

Sorrento's famed panorama was the great setting for the European Open and Senior Pairs. The EBL and the Italian Bridge Federation had short notice of the move from Jerusalem, and made the event a success.

Poland, hosts last time, had a talented group of players, and provided 20 of the 54 pairs in the final. The winners, Jan Moszynski and Jaroslaw Cieslak are new names to a European title. Partners for five years, after a poor second session in the semifinal, they were lying 96<sup>th</sup> and having angry words. It was reported that one claimed it would be their last big event together. But their friends took them out to the pub, and a few vodkas later they were back on good terms. A big third session saw them qualify in 45<sup>th</sup> place (48 made it). Thanks to the carryover, they started almost bottom, but then swept through the field, and led for most of the last session. One suspects the claim to end the partnership has been withdrawn.

In the Seniors two pairs went clear and alternated for the lead in the Barometer-scored last session. Hans Humburg and Goran Mattson of Germany were in front when the finishing post arrived.

\* \* \* \* \*

Meanwhile, at the American Nationals in Kansas City, the Vanderbilt was won by the same Russian-Polish squad that had won the Board-a-match title at the previous Nationals. Andrej Gromov-Aleksander Petrunin, Cezary Balicki-Adam Zmudzinski survived a photofinish semifinal against the favourite, Nickell, to go through to the final against George Rosenkranz.

The last eight teams in the Vanderbilt contained 14 top European players (including six Italians), and there were many more in Kansas City. These should also have been competing in the European Pairs in Sorrento. The habitual clash between the EBL end-of-March date and the ACBL Spring Nationals should be ended. As the clash is more damaging to the EBL than the ACBL event, and as the American calendar is far better established than the European, it is the EBL that will have to rethink its dates if it wishes to avoid the clash in future.

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The launch of the EBL website is welcome. Look up:

[www.eurobridge.org](http://www.eurobridge.org)

From now on this is the only official source of EBL news and results.

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This is the last Bulletin for those who have not paid their dues for 2001.

## Poland wins European Open Pairs, Germany takes Seniors

From Daily Bulletins edited by Mark Horton, Sorrento March 19-24<sup>th</sup>, 2001

Jan Moszynski and Jaroslaw Cieslak of Poland won the European Open by a clear margin. Jan, 39, works in computers. His father competed in the Senior Pairs. Jaroslaw, 37, is a father of three and a schoolteacher in history. Italian pairs took silver and bronze, Leandro Burgay & Carlo Mariani finishing ahead of Dano De Falco & Guido Ferraro.

In the Seniors, Hans Humburg & Goran Mattsson of Germany overtook Keith Stanley & Derek Rue of England in the final round. Roald Ramer & Jan Willem Bomhof of the Netherlands took the bronze medal.

Open format: 309 pairs played a 4-session qualifier. 126 of these joined 4 exempt grandmaster pairs in semifinal "A", the rest continued in semifinal "B", for 3 sessions. Then the top 48 from "A" and top 6 from "B" went, with carryover, into a 4 session final. 156 pairs went into the "B" final and 82 into the "C" final.

"A": 1. J. Moszynski & J. Cieslak (Pol)  
57.9  
2. L. Burgay & C. Mariani (Ita)  
56.0  
3. D. De Falco & G. Ferraro (Ita)  
55.9  
4. K. Martens & M. Lesniewski (Pol)  
55.3  
5. R. Pulga & G. Rinaldi (Ita)  
55.2  
6. D. Viktor & P. Gal (Hun)  
55.1  
7. S. Werdelin & A. Cohen (Den)  
54.2

8. K. Karaivanov & R. Trendafilov (Bul) 54.0  
9. A. Kowalski & J. Romanski (Pol)  
53.9  
10. Z. Rogowski & K. Pikus (Pol)  
53.7  
11. B. Drijver & S. De Wijs (Net)  
53.4  
12. M. Kwiecien & W. Olanski (Pol)  
53.1

"B": 1. V. Mihov & I. Nanev (Bul)  
57.7  
2. S. Auken & D. von Arnim (Ger)  
57.1  
3. H. Bertens & T. Bakkeren (Net)  
56.4  
4. L. Cima & L. Stoppini (Ita)  
56.1  
5. A. McIntosh & R. Bowdery (Eng)  
55.9  
"C": 1. T. Gotard & J. Piekarek (Ger)  
58.3  
2. B. Bussek & M. Pauly (Ger)  
57.0  
3. S. Lungu & A. Faber (Rom)  
56.2

### Seniors:

83 pairs played a 3-session qualifier. 40 went into a 3-session final, the rest into a 2-session Consolation.

1. H. Humburg & G. Mattsson (Ger)  
58.3
  2. K. Stanley & D. Rue (England)  
57.8
  3. R. Ramer & J-W. Bomhof (Net)  
56.2
  4. R. Garthwaite & H. Hobson (Eng)  
55.6
  5. G. Jelmoni & G. Bettinetti (Ita)  
55.1
  6. K. Lasocki & J. Ruszkyan (Pol)  
54.9
  7. A. Wilkosczyk & W. Jurczak (Pol)  
54.7
  8. W. Janicki & J. Lew (Pol)  
54.1
  9. A. Jezioro & J. Klukowski (Pol)  
53.9
- Consolation:
1. G. Norris & S. Jorgensen (Den)  
62.7
  2. G. Olsson & E. Franzen (Swe)  
61.8
  3. L. Capodanno & M. D'Andrea (Ita)  
58.5

#### First Qualifying Session

Some pairs reached 5} on this deal, but top score went to those who played in the 4-3 spade fit and made it. Sasda Wernle and Jova Smederevac of Austria were one pair:

Board 17. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Wernle</i>			<i>Smederevac</i>

	1]	Pass	Pass
Dble	Pass	2{	Pass
3}	Pass	3]	Pass
3[	Pass	4[	All Pass

North led three rounds of hearts. Wernle ruffed, took two rounds of clubs and ace, king of trumps, then played on clubs. South ruffed, but had no heart to play. Declarer won the diamond return, drew the last trump, and ran clubs.

Krzysztof Jassem of Poland was also in 4[ and got three rounds of hearts led. He ruffed the third heart and then just played three rounds of clubs! What can South do? If he ruffs, he can only return a diamond or a trump, so trumps are drawn and declarer has the rest. But if he does not ruff, ten tricks are there as well: one heart already ruffed, three clubs, {AK and a diamond ruffed low as well as the [ KQ and the [A. Elegantly played.

Board three in the first session was a technical test. Leif Trapp & Gunnar Elmroth of Sweden reached Six Clubs, and Trapp made the overtrick with a double squeeze:

Board 11. Dealer South. None vul

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Trapp</i>		<i>Elmroth</i>	Pass
1NT	Pass	2[(1)	Pass
3}(2)	Pass	3[(3)	Dbl
4}(4)	Pass	5}(5)	Pass
6}	All Pass		

- (1) transfer to clubs (2) No extras
- (3) light slam try with sing [ and 5-6 clubs.
- (4) accepting a slam try (5) denied 2 aces.

Leif Trapp played Six Clubs brilliantly. The play began a spade to the king and ace, and a spaderuff. Next came the club ace, a diamond to the ace and a club towards the dummy, the queen appearing.

Trapp drew South's last trump, cashed {Q, played another diamond to the king, and ruffed a spade:

[ 9	[ -
] A 9	] K 8 2
{ 7	{ -
} -	} 5
	[ K
	] Q J 7
	{ -
	} -

The }5 now squeezed South in the majors and North in the red suits. Patrick Grenthe, playing with Michel Duguet, for France led the field after the first qualifying session and you can see from his dummy play on next board that this was not due to luck but skill.

Board 11. Dealer South. None Vul.

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

The lead was the jack of hearts to the ace, declarer drew three rounds of trumps - North showing three. Then a diamond was played taken by South, who played the 10 of hearts overtaken by

North's queen: Now came back the ten of clubs East took immediately with the ace.

Declarer cashed his two high diamonds, North following.

As Patrick, you have all the clues: North's exact distribution is known to be 3 - 6 - 3 - 1. So declarer confidently played the third heart and discarded a club waiting for the forecasted ruff and discard. North had:

[ 8 7 2 ] K Q 9 7 3 2 { 9 5 4 } 10

Someone suggested North would have done much better by playing a third round of hearts instead of }10! - or his singleton club - Not good enough, East ruffs, plays his diamonds, gets the count and now plays a club letting North's ten hold. The defence has no good answer.

Qualifier session 3: Just before the entrance of the gladiators on to the scene a young Italian showed she can handle the cards as well as anyone.

Board 13. Dealer North. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Gentile</i>		<i>Di Lembo</i>	
	Pass	1[	Dbl
Rdbl	2]	Pass	Pass
2[	Pass	3[(?)	All Pass

In view of partner's redouble East decided to make one further move, but as a consequence she ended up in a not completely safe contract, even more so when South found the best lead of a

trump. Francesca Di Lembo won the ace in dummy and played a club to the 7, 8 and 9. A trump came back, won by the king, and declarer next played }A and ruffed a club. Now she made the key play of eliminating the hearts by cashing the AK and ruffing a third before she exited with her last club. South, with only diamonds left, had to give her the ninth trick with the {K. Well played indeed!

Semifinals: the closing stages

Board 6 was a grand slam, but apparently difficult to get to, as many pairs stopped in game or in 5[. Martens-Lesniewski, on the contrary, made it look almost too easy:

Board 6. Dealer East. East/West Vul.

	[ 10 7 6 2		
	] Q J 5		
	{ J 10 8		
	} J 8 7		
[ J 9 8 5		[ A K Q 4 3	
] -		] 9 4 3	
{ A K 6 3 2		{ 5 4	
} K 6 5 4		} A Q 3	
	[ -		
	] A K 10 8 7 6 2		
	{ Q 9 7		
	} 10 9 2		
West	North	East	South
<i>Martens</i>			<i>Lesniewski</i>
		1[	3]
4]	Pass	4NT	Pass
5{	Pass	6]	Pass
7[	All Pass		

The auction nearly speaks for itself. 4] showed spades and a heart control of some kind, 5{ showed one ace. 6] enquired about the heart situation and 7[ confirmed the presence of a solid first-round control. Very well done.

A different approach, but a very original and equally effective one, occurred at another table:

	West	North	East	South
	<i>Krzeminski</i>		<i>Laanemae</i>	
	<i>Sztyrak</i>	<i>Haller</i>		
			1[	3]
4]	Pass	5]	Pass	
5NT	Pass	6{	Pass	
6]	Pass	7[	All Pass	

5] showed some extras and 5NT was RKC Blackwood. 6{ thus showed three key-cards and 6] enquired about the trump queen. After that, 7[ was the logical confirmation and conclusion.

A few boards later, another grand slam was in the air, but this time the opponents had a goodsave on. When one of the Hungarian pairs, members of the national team, were playing a very young Italian pair this was what happened:

Board 11. Dealer South. None Vul.

	[ A 7 6 5 3 2		
	] Q 4		
	{ 4		
	} 10 9 8 7		
[ -		[ 10 8	
] K 10 9 7 3		] A J	
8 6 5 2			
{ A K Q 9 3		{ 7 5 2	
} K 5 2		} A 4	
	[ K Q J 9 4		
	] -		
	{ J 10 8 6		
	} Q J 6 3		
West	North	East	South
<i>Gál</i>	<i>Lo Presti</i>		<i>Vikor</i>
<i>Magrini</i>			Pass
1]	2[	3[	5[
5NT	Pass	6]	Pass
7]	All Pass		

Magrini made a goodeffort after the weak jump and the invitational or better cuebid, but it was not enough to stop the Hungarian machinery. Gál and Vikor had a simple solution available, as 5NT was exclusion Blackwood and thus 6] showed two useful aces. The entire auction went so quickly, so smoothly

that N/S were looking like not even having time to realise that E/W knew exactly what they were doing. Anyway, well done by the Hungarians.

Lesniewski-Martens had to cope with more difficult intervention, as South found an opening bid.

West	North	East	South
<i>Martens</i>			<i>Lesniewski</i>
			1[
2[	4[	4NT	Pass
5[	5[	6]	All Pass

The opening bid by South had a double effect, it seems. Firstly, it kept E/W out of their grand slam, but secondly it made N/S think, perhaps, that there was no need to take a save.

It could be worse for N/S, however:

West	North	East	South
<i>Gilboa</i>	<i>Laanemae</i>		<i>Wax</i>
<i>Haller</i>			1[
2[	4[	5]	Pass
Pass	5[	Pass	Pass
6]	Pass	Pass	Dbl
All Pass			

This time, NS had the opponents out of their slam altogether, but did not believe in their good fortune. E/W +1310.

And maybe the most artistic way to reach the grand, found by a young pair from Russia, Marina Kelina & Sergei Litvak:

West	North	East	South
<i>Litvak</i>		<i>Kelina</i>	
			1[
2]	4[	5} (!)	Pass
6}	Pass	6]	Pass
7]	All Pass		

At first sight, 5} was taken as a natural bid by West who raised it to six. When it then turned out 5} had been a very advanced cuebid, West knew enough. Very elegantly bid by Marina Kelina, the Junior player of the

championships last year in Antalya, Turkey.

Board 16. Dealer West. East/West Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Lara</i>	<i>Levy</i>	<i>Capucho</i>	<i>Chemla</i>
2NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

North led a regulation spade and declarer won and rattled off the clubs. South, convinced that West would not risk the heart finesse came down to two hearts and two diamonds. That proved to be a false hope, and when declarer played a heart to the queen all thirteen tricks were in the bag.

As Chemla & Levy, the holders, failed to qualify for the final by a few matchpoints, finishing 49<sup>th</sup> with 48 to go through (note the effect of the six pairs coming from the "B" final repechage) this result was crucial.

West, at other tables after the same auction, had a chance to show good technique. First, David Birman of Israel (partnering Zeligman) received a spade lead. Birman cashed the clubs, reducing South to three hearts and two diamonds, finessed the heart, and then cashed [A. This squeezed South out of another diamond, and he was thrown in with a diamond to play a heart.

Next, Péter Gál of Hungary, (partnering Viktor) who won the ]8 lead with the ten and proceeded to cash all his

clubs, then [AK. South had to give away the show, coming down to two hearts and one top diamond. Declarer of course had come down to one low diamond and the ]AQ. The throw-in produced twelve tricks and a well-deserved 690 for this combination of skill and courage.

At another table, against Jens Auken & Lauge Schaffer of Denmark, after 2NT-3NT, South came in with Four Diamonds, and East-West could achieve only +500.

In the last session of the A semi-final, Paul Chemla and Alain Levy also suffered from one of the best defences of the Championship, achieved against them by Christian Mari & Faigenbaum.

Board 18. Dealer East. North/South Vul

[ J 9 5 3 2	] J 9 7	{ 3 2	} K Q 9
[ K 8 7 4	[ Q		
10 6			
] Q 10 8 5 3	] 4 2		
{ A 8	{ Q 10 9 7 6		
5			
} 7 4	} 8 2		
	[ A		
	] A K 6		
	{ K J 4		
	} A J 10 6 5 3		
West	North	East	South
<i>Mari</i>	<i>Levy</i>	<i>Faigenbaum</i>	<i>Chemla</i>
		Pass	1}
1]	1[	Pass	2{
Pass	3}	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

West found the excellent lead of [4 and East played his part by contributing the six. After taking the ace of spades Chemla played six rounds of clubs. West was under pressure, but solved his problem by discarding two hearts and the seven and king of spades. That meant that declarer could manage no more than nine tricks.

Chemla-Levy missed qualifying by only 0.05%.

Tout est perdu fors l'honneur.

## The Seniors

PRESIDENTIAL LEAD

by Patrick Jourdain, Wales

As a start, try this problem. You hold:

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[ Q J 10 6 5
] A J 9 7
{ A
} A 4 2
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The bidding, at love all, goes One Spade on your left, Two Diamonds on your right, Two Spades on your left, Two Notrumps on your right, All Pass. What do you lead?

Henri Szwarc and José Damiani of France had an excellent run in the Seniors. Szwarc is celebrating 47 years of representing France. Damiani, a quarterfinalist in the Albuquerque Rosenblum and bronze medallist in the Aachen European Mixed Pairs, is, in his spare moments, President of the World Bridge Federation.

Damiani had the problem above and found the well thought out and spectacularly successful shot of a low spade! This was the layout:

Seniors Qualifying, Session 2.

Board 1. Dealer/North. None Vul.

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

Declarer could not risk losing his best chance of setting up the diamonds, so he put on the ace of spades, and took the diamond finesse. Damiani won and followed up his original success by leading another low spade! Declarer duly fell into the trap for a second time, rising to take another diamond finesse. When West showed out declarer abandoned diamonds, but West had five winners to cash to defeat the contract.

Szwarc's skills have not diminished, as is shown by this deal from the first session of the championships:

Board 21. Dealer North. North/South Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
	<i>Szwarc</i>		<i>Damiani</i>
	1]	Pass	1[
2{	Pass	Pass	3}
Pass	3{	Pass	3]
Pass	4]	All Pass	

Three Clubs showed longer clubs than spades.

The defence have three top winners in the red suits, and declarer has to worry about the diamonds, and the danger of a second trump loser.

East led {K, and continued the suit to West's ace. West now led {J. Szwarc played low from hand, East discarded a club, and dummy had to ruff with the eight of trumps.

If declarer plays a trump now he suffers a diamond ruff. Even if he discards his diamond on a spade, West can win the first trump and another diamond will promote East's heart nine. So Szwarc, without relying on a black suit finesse, set about a crossruff that neutralised the danger in the trump suit. It went king of spades, ace of spades, spade ruff, ace of clubs, king of clubs, and a fourth spade. What can West do?

West's options are to ruff low, high, or not all. If he ruffs high North and East are all trumps, so the trump promotion is no longer possible. If West ruffed low (or, as at the table, discarded) declarer over-ruffs with his last small trump, and then ruffs the master diamond with the ten of trumps.

The same boards were played in the Open giving Christian Mari and Albert Faigenbaum a chance to show the correct defence against the same contract and lead. At trick two Mari switched to a low trump, and Faigenbaum ducked! Even if declarer guesses spades to dispose of one diamond, when he leads the diamonds from dummy, West can win, draw dummy's last trump, and give East a diamond ruff.

Board 6. Dealer East. East/West Vul

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Mundula</i>	<i>Jeziro</i>	<i>Tessitore</i>	<i>Klukowski</i>
		2{*	Pass
2NT*	3}	DbI*	4}
5{	All Pass		



There was nothing to the play, declarer losing only to the two black aces. You can understand why North bid Three Clubs, but perhaps South should have tried Three Spades over the double as a sort of fit non-jump.

North/South can make a lot of tricks in spades as was demonstrated at another table:

West	North	East	South
<i>La Guardia</i>		<i>Hirst</i>	<i>Giuffredi</i>
<i>Jourdain</i>			
		1{	Pass
1]	DbI	2{	2[
3[*	4[	Pass	Pass
5{	Pass	Pass	5[
DbI	All Pass		

West led a top heart and switched to a diamond. East won and returned the suit, forcing declarer to ruff. He ruffed a heart and advanced the queen of spades. When that held he played a spade to the ten followed by a club. When West played low declarer put in the ten. Now he could return to hand with the ace of spades collecting East's king and repeat the club finesse. +650 was a top for N/S.

**Bridge at 2002 Winter Olympics**

Bridge will be an Attraction Sport in Salt Lake City 2002 Winter Olympics In Crans sur Sierre, Switzerland, WBF President, Mr José Damiani held a meeting with Mr Marc Hodler, International Olympic Committee Vice-President. Mr Hodler is in charge, on behalf of the IOC, of the 2002 Winter Olympic Games scheduled for February 8th to February 24th in Salt Lake City, Utah. After the meeting, Mr Damiani gave an interview to e-bridge regarding the progress of bridge being recognized as a full Olympic sport.

*e-bridge*: Would you be kind enough to bring us up to date on the status of the Olympic initiative?

*José Damiani*: "I was happy to hear from Mr Hodler that bridge has been given the opportunity by the IOC to demonstrate the competition at the Salt Lake City Olympics. Before any new sport is approved to participate in the Olympic Games, this sport is usually demonstrated before the public and the IOC officials. If the demonstration goes well, the sport then is formally introduced at the Olympic Games four years later. WBF started a massive effort to bring bridge to the Olympic Games in 1998. By this time all of the facilities for the athletes and for the play itself in Salt Lake City were fully booked. So, in addition to a very broad effort by the WBF over the years to obtain the recognition of bridge by the IOC, we were always facing the logistics problem of available facilities to demonstrate the game.

"Mr Hodler notified me today that IOC was able to allocate for a bridge attraction the Grand Americana Hotel in Salt Lake City. The attraction will take place a few days before the official opening of the Winter Olympic Games (scheduled to open on February 8, 2002). We will bring teams in three categories: open, women, and juniors. The WBF will have to decide in the next few months on the criteria for teams' selection, and how many teams will participate. WBF faces a rather difficult task in selecting the teams: on the one hand we would like the best players to participate in the demonstration. On the other hand, however, we must show the IOC the true global reach of our game. WBF will be sure to devote its best efforts in determining how best to combine these two objectives to produce the most successful demonstration.

"After a successful demonstration in Salt Lake City, the logistics factor for the 2006 Winter Olympic Games in Torino, Italy, could not be an issue as we have already

discussed some possible solutions with the Torino Organizing Committee. However, we still have to go through one final formal step: IOC must amend its regulation that allows only sports conducted on ice or on snow to participate in the Winter Olympics. Although hopefully the majority of the IOC members will support this change, we must nonetheless continue to do our work perfectly to be sure of passing each test to obtain full recognition."

**World University Bridge Championships**

2-11 August 2001, Bruges, Belgium

The World Bridge Federation announces that the FISU (Fédération Internationale du Sport Universitaire - the International University Sports Federation) is to launch the First World University Bridge Championships, to be held from 02 - 11 August 2002 in Bruges, Belgium

All Federations are invited to send a University team to this event.

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## GROMOV WINS VANDERBILT

From Daily Bulletins Edited by Henry Francis & Jody Latham Kansas City, Missouri, 15-25 March 2001

**Andrew Gromov** & Aleksander Petrunin of Russia joined Adam Zmudzinski & Cezary Balicki of Poland in winning the Vanderbilt final 150-119 over **George Rosenkranz** (Sam Lev, John Mohan, Piotr Gawrys & Jacek Pszczola of Poland). This was a repeat of the result in the Open-Board-a-match Teams final between the same two teams at the last ACBL Nationals, in Birmingham.

In the Vanderbilt semifinals Gromov beat Nick **Nickell** (Dick Freeman, Eric Rodwell-Jeff Meckstroth, Bob Hamman-Paul Soloway) 130-123 after being behind at half-time. Rosenkranz beat Rita **Shugart** (Bruce Ferguson, Geir Helgemo & Tony Forrester) 123-113. The Shugart team named itself Robson in honour of its absent team-member Andrew Robson, severely injured in a climbing accident.

Losing quarterfinalists: George **Jacobs**, Ralph Katz; Lorenzo Lauria - Alfredo Versace; Norberto Bocchi; Giorgio Duboin (Ita) Steve **Robinson**; Peter Boyd; Kit Woolsey; Fred Stewart

Rose **Meltzer** - Peter Weichsel; Alan Sontag; Kyle Larsen; Chip Martel; Lew Stansby Bill **Eisenberg**; Bryan Maksymetz; Peter Stromberg; Fredrik Nystrom (Swe); Richard Coren

Lost in round of 16:

Richard **Schwartz**; Drew Casen; Larry Cohen; Zia Mahmood; Michael Rosenberg; David Berkowitz

Gerald **Sosler** - Kay Schulle; Andrea Buratti-Massimo Lanzarotti, Italy; Benito Garozzo; Antonio Sementa.

Russell **Ekeblad** - Michael Becker; Robert Lipsitz; Jon Wittes, Ross Grabel; Michael Kamil Richard **Finberg**, Gary Cohler; Mike Cappelletti; Jerry Goldfein; Larry Robbins

Adam **Wildavsky**; Dan Morse; Ivar Stakgold; Daniel Rotman; Mark Feldman; William Pollack Walter **Schafer Jr**; John Stiefel, David Lehman; Dick Melson

Jim **Reiman**; Frederick Allenspach; Jeffrey Smith; John Zaluski; Colby Vernay; Barry Schaffer

Michael **Diesel**; Stephanie Hamilton-Diesel; Larry Mori Jeff Roman; David Better; Daisy Goecker

The North American Open Pairs was won by Douglas Doub & Frank Merblum. Merblum found a neat line of play on this deal from the second final session:

Dlr: West	“ J 10 9 8 5 2	
Vul: None	' J 8	
	♠ A Q 6 3	
	§ J	
	“ K 7	“ 6 3
	' A 10 7 6	' Q 5
	♠ J 10 8 2	♠ K 9 5 4
	§ Q 10 5	§ K 9 8 6 2
	“ A Q 4	
	' K 9 4 3 2	
	♠ 7	
	§ A 7 4 3	

West	North	East	South
-	<i>Merblum</i>	-	<i>Doub</i>
Pass	2“	Pass	4“
All Pass			

East led a diamond and Merblum won his queen. He cashed the ♠ A, pitching a heart, and ruffed a diamond. Now he cashed dummy's § A and ruffed a club. He ruffed another diamond, this time with the “ Q, and cashed the “ A. He ruffed dummy's last club and exited with a spade.

West, down to nothing but four hearts, was forced to concede a trick to dummy's ' K. Plus 450 was worth almost all the matchpoints.

Jacobs team shines in Open Swiss

It didn't make up for losing a close one in the Vanderbilt, but George Jacobs got a great consolation prize victory in the Open Swiss Teams. George and his teammates Ralph Katz, Norberto Bocchi, Giorgio Duboin, Alfred Versace and Lorenzo Lauria finished more than half a match in front.

In second place were Gerald Sosler, Kay Schulle, Massimo Lanzarotti, Andrea Buratti, Antonio Sementa and Benito Garozzo. That means that seven of the players on the first two teams are from Italy and then of course there's Benito.

Edith Rosenkranz came close again, her team finished third. That team had two Mexicans Edith and Miguel Reygadas; two Americans

Eddie Wold and Bob Morris, and two Swedes Peter Fredin and Magnus Lindqvist.

A repeating triple squeeze  
By Barry Rigal

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

At both tables in the Open Swiss Teams, 6♠ was the final contract. One declarer won the § K lead and passed the ' K, pitching a spade. When diamonds didn't break, he was down one.

Walter Schafer also won the § K opening lead with dummy's ace. He ruffed a club, crossed to the ♠ K, ruffed a club and carefully played the ♠ AQ and a low diamond, pitching three hearts from dummy.

East won ♠ J and innocently returned a heart. Declarer ruffed and ran his trump to reach this ending:

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

On the last trump, West was caught in a repeating triple squeeze. He pitched a spade but declarer cashed the spades from the top and had the rest.

\* The team led by non-playing captain John Mohan won the Women's Swiss Teams by a margin of 14.60 Victory Points.

The Mohan squad -- Lynn Baker- Irina Levitina, Jill Meyers-Randi Montin and Kerri Sanborn-Karen McCallum -- scored 124.30 Vps to 109.70 for runners-up Lynne Tarnopol, Laurie Vogel,

Gail Greenberg, Amalya Kears and Jacqui Mitchell.

This was Baker's second win in the Women's Swiss. She and McCallum (playing with Rose Meltzer, Jo Morse and Hjordis Eythorsdottir) won in Reno in 1998.

\* The United States Bridge Federation has been formed with six directors from the ACBL and two from the American Bridge Association. The USBF will deal with matters pertaining to the Olympics and bridge where the body will represent the USA for bridge.

\* Ralph Cohen, former ACBL CEO, has been in intensive care suffering from three aneurisms.

\* The US Junior Team 1 to play in the World Junior Championships in Rio in August is: John Kranyak, Kent Mignocchi, Joe Grue, Brad Campbell, John Hurd, Joel Wooldridge and npc Bob Rosen.

Richard Schwartz and Drew Casen arrived quickly in a 4' contract on this deal from the Open Pairs :

Dlr: South	“ 6 3	
Vul: Both	' J 8 7 6 5 4 2	
	♠ 8 6	
	§ Q 8	
	“ K 7	“ Q 10 9 5 4 2
	' Q	' 10 9
	♠ J 10 7 2	♠ Q 5
	§ A K 10 7 5 4	§ 9 3 2
	“ A J 8	
	' A K 3	
	♠ A K 9 4 3	
	§ J 6	

West	North	East	South
	<i>Casen</i>		<i>Schwartz</i>
			2NT

Pass	4♠ (1)	Pass	4'
All Pass			

(1) Transfer to 4H.

Against South's 4' , West cashed two top clubs and shifted to the “ K, won by declarer. Schwartz played ' A and told Casen to play dummy's ' 4. He cashed the ♠ AK and led a third diamond, ruffed with dummy's ' J.

Schwartz told Casen to lead "any heart but the deuce," and Casen played ' 5. Schwartz won his king and led another diamond. "Ruff it with anything but the deuce," he told Casen.

After Casen obliged, he asked Schwartz, "Now can I play the deuce?" "That's the card I want," said Schwartz, as he overtook ' 2 with his ' 3 and

cached the fifth diamond, pitching his losing spade. Making five.

*To be continued in May*

\* IBPA welcomes four who joined in Sorrento:  
*Philippe Brunel* of Paris and *Kauko Koistenen* of Espoo, Finland are rejoining. Brunel edits two magazines: *Bridge Passion* and *Bridge Reperes* (but has not supplied an e-mail address). Koistenen is Editor of the Finnish Bridge magazine. The new members are:  
*Krastyu Kavlakov* of Sofia, Bulgaria, a musician; and *Slawomir Latala* of Warsaw, Executive Manager of the Polish Bridge Union and a Tournament Director.

**World University Bridge Championships**

2-11 August 2001, Bruges, Belgium

The World Bridge Federation announces that the FISU (Fédération Internationale du Sport Universitaire - the International University Sports Federation) is to launch the First World University Bridge Championships, to be held from 02 - 11 August 2002 in Bruges, Belgium

All Federations are invited to send a University team to this event.

Contact: Anna Gudge at  
anna@ecats.co.uk

## IBPA Column Service

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

169

Consider the following hand from the Junior Camp Prague 1999 as a defensive problem for West seat; dummy will be the North hand.

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

West	North	East	South
<b>Sigurjonsson</b>	<b>Rubino</b>	<b>Hansen van</b>	<b>Munnen</b>
1♠	Dble	Pass	2“
Pass	3'	Pass	3NT End

Declarer wins your club lead in dummy as partner plays the seven and declarer produces the four. Declarer runs the jack of spades to you. What now?

At the table West won “ Q and returned a club. Declarer, Andor van Munnen, won the second club in dummy and overtook the king of spades with the ace. Then he cashed out the spades. West threw diamonds, dummy discarded two hearts and a diamond, and then declarer led a heart up to dummy. West won his ace and returned the suit, but declarer took the king and played his remaining top club and exited with the fourth club. West won this trick, and was endplayed to lead diamonds round to declarer's king at the end, for his ninth trick.

If West ducks the jack of spades, his best chance to beat the hand, the play is still interesting. Declarer cashes “ K, then exits from table with a low heart. Suppose East fails to rise with ' Q to play a diamond, then West does best to rise with ' A, and exit with a heart. Now declarer tries to endplay West with the fourth club, but West can unblock in clubs to leave dummy on play.

Declarer's last shot works if he has kept three diamonds, he plays a diamond to the jack and West has to concede an entry to the South hand.

170

Dlr: East	“ 8 5
Vul: Both	' A 9 3
	♠ A Q 10 8 2
	§ 9 8 4
“ K Q 9 6	“ A 10 4 3 2
' Q 6 5 4	' K 10 8
♠ 3	♠ J 4
§ Q J 6 3	§ 10 7 2
	“ J 7
	' J 7 2
	♠ K 9 7 6 5
	§ A K 5

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

Whether or not N/S play Inverted Raises (where an initial raise to 2♠ by North shows a limit-raise or better) they are likely to stop in 3♠, rather than playing in no-trumps, where 120 is available. It looks as if there are five top losers in diamonds - that is so, but the defence have their work cut out for them.

If the defence cash their spades and shift to a club, declarer wins and draws trumps, then plays two more rounds of clubs. It is important for West to unblock a top club to let East win the third round of that suit; then East must keep up the good work by shifting to the ten of hearts, surrounding dummy's nine, and declarer must lose now two heart tricks.

Note that once West has opened the heart suit, for example on an initial heart lead, the defence can never play hearts again without surrendering their second trick in the suit.

171

Counting is one of the most important exercises at bridge, but sometimes you have to combine the exercise with a fair amount of inference and conjecture. Consider this deal from the World Junior Teams 1999 at Fort Lauderdale

Dlr: East " J 8 7 2  
 Vul: Both ' K J 7 6 5  
 " A 7 3  
 § 8  
 " 5 3 " 10  
 ' A 10 9 8 ' Q 4  
 " Q 6 4 " J 10 5 2  
 § K 10 7 6 § A Q 9 5 4 3  
 " A K Q 9 6 4  
 ' 3 2  
 " K 9 8  
 § J 2

West	North	East	South
Pass	3§	Dble	4"
All Pass			

In the semifinal match between Israel and Italy both tables made Four Spades, but while the Israeli declarer had it easy on a trump lead, the Italian declarer Mallardi had the tougher task. He reached Four Spades after the Israeli East had the chance to double an artificial club call (the equivalent of a Bergen raise).

On a club lead to the ace and the accurate switch to the jack of diamonds, declarer won in hand and drew two rounds of trumps. Now it looks to be a blind guess as to how to play the hearts, but there were inferences from the fact that West had led a low club that he did not have two of the top three honours in that suit. Since East, a passed hand, apparently had six decent clubs to the ace and queen, and the jack of diamonds, he had no room for the ace of hearts, or he would have opened the bidding. So Mallardi led a heart to the king for his tenth trick.

172

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

West	North	East	South
3§	Pass	1"	1"
All Pass	Pass	Pass	3"

How many spades should South bid when East opens 1"? Some might try 4" and finish up at least one down. A more circumspect approach is to overcall at the minimum level and then compete to 3" over West's weak-jump response.

The defence can take a diamond ruff, but declarer should win trick three, and lay down the ace of spades, then work out the winning strategy in trumps (following up with the queen to pin the jack).

Why? Well, if South leads the ace and then a low spade, and East had only " K x to begin with, declarer has held his trump losers to one -- but he will still be going down. The point is that East could still set the hand by playing a third round of diamonds, to promote his partner's jack of trumps. So since East is favourite to have the king of spades, the most likely winning position after cashing the ace of trumps is to smother the bare jack of spades.

## The Icelandair Bridge Festival 2001 by Stefan Gudjohnsen (Iceland)

Unlike on other occasions, the February storms were pretty calm, when bridge stars from several countries sat down to compete in the yearly competition held by Icelandair, the Icelandic Bridge Union and the Reykjavik Bridge Club.

Zia was back with a formidable squad from the United States and Canada, containing Barnet Shenkin, Ralph Katz and George Mittelman. The Silver Medallists from the recent Olympiad, Poland, were represented by Jassem-Tuszynski, Romanski-Kowalski. The Hackett twins were also there, teaming up with Fu Zhong from China and Wayne Chu from South Africa. Former world champion, Carol Sanders also made an appearance, playing with Hjördís Eythorsdóttir our only ladies bridge professional. Teams from Sweden were also present, spear-headed by former European Champions Hans Göthe and Anders Morath.

In the pairs, Zia and Shenkin, built up a lead, which seemed unsurmountable. However, the Hackett twins, were never far away and in the end they managed to overtake Zia and Shenkin in the last rounds. And to make matters worse, a pair of young Icelandic players, also managed to get in between the foreign stars, to capture second place.

The final result of the pairs :

1. Jason and Justin Hackett           7034
2. Thorfinnsson and Stefansson    6851
3. Zia Mahmood and Barnet Shenkin 6802

The teams were convincingly won by Zia's team, with Poland second and Anders Morath Swedish team third.

Winning a strong pairs tournament takes good declarer play and defense, but lady luck also plays a strong part. Let's watch Jason Hackett produce a "top" in the pairs:

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

With the Hackett's in n-s and Katz, Mittelman in e-w, the bidding went :

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	1§	1“
Dble*	Pass	3NT	All Pass

\* red suits

Jason thought it likely, that East had a long club suit along with a spade stopper. He therefore decided to lead a red suit, in order to get Justin in, to lead spades through. As West's double primarily promised a heart suit, it was a better bet to lead a diamond, which Jason did with remarkable success. Justin won the ace and sent the queen of spades through. The defence then proceeded to win the first eight tricks, while other declarers won up to 13 tricks. Those who did not finesse in clubs only went one down, so the twins got a clear top on the board.



## X-files By Knut Kjaernsrod

"You don't believe it, until you see it". Agents Mulder and Scully have shown us some hair-raising episodes on TV in recent years, but you can indeed experience similar action around a bridge table. The strange but true tale of the defender who failed to make his ace, king of trumps comes from Sandefjord, Norway on New Years Eve:

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

North	East	South	West
1♣	Pass	1"	2'
3§	3"	Dble	4'
4"	5'	Dble	Pass
Pass	Redbl	All pass	

East-West's bidding looks to have been fuelled by New Year optimism, particularly as Four Spades was due to fail on the bad lie of the cards.

North led a spade was led to the nine and queen. A small diamond was taken by the ace, and another was won by the knave, declarer shedding a club. ♣K fetched a club from both South and West. A diamond ruff followed, and a club was taken by North's ace. South must have felt confident of beating the contract, being left with the ace and king of trumps. North led another club to the knave trumped by the three and overtrumped by West.

Then came the surreal moment. A spade was trumped in dummy, South overtrumped with the king and – led a spade! The revoke was established and two tricks were returned to West!

The next X-file episode comes from Poland, and shows an exceptionally clever declarer play, really out of this world:

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

My good friend, John Løkeberg, living in Poland for some years, contributed the story, but unfortunately he could not recall the bidding apart from the fact that West had shown a black two-suiter and that South, one of his Polish team-mates had ended up in 6'. (IBPA Ed: South could open 1', and West bid a nonvulnerable Ghestem 2').

The knave of clubs was taken by dummy's ace, and on two high spades declarer's ♣6 disappeared! The knave of diamonds was covered and trumped, a heart to the queen, and the nine of diamonds was covered and trumped, this time felling the eight. Three rounds of trumps end-played East in this position:

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

East had to return a diamond into dummy's tenace and in the process West was squeezed. In true x-file style: South predicted this after trick one!

IBPA Editor: A wonderful line, indeed. As when watching the X-files, I want to believe there was no script-writer.

**Zugzwang!** By Tommy Sandsmark  
(Norway)

Zugzwang is a chess expression meaning that the opponent has to do what you force him to do or risk losing the game. On this board from the Norwegian Observation Tournaments Boye Brogeland put both opponents into Zugzwang:

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

West	North	East	South
Boye	Peter	Erik	Gunnar
Brogeland	Marstrander	Sælensminde	Harr
	Pass	Pass	Pass
1NT	Pass	2 §	Pass
2♠	Pass	2NT	Pass
3NT	All pass		

The lead was § 5 (showing 2/4/6 cards). How would you play this board double dummy?

Boye played " J, which held (if North covers with the K, there will be nine easy tricks). Then came a small diamond to the Jack and the Ace. South continued in clubs (who can blame him for that?) and § A won the trick. How do you go on from here?

Boye cashed his third club trick and the ♠ K before North was forced in on the ♠ Q:

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

North was now suffering from Zugzwang. He could not touch the spade suit without giving West his 9th trick. All he could do was to cash

the club trick (Boye threw a diamond from Dummy and a spade from hand), before freeing himself with ' 10, which ran to West's Queen. Then followed the squeeze card, ♠ 7. Both opponents were in Zugzwang, and had to discard hearts as a spade discard from any one of them would allow the contract to make. Boye also threw a heart from dummy:

    " K 6  
    ' 6  
    ♠ -  
    § -  
" Q 9                            " A 4  
' 4                               ' K  
♠ -                               ♠ -  
§ -                               § -  
    " 10 8  
    ' A  
    ♠ -  
    § -

Boye knew the whole lay-out by now, and he played the ' 4. South was end-played, and forced to open the spade suit. He played the " 8 to give declarer a choice, but Boye knew that he had to put in the 9, and the 9th trick appeared in the spade suit.

Boye's problem on this hand is that if he should try to play the spade suit for three tricks, he would set up the fifth trick for the defenders (one spade, one heart, two diamonds and one club trick). Therefore his setting up an extra diamond trick and the subsequent elimination-squeeze endplay is the only way in which Boye can win his contract against an excellent defence.

The contract could have been defeated. Can you see how? A heart lead to the lowest cover in South (or the ' 10 run around) or a diamond lead to South's Ace and switch to ' 3 would seal declarer's fate. However, in this case a club was led.

Still, the contract can go down even with a club lead, if South leads the ' 3 when in on ♠ A. However, a small heart from A J 8 3 in trick 4 is not what I regard as practical bridge, and does not at all detract from Boye Brogeland's excellent declarer's play.

\* *Mike Pomfrey, the former England international bridge-player* won £500,000 (U.S. \$750,000) on the British television show "Who Wants to be a Millionaire?" Pomfrey, a bridge teacher, was in the bridge team that reached the quarterfinals of the Gold Cup last year in Britain. Partnering Dave Huggett he represented England in Camrose matches of 1976, 1981 and 1982, and was non-playing captain four times.

The £250,000 question was: "What is the symbol on the national flag of India: (a) bird; (b) wheel; (c) star; (d) mountain?"

Pomfrey thought he knew the answer, but first used up his 50-50 option to reduce the answers to two, then used up his "phone a friend" option, ringing his ex-wife, Georgie. She gave immediate confirmation of the answer Pomfrey had suspected, which he played successfully.

The £500,000 question was: "The capybara is the largest member of which animal species: (a) rodents; (b) marsupials; (c) carnivores; (d) primates?" Pomfrey knew the answer at once.

The £1,000,000 question was: "Tomas Masaryk was the first President of which country: (a) Czechoslovakia; (b) Poland; (c) Hungary; (d) Yugoslavia?"

Pomfrey was not prepared to lose £468,000 on his feeling it was Poland, so took the £500,000.

*Answers:* The 50-50 option about the symbol on the flag of India reduced the possibilities to wheel or star. Both Pomfrey and his ex-wife correctly decided "wheel".

The capybara is a giant rodent. Masaryk was the first President of Czechoslovakia, so Pomfrey was right not to gamble on Poland.

\* *Elena Jeronomidis* has been appointed Assistant Editor of John Magee's magazine "Bridge", sent free to 60,000 players in Britain. Mr. Magee, who calls himself Mr. Bridge, has an editorial line highly critical of the English Bridge Union. His magazine refers to his son Bernard, as "Britain's most popular bridge teacher".

By chance the latest issue contains several letters disputing an earlier letter from Mike Pomfrey (see above), critical of the magazine.

\* The Cavendish Invitational takes place May 9-13 at the Mirage Hotel in Las Vegas. Last year the auction before the event raised over one million dollars. There are 50 pairs and 26 teams.

\* *IBPA member Andrew Robson* has been transferred to a London Hospital following his

climbing accident on 23<sup>rd</sup> February. After he had fallen at least thirty feet, other walkers called the Wasdale Mountain Rescue Team and he was flown by Royal Air Force helicopter to the nearest hospital. He is suffering from multiple fractures, and recuperation will take months. Fortunately his head and spine were uninjured, and he is expected to resume his bridge career.

\* *The International Online Bridge Club Ltd.*, the service provider for the English Bridge Union's online bridge club (over 2,000 players):

[www.ebuonline.co.uk](http://www.ebuonline.co.uk)

has issued a Press Release saying it has reached an out-of-court settlement with IBPA member Mark Horton following solicitors' letters regarding the transfer of more than 25,000 names and addresses to *e-bridge*. The Press Release said Horton had given the database to *e-bridge* "a US based competitor of IOBC". The Press Release says "e-bridge have signed an undertaking, without admitting liability, confirming that they have stopped using the information and that it has been deleted from their computer system."

\* *David Stern says* The First Australian Masters Games for over 55s including a bridge tournament will be held in Hunter Valley, NSW, Australia from 5-14<sup>th</sup> October. Entries by 31<sup>st</sup> July. Cost of bridge Aus\$10 per session, or \$110 for the week.

Contact: Diana Ellis [stellis6@hotmail.com](mailto:stellis6@hotmail.com)

Or see: [www.nhevents.com.au](http://www.nhevents.com.au)

\* *Larry Cohen* makes a small correction to the report on Mansell-Gower's 7<sup>th</sup> with AK92 opposite QJ107 from African Zonal (IBPA, pg. 4 March issue 434). In case the deal is used for "Best Auction of the Year", please note that declarer can cope with a 4-1 trump break with a spade ruffed high before trumps are drawn. The report said "...to play in diamonds, where, providing the trumps break 3-2, 13 tricks are available..."

Cohen adds: Day 3 of the 1999 Life Master Pairs CD is now ready for shipment. Dealer cost \$15+shipping -- List price \$29.95.

All details at [www.larryco.com](http://www.larryco.com)

\* Journalists often need to distinguish the *Merrimac Coup* from the *Deschappelles*. The Granovetter Newsletter contained this example,

reported by Edgar Kaplan in The Bridge World (April, 1994). South plays in 3NT:

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

At one table in the 1993 Bermuda Bowl semifinals, West led a low club against 3NT. Declarer won in dummy to play a diamond toward his queen. East went up with the king and returned “ K, a Merrimac Coup (sacrificing his spade honour to take out dummy's entry to the long diamond suit). But declarer was able to win “ A and continue spades to make his game.

At another table in the same event, West, Marty Bergen, found the jack of hearts lead. Declarer ducked in dummy, won the ace, and passed the ♠ 7 to East's ten. East, Eric Rodwell, returned the king of spades. A Merrimac Coup? Not at all. This was the Deschappelles Coup, where you sacrifice an honor to create an entry in partner's hand.

Declarer abandoned diamonds and played on spades for his contract, but Marty Bergen was able to win the queen of spades and continue hearts to defeat the contract.

\* *Henk van Dalen reports*: The 16th Cap Gemini Ernst & Young World Top Invitational Pairs Tournament will be January 17-20, 2002 in the Hotel des Indes in The Hague - the Netherlands. Further information: Henk van Dalen tel.31-30-6896970 e-mail: [henk.van.dalen@capgemini.nl](mailto:henk.van.dalen@capgemini.nl)

\* *Gabriel Chagas* has a new address:  
Rua Sacopa 816, 2 andar, Rio de Janeiro  
RJ 22471-180, Brazil

\* *Ray Lee of Masterpoint Press* says: Please send email (also good for book orders) to me at: [ray@masterpointpress.com](mailto:ray@masterpointpress.com)

\* *Anna Gudge* says: I have an e-mail mailing list for bridge press. See how to join (or resign from) the list at:

<http://www.ecatsbridge.com/BiB/b2/maillinglist/bridgepress.asp>

I give news about major World and Zonal bridge events, and, of course, the various Simultaneous Pairs that I organise. I have various different lists. - Full details of all the lists are at:

<http://www.ecatsbridge.com/BiB/b2/maillinglist/>  
If you have resigned from a list and want to re-join then please email me ([anna@ecats.co.uk](mailto:anna@ecats.co.uk)) and I will put you back on.

If you are on the Webmasters and Press lists, you may prefer to stay there, as those lists will be sent different information.

With kind regards: [anna www.ecatsbridge.com](http://www.ecatsbridge.com)

\* The WBF reports it is negotiating with Singapore Airlines for special reduced rates between Europe and Bali in October for the World Bridge Championships.

\* *Topbridge*, one of the internet bridge providers is running a Barometer Individual where all competitors use the same system and you don't know who your partner is. That solves some of the security problems faced by many internet competitions. Contact: [www.topbridge.com](http://www.topbridge.com)

\* The Malta Bridge Festival runs from 19<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> April. It includes a European Seniors Congress over the first five days. Contact Mario Dix at: [mario@bridge.org.mt](mailto:mario@bridge.org.mt)

\* *Goran Mattsson* says: The Bonn Nations Cup will be held on 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> May. Contact: [mattsson@netcologn.de](mailto:mattsson@netcologn.de)

\* *Anders Brunzell* has a new e-mail address: [abrunzell@telia.com](mailto:abrunzell@telia.com)

The World Bridge Federation, EBL and ACBL have endorsed e-bridge to run an Internet championship called:

**The 1<sup>st</sup> e-bridge Internet World Open Pairs Championship.**

There is a prize pool of \$20,000, and masterpoints from the WBF, ACBL, and EBL. Competitors have to be a subscriber to e-bridge or ACBL Online and must register by 14<sup>th</sup> April. 1<sup>st</sup> prize \$5000, reducing to \$500 for 6<sup>th</sup> place. Contact: [www.e-bridgemaster.com](http://www.e-bridgemaster.com)  
Or [www.acbl.com](http://www.acbl.com)

END