

Boxing has three bodies claiming they are the world authority. It is rare for any boxer to be able to say he is the “undisputed champion of the world”. Several other sports have similar conflicts.

Most bridge-players are grateful that we have one undisputed world authority, the World Bridge Federation. Bridge-players accept you are only world champion if the WBF says you are, and you are only competing in a world championship if the WBF names it as such.

That brings us to the problems of principle presented by the two competitions currently under way on the Internet. The well-established one (it is in its third year!) is run by OkBridge, who call it The Internet World Bridge Championship. It is not sanctioned by the WBF, so your Editor has amended references to it to clarify a point: it is not a world championship and the winners are not world champions.

Now we have a new event, run by *e-bridge*, using a similar title. But the *e-bridge* event is sanctioned by the WBF, and therefore can claim, *de facto*, to be the genuine Internet World Bridge Championship, however modestly it starts.

IBPA members, however, have expressed concern to your Editor about one aspect of the WBF-sanctioned event, namely that you have to be a subscriber to *e-bridge* to take part. To an outsider it appears as if the WBF has simply sold its right to call an event a World Championship to the highest bidder, delegating all responsibility for running the event to a commercial body.

As a big spender *e-bridge* is unique in bridge. The money is welcome. Their gamble needs some reward. Also welcome is that *e-bridge* is working with the bridge authorities rather than against them. But in the haste to set up their Internet Championship your Editor believes, with respect, that a mistake in presentation has been made.

Suppose the WBF launched a World Bridge Quiz Championship, with the title of World Bridge Quiz Champion at stake, and said only subscribers to *Bridge World*, where the Quiz was running, may take part. There would be complaints that the WBF had sold its rights to a commercial body, rather than the commercial body sponsoring a WBF event. By contrast, if the WBF said the entry fee to the *Bridge World* World Bridge Quiz is x , and whilst the Quiz runs, all contestants will receive a complimentary copy of the *Bridge World* where details can be found. There could be few complaints, provided existing subscribers were given a discount on the entry fee! The effect may be similar, but the principle is different.

The WBF should be seen to be responsible for its own events. A commercial body may buy the right to associate its name with a World Championship and assist in the running. The WBF should not appear simply to sell its right to call something a world bridge championship.

Patrick Jourdain – Editor

Spanish Pairs take Portugese Open, Teams Retained by Holder

Cascais & Estoril, 24-29th April, 2001

By Patrick Jourdain

The Portugese Bridge Festival has a loyal clientele partly because its midweek schedule has bridge in the evening only (particularly popular therefore with golfers like your IBPA Editor). It is held in Cascais and Estoril, near Lisbon soon after Easter each year.

The big Pairs event attracts a strong contingent of players from outside Portugal as well as the best players from Portugal itself. This year two pairs from the Spanish team that play hosts at the European Championships in Tenerife next month, took the top two places, giving proof that at the Europeans, the home team can be expected to put up a strong showing. Spain's third pair (two Poles) Knap & Wasik, were also competing, but not together.

- Pairs: %
1. Luis Lantaron-Federico Goded (Spain) 62.75
 2. Jose Torres-Antonio Frances (Spain) 62.53
 3. Eugenia Davim - C. Machado (Port) 62.24
- Teams:
1. **Sofia Pessoa** (Jorge Castanheira, Rui Silva Santos, Jorge Santos, Carlos Pimenta, Manuel Oliveira) Port 188
 2. **Acacio Figueiredo** (Costa Antunes, Helmut Hausler, Mrs. Perlia) Port & Germany 167
 3. **Jan de Winter** (Netherlands) 163

The winners, Luis Lantaron, an IBPA member, and his partner Federico Goded, have won Brilliancy Prizes in the past. Lantaron reported this example of his partner's skill from the Pairs:

Dealer: South N-S Game Brd 31 " J ' K 10 ♠ K 8 6 5 2 § 10 9 4 3 2	" K 10 7 2 ' A J 7 5 4 ♠ J 7 4 § 5 " A Q 8 6 3 ' 9 8 6 3 2 ♠ 10 § Q 6 " 9 5 4 ' Q ♠ A Q 9 3 § A K J 8 7	East South Lantaron 1♠ 2§ 3§ All Pass	North Goded 1' 2♠ 3NT
---	--	---	-----------------------------------

Just short of the strength of his Strong Club, Lantaron opened 1♠. The rebid showed nine cards in the minors either way round, and when he moved on over 2♠, a maximum. So they reached the popular spot of 3NT.

East led his fourth highest spade to the jack and king. A finesse of ♠ Q lost to the king. West made the excellent switch to ' K which was allowed to hold. A second heart was taken by the ace, the dummy throwing a spade. Goded took the club finesse, which held, and then cashed the ace. When East dropped the queen Goded tested diamonds, crossing to the jack. East showed out.

It looked as if West was 5-5 in the minors, and Goded found a neat way to make a valuable overtrick. He cashed his heart winner throwing his last spade from dummy.

This put West, holding three cards in each minor, to a fatal discard. Suppose first he throws a club. Goded would return to ♠ A, clear the clubs, and use West's forced diamond return to South's ♠ 9 to reach the fifth club. In practice West chose to discard his fifth diamond. Goded replied by cashing both his diamonds and then exited with a low club, endplaying West.

Declarer made one spade, two hearts, three diamonds, and four clubs for ten tricks and a shared top. (Shared incidentally, with your IBPA Editor who was in 3NT from the South seat, on a spade lead.)

The Dutch always have a strong presence at the Portugese Open. Erik Kirchoff & Nico Klaver met Paul Hackett & Ross Harper of England on this deal. Klaver reported that Hackett made a safety play missed at several tables:

Dealer: North N/S Game " Q 8 6 3 ' 8 6 5 2 ♠ Q 4 § A J 6 " 10 5 4 ' 10 4 ♠ A K 10 8 7 § 10 9 4	" K J 7 2 ' A 9 ♠ J 5 2 § K Q 5 3	East South Hackett Pass Pass 1§	North Kirchoff Harper Pass
---	--	--	-------------------------------------

1♣ 1' 2♣ Pass
 Pass Dble Pass 2"
 All Pass

Two Spades was certainly a popular spot, though usually North made a negative double over 1♣ and South competed freely.

West led a top diamond and switched to ' 10, allowed to hold. South won the next heart and carefully crossed to dummy with a club to lead a trump to hand. He then cleared the second diamond. West played another club, but this was won by the jack, for declarer to play a second trump. East's ace fell on thin air, and Hackett was able to ruff the third heart high, and draw the last trump without West's " 10 coming into play.

Nine tricks was above average as many declarers had led a trump from the South hand, and then had to lose two trumps when East led the third heart, promoting West's ten.

Jason Hackett & David Mossop of England (though Mossop has become a tax-exile in Switzerland since the take-over by finance company Amvescap of Perpetual, where he was Chief Executive) finished 0.2% ahead of your Editor and David Kendrick, thereby collecting 100,000 escudos (\$500) for the leading visiting pair. This deal helped them to the prize:

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Jason</i>		<i>Mossop</i>	
1'	Dble	3'	Pass
4'	All Pass		

North led a friendly nine of trumps, covered by the jack, queen, and ace. When Jason sneaked a low diamond to the ten he was able to pick up trumps and avoid a club loser. He had the luxury of choosing whether to throw dummy's clubs on his diamonds, or his club on dummy's spades.

Twelve tricks, not surprisingly, took most of the matchpoints. (Steve Ray of England, North at another table, confessed that by making the same lead against Four Hearts doubled, he had given his East-West pair the top, though only 11 tricks)

The Teams was a clear win for the holders, led by Sofia Pessoa. She partners the highly talented Jorge Castanheira. This is a typical effort from their last round match:

Dealer: North " J 5 3
 Game All ' A K 10 9
 " A 5
 § A 9 8 3
 " 7 6 4 " A K 10 9 2
 ' 8 4 3 ' Q J 6 2
 ♣ Q ♣ J 7 3 2
 § Q J 10 7 6 4 § None
 " Q 8
 ' 7 5
 ♣ K 10 9 8 6 4
 § K 5 2

West	North	East	South
	<i>Pessoa</i>		<i>Castanheira</i>
	1§	1"	2♣
Pass	2"	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Castanheira reached Three Notrumps from the South seat and West led a spade, to the nine and queen. With only seven tricks visible (though an eighth is available thanks to the diamond position), Castanheira made the classic ploy of simply playing back a spade!

There is no defence at this point. East actually switched to ' Q and found himself put on play again with the third spade. He reluctantly cashed his spades and exited with a diamond. Declarer now cashed the top clubs and East was squeezed in the minors. He threw one heart followed by a diamond. The diamond finesse now brought in the suit.

East might have done better to play ace, king and another spade right at the start, as then declarer has no spade with which to exit. But two rounds of clubs still proves too much for East. He can throw a heart, but has no second discard. If he ditches a diamond or a heart the suit runs, so he is forced to throw a spade. Declarer clears the hearts and East has only one winner to cash before conceding the rest.

The American Nationals at Kansas

City By Barry Rigal

Not-so-blue Jay

I breakfasted with Jay Stiefel, fresh from his narrow loss to Meltzer, and he pushed the obligatory pieces of paper across the table, presenting two challenging play problems:

Dealer: South " K 9 4 3
 Game All? ' A 7 4 2
 ♠ 10 5
 § J 9 3

 " A J 2
 ' K
 ♠ A K Q 4
 § Q 10 7 5 2

West	North	East	South
	<i>Shafer</i>		<i>Stiefel</i>
			1§
1'	Dbl	2' (1)	2NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

(1) Denies a top heart honor.

In 3NT on a top heart lead, it seems to me you have a choice. You could go for the psychological line of crossing to the " K to try to sneak a low club past East. Or you could lead a club from hand, win the third heart and then play on spades. The upside here is that if West has exactly a 2-5-4-2 shape without the " Q, three rounds of spades squeeze him.

Jay decided to go for this line but he took the infinitesimal improvement that made this hand a serious candidate for an award. At trick two he cashed the ♠ A – and the ♠ J dropped.

Now he crossed to the ♠ 10 and finessed the " J and though it lost, the 3-3 spade split made life easy. The full deal:

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

As you can see, this is the only line that works here. Jay said that he was playing a young

team and at this point in the match, they led by 20 IMPs. After this deal, Stiefel's team outscored them 120-9.

From the win against Marty Fleisher's tough quartet comes a deal where Walter Shafer took a bid (or two) too many and left it to Jay to pick up the pieces.

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

West	North	East	South
	<i>Shafer</i>		<i>Stiefel</i>
	1♠	1'	1"
2'	3'	Pass	4§
Pass	4NT	Pass	5§ (1)
Pass	5♠ (2)	Pass	6§ (3)
Pass	6"	All Pass	

(1) 1 or 4 key cards.

(2) Queen ask.

(3) Yes, I have the " Q and the § K also.

On the merciful heart lead, Stiefel pitched his diamond loser at once. Now how do you cope with the potential bad splits?

Jay actually cashed the § A and ruffed a club, dropping East's queen. Now he ruffed a diamond, ruffed a club high (as East threw a heart), ruffed a diamond (as West produced the ace) and ruffed another club with dummy's last spade. Now he knew that West had a 3-3-2-5 shape. He ruffed a heart, cashed the " Q and exited with the " 10. West had a losing trump and losing club left, so Stiefel had the rest.

Close but no cigar

Ken Barbour gave me a couple of deals from his losing Vanderbilt match. The first might be entitled: "little things mean a lot."

" A J
' A Q 10
♠ K Q J 8 4 2
§ Q 10

“ Q 10 3
 ' 9 7 4 2
 ♠ 6
 § A K 8 3 2

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
	1♠	Pass	1'
1“	Dbl (1)	Pass	1NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

(1) Support double.

3NT looks comfortable enough on a spade lead, with all sorts of minor-suit chances and a heart finesse to fall back on.

Ken (South) took his fractional extra chance by overtaking the “ J with the “ Q at trick one and leading a diamond up. Surprise, surprise! His left-hand opponent did have a singleton ♠ A. Now the contract was assured and when Ken played safe by cashing the ' A, he produced an overtrick when the ' K was singleton offside. The complete deal:

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

The second deal saw Ken (East) on defense:

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

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
	1♠	1“	Dbl (1)
Pass	2§	Pass	2NT (2)
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

(1) 7-10, not promising hearts; 1NT would be artificial.
 (2) 10-11.

On the ' 3 lead (fourth highest), Barbour played his ' Q and declarer won the ' K. Now declarer ran four diamond tricks, ending in hand. Barbour pitched a heart to unblock the suit and two spades.

To his surprise, declarer next led the ' 10 from hand. Barbour won and carefully returned the “ K. This turned out to be essential since if you cash out the hearts, it suicide squeezes the East hand.

If East leads a top spade, he cuts the communication for declarer for the squeeze but a heart back in this ending sets you up for a squeeze on yourself – embarrassment city.

Do I have a choice?

Mel Colchamiro cornered me on my way to the elevator and gave me a beautiful play hand. Beware, though the answer is simple the problem is far harder than it looks.

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

Avoiding the auction (not wishing to embarrass any guilty parties) consider the play in 6“.

Best defense is obviously to lead two rounds of clubs but West plays a top club and shift to diamonds.

The natural thing to do is to cash the “ A and the ' K. Then you lead the “ 10 from hand. If West discards, you need the ' Q to fall. If West follows, guess whether trumps are splitting or whether hearts behave.

That looks pretty good but there is a better line: overtake the ' K with the ' A at trick two and ruff a heart. If that suit splits or if the ' Q is bare, you have no problem in drawing trumps, ending in dummy. If hearts do not behave, you need 2-2 spades – it's as simple as that.

West actually held three trumps and ' Qx

Who is Zia?

Zia, who headed out to this NABC fresh from his marriage to Emma, was eager to show me a coup produced by his partner, Lynn Kapell.

Dlr: West	“ A K 10 9 8 3
Vul: Both	' Q J 4
	♠ 10 9 8 4

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

West	North	East	South
	<i>Lynn</i>		<i>Zia</i>
1♠	2“	3♠	4“
5♠	All Pass		

You can beat 4“ - in theory! On the ' 9 lead, West must win his ace and give his partner a ruff - but how many of us would resist signaling for a club as our entry for the second ruff, as opposed to giving a more neutral signal? (not I)

In any event, defending 5♠, Lynn seized her chance for fame and led the “ 3! Zia went up with the “ Q - a hurdle overcome - and shifted to the devious § 2. Declarer unsuspectingly hopped up with the § A. When Lynn ruffed and returned a spade, he was so unnerved that he finished down four.

Since 5§ makes on careful play, (*IBPA Editor*: Not a diamond lead, win the second trump, and put North in with a spade for a diamond ruff) this turned out to be an excellent result for Zia and Lynn.

At the end of the round, Lynn said, "I've waited 20 years to do that." Dummy asked, "Which of you two is Zia?" And Zia told Lynn it was a good thing his marriage was so stable or he'd kiss her.

Poland and Sweden Hold Joint Trials

By Daniel Auby (Sweden)

This year Poland and Sweden decided to play part of their trials together. This idea goes back to the eighties but was reborn last Spring at the Politiken Pairs where some Polish players, amongst them Krzysztof Martens, suggested the idea again. I was contacted and rapidly came to an agreement with Radek Kielbasinski, the new chairman of the Polish Federation. Slawek Latala, their executive manager (now an IBPA member), worked out the details and successfully organised the tournament. Ten pairs from each country participated. In both cases these pairs had been selected or qualified at earlier stages. The city of Starachowice, some 100 kilometres south of Warsaw was selected as site.

It was played as a straight Mitchell with Sweden NS and Poland EW, i.e. all pairs from one country always had the same cards as their countrymen, thus giving the NPCs many interesting comparisons. The arrangements were splendid and we all look forward to continuing this cooperation. Thanks to our Polish hosts, all deals and most of the play can be found at: http://bridge.cronix.pl/table_html.php

Johan Sylvan had these cards:

“ K Q 10 ‘ A K Q 7 ♠ A K 5 3 § A K
(28 HCP) second in hand, at love all, and had to face a 2[♣] opening by his RHO, Jacek Pszczola. This showed a weak Pre-empt in a minor or weak with both majors. Johan doubled and PO Sundelin, his partner, responded with 2NT (Lebensohl) indicating a bad hand (how surprising!). What would you bid now? Johan realised that he had no cue-bid available since the opening bid carried no anchor suit (a Brown Sticker convention) and he took a chance and bid 6NT! He found his partner with queen fifth in a minor but alas, it was in clubs, not in diamonds. He drifted a couple of tricks off. The deal was interesting at other tables as well:

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

The most popular strain for N-S was of course Notrumps. But can you guess the second most popular strain? That was diamonds, Redoubled!

Whenever South made a diamond negative West doubled, North redoubled and South sat for it. One N/S pair played 1[♠] RD making 2, another in 2[♠] RD making 2. Gullberg-Andersson play a strong diamond so South didn't bid diamonds until the three level. West duly doubled, and Andersson as North by then knew Gullberg had a balanced hand so he also redoubled, but that was one off.

Mårten Gustafsson, North in 4NT, received a club lead. He cashed a second club, West throwing a heart, and then ran the hearts, West discarding two diamonds. North played “ K and East won the ace and exited with ♠ J. Mårten won and then cashed the diamond ace also. He now had a complete count of the distribution, but who had “ J? If West, then he must play a small diamond and score “ 10 on the return. If East had “ J, then he had play “ Q, 10 and score dummy's § Q at the end.

If West had had “ xxx he might have thrown a spade rather than a heart at trick two, so Mårten exited with a diamond and made 4NT.

Later, several Swedes congratulated Pszczola for his enterprising opening. You can imagine what the reaction of some North Americans would have been (cf. e.g. Larry Cohen in the Jan 2001 Bridge World, commenting on the systems used by the Italians and the Poles in the Olympiad). We saw it quite differently, as an interesting and fresh insight into a territory seldom visited even by Swedish theorists (us being rather scientific). And several Swedes who hadn't already invented counter-measures against this kind of opening (a PRE NF 2-level opening without an anchor suit) thought it a most interesting intellectual challenge to try and construct that. This is, apparently contrary to the belief of some people, also a part of our beloved game.

This difference in opinion may be an effect of the fact that we Polish and Swedish players come from free countries while the North Americans live a secluded life where the authorities decide what you as a citizen may do and not do. How time changes. (*IBPA Editor: I assume this is a reference to the ACBL system regulations, perhaps with some tongue-in-cheek, so don't bother to complain if you disagree!*)

Gustafsson was also involved in another highly spectacular hand.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Laszczak</i>	<i>Morath</i>	<i>Buze</i>	<i>Gustafsson</i>
		Pass	1"
2'	2NT*	3§	3' *
Dble	4§	5'	Pass
Pass	6"	All pass	

2NT was Game-forcing in spades and 3' showed shortness in hearts. West (helpfully) led the § 5 (2nd or 4th).

Mårten desperately searched for a layout where he might make this contract. The one he found was the actual one! He won § A, diamond to the king, ruff a club, ♠ A discarding ' K, and ruff out the diamonds. Then came a small spade:

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

West, Laszczak (notice: another Pole with this szcz combination in his name...) having realised that he would easily have set the contract by leading ' A, now calmed himself and paused... and finally played low, sacrificing his other sure trick, the king of trumps, but beating the contract! Well recovered!

RESULTS

POLAND East-West

OkBridge Internet Open Championship
 by Henry Francis (USA)

1 Cezary BALICKI - Adam ZMUDZINSKI	170
2 Marcin LESNIEWSKI - Krzysztof MARTENS	159
3 Michal KWIECIEN - Jacek PSZCZOLA	158
4 Slawomir OLECH - Krzysztof KUJAWA	151
5 Marek WÓJCICKI - Jacek POLETYLO	151
6 Wlodzimierz BUZE - Zdzislaw LASZCZAK	150
7 Apolinary KOWALSKI - Jacek ROMANSKI	148
8 Piotr TUSZYNSKI - Krzysztof JASSEM	144
9 Jerzy MICHALEK - Kazimierz LICHAWSKI	139
10 Wojtek OLANSKI - Wlodzimierz STARKOWSKI	135

SWEDEN North-South

1 Peter STROMBERG - Fredrik NYSTROM	164
2 Lars ANDERSSON - Tommy GULLBERG	162
3 Lars GOLDBERG - Bjorn WENNEBERG	162
4 Johan SYLVAN - P-O SUNDELIN	158
5 B-E EFRAIMSSON - Keneth BORIN	152
6 Marten GUSTAWSSON - Anders MORATH	148
7 Goran GJERLING - Tommy BERGDAHL	148
8 Thorstur INGIMARSSON - Magnus MAGNUSSON	141
9 Svante RYMAN - P-G ELIASSON	127
10 Jenny RUDENSTAHL - Katrine STENSRUD	126

For Sweden Nilsland-Fallenius and Lindkvist-Fredin stopped playing after Maastricht. Fallenius-Lindkvist renewed their partnership from the eighties and started very well together. But a couple of weeks before this tournament announced that they didn't have the time available to play in the European Championship.

The pair in 8th place are Icelanders (living in Sweden) and will represent Iceland on Tenerife. The two girls will represent Sweden in the ladies series.

SELECTION

In Poland another tournament will be played between these ten Polish pairs and the results from the two tournaments are added together. No.s 1 and 2 will be automatically selected for the team and the third pair from pairs 3-5.

In Sweden the Non-playing captain selects the team and for Tenerife it will be: Sundelin-Sylvan; Gullberg-Andersson; Nyström-Strömberg (still juniors last year and debutants at this level)

Post-script On Saturday evening suddenly some 120 Israeli youths, about 14-15 years old, arrived at the Hotel. What were they doing there? Not far way from Starachowice lies the Polish village of Oswiecim and there is Auschwitz. My hosts informed me that it is obligatory for all Israeli school children to visit a place of the Holocaust. This was a reminder to us all that there is more in life than bridge.

IBPA Editor: The name given to the event by OkBridge and used by Henry Francis is the Internet World Bridge Championship, but to avoid confusion with the internet championship sanctioned by the World Bridge Federation, I have referred to it as the OkBridge Internet Championship.

Ninety-two teams from 32 nations will attempt to wrest the OKbridge Internet Championship from Romania's defending champions. Play in the third annual championship sponsored by OKbridge began in late April and will continue until a champion is crowned in December.

The Romanians surprised the world with their fine showing last year. This year it will be different – every opponent will be out to beat the champions. Playing for Romania once again are Dorin Petre Musat (petre), Serban Criscota (dodog), Alexandre Feber (feber) and Catalin Popescu (senator).

As always, the United States has the most teams – 32. Included is the squad captained by Marty Seligman, who won the first Okbridge Championship. Playing with him are Paul Soloway, who has won more masterpoints than any other ACBL member in history; Walter Johnson and Doug Simson.

Other countries with more than one team in the competition: United Kingdom, 5; France 4, Norway 4, Ireland 3, Australia 3, Canada 3, India 2, China 2, Netherlands 2, Austria 2, Greece 2, Romania, 2; Argentina 2, and Denmark, 2. Countries fielding one team: Germany, Belgium, Italy, Faroe Islands, Turkey, Hungary, Russian Federation, Ukraine, Georgia, Hong Kong, New Zealand, Iceland, Sweden, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Colombia and Brazil.

Once again the teams have been divided into eight groups – four in the Western Hemisphere and four in the Eastern. The eight winners in regional competition will meet in the quarterfinals. Eventually a champion in each hemisphere will be determined, and those two teams will meet in the final in December.

The entire competition is knockout teams, scored by IMPs. Until the round of 32, all matches will be 24 boards. During the Round of 32 and the Round of 16, matches will be 32 boards. Starting with the Round of 8, each match will consist of 48 boards

John can't play cards, but he plays bridge by Henry Francis (USA)

John Schuler of San Diego can't play cards any more – but he can still play bridge. Ten years ago while fighting off a tough attack of the flu, something happened that changed his life forever. One moment he could see just fine; two hours later everything was a blur – permanently. He had lost central vision, and suddenly he was virtually blind.

Macular deterioration runs in the family – his brother and two sisters all suffer from Stargardts Syndrome, but to a much lesser extent. Apparently the virus is in the systems of people like John, and the virus takes control when the body is having a tough battle, such as fighting off the flu.

John had to make many adjustments, of course. As a computer software engineer, he had to find a larger monitor that also produced a bigger picture. And his new glasses were more like magnifying glasses. They have a focal length of only three inches, so John has to hold anything he wants to try to read about three inches from his eyes.

He no longer could drive a car, so he had to find some way to get to work every morning. No problem – his friend Jerry Sutton has driven him to work every day for the past six years. His wife Cindy takes care of the rest of the driving. By the way, Jerry isn't a bridge player, so what do they talk about? Scouting. Jerry is into scouting big-time – he set up eco trips and contests for the youngsters.

John soon discovered it wasn't easy to find things any more. And, worst of all, he couldn't play cards! He couldn't tell a king from an ace.

Computer bridge to the rescue! That was back in the days when computer bridge was first coming onto the scene – remember the Imagination Network? That wasn't totally satisfactory, but at least he could still play bridge. Then along came OKbridge a few years later, and John was in heaven.

“If I was marooned on a deserted island, I'd be happy as long as I had a laptop and an OKbridge program,” said John.

John's version of OKbridge is different. He finds it difficult to make out the cards in the usual OKbridge display, so he uses the Unix version. The cards come up as letters and numbers instead of pictures. For him an ace is A, a king is K, etc.

John is an expert bridge player. He was a member of the first Internet World Bridge Championship team, victors in Boston two years ago. He played with his regular partner, Mike Crawford of San Diego. They had impressive teammates – Paul Soloway, Marty Seligman, Eric Rodwell and Jeff Meckstroth. They defeated a powerful Russian team in the final.

At the time no one realized how powerful those Russians were. They had reached the quarterfinals of the world championship once, but that was about all. But today everyone knows about Andrew Grumov and Alexander Petrunin – they were victors in the prestigious Vanderbilt Knockout Teams in March and they won the North American Swiss Teams last fall.

John had a strange problem in that Boston final – his screen was TOO big. The rental company personnel had heard about his problem, so they sent a 35-inch monitor instead of his usual 21-inch. “It was too big,” said John. “I sometimes had a hard time making out the images. Paul Soloway had to use the big screen when I wasn't playing, but you know Paul – nothing bothers him. The big screen didn't faze him in the slightest.”

The IWBC triumph isn't the only computer bridge championship for John. “Our team won the Gotchee Swiss a couple of years ago. We played matches throughout the summer. There was an unwritten rule that we were supposed to play in our underwear since it was so hot and since we were playing in the privacy of our homes.”

John has just released a program he invented that makes it possible to discover just how often certain random combinations of high cards produce games or slams. He talked about BOREL and GIB, but the concepts were a bit over the head of this editorial computer wannabee nerd. On thing he discovered in an early simulation – of 1000 random notrump hands (15-17 high card points) facing a somewhat balanced 9 points, 45% produced nine tricks.

John did not go very far in last year's IWBC – his team was eliminated in the third round. He's back in the fray again this year with his regular partner, Mike Crawford, and teammates Bob and Marcia Dean from the San Francisco area.

John's happy – he can still play bridge even though he can't play cards. And he's got his laptop and his OKbridge program in case he ever gets marooned on a deserted island.

Here's a hand John played at a recent tournament. His hand wasn't a bell-ringer, but it certainly was good enough for 1st even though it has only 11 high card points. As John said, "Our Precision style made one spade a comfortable choice."

IMP Bd. 13	" A J 10 7 6 4	
Dlr: North	' Q 8 4	
Vul: Both	♠ K 10 4	
	§ J	
" Q 8 2		" 3
' K J 10 7 3 2		' 9 6 5
♠ 8 3 2		♠ A Q J 9 5
§ 3		§ 8 7 4 2
	" K 9 5	
	' A	
	♠ 7 6	
	§ A K Q 10 9 6 5	

West	North	East	South
<i>Suzanne jls</i>	<i>soda</i>	<i>shadow</i>	
	1 st	Pass	2§
2'	Pass	Pass	2 nd
Pass	2NT	Pass	3§
Pass	3 rd	Pass	4'
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♠
Pass	5'	Pass	6§
Pass	6 th	Pass	6NT
All Pass			

Once John opened the bidding, *shadow* was interested in slam. After *shadow* showed the heart control, John took charge with Blackwood. Over the one-ace response he asked about the "Q with a 5' bid. But *shadow* bid 6§, so John signed off in 6th. *Shadow* took it back to 6NT where there was no chance of an opposing ruff.

When East led the ♠ A, it was all over but the shouting. John won the diamond continuation followed by seven clubs. West had to come to four cards holding " Q82 and ' KJ. Whatever he threw John had the rest of the tricks for an 11.98 IMP gain.

If East had led a heart in response to partner's bid, John would have had to guess the spade position to make his slam.

X-files By Knut Kjaernsrod (Norway)

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

**Harvard University wins OKbridge
College Tournament** by Henry Francis (USA)

Harvard University defeated Bilkent University of Turkey to win the OKbridge College Junior championship (also sponsored by the Fifth Chair Foundation) last month. It was a close match all the way, Harvard winning 59-53. On the key hand, Bilkent bid to an excellent grand slam that went down when one defender had all four outstanding trumps.

Altogether nine teams from six countries participated in the two-day event. The University of Vienna (Austria) and Harvey Mudd finished tied for third after losing to Bilkent and Harvard respectively in the semifinals. The other schools were Fudan University (Shanghai, China), Simon Fraser University (Burnaby, British Columbia, Canada), University of California at San Diego, Wah Yan College (Kowloon, Hong Kong), University of Illinois.

Harvard wasn't a totally Harvard team – it actually was Harvard-Stanford-MIT. Only two of the team's five members are students at Harvard – Li-Chung Chen (team captain) and Andrew Cotton. Qixiang Sun and Theodore Hwa are both students at Stanford, while Jason Woolever goes to MIT. However, Qixiang graduated from MIT last year and used to be Jason's regular partner. They invented and used a system called the Recursive Diamond that has some resemblance to Precision.

“Andrew and I first met Qixiang and Jason at the Boston NABC,” said Chen “We actually met at the national 99ers championship, which Qixiang and Jason won. We all play fairly frequently at the MIT bridge club. Because it was hard to find enough Harvard students to field a team, I invited Qixiang and Jason, and Qixiang in turn invited Theodore to be on our team.”

Playing for Bilkent were Soner Kececioglu, captain; Bekir Arslan, Deniz Arslan and Y. Firat Celikler.

Harvard just barely made it to the semifinals. The qualifying round was a pair contest, with the scores of each pair IMPed and then combined with the other score (or scores) of their teammates. Vienna was tops in the qualifying with 1.67 IMPs per board. Vienna chose to play second-place Bilkent (.35 per board). That left third-place Harvey Mudd (.32 per board) to battle Harvard (.08 per board).

In the semifinals, Bilkent won a squeaker against Vienna, 56-54, while Harvard had an easy time with Harvey Mudd, 61-24.

This was the major swing hand of the first half of the final.

Board 3	“ K 7 6
Dlr: South	' A Q 7
Vul: E-W	♠ 5 4 3
	§ Q 8 6 2
“ Q 10 8 4	“ A 5
' --	' J 10 8 6 5 4 3
♠ A K J 10 6 2	♠ –
§ A 10 7	§ K 9 5 4
	“ J 9 3 2
	' K 9 2
	♠ Q 9 8 7
	§ J 3

West	North	East	South
<i>Chen10</i>	<i>Celikler</i>	<i>Cotton</i>	<i>Kececioglu</i>
			Pass
1♠	Pass	1'	Pass
1“	Pass	2§	Pass
3♠	Pass	3'	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

“My partner's two clubs was artificial,” said Chen, “so it was not unreasonable for my LHO to attack with a club. If he had led from the queen-jack, I would have had two quick entries to hand to set up and cash the diamonds, but it was not to be. Now if I tried to set up diamonds, I would be in danger of losing a diamond, three hearts, and one or two spades before getting back to hand. Hence I abandoned diamonds but instead picked up clubs (North erred by not covering the § 10) and exited a heart (discarding two diamonds from hand), making the defense lead a spade or diamond for me. This line had reasonable chances as long as the defense could not cash four hearts.

“North obliged by leading a low spade to my queen. I continued by leading to the spade ace and exiting another heart, discarding another diamond. South grabbed his heart king and led a diamond, but at that point I had no need to finesse in diamonds because the “K was the only outstanding spade (South had discarded two spades on the clubs) -- I could just set up my fourth spade for my ninth trick. That was +600.”

Declarer at the other table took a different line:

West	North	East	South
<i>Deniz</i>	<i>Sun</i>	<i>Bekir</i>	<i>Woolever</i>
			Pass
1♠	Pass	1'	Pass
3♠	Pass	3'	Pass
3“	Pass	3NT	All Pass

South led §J. Declarer won in dummy and went after diamonds. South won and led another club. Declarer could never reach dummy after North carefully covered the §7 with the 8 on the second round of clubs, denying a dummy entry with the §10. The result was down three for +300 and 14 IMPs to Harvard.

This deal from the second half determined the championship:

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Chen10</i>	<i>Deniz</i>	<i>Cotton</i>	<i>Bekir</i>
Pass	1'	Pass	2NT
4NT	6'	Pass	7'
All Pass			

1' was Precision, showing 11-15 points and 5+ hearts, while 2NT showed 16+ points and heart support. 4NT showed the minors while at the same time attempting to jam the opponents' slam investigation. South did well to bid the excellent 7', but unfortunately it went down when the heart-broke 4-0 offside. Interestingly, the only making grand slam was 7" by South. However if the defending hands were reversed, 7" would go down on a heart lead by West, ruffed by East.

At the other table, Harvard did not investigate for the grand slam and stopped at 6' . Because of the heart split, Harvard gained 17 IMPs instead of losing 13. This was the auction:

West	North	East	South
<i>Celikler Sun</i>		<i>Kececioglu Woolever</i>	
Pass	1'	Pass	1NT
2NT	3♠	Pass	6'
All Pass			

1' showed 9-15 HCP, either a 6 card heart suit or 5 cards and side shortness. 1NT showed 5 spades and was a one round force. 2NT showed the minors and 3♠ was a cuebid, supporting spades and presumably with a diamond control since 3§ would work as well.

“We made a lot of mistakes on many boards, but we did not deserve to lose that swing,” said Kececioglu. “I’m not taking anything away from Harvard -- they did great and they deserved to win.”

WBF World Wide Bridge Contest

Clubs all over the world are getting ready to play in the World Wide Bridge Contest on 1st & 2nd June. Clubs from the big Federations like China, the ACBL, and Italy will be joined by clubs from countries like French Polynesia and Netherlands Antilles in playing the hands, with the results being re-scored across Internet using software developed for the WBF.

Two Zonal Championships are taking place over this key weekend, and heats will be played at both Championships, involving some of the top players from Zone 4, Africa and the Middle East, and Zone 5, Central America and the Caribbean.

The commentary has been written by Eric Kokish. All the details concerning the event can be found at

www.worldbridge.org.

Results will start to appear as they come in from New Zealand and Australia in the first instance, then tracking right across the world until the last club plays, probably in Alaska. Initially only the ranking lists will be displayed, but from about mid-day on the morning following the event, the frequencies and commentaries will appear on the site. Players will have the chance to add their own comments to those of Eric Kokish, and will be able to see their own personal score card, detailing the local score as well as their overall matchpoints and percentages on each board.

The website has the results and hands from the 2000 World Wide Bridge Contest, and these are available for journalists wishing to use them for articles concerning the event.

Further information can be obtained from Anna Gudge, the WBF Simultaneous Pairs organiser, by emailing: anna@ecats.co.uk or telephoning +44 1787 881920.

* *Paul Hackett of Manchester says:* The organisers of the Commonwealth Games in Manchester at the end of July 2002 have given the English Bridge Union authority to hold a teams bridge championship in the period immediately preceding the Games during the Cultural Festival, using the Games logo.

Letters are going out to all bridge federations outside Britain whose countries are eligible to compete at the Commonwealth Games, inviting them to say whether they expect to be able to field a team.

The competition is planned for 15-20th July 2002 at the Whitworth Hall in Manchester. The organisers expect to be able to provide accommodation for overseas entries.

IBPA Editor: The EBU is also seeking to host the European Junior Team Championships at the same time. The event also overlaps with the ACBL Summer Nationals in Washington.

* *Goran Mattsson says:* The Bonn Nations Cup will be held on May 23 and 24th at the Stadthalle Bonn-Bad Godesberg. Only invited teams can participate. Teams have been invited from England, Sweden, Denmark, Norway, Estonia, Russia, Poland, Austria, Rumania, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Switzerland, Holland, Belgium, Israel, Greece, Wales, and probably France, Italy, Portugal and Spain will send teams. It is possible that a Canadian team (Carruthers) will take part. The nearest airport is Cologne, and there is a bus connection from the airport to the main railway station of Bonn. From there you take the tram directly to the Stadthalle. Main hotel is the Kaiserhof, Moltkestrasse 64, 53173 Bonn Tel: 0228 957050 Results on:

<http://www.bridge-club-bonn.de/>

* The US Team Trials take place in Memphis from 3-12 June. The top two teams will represent the USA in the Bermuda Bowl in Bali. The two US Junior teams for the World Junior Teams in Rio in August will also compete in the US Trials (e-bridge are paying their hotel and entry fees). The US teams in Rio are:

US1: Joe Grue, John Kranyak, Brad Campbell, John Hurd, Kent Mignocchi, Joel Wooldridge, npc Bob Rosen.

US2: Ari Greenberg, Kevin Bathurst, Chris Lubesnik, Paul Bethe, Jason Feldman, Todd Wolford.

Team Canada: Erin Anderson, Ian Boyd, Vincent Dumay, Josh Heller.

* *Jean-Paul Meyer reports on the results of the French Trials for the Europeans in Tenerife:* The Open was played on a team of six basis, and the Ladies on a Pairs Trial:

France Open: Franck Multon, Jean Christophe Quantin, Patrick Allegrini, Jean Jacques Palau, Philippe Soulet, Michel Abecassis NPC Gérard Tissot French ladies: Catherine Fishpool, Babette Hugon, Christine Lustin, Danièle Avon, Muriel Clement, Sylvie Dumont

Bessis, d'Ovidio and Cronier Willard played in the Open teams trials.

France Junior team for Rio: Julien Gaviard –son of Danièle Allouche- Olivier and Thomas Bessis (sons)- Godefroy de Teissières- Frederic and Guillaume Brivot NPC François Colin

JPM adds: JC Quantin has been put in charge of Le Bridgeur. The Editor is Michel Abecassis.

Events in Bali for Seniors

This information is taken from the minutes of the EBL Seniors Committee Meeting in Sorrento:

There are two Senior events in Bali.

(a) The Seniors Bowl the first week with each Zone and the host invited to field one team. If there is an odd number of acceptances Europe will be invited to field a second team. So far seven Zones have indicated their intention to field teams. Age qualification: over 55 on the day the event starts in Oct 2001.

(b) Then, at the same time as the Transnational Teams, in the second week, there will be a separate Seniors Transnational event "IF more than 20 senior teams enter AND wish to have their own event, they could". If there are less than 20 wanting their own event the senior teams will play in the Transnational Teams and have a prize for the leading senior team.

IBPA Editor: Teams composed entirely of Seniors may not know until they arrive in Bali whether there will be a separate event.

* *Ron Klinger reports:* Australia has won the right to represent Zone 7 in the Senior Bowl in Bali as well as in the Women's Venice Cup, while Australia and NZ will appear in the Bermuda Bowl.

* *Ib Lundby reports* So far clubs, players etc has supported our junior team for Rio with about \$13.000, and I know about at least \$6000 more to come. I strongly believe that we will reach \$25.000 - more than enough!

IBPA Editor: Well done all concerned.

* *Jan van Cleeff* is writing a book about Bob Slavenburg and would be grateful to receive any information about him, in particular photographs. Tell Jan what you have:
jvcleeff@xs4all.nl

* *Maureen Hiron* has been appointed bridge correspondent to the Irish Independent with a daily bridge column. Mrs. Hiron is already bridge correspondent to the Independent based in London.

* *Yury Kovalenko*, the TD, has a new address:
Chlodwigstr.19, 56068 Koblenz, Germany
Tel: Home: 49-261-9143434
Mobile: 49-160-7922994
e-mail: kovalyr@gmx.net

the suspension, but that the judge at the hearing refused to issue the order.

* *David Parry* of England, an IBPA member, has been suspended from membership of the English Bridge Union for a period of three years following an incident at last year's Summer Congress in Brighton. The EBU says "Mr. Parry unreasonably sought to make a public announcement, which he was not entitled to make, despite having been officially instructed not to do so. Mr. Parry used foul and abusive language, audible to a large number of people. Mr. Parry's subsequent behaviour led to him being banned from the Hilton Metropole Hotel, Brighton."

* *The English Bridge Union's* Millennium Appeal for Save the Children has passed £35,000 (over \$50,000).

IBPA *e-bridge* Clippings Competition

The prizes will be presented in Tenerife. The deadline has been extended to 12th June. Send clippings or articles mentioning *e-bridge* to our Secretary, Maureen Dennison (details on front page). Send electronic versions to Eric Kokish at:
Kokish-kraft@home.com

* *John Magee* rings to say that his company *Mr. Bridge* has taken over the magazine *Bridge Plus*. Elena Jeronimidis is Associate Editor (not Assistant, as described in the last Postbag).

* *David Birman* is no longer associated with *e-bridge*, and the main contact for IBPA members should be Eric Kokish (see panel above).

* *John Blubaugh* has been suspended from membership of the ACBL until September 13, 2002, to be followed by a probationary period to September 12, 2007. The ACBL says he was found guilty of giving his partner a specific card when he was the dealer.

The ACBL reports that Blubaugh attempted to have a restraining order placed on

* *The Spring Foursomes* Britain's most prestigious Congress event, has been won by a team from Poland containing two former world champions. In the final Krzyztof Martens beat the team led by Paul Hackett of Manchester 70-52.

The Spring Fours was held over five days in Stratford-upon-Avon with an original entry of 53 teams. Teams are not eliminated until they have lost twice. Hackett and Martens had met earlier when they were the only two teams not to have lost a life. Hackett won and Martens dropped into the pool of teams that had lost once.

In the semifinals Hackett met the team led by Adrian Thomas of Cardiff. Thomas was a single point ahead at the end of normal time, but the team previously undefeated has the option of extending the match by eight deals. Hackett used this extra time to win 75-59. In the other semifinal Martens beat the team led by David Mossop 77-50.

Spring Fours winners: K. Martens, M. Lesniewski, J. Poletylo, M. Wojcicki.
Runners-up: P. Hackett, A. Waterlow, J. Armstrong, D. Davies.

* *Fred Gitelman* reports that his company Bridge Base Inc. has launched a new online bridge service, *Bridge Base Online (BBO)*.

The Windows software that is required to install BBO is available as a free download through:

www.bridgebase.com/online

BBO differs from other online services in that its primary focus is educational (as opposed to competitive).

Features include: online bridge; teaching material; public or private bridge clubs you can set up yourself; A Partnership Bidding area where partners can practice bidding randomly dealt hands (with or without constraints); Double Dummy analysis using Deep Finesse; a bridge library; a Vugraph Theatre; Bridge Chat Rooms; Lecture Hall where famous bridge players, writers, and teachers will present their bridge material to large audiences. The software allows the lecturer to prepare highly graphical and interactive presentations of his/her bridge content.

If you have any questions concerning Bridge Base Online, please e-mail:

fred@bridgebase.com or phone (416) 322-8316.
web site: www.bridgebase.com

* *Victor Silverstone* gave the IBPA Editor this interesting declarer play problem in the Spring Foursomes from the match Dixon (team-mates

Calderwood & Shek) v. Steel (team-mates Hugh McGann & Tom Hanlon of Ireland).

Dealer: North	" 10 6		
Love all	' 5 4		
	♣ 6 4 2		
	§ A K Q 10 5 2		
	" Q		
	' K Q 9 8 6 2		
	♣ A K 9 8 7		
	§ 3		
West	North	East	South
<i>McIntosh</i>	<i>Dixon</i>	<i>Steel</i>	<i>Silverstone</i>
	Pass	Pass	4' All Pass

West, "Tosh", led a spade to East's king. Steel switched to the jack of diamonds. Proceed.

You seem to have a spade, diamond, and two trumps to lose. Your Editor saw two chances. West is clearly marked with ' A (as East Passed and has " AK and ♣ J). You could play for diamonds 3-2 and East to hold ' J10 doubleton: simply win and play a high heart; OR you could win and play a *low* trump, relying on West having bare ace, and East something like: " AKxx ' J10xx ♣ J § xxxx

West wins, but cannot profitably give East a ruff, and all the losing diamonds go on the clubs.

However, Stoney found a third, better, and successful line. He played for diamonds 3-2, West to have ' Ax and clubs to be 3-3.

His line was to cash ♣ AK and then run four rounds of clubs, throwing all his losing diamonds. Which defender should ruff the fourth club? They were in Morton's Fork. If East takes the ruff, the remaining trumps are 2-2, and there is no trump promotion as West has the third diamond. After thinking about this Steel led West, McIntosh, ruff the fourth club. But when next on lead Stoney played a low heart, felling the now bare ace, and picking up the rest of East's trumps. Well done!

West held: " J8732 ' A7 ♣ Q105 § 876

East had: " AK954 ' J103 ♣ J3 § J94

Les Steel spotted a club switch at trick two works for the defence. If declarer takes four clubs, East throws a diamond, West switches to a diamond, and when in with ' A gives East a diamond ruff! It was a flat board. Same contract at the other table but West led a diamond and declarer's losing spade quickly disappeared.

* *Drew Cannell* reports that on Thursday, May 31 at 3 PM and 8 PM NY time *e-bridge* will be holding duplicate games that were previously played in a few selected bridge clubs in the New

York area. Our aim is to load these two games with top players for the membership to intermingle with. The objective is to advertise that such and such top players will be in the event. The sessions will be either 24 or 26 boards (approx 3 hours). Hope to see you there.

If interested, contact: Drew Cannell
e-bridge Special Events Coordinator
<http://www.e-bridgemaster.com>

* *Marc Smith* is doing biographical details for players at the European Championships in Tenerife for *e-bridge*. If you will be competing in Tenerife, please contact Marc for a questionnaire:
spock@tcp.co.uk

* *Anna Gudge says*: Details of the **European Championships** in Tenerife are on:
www.ecatsbridge.com

Click on the Championships and the link to Zone 1. Information includes the names of most of the participating teams, being updated daily at the moment. You can find details of the Ladies Pairs and Ladies Transnational Cup there as well, for those of you wanting to enter these. Also find:

The World Transnational Open Teams Championship in Bali. Transnational means that you can play with a partner or team mates from a different country or even a different Zone if you want to. Many of the players who haven't made it through to the finals of the Bermuda Bowl or the Venice Cup join the Transnational teams and make it really special!

The European Bridge League is organising a **Simultaneous Pairs** held over four nights (with different hands each night) from Monday 26 - Thursday 29 November. Entry for this will be via your NBO. Heats will be held in clubs throughout Europe, with the hands and commentary published on Internet as soon as play has finished. The hand records will be sent to the heat organisers so that you play the same boards as everyone else.

Other events are mentioned. ... for example, **The New Zealand Congress** is in Hamilton from 30 June – 07 July. More details from Richard Solomon:

(RKSolomon@xtra.co.nz).

Calendar	Event	Venue	IBPA Contact
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
2/11	World University Teams, Bruges, Bruges Belgium		anna@ecats.co.uk
12/19	European University Teams, Rotterdam, Neth		EBL
OCT 20/2 nd Nov	Bermuda Bowl, Venice Cup, Transnational Teams, Bali		WBF
NOV 18/28	ACBL Fall Nationals, Las Vegas		ACBL
2002			
JAN 17/20	Cap Gemini Invitation, Hotel des Indes, The Hague		henk.van.dalen@capgemini.nl
MAR 7-17	ACBL Spring Nationals, Houston		ACBL
JUL 15/20	? Commonwealth Games Bridge, Manchester?		EBU
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

END MAY 2001 IBPA BULLETIN 436