the lead changing hands several times. A series of big swings in the final session saw Egypt

prevail 113-76, much to the delight of the home supporters.

IBPA Editor: *But it was Mansell & Gower of South Africa who solved this bidding problem in a deal that is a candidate for IBPA's Romex Award for Best Auction of the Year*

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

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Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Blanc</i>	<i>Mansell</i>	<i>Drieux</i>	<i>Gower</i>
	Pass	Pass	2§ *
Pass	2♠ *	Pass	2'
Pass	3'	Pass	3" *
Pass	4♠ *	Pass	4NT*
Pass	5§ *	Pass	5♠ *
Pass	5NT*	Pass	6§ *
Pass	6♠	Pass	7♠
All Pass			

North's first response was two-way and when he bid Three Hearts at his next turn he showed a positive with heart support. Three Spades was a serious slam try and Four Diamonds was a feature. Then RKCB established that North held the top hearts, no side king and the queen of diamonds. South suggested that Seven Diamonds might be the top spot and North was happy to agree.

That was a brilliant effort after hearts had been agreed. It earned South Africa 10 IMPs when Vidal-Telgone in the Closed Room reached Six Hearts on this unopposed auction: Pass-2♠ *-3♠ *-3' -4' -4" *-5' -6' -Pass. The problem for North/South is to find a way to play in diamonds, where, providing the trumps break 3-2, 13 tricks are available irrespective of the position of the § Q.

North's first response promised a red ace but diamonds were never in the picture.

```

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

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“ Q 5 4
 ' 9 6
 ♠ 10 9 5 2
 § 5 4 3 2

Ladies:

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Fihrer</i>	<i>Guellaty</i>	<i>Swartz</i>	<i>Baccar</i>
			Pass
1'	2' *	4♠ *	4"
6'	All Pass		

North used a Michael's cue bid but it was easily brushed aside by East-West, the key to the auction being East's splinter bid of Four Diamonds.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Klibi</i>	<i>Modlin</i>	<i>Klibi</i>	<i>Mansell</i>
			Pass
1'	1"	4'	All Pass

The absence of a splinter from East made life much more difficult although West might have made a move with such wonderful controls.

Open:

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Kordi</i>	<i>Mansell</i>	<i>Salib</i>	<i>Gower</i>
			Pass
1'	2' *	2" *	Dble
3§	Dble	4'	Pass
6'	All Pass		

East did not show his shortage here, but West had such a good hand he was always going to try the slam.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Chu</i>	<i>Ahmadi</i>	<i>Covery</i>	<i>Sadek</i>
			Pass
1'	2NT*	4'	Pass
5§	Pass	5♠	Pass
7'	All Pass		

Once East admitted to a diamond control, West bid the grand slam. North led the king of clubs and declarer won in hand and crossed to the king of hearts, North discarding the ten of clubs.

Declarer, knowing that North had ten black cards decided to play the hand that was known to hold long diamonds for the king, so he finessed the queen of diamonds. North won and cashed a club, two down, -100 and a massive swing that might have gone the other way.

This was the critical point of the match as a second slam swing to South Africa would have given them a commanding lead. As it was the teams were back on level terms and it was Egypt who proved the stronger over the closing deals.

There was a neat point to the play on this deal from the Open:

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

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Eber</i>	<i>Vidal</i>	<i>Donde</i>	<i>Telegone</i>
			Pass
1'	Pass	Pass	Dble
Redbl	2§	2'	Pass
Pass	2"	Pass	Pass
3'	All Pass		

North led a diamond for the king and ace, and Neville Eber set out on a voyage of discovery by playing " K. This would not only help him to place the cards, but also started to break communications between the defenders.

North took " A and continued with the queen. Declarer ruffed and laid down the ace of hearts, noting the fall of North's ten. He now cashed the queen of diamonds, ruffed a diamond, ruffed a spade, ruffed a diamond and ruffed a spade.

He exited with ' Q and South won with the king and returned a club. Reflecting that South had turned up with the jack of spades, king of hearts and king jack of diamonds, it was clearly impossible for him to have the ace of clubs for he had passed as dealer.

Declarer played low for an excellent +170.

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

♠ A Q 9 6 3
 § 6 2

Ladies:

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Morcos</i>	<i>Hulett</i>	<i>Sarwat</i>	<i>Adrain</i>
Pass	1♠	2♠*	5♠
Dble	All Pass		

West was clearly hoping East held a better hand in terms of defence.

East led the ace of hearts and when that held switched to the six of spades for the jack ace and a ruff. That should have been the end of the story, but declarer allowed West to ruff a heart and so recorded only +750.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Mansell</i>	<i>Maud</i>	<i>Modlin</i>	<i>Lily</i>
Pass	1♠	3♠*	3'*
3"	4§*	4"	Dbl
Pass	4NT*	Pass	5§*
Pass	6§	Pass	6♠
All Pass			

Lily must have thought Christmas had come early when East bid Four Spades, although with careful play declarer can escape for -800. However, Maud had other ideas and she powered her way to Six Diamonds.

East cashed the ace of hearts and continued the suit. Declarer discarded a club as she won in hand, cashed the ace of clubs and simply cross-ruffed her way to twelve tricks. That was 12 IMPs for Egypt.

Most players will tell you that they prefer a nice simple board at the start of a match, one that offers a chance to settle down. Of course life is not always so straightforward. This was the opening deal of the sixth round of the Open series:

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

West	North	East	South
	<i>Kordy</i>		<i>Salib</i>
	1♠	Pass	1"
3'	4"	Pass	5§
Pass	6"	All Pass	

West led ' Q and East won and returned a heart, ruffed in dummy. With East turning up with the ace of hearts declarer was inclined to place the king of diamonds with West. If it was not guarded more than twice declarer could establish three diamond tricks to get rid of three clubs from his hand.

Declarer played a spade to his ace, a spade to the king and a low diamond from dummy. That caught East off guard and the momentary hesitation was enough to tell declarer that the king of diamonds was on his right.

He ruffed the diamond and went back to dummy via a trump to the jack. He cashed the ace of diamonds and advanced the queen. East covered so declarer ruffed and played his remaining trump discarding a club from dummy. This was the position when the last trump was played:

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

East was caught in a simple squeeze. Discarding a club meant that South could take the last trick with the two of clubs – okay we admit it was probably a slightly bigger club but we like to give marks for style!

The late Jeremy Flint introduced the concept of the *Tiger Double* in one of his books. The

idea is simple – when the opponents reach game after a limited auction you should consider doubling if you have a nasty surprise for declarer.

In the Round Robin you have the East hand at love all:

“ K J ' J 10 9 8 7 ♠ J 9 6 4 § K J

and witness the following auction:

West	North	East	South
			1NT
Pass	2§	Pass	2'
Pass	2NT	Pass	3'
Pass	3NT	?	

Do you double?

You know declarer's main suit is not breaking and your opponents appear to be limited. Are you a tiger?

You may have already guessed that our hero in the East seat doubled. Let's take a look at the full deal:

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

The spotlight was now on West, who had to choose which five-card suit to lead.

Following sound general principles she led a spade, hoping that suit could be set up while she still had an entry in the shape of the ace of clubs.

It was spot on as a club lead might well allow declarer to make the contract!

After her actual choice declarer took only seven tricks, so was –300.

Of course if East's hand had been:

“ K J ' J 10 9 8 7 ♠ J 9 6 § K J 2

our tiger, the Ivory Coast's Barthez, would have continued to hide in the bushes awaiting an easier victim!

45th GENERALI EUROPEAN BRIDGE CHAMPIONSHIPS

Arona, TENERIFE, Canary Islands
16th – 30th June 2001

*The 45th Generali European Bridge Championships
will be held at*

Mare Nostrum Resort, Arona, Tenerife

(20 minutes from Tenerife South Airport, Reina Sofia)
between the 16th and 30th June 2001

Timetable

Opening Ceremony	Saturday 16 th June
Open Teams	Sun. 17 th – Sat. 30 th June
Ladies Pairs	Sun. 17 th – Tue. 19 th June
Ladies Cup	Wed. 20 th – Sat. 23 rd June
Ladies Teams	Wed. 20 th – Sat. 30 th June
Senior Teams	Thu. 21 st – Fri. 29 th June
Closing Ceremony	Saturday 30 th June

IBPA Editor: The Ladies Teams Cup is the new Transnational Teams for Ladies, designed to allow those staying after the Pairs to have some bridge of their own, if not playing in the Ladies Teams.

Entries Deadline

Entries, which must be from the Federation, should be sent to

Gianarrigo Rona - EBL President
20129 MILANO – Via Ciro Menotti 11/c
Fax: 0039 02 70001398
E-mail: ebl@galactica.it

in accordance with the following deadlines:

Open, Ladies and Senior Teams – 30th April 2001
Ladies Pairs and Ladies Teams Cup – 20th May 2001

Entry Fees: Open Team SFr. 3,000
Ladies Team SFr. 2,800 Senior Team SFr. 2,000
Ladies Pairs SFr. 300 Ladies Team Cup SFr. 240

The entry fees must be paid by Bank Transfer before 30 April 2001 to:

European Bridge League
Account n° 097300 L, Banque Paribas
2 Place de Hollande, CH – 1211 Genève 11
Switzerland

Organised by the European Bridge League in collaboration
with the Spanish Bridge Federation and the Asociacion
Canaria de Bridge

Systems Registration – Open and Ladies Teams

Systems for the Open and Ladies Teams have to be registered with the European Bridge League by the 30th April 2001.

A separate letter will follow explaining the requirements.

Senior Teams

Every NBO is entitled to enter **one** or **two** Representative Teams. All players in the Senior Teams must be 55 years of age at the start of the event. They have to be born on or before **21st June 1946**.

Small NBOs, who have difficulty raising a full team, **will be permitted to form cross-national teams**; subject to the approval in advance of the EBL Executive Committee.

Travel and Accommodation

For further information on travel and the reservation of Hotel Accommodation please contact:

VIAJES HALCON
Mr. Ignacio De Casso
Tel. +34 91 542 5064
Fax. +34 91 547 7014
E-mail: halconincentivo@teleline.es

IBPA Editor: Hotel prices at the Resort are 13,000 pesetas Bed & Breakfast for a single person in one room, and 15,700 pesetas for two people.

Three of the four hotels (Cleopatra, Marco Antonio, Julio Caesar, and Mediterranean Palace) at the Mare Nostrum Resort are said to be already fully booked, so Mr. De Casso will also provide a service for nearby hotels. These may be more expensive (e.g. Conquistador) or cheaper (e.g. Park Club Europe) in addition to self-catering apartments such as Parque Santiago. All these are within five minutes walk of the Mare Nostrum.

The resort has hundreds of restaurants and cafés, of a range to suit any budget, close by. There is not expected to be any play after 8 p.m.

e-bridge team WINS NEC CUP

By Alan Truscott (USA) and Barry Rigal (USA)

Yokohama, February 7–12, 2001

The e-bridge team of Piotr Gawrys, Sam Lev, John Mohan, Jacek Pszczola and Pinhas Romik beat Sweden 141-129 in the final of the annual NEC Cup.

In the semi-finals e-bridge beat an Argentine-Australia combination 149-109, as Sweden beat Senior (England) 111-70.

Senior beat Arg/Aus in the 3/4 playoff 49-25.

The knock-outs were preceded by a round robin with e-bridge getting two big wins at the end to put them into the top eight that went through:

Round Robin leaders: 1. Senior (Eng) 214; 2. Sweden 189; 3. Arg/Australia 183; 4. Hackett (Eng) 172.5; 5. Australia 168; 6. Indonesia 167; 7. E-bridge 166; 8. Japan (Ohno) 163.5.

This deal was reported by Alan Truscott in the New York Times of 17th February:

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

West	North	East	South	
Sylvan	Liggins	Sundelin	Fawcett	
		1§	1"	
Pass	2"	Dble	4"	End

West led the heart nine.

Distance to be travelled does not discourage top players in search of action. Experts taking part in the annual NEC team tournament in Yokohama, Japan, came from Argentina, Australia, Austria, England, Indonesia, Poland, Sweden, Taiwan, and the United States. In a world championship format, with qualifying and play-offs, the winners in a field of 30 teams were Piotr Gawrys, Sam Lev, John Mohan, Jacek Pszczola and Pinhas Romik. They represented e-bridge, the online bridge service, and defeated Sweden in the final, collecting \$12,000 in prize money.

There was some interesting cut-and-thrust on the diagrammed deal from the semifinal match between England and Sweden. In one room the Swedish North-South reached the optimum contract of 4' and had little difficulty.

In the replay, however, Glyn Liggins and Joe Fawcett, North-South for England, had to struggle in 4" . East and West for Sweden were Per Olof Sundelin and Johan Sylvan, who were using an artificial one-club system.

The singleton heart was led to the ace, South dropping the ten. An immediate heart ruff would have defeated the contract quickly, for East could have regained the lead in clubs for a second ruff. But he was not sure whether the lead was a singleton or a doubleton and thought, wrongly as it turned out, that he could afford to lead a diamond winner and see what his partner played.

Now the play focused on the following point: Would West score a trick with a losing trump? Unusually, the declarer wanted him to do so, and he resisted as long as he possibly could. South ruffed the diamond king with " Q, drew two rounds of trumps, ending in dummy with the jack, and led ' 8 for a finesse. If West had ruffed the declarer would have been able to use dummy's hearts, so he correctly refused to do so and the lead remained in dummy.

The declarer now made the key play of a club, and East could not afford to take his ace. The king won in the closed hand, and the position was now this with South needing five more tricks:

" 8	" 9	" None
' J 7 5 4	' None	' Q
♠ 9 5	♠ Q J 7	♠ A 10 6 3
§ None	§ J 10 8	§ A 7
	" K 7	
	' K	
	♠ None	
	§ Q 9 5 2	

When the heart king was led, West again refused to ruff. But when South ruffed a club and led a heart winner he could refuse no longer. He ruffed and led a diamond. Fawcett could not now make use of the hearts in dummy, but he had the last laugh. He ruffed and led a low club, forcing the ace and scoring the queen at the finish to make his contract.

Barry Rigal adds this deal:

See: <http://www.ebridgemastr.com/NEC2001/VUgraph.asp?session=NecF02>

Finals 2. Board 18.

	“ A J 10 4		
	' K J 4		
	♠ A 8 6 5		
	§ 9 6		
“ 8 3		“ 9 7 5 2	
' 6 3		' A 10 7	
♠ 9 3 2		♠ Q J 10 4	
§ A 10 8 7 3 2		§ K J	
	“ K Q 6		
	' Q 9 8 5 2		
	♠ K 7		
	§ Q 5 4		
South	West	North	East
Sundelin		Pszczola	Sylvan
	Gawrys		
1'	Pass	1“	Pass
1NT	Pass	4'	All Pass

The Swedes actually had a complex auction, not the one above.

On a spade lead and heart to the King, East ducked. Declarer erred by following with ' J rather than a low one. So East won the ' A, then led § K. Then § J ducked and overtaken for the club ruff and down one.

In the other room Mohan saw Lindkvist take the first heart and play § K then § J overtaken for a third club. Mohan ruffed high and hooked the ' 9 to make the game.

Rigal adds a deal from USA Grand National Teams Qualifier:

Here is a sensational 'might have been' from last week.

26 up with twelve to play, the first six deals have sewn up your victory. You pick up in first seat non-vulnerable a 1-3-6-3 your sole high cards being ♠ K J 10 x x x and open 3♠ --won't they do this at the other table too? You end up defending 4“ ; this is the full deal:

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

' Q x x
 ♠ x
 § J x x

Declarer takes 11 tricks on an unexciting line and we move on to the next hand. I get to be dummy on the next deal and start going through the play in my mind, wondering whether the slam can be made. Then I have to reach for the board to check my analysis.

This is the position after the following sequence of plays: ♠ A, “ A, “ K, heart to dummy, ♠ ruff, heart, heart:

	“ 8		
	' None		
	♠ Q 4		
	§ A Q 8		
“ Q		“ None	
' 10		' None	
♠ none		♠ K J 10	
§ K 9 x x		§ 10 x x	
	“ x x x		
	' None		
	♠ None		
	§ J x x		

When declarer ruffs a diamond in hand West must pitch a club -- if he overruffs he is endplayed. So declarer finesses in clubs and ruffs the last diamond and West is caught in an immaterial squeeze.

The best he can do is pitch the heart. Now declarer exits with the last spade to endplay West at trick 12. Isn't that beautiful?

Our teammates bid 2“ -4“ and only made 11 tricks so it is just as well they were not in the slam!

e-bridge has signed a deal with the European Bridge League to sponsor the European Pairs in Sorrento and the European Teams in Tenerife for \$10,000 each. E-bridge will show Vugraph on its website.

Lavazza Team Wins Australian N.O.T.; Haughie Retains Seniors

Ron Klinger writes in the Weekend Australian:

The HINGE team (Simon Hinge - Phil Markey, Cathy Chua - Chris Hughes) put in a sterling performance to reach the final of the National Open Teams (NOT) where they lost 117-174 to LAVAZZA (Maria Teresa Lavazza, playing with the current World Olympiad champions, Norberto Bocchi, Giorgio Duboin, Guido Ferraro, Alfredo Versace).

Spare a thought for MARSTON (Paul Marston - Matthew Thomson, John Lester - Gabi Lorentz, Ishmael Del'Monte, Esten Erichsen) who almost caused the upset of the tournament in the semi-final against LAVAZZA. MARSTON led by 44-15 after 16 boards and a massive 105-27 after 32 boards. They lost the next two quarters 9-38 and 11-87 to go down by 135-152.

In the other semi-final Hinge secured a marvellous 140-123 win over the powerful Leandro Burgay - Carlo Mariani of Italy, Cezary Balicki - Adam Zmudzinski of Poland and Wally Malaczynski of Sydney.

In the final the Hinge team picked up a game swing on Board 45 by outbidding their Italian counterparts:

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

At one table, Markey opened one heart as East. South, Alfredo Versace, bid one spade and Hinge, West, doubled for takeout. North passed and Markey rebid two clubs, pass to Hinge who bid two spades to force to game. When Markey bid 2NT showing a spade stopper, Hinge recognised the danger in four hearts and sensibly raised to 3NT.

Had Versace led a diamond, a reasonable choice on the bidding, 3NT would have failed. When the spade nine was led, 3NT was unbeatable. +600.

At the other table, South, Hughes, doubled East's one heart opening. West redoubled and North, Chua, bid two diamonds. East rebid three clubs, an unusual choice, and West jumped to four hearts. Hughes led the ace of diamonds and Chua played the diamond ten. As a diamond continuation was obviously futile, the diamond ten was a suit preference signal for spades. Hughes duly obliged with the spade ace and a second spade, ruffed by Chua. +100 and +12 Imps to HINGE.

24th Feb

Test your declarer play by covering the East-West cards on Deal #1 from the final of the National Open Teams. After two passes South opens one heart, North responds one spade, passed to West who competes with two clubs. Two hearts from North, three clubs East and South's three hearts ends the bidding. West leads the club queen (promising the king) followed by the club jack. East overtakes and shifts to the diamond three, seven, queen. West returns the diamond eight to the jack and ace. How would you continue as South?

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

Having lost two clubs and a diamond so far, declarer needs to avoid losing another diamond and a spade. Cathy Chua, usually a highly reliable declarer, gave herself virtually no chance by drawing trumps and exiting with a diamond. East won and led a club and Chua had to lose the spade for one down. Minus 100.

At the other table Guido Ferraro showed how to succeed, although he was only in two hearts. Ferraro opened one heart in third seat, double by West, redouble by North. This went back to West who bid two clubs and North's two hearts became the contract.

Surprisingly East did not compete with three clubs.

West led a top club and shifted to a trump, taken in dummy. A low spade went to the nine and jack. Back came another trump, won by the ten, and Ferraro now led the spade queen, covered by the king, ace and pinning the ten. A low spade ruff set up two tricks to discard the diamond losers. Nine tricks, +140 and +6 Imps to the ultimate winners, Lavazza.

On Deal #2 later in the final, the Italian world champions lost 11 IMPs when they should have gained eleven.

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

When Simon Hinge opened one diamond as South, West, jumped to two hearts. Phil Markey, North, doubled, and East raised to three hearts. Three spades from Hinge, four hearts (a slam try) from Markey, four spades Hinge, all pass. Twelve tricks +480.

At the other table, Norberto Bocchi opened one diamond as South, one heart from West, double by Giorgio Duboin, North. It then went, with East-West silent, one spade : two hearts (game-force), two spades : three spades, 3NT : four clubs, four diamonds : four spades, five diamonds : six diamonds, all pass.

Played in diamonds there are only eleven tricks, one down, minus 50. In spades, you can discard a club loser from the North hand on the diamonds. The deal is a good example of the power of the four-four fit.

3rd March

It is extremely arduous to play in the National Open Teams as a team-of-four. Full marks then to Cathy Chua - Chris Hughes, Simon Hinge - Phil Markey who reached the final ahead of several more-fancied teams-of-six. The undeniable factors of fatigue and stress were at work on Deal #1 from the final:

Dealer East	“ K Q 4 2
-------------	-----------

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

At one table the Italian North-South had an uncontested auction to four spades. West led the diamond queen and declarer ruffed the second diamond. A club to the king was followed by the diamond king, ruffed by South. The next club was ruffed by East who exited with a trump. South won with the spade ten and led a third club. East ruffed once more, but declarer had the rest. Ten tricks, +420.

At the other table Hinge opened one club as North. East overcalled one diamond, Markey jumped to two spades, raised to four by Hinge. Again diamonds were led and declarer ruffed the second diamond. When all followed to the spade ace and a spade to dummy, Markey continued the club king and club queen. East ruffed with the spade jack and played the diamond ace.

Markey ruffed this with his last trump, an uncharacteristic error, and was doomed. With the clubs blocked declarer had to lose two hearts at the end. Minus 50 and 10 IMPs away. Unaffected by fatigue, Markey would have discarded a heart on the diamond ace and had an easy time thereafter.

The play by the Italians was not error-free either. Witness Deal #2:

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

At one table Chua opened 1NT as East and played it there for +90. At the other table, Guido Ferraro opened one spade as East. West raised to

two and all passed. How would you play this on the heart seven lead?

Ferraro adopted a sloppy line. He took the heart lead and played a spade to the ace and a spade back. Had an opponent held king-queen-another spade, declarer might be defeated with a diamond switch. When spades were two-two, Ferraro's misplay did not cost.

The safe line is to unblock the hearts before playing the second trump. This allows declarer to discard a diamond from dummy later and hold the losers to at most two spades, one diamond and two clubs.

Thanks to the efforts of Margaret Bourke, all the hands from the final are available on the www.abf.com.au website.

To test your declarer play, cover the East-West cards on Deal #1, which proved too tough for most of the declarers in Round 2 of the NOT. South is in six spades after an uncontested auction and West leads the diamond four. South ruffs and lays down the king of spades. West discards a diamond. How should declarer continue?

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

The slam is trivial if trumps split 2-2 or 3-1. The fly in the ointment is the 4-0 break. Many experienced players took esoteric lines and finished one down. Zolly Nagy of Adelaide produced a simple and effective play. After the diamond lead ruffed, he played the spade king, followed by the club ace and a low club. He ruffed the next diamond, ruffed a club with the spade ace and drew trumps.

When South plays the last trump West is squeezed. Keeping the club king lest South's queen becomes high, West throws a heart and declarer can now score four heart tricks.

Nagy's line is very powerful. It succeeds when hearts are 3-3 or clubs are 3-3 or the club king or club jack fall doubleton or when either opponent is squeezed in hearts and clubs.

17th Feb:

74 teams contested the National Seniors Teams. Last year's winners, Bill Haughie (c) - Jim Borin, John Lester - Gabi Lorentz, teamed up this year with Alan Walsh - Ron Klinger, won the qualifying rounds easily. In the last round Eric Hurley - Ben Raaphorst, Kathy Johnston - Rob Slobom defeated the strong squad of Lester Kalmins - Bill Westwood, Kaoru Anderson - Roger Januszke by 25-4 to finish a clear second.

The final was lop-sided affair and when HAUGHIE won the first set 59-25 and the second 63-9, the opponents conceded with 28 boards to play.

On Deal #1 from the final, cover all but the West cards. East passes and South opens one club. West bids two clubs, showing five diamonds and a five-card major. North bids three clubs and East three hearts, prepared to play there or have West correct to three spades with spades and diamonds. South's 3NT ends proceedings. What would you lead as West?

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

It is hard to quibble with the diamond king lead but there is a case for West to lead a spade, as three hearts implied spade tolerance. After taking the ace of diamonds, Haughie played three rounds of clubs ending in dummy. Then came a heart to the queen, club to dummy, the fifth club cashed and the heart finesse repeated. Declarer finished with an overtrick, +430.

At the other table, Lorentz, East, passed and Hurley opened 1NT. Lester, West, bid two spades and Raaphorst 2NT. Lorentz raised to three spades and all passed. With the spades and diamonds lying as well as possible, declarer made ten tricks easily. +170 and +12 Imps to HAUGHIE.

On Deal #2, also from the final, we reached a decent game but finished four down!

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

Walsh, South, responded one spade to North's one club. Johnston doubled and North's three hearts showed four-card spade support and a singleton or void in hearts. It did not promise extra strength. Slobom passed and Walsh jumped to four spades.

Walsh's satisfaction with the contract was shattered when West led the heart ace, shifted to the diamond ace and gave East a diamond ruff. The club return was ruffed by West and declarer ruffed the next diamond with the spade king. At the end the defenders had taken seven tricks. Minus 200.

At the other table, Hurley opened one club and Lester jumped to two hearts. Raaphorst doubled and Lorentz raised to four hearts. Hurley's four spades came to Lorentz who competed to five hearts. This was doubled by South for penalties and all passed.

The defence started with spades. Declarer ruffed the third round and set up the diamonds to make eleven tricks in comfort. +650 and +10 Imps to HAUGHIE.

Feb 10: Results from the Summer Nationals:

Trans-Tasman Youth Trophy: Australia A (David Lusk npc, Nicolas Croft - Luke Matthews, Paul Brayshaw - Greg Dupont) defeated New Zealand by 113-71. Australia B (John Maddison npc, Gabby Feiler - Daniel Krochmalik, Leigh Gold - Tim Johnson) beat Oceania by 154-103.

Youth Teams: Australia A 54, Oceania 44, Australia B 41, New Zealand 39. In the final, Australia A beat Oceania by 47-38 and NZ defeated Australia B for third place.

Youth Pairs: 1. Kylie Robb - Tony Nunn 2. Nick Croft - Luke Matthews 3. Gabby Feiler - Daniel Krochmalik

Youth Teams Selection: In the final Paul Brayshaw -Simon Brayshaw, Greg Dupont - Matt Raisin beat Leigh Gold - Tim Johnson, Tim Lee - Kenneth Wan by 173-158.

National Women's Teams: In the final Elizabeth Havas - Barbara Travis, Alida Clark - Jill Courtney, Jan Cormack - Debbie Moir defeated Val Cummings - Candice Feitelson, Berri Folkard - Linda Stern, Jillian Hay - Kathy Yule by 155-115.

National Seniors Teams: In the final Jim Borin - Bill Haughie, John Lester - Gabi Lorentz, Alan Walsh - Ron Klinger defeated Kathy Johnston - Rob Slobom, Eric Hurley - Ben Raaphorst by 122-34. HAUGHIE scored 203 out of 225 Victory Points to set a record in the 9-match round robin. Records were also set in the South West Pacific Teams, 14 rounds, when MARSTON scored 303 out of 350 (the previous record was 298), only to be eclipsed by BURGAY who scored 310, averaging over 22 VPs per match.

Men's Pairs: 1. George Gaspar - Bob Richman 2. Theo Antoff - Al Simpson 3. Martin Garvey - Andrew Mill

Australian Open Pairs 1. Ashley Bach - Kieran Dyke 2. Andrew Peake - Mike Prescott, 3. Marek Borewicz - Callin Gruia

National Swiss Pairs: 1. Robert Grynberg - David Stern 156 2. Bill Haughie - Ron Klinger 155 3= Barbara McDonald - Alan Walsh and Ishmael Del'Monte - Espen Erichsen 150

National Mixed Teams: 1. Debbie Moir, Kylie Robb, Nick Croft, Jo Haffer, Peter Reynolds

Gold Coast Teams Championships:

In the open final Chris Convery - Craig Gower, Espen Erichsen - Ishmael Del'Monte defeated Betty Lee - Mike Robson, Peter Hainsworth - Ralph Parker by 126 - 102. In the seniors final, John Ashworth - John Brockwell, Ian McKinnon - Bill Westwood defeated Robbie Clayton - Margaret Millar, Joan and Michael Kent by 121 - 104.

Gold Coast Congress Pairs Championship:

1. Tom Jacob - Richard Jedrychowsky
2. Terry Brown - Phil Gue
3. Stephen Burgess - Bob Richman

THE WORLD JUNIOR PAIRS

Stargard, Szczecinski, Poland 6-8th July, 2001

Players must be born in 1976 or later.

The city is 36 km south-east of Szczecin, 40 km from the Polish-German border, 170 km north-east of Berlin. The venue is the City Sports Hall. Transport provided from Berlin airport or Szczecin Railway Station if agreed in advance.

Accommodation prices from 35 Swiss Francs full board. Entry fee: 200 Swiss Francs per pair. Transnational pairs permitted with approval of Federations of both players.

Format: Four sessions, all play through.

Opening Ceremony: Friday 6th July 7 p.m.

Closing Ceremony: Sunday evening, 8th July

Entries through NBO by 15th May, 2001 to:

Panos Gerontopoulos

154, Patission St, GR-112 57 Athens

Tel: +30 1 864 3139; Fax: +30 1 861 3740

E-mail: youthcmte@bridge.gr

Free transport on Monday, 9th July to....

THE WORLD JUNIOR CAMP

Insko, Poland 9-16th July 2001

The venue, two holiday centres (The Post Office Recreational Camp) in Insko National Park, is 40 km east of the site of the World Junior Pairs.

Cost: 280 Swiss Francs full-board per person for 8 days. Entry fee: 100 Swiss Francs per person.

Recommended age range: 17 to 23

Entries by 15th May through NBO as for Pairs.

Further details on: www.bridge.gr

Calendar	Event	Venue	IBPA Contact
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, Szczecinski, Poland		panos g
9/16	World Junior Camp, Insko, Poland		youthcmte@bridge.gr
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

* The official book of the 2000 World Bridge Championships in Maastricht is now available. 320 pages, Editor: Brian Senior.

IBPA Editor: This is a superb production with more information and better photographs than I have seen before. Every team make-up is given. For those who did not arrange to obtain copies at the time, contact:

bseior@thefreeinternet.co.uk

* *David Berkowitz replies to Anders Wirgren's enquiry (Jan, page 16) about his bid of 5♣ en route to the Seven Club deal described in December, page 3.*

To review: dealer, matchpoints, game all:

" A K 9 8 ' A 6 3 ♠ 9 3 § A 10 8 6
1NT-Pass-2" (transfer to clubs)-4" - ?

A note about system, with any 4 hearts and 5+clubs we start with 2§ in response to 1NT.

If we consider that RHO is not nuts, there is 0-1 spades in the other two hands. Since my partner does not have 4 hearts, I am most likely to have the major suits covered. That means opposite as little as:

" --- ' xxx ♠ xxx § Kxxxxxx

I have a cold 5§. On the given auction my hand has turned into a strong 2 bid in support.

Now let's consider the field action. This is the final of the Blue Ribbon Pairs. It was my assessment that 90%+ of the players with this hand would look no further than their spades, and double. My reasoning to my 5§ bid is that opposite most minimums with seven clubs I will still have play. Also If my partner has a trick (in diamonds perhaps?) I would still be going +600 or 620 when the field was getting 500. Furthermore, If my partner had a hand where he thought he could make slam opposite a perfecto, I would not disappoint him.

I actually considered bidding 4NT (I consider this superior to double), but rejected it because it sent the wrong message about my spades. Partner might have nothing, but I think this bid is a percentage winner opposite most club transfers.

Berkowitz followed with an assurance that Larry's comments would not have been critical, and your Editor was able to confirm this.

* *Boris Schapiro* has been in hospital but at the time of going to print was out of intensive care and improving.

* *Andrew Robson of England* has suffered a serious climbing accident. Whilst walking alone in the Lake District he slipped on black ice and fell 30ft down a ravine. Fortunately he was discovered by another fell-walker and flown by helicopter to The Lake District Hospital suffering from multiple fractures. He is expected to be out of bridge for at least three months.

* *Dawn Charles says:* Registration for the ACBL Junior Collegiate Team championship is now open at:

tuna@okbridge.com

The event, sponsored by okbridge and the Fifth Chair Foundation is on 21st and 22nd April. It will be IMP Pairs with two pairs from a team adding their scores. Open to students under the age of 26. At least two must be from the University under which the team is registered.

Any University throughout the world may enter. The finalists last year were from Australia National University and Vienna (Austria).

Contact: www.fifthchair.org

* *P. S. Gupta of India submits this deal from the Vidharbh B.A. Championship in which he, South, and his unnamed partner solved the bidding problem, bidding a game after both had passed on the first round.:*

" A K J 7 6 3	
' A 9 8	
♠ None	
§ K Q 10 5	
" Q 9 8 5	" 10 4
' Q 5 2	' 7
♠ Q J 4	♠ A K 8 6 3 2
§ 8 6 3	§ A 9 7 2
	" 2
	' K J 10 6 4 3
	♠ 10 9 7 5
	§ J 4

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

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

Gupta's team-mate as West (also un-named) made a second round raise that kept out North.

Three Diamonds made the obvious seven tricks. *IBPA Editor:* If South leads a spade, and North cashes one heart before continuing spades, declarer should discard a club on the third and fourth spades to avoid promoting a trump for South.

Gupta and his partner reached 4' . This had no problem in the play: ♠ Q led and ruffed, § Q taken by the ace, second diamond ruffed, ' A cashed, club to jack, ' K, spade to ace, throw two diamonds on " K and § K.

* *David Stevenson reports:* The Appeals from the EBU Summer Congress 2000 in Brighton have been published. This is a first for the English Bridge Union! Initially the booklet has only been published on the web. Feedback is sought, whether good or bad, and whether from England or elsewhere. The booklet contains details of where to send feedback.

Commentary is by David Stevenson, England and Herman De Wael, Belgium, both of whom serve on World Bridge Federation Appeals Committees. Also included is official comments by the EBU Laws & Ethics Committee.

To download your copy, please go to <http://www.ebu.co.uk/landec>

* *Ib Lundby says:* I will accompany the Danish Junior team to Rio in August, and we are busy raising the 15,000 dollars needed for the trip.

* *Mark Horton* queried whether Wirgren's Zia hand from the Cap Gemini (Feb, Page 2) came from information supplied by the Daily Bulletin, in which case it would be right to credit the DB. *IBPA Editor:* No, it came through Wirgren's work as an analyst for the e-bridge website, and was reported before the DB came out. Richard Laufer of e-bridge has written to say it is e-bridge who should be mentioned.

* *Russ Nicholson* of England has a new e-mail address: pirate1881@aol.com

* *Peter Gill*, Youth Co-ordinator for Australia, says: The Australian Team for the World Junior Teams in Brazil in August and for the PABF Junior Teams in June is Simon Brayshaw, Paul Brayshaw, Greg Dupont , Matt Raisin who won the Youth Selection, plus Nic Croft and Luke Matthews. Peter Smith is likely to be npc. New Zealand is seeking sponsorship to send a team to Rio.

* Foot and mouth disease in cows and sheep has affected an international bridge match. The

Ministry for Agriculture in the Republic of Ireland advised cancellation of all sporting engagements. The Republic's bridge team complied, withdrawing from their Camrose match against Northern Ireland. The match is likely to be re-scheduled.

With four of the five rounds already played only England or Wales can win this year's Camrose. The two countries meet on 10/11 March in what was to be a final weekend involving both matches, with Scotland sitting out the last round.

In the showdown England field the team that reached the semifinal of the Maastricht Olympiad. Wales field the same team that beat England last year.

* IBPA congratulates Zia Mahmood on his marriage to Emma Lamarque, daughter of Lord Roseberry of Scotland.

* Okbridge membership has now exceeded 19,000.

* *Harold Schogger reports results from the Israeli Festival:*

Pairs: 1. Aviram Yo - Barel Mic; 2. Reshef Op – Ginossar; 3. Altshuler - Birman Da; 4. Shaham Er - Levin Ami; 5. Schneider - Roll Yoss; 6. Vilsker B – Brifman; 7. Schogger H - Landau Ma; 8. Barr Rony - Zack Yaniv

END