

# THE INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE PRESS ASSOCIATION

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*This Bulletin is published monthly and circulated to around 500 members of the International Bridge Press Association comprising the world's leading journalists, authors and editors of news, books and articles about contract bridge, with an estimated readership of some 200 million people who enjoy the most widely played of all card games*

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The Editor and Production Editor thank members for seasonal greetings received, and wish all members a very Happy and Peaceful New Year.

For your Editor this year brings the completion of twenty years in the job. In Maastricht I informed your Executive that would be the signal for me to wish to move on to a less strenuous role within IBPA. The most likely time for the hand-over to a new Editor will be in Montreal. Persons interested in the post should notify our Secretary, Maureen Dennison, of their interest before the end of February (for address, see left). You will be provided with a detailed job description. IBPA's Executive Vice-President, Jean-Paul Meyer, is in charge of the interviewing procedure.

The Editor is expected to have an excellent command of the English language, but need not be based in Britain. Bridge expertise must be sufficient to detect the great majority of errors in the copy provided. You need the journalistic skill to assign appropriate space in the Bulletin to deals, bridge news, and IBPA business; to protect IBPA from legal disputes, and the personal qualities to maintain good relations with the Executive and the contributors, most of whom provide copy unpaid.

The IBPA also has good relations with the bridge authorities that it wishes to maintain, but the IBPA Editor must be, and be seen to be, independent of those authorities. The Editor should feel able to express views that may not coincide with those of the WBF or Zonal authorities, but do reflect the interests of bridge journalists. This Editorial is the view of the Editor rather than the organisation, but the Editor has a responsibility to see that it puts a view that is not just personal.

The Editor must have the computer skills to receive copy electronically and produce edited copy for layout without assistance. The Production Editor is responsible for final page layout and for printing and distribution. The Membership Secretary is responsible for maintaining an accurate Membership file. The Executive intends to give greater attention to the Internet version of the Bulletin and the Editor should be open to the possibility that the printed version of the Bulletin may be reduced in numbers or even perhaps disappear completely. Currently it is 16 pages of A4 sent to every member at least 12 times per year. It is our intention that the Internet version will have a section updated weekly.

The approximate remuneration available for the job can be deduced by looking at the copy of the Accounts in the previous Bulletin. The Secretarial allowance is to be combined with the fee per Bulletin. There is a grant (currently \$1000) towards the Editor being present at the World Championships each year, and a similar annual grant towards all expenses, such as fax, telephone and computer costs.

*Patrick Jourdain - Editor*

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# Romanian Team Retains okBridge Worldwide Team Contest

By Henry Francis (USA)

Romania, represented by a team known as Romanian Beauty, successfully defended its championship in the third annual OKbridge Internet Worldwide Bridge Championship, defeating the United States, represented by Speed Demons II, by 23 IMPs. The 48-deal final was played on Dec. 22 and 29. Romania led by 3 after 24 boards, then won both 12-board segments on the 29th.

For the first time, all members of both teams played electronically from their own homes. (*IBPA Ed: With monitors present*) No player ever saw his or her opponents, teammates or partner. In the two previous championships, the finalists were brought to the site of the Fall North American Championships of the American Contract Bridge League – Boston in 1999 and Birmingham, Alabama, in 2000.

Playing for Romania were four of the five players who won the 2000 championship – Dorin Petre Musat, Serban Criscota, Alexandre Feber and Catalin Popescu. Marion Radilescu, a champion in 2000, did not play this year.

Spearheading the United States team were Chip Martel and Lew Stansby, who have won world championships in both the World Open Pairs and the Bermuda Bowl. They played as a partnership some of the time, and each also played with his wife, both of whom have several North American championships to their credit. Jan Martel and JoAnna Stansby both are experts in their own right. The team's third pair consisted of Marty Fleisher, the team captain, and Ron Gerard.

Each team received a prize of \$5000 (US), and the Romanian champions were awarded trophies as well. Each member of the Romanian team was awarded 50 ACBL masterpoints, and each American will receive 37.5 points.

There were two reasons why the Romanians won, according to Chip Martel. "They were lucky and they played better than we did."

On several occasions Romania got to the contract that made while the Americans wound up in a poor contract that failed. The following hand set the tone for the second half.

Board 28	♠ A K Q J 6 4
Dlr: West	♥ A 3
Vul: Both	♦ 10 5 3
	♣ K 2
	♠ 9 8 7
	♥ Q 8 7
	♦ K 8 7 2
	♣ 8 6 4
	♠ 5
	♥ K J 9 5 2
	♦ J 9 6 4
	♣ Q J 10

West	North	East	South
Lew S.	Musat	Chip M.	Criscota
Pass	1♣	Pass	1♠
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♠	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Romania was using a forcing club system with lots of gadgets, so the first four bids were artificial. The first natural bid was Musat's two spades. Musat decided his hand was fine for notrump when Criscota was able to bid two notrump naturally. Martel made the normal lead, a club, and Criscota played back a second club to set up his 10th trick – plus 630 for Romania.

West	North	East	South
Popescu	Fleisher	Feber	Gerard
Pass	1♠	Pass	1NT
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♥
Pass	3♠	Pass	3NT
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

Fleisher knew Gerard was very short in spades. As a result of Gerard's three heart bid, Fleisher thought his ace doubleton of hearts would be a major help in a heart contract. So, after bidding spades a second time and getting a three notrump response, he decided on the heart game.

Popescu led a club to partner's ace, and Feber cashed his top diamonds to establish book. He switched back to a club, and Gerard went after hearts the normal way, cashing the ace and then finessing. After winning his heart queen, Popescu cashed his diamond king and led a fourth diamond, enabling his partner to score his heart 10. Down three – 14 IMPs to Romania.

Bridge writers often use an x to denote a small card, but sometimes holding a 7 instead of a 6 can make all the difference in the world. Look at this deal from late in the match when Romania held an 11-IMP lead.

Board 44  
 Dir: West  
 Vul: None

♠ —  
 ♥ A Q 8 7 3  
 ♦ A Q 10 8 3  
 ♣ 6 5 4

♠ A J 7 2  
 ♥ 4 2  
 ♦ K 9  
 ♣ A Q 10 8 3

♠ 10 9  
 ♥ 10 9 6 5  
 ♦ 7 6 5 4  
 ♣ J 9 7

♠ K Q 8 6 5 4 3  
 ♥ K J  
 ♦ J 2  
 ♣ K 2

West	North	East	South
<i>Jan M.</i>	<i>Musat</i>	<i>Chip M.</i>	<i>Criskota</i>
1♣	2NT	Pass	3♥
All Pass			

Musat showed the red suits with two notrump, and Criscota chose hearts despite his strong spade suit. Musat was not excited by Criscota's minimum response, so he passed.

Criskota won the trump opening lead with the jack and led the spade queen. Jan put up the ace, but Criscota did not ruff – he discarded a club to maintain dummy's heart length. When Jan led another trump, declarer quickly cashed the spade king, sluffing another club from dummy. Next came the diamond jack, covered and won. Criscota then cashed two more trumps and all his diamonds, finally losing a club at the end. Making five for plus 200.

West	North	East	South
<i>Popescu</i>	<i>JoAnna S</i>	<i>Feber</i>	<i>Lew S.</i>
INT	2♥	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

JoAnna Stansby showed hearts and a minor with her two heart overall. Lew's bid showed long spades with little interest in any other suit. JoAnna raised to game on her void, expecting slightly better spades from her partner.

Lew won the opening heart lead and immediately went after diamonds. When Popescu covered the jack, Lew won and attempted to cash two more, pitching a club – but Popescu ruffed in with the deuce. He cashed the club ace and continued with the queen, ruffed. Stansby led the ♠5, won by Feber with the 9. Feber could have gained another trick by returning his last diamond to set up two more trump tricks for his partner. But he actually chose to lead the ♣J. Stansby ruffed and drove out the trump ace – down one for a 6-IMP loss.

But switch ♠7 and ♠6, and the game makes, with the Americans 12 IMPs better off.

Romania was much more aggressive than the United States on the next board, and it paid off handsomely.

Board 45  
 Dir: North  
 Vul: E-W

♠ 10 4  
 ♥ K 3  
 ♦ A 8 7 6 5  
 ♣ Q J 6 4

♠ A Q 8 7 6  
 ♥ A 5  
 ♦ K Q 4  
 ♣ K 7 3

♠ K J  
 ♥ J T 8 4 2  
 ♦ J 3  
 ♣ 10 9 8 2

♠ 9 5 3 2  
 ♥ Q 9 7 6  
 ♦ 10 9 2  
 ♣ A 5

West	North	East	South
<i>Jan Martel</i>	<i>Musat</i>	<i>Chip Martel</i>	<i>Criskota</i>
1♠	Pass	Pass!	Pass
	Pass	Pass!	Pass

West	North	East	South
<i>Popescu</i>	<i>JoAnna S</i>	<i>Feber</i>	<i>Lew S.</i>
1♠	Pass	Pass	Pass
Dble	INT	Pass	2♦
2NT	Pass	2♥	Pass
	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Chip had two spade honors and six high card points. Why did he pass one spade? He had his reasons.

"It looked as if we were losing," he said. "We were down by 8 going into the last 12 boards, and the opponents got to a good diamond slam on the first board of the last set.

Nothing much good had happened to date, so I figured passing was a decent way to play for a swing. My ploy sort of worked – it created a swing! But even if I bid there is no guarantee we would have gotten to game.

"This result was typical of the match — when the opponents were pushy, the cards meshed well and the opposing cards were friendly. When we were pushy, the opposite was true."

At the other table JoAnna tried the unusual notrump. Popescu showed his powerful hand by doubling Lew's two diamond response. Feber bid his five-card heart suit, and Popescu bid an invitational 2NT. Feber reassessed his hand – the spade honors might solidify that suit, and partner had shown strength in both minors. The diamond jack and the 10-9-8 of clubs probably would pull their weight as well. So he accepted the invitation and bid game.

He was right on all counts. His honors solidified spades for five tricks, and his diamond jack helped provide two tricks in that suit. The heart ace was the eighth trick. Everything depended on the club situation. It was likely that JoAnna had the ace for her one notrump bid, but Popescu had little choice. He led a

club and put up the king. It held! He had his vulnerable game for a 10-IMP pickup that just about cinched the championship – Romania now led by 27 with three boards to go. After two push boards the Americans scored 4 IMPs on the final deal, leaving Romania as champions by 23 IMPs.

*Francis adds two hands from the semifinals:*

Romania got to the final by defeating www.funbridge, a French team, in a semifinal. On the French team were Jerome Rombaut, Francois Combescure, Lionel Sebbane and Laurent Thuillez.

The United States had to come from behind to eliminate the Misfits from Canada by 17 IMPs. The Misfits had several crashes during the final 12 boards, including getting to a slam off two aces and going for 1400 against a non-vulnerable game. Nevertheless they still were down by only 4 IMPs with six boards to go. A late game swing ended the Misfits' hopes.

Three notrumps on this deal from the United States-Canada match looks makeable on the actual club lead, but Deep Finesse says no:

Board 3	♠ 6 5		
Dlr: South	♥ A K 9		
Vul: E-W	♦ Q 7 5 4		
	♣ 8 7 5 4		
	♠ A J 10 7 4	♠ 9 3 2	
	♥ 8 6 5	♥ J 10 7 4 3 2	
	♦ 2	♦ A 8 3	
	♣ K Q 10 9	♣ 6	
	♠ K Q 8		
	♥ Q		
	♦ K J 10 9 6		
	♣ A J 3 2		
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
JoAnna S	Timms	Lew S	Aarons
2♠ <sup>1</sup>	2NT	Pass	3♣
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

<sup>1</sup>Spades and a minor.

The game goes down on a spade lead but JoAnna Stansby led ♣Q instead. Declarer ducked this, and now JoAnna alertly switched to the jack of spades. Declarer won this and knocked out the ace of diamonds. But, unhappily for him, East had that ace and was able to push a spade through declarer's queen-small – down two.

If declarer takes his ace of clubs at trick one, of course he will go after diamonds, leading middle ones from hand. However, East will hold up for two rounds – otherwise declarer will have the necessary transportation within the diamond suit. After winning

the diamond ace, East will lead a spade. When declarer rises with the queen, West takes her ace and continues with the jack of spades, leaving this position when declarer wins the third spade:

	♠ —		♠ —
	♥ A K 9		♥ J 10 7 4 3 2
	♦ Q		♦ —
	♣ 8 7		♣ —
♠ 10 7			
♥ 8 6			
♦ none			
♣ K 10			
	♠ —		
	♥ Q		
	♦ K 6		
	♣ J 3 2		

Declarer appears to have nine tricks but lacks the transportation to reach them. No matter what declarer does, he is down for the count. So maybe he was right to duck at trick one – and hope.

At the other table Cohen led a heart, so it was child's place to score nine tricks for an 11-IMP pickup.

Imagine losing 14 IMPs when you buy a hand at the one level.

Dlr: East	♠ 5		
Vul: E-W	♥ A Q J 9 8		
	♦ A 10 6		
	♣ A K Q 10		
	♠ 10 6	♠ K Q 10 4 3	
	♥ 5 4 3 2	♥ K 10 6	
	♦ K 9	♦ 5 4 3	
	♣ 8 7 6 4 3	♣ J 5	
	♠ A J 9 7 2		
	♥ 7		
	♦ Q J 8 7 2		
	♣ 9 2		
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
Cooper	Gerard	Cohen	Fleisher
Pass	1♥	1♠	Pass
Pass	Dble	All Pass	

Would you overcall with the vulnerable East hand after partner passed in third position? It's close. Would you pass a one-level double with the South hand? It's close. But Cohen overcalled and Fleisher passed the double.

The carnage was devastating. Fleisher led his singleton heart to Gerard's ace, and Gerard continued with the heart jack. Cohen covered and Fleisher ruffed. He switched to the queen of diamonds, covered by the king and ace, and Gerard cashed the heart queen. Next came his small spade, and Fleisher took the jack. He cashed the jack of diamonds, then led a club to partner's queen. Gerard led his good heart 9, but Cohen discarded his last club.

Gerard now led his club ace, and when Cohen ruffed in with the king he wasn't happy when Fleisher overruffed with the ace. He got out with the spade 7, won by Cooper with the 10. He had to lead a club, and Cohen had his choice of losing options. No matter what he did,

he had to lose two more tricks for down five – minus 1400. At the other table Chip Martel and Lew Stansby defended a notrump game, making six, for a 14-IMP pickup. Stansby chose not to overcall after Timms opened one heart.

## Hungary wins Turkish Festival

By Mark Horton (England)

*Great Bridge Festivals is a new company designed to offer help to Countries wanting to stage International Bridge competitions. The first event saw three members of the team (Ron Tacchi, Dutch TD Marc van Beijsterveldt and the writer) visiting one of the most beautiful islands in the Mediterranean, Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus. It was sponsored by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Defence and the Turkish Embassy to the TRNC.*

In the final Hungary (Zsolt Balasy, Gal Hegedus, Peter Hajdu & Laszlo Szilagyi) easily defeated (186-97.7) Bulgaria (Georgi Stankov, Michael Mizushev, Ivajlo Karaivanov & Hristo Chavdarov) to secure the first prize of US\$4,000. The losers collected US\$2,000.

In the play-off for third place in a close match Russia, who led by 2.7 defeated Poland 123.7-117 to win US\$1,000.

In the semifinals Hungary, fielding four of their European Championship team easily defeated Russia 102 – 13 IMPs, the losers conceding after 20 of the 40 boards due to be played, whilst Bulgaria outscored Poland 141 – 56 IMPs. Belarus won the play-off for fifth place by beating Ukraine 108 – 62 IMPs.

At the end of the Round Robin phase the four leading teams were Hungary 243VP, Poland 209VP, Bulgaria 203VP and Russia 181VP.

Blessed with sunshine, Northern Cyprus is unspoilt and offers numerous attractions to the visitor. Among them is the magnificent fortress that dominates the harbour of the town of Girne - Richard the Lionheart stopped off to capture it on his way to the Holy Land.

The withdrawal of Romania reduced the field to seven teams, Russia, Poland, Bulgaria, Hungary, Belarus, Ukraine and Turkey. The first four all included players with international experience.

A double round robin would be followed by semifinals and a final and a relaxed playing schedule meant the players were able to give of their best enabling them to produce many interesting and instructive deals.

The competitors had agreed to dispense with the tiresome, time consuming and sometimes unreliable Appeals Committee system and were relying entirely on the Director's decision. He was not called to adjudicate on this deal, but it raised an interesting point.

Dealer: South ♠ A K Q 7 5  
 Love all ♥ J 6 5 3  
 ♦ 8 6  
 ♣ 7 3

♠ 9 8 6 ♠ 2  
 ♥ 10 4 ♥ 2  
 ♦ 3 2 ♦ K Q J 10 7 5 4  
 ♣ K 10 6 5 4 2 ♣ A Q J 9

♠ J 10 4 3  
 ♥ A K Q 9 8 7  
 ♦ A 9  
 ♣ 8

West	North	East	South
			1♥
Pass	4♥	5♦	5♥
Pass	?		

North, Ron Tacchi, unwisely decided not to mention his spade suit, going directly to Four Hearts. East came in with Five Diamonds and South, John Squibb, gave the matter some thought before bidding Five Hearts.

North now felt he was effectively barred from any further action and passed, but had he decided to bid on he would not have suffered, as South had taken a positive action. Of course the situation would be different if South had passed or doubled after long thought.

### Leading Questions

It has been written before that a player who does nothing more than always make the correct opening lead will win every honour the sport has to offer. How would you have fared as South on this deal?:

Dealer: North ♠ 3  
 Love all ♥ 6 5 3  
 ♦ A Q 8 4 3 2  
 ♣ A 9 3

♠ Q J 6 ♠ A K 9 4  
 ♥ A K Q 10 9 ♥ 7 4 2  
 ♦ K 6 5 ♦ 10  
 ♣ K 7 ♣ Q 10 6 5 4

♠ 10 8 7 5 2  
 ♥ J 8  
 ♦ J 9 7  
 ♣ J 8 2

West	North	East	South
	<i>Tacchi</i>		<i>Squibb</i>
	1♦	1NT*	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

South selected the jack of diamonds!!

### Almost Brilliant

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

West	North	East	South
	Pass	1♣*	1♦
Double	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♠	Pass	3NT	All Pass

\*1♣ was Strong

South led his 'suit' and declarer naturally finessed, losing to the singleton king. North now switched to the ace of hearts followed by a low heart! In a way he was unlucky to find South with the ace of clubs as well, for it meant a low heart at trick two would also have defeated the contract.

### Carte Blanche

In the game of Piquet a hand with no card higher than a ten can claim a bonus for *carte blanche*. The phrase is also used to describe a note giving the holder the right to do as he pleases without fear of retribution.

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

West	North	East	South
	<i>Zsolt</i>		<i>Hegedus</i>
	Pass	1♦*	2♠*
Dble	4♠	Dble	All Pass

\*1♦ was Precision, 2♠ was Intermediate

North could not claim any bonus for his miserable collection but he was quite fearless at his next turn, despite the vulnerability. When West could not find a second bid, and +800 was poor compensation for what was available.

West	North	East	South
<i>Hajdu</i>		<i>Szilàgyi</i>	
	Pass	1♦*	1♠
Dble	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♠*	Pass	3♥	Pass
3♠*	Pass	3NT	Pass
4♦	Pass	4♥*	Pass
4NT*	Pass	5♦*	Pass
5♥*	Pass	5NT*	Pass
7♦	All Pass		

\*4NT was asking in diamonds.

\*5♥ asking in hearts.

Here East/West were given all the space they needed to explore the hand and the result was an immaculate auction to the top spot.

It was clear from the Round Robin that Hungary and Bulgaria were in excellent form and they avoided each other in the semifinals, both recording easy wins over Russia and Poland and setting up a potentially exciting final that Bulgaria started with a carry over of 11.7 IMPs.

### The Director's Squeeze

Dealer North	♠ J 9 5		
Love all	♥ 9 7 5 2		
	♦ 7 4 3		
	♣ A 7 5		
	♠ A 10 3		♠ K Q 8
	♥ J		♥ A 10 6 3
	♦ K 8 2		♦ A 9 5
	♣ K J 9 8 3 2		♣ Q 10 6
	♠ 7 6 4 2		
	♥ K Q 8 4		
	♦ Q J 10 6		
	♣ 4		

Hungary stopped in a safe game:

West	North	East	South
<i>Szilàgyi</i>	<i>Mizushev</i>	<i>Hajdu</i>	<i>Stankov</i>
	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♣*	Pass	2NT*	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♥	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
Chavdarov	Hegedus	Karaivanov	Zsolt
	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♠*	Pass	2NT*	Pass
3♦*	Pass	3♥	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♣	Pass
6♣	All Pass		

\*2♠ Clubs; 2NT Good Fit  
 \*3♦ Red singleton

East/West got their wires slightly crossed in the auction, East thinking West was showing a singleton diamond. Armed with that information, South led the king of hearts and declarer won and knocked out the ace of clubs. In due course the fortuitous disposition of the red suits saw South squeezed.

South protested that with the correct information that West had a singleton heart he would have led the queen of diamonds and that a further diamond lead from North after taking the ace of trumps would break up the squeeze. But the director pointed out that the squeeze still works with hearts as the pivot suit. South promptly withdrew his protest! That increased Bulgaria's advantage, but it was all Hungary from then on. This was one of many deals where they gained points:

Dealer: West      ♠ 10 3  
 Game all        ♥ 6 4 3  
                     ♦ Q 10 4  
                     ♣ A J 10 6 4

♠ 7 5 2 ♥ A Q J 10 9 8 7 ♦ 3 ♣ 8 7	♠ J 9 8 ♥ K ♦ K J 9 8 6 2 ♣ K 3 2
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♠ A K Q 6 4  
 ♥ 5 2  
 ♦ A 7 5  
 ♣ Q 9 5

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
Mizushev	Hajdu	Stankov	Szilágyi
3♥	Pass	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

At the other table everyone passed Three Spades but Hajdu took an optimistic view and raised to game.

West led his singleton diamond to the ten, jack and ace. Szilagyí drew trumps in three rounds and led the club nine, East hesitating for a moment before letting it win. Declarer put a small heart on the table. When West didn't open his jaws and rise with his ace East had to win. There was no way for the defenders to collect more than one heart, one diamond and one club and the game was made. When East desperately switched to the king of clubs declarer had an overtrick and Hungary had 10 IMPs.

*In November 2002, there will be a full scale Festival in Cyprus, organised by Great Bridge Festivals and the TRNC.*

Calendar	Event	Venue	IBPA Contact
<b>2002</b>			
<b>JAN</b> 17/20	Cap Gemini Invitation, Hotel des Indes,	The Hague	henk.van.dalen@capgemini.nl
<b>FEB</b> 02/06	IOC Grand Prix	Salt Lake City	WBF
22/24	The Forbo, Scheveningen	Kurhaus, near The Hague	e.mswaan@freeler.nl
<b>MAR</b> 7/17	ACBL Spring Nationals,	Houston	ACBL
16/22	EBL Mixed Pairs and Teams,	Ostend	EBL
29/Apr 1	Easter Festival,	London	EBU +44 1296 394 414
<b>APR</b> 23/28	Portugese Open,	Estoril	Portugese BF
<b>MAY</b> 21/26	European Women's Bridge Festival,	Sicily	anna@ecats.co.uk
<b>JUN</b> 7 & 8	World wide Bridge Contest,	Clubs everywhere	anna@ecats.co.uk
16/30	European National Teams,	Salsomaggiore	EBL
<b>JUL</b> 7/17	European Youth Team Championships,	Torquay	youthcmte@bridge.gr
15/20	Commonwealth Games Bridge,	Manchester	EBU 44+ 1296 394 414
18/28	ACBL Summer Nationals,	Washington	ACBL
<b>AUG</b> 4/13	World University Teams,	Bruges, Belgium	anna@ecats.co.uk
9/18	England Summer Nationals,	Brighton	EBU 44+ 1296 394 414
16/31	World Bridge Championships,	Montreal	WBF
<b>NOV</b> 25/28	European Simultaneous Pairs	Clubs everywhere	anna@ecats.co.uk
28/ 8 Dec	ACBL Fall Nationals,	Phoenix	ACBL
<b>2003</b>			
<b>MAR</b> 6/16	ACBL Spring Nationals,	Philadelphia	ACBL
<b>JUN</b>	European Open		EBL
<b>JUL</b> 17/27	ACBL: Summer Nationals,	Long Beach, CA	ACBL
<b>AUG</b> 8/17	England Summer Nationals,	Brighton	EBU 44+ 1296 394 414

## IBPA Column Service

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

189.

In the year 2000 Junior European championships, in the schools match between Norway and Poland, Espen Lindkvist demonstrated excellent technique to bring home a delicate 3NT contract. It seems to be the fact that the younger you are, the less high cards you need to attempt 3NT, here only 21 points!

Dir: North	♠ A J 9 3		
N/S Vul.	♥		
	♦ A 7 4 3		
	♣ Q 8 6 5 2		
	♠ 10 8 7 6	♠ Q 5 2	
	♥ 8 7 6 5 4 3	♥ A K 9	
	♦ K 9	♦ Q 2	
	♣ 7	♣ A J 10 9 4	
	♠ K 4		
	♥ Q J 10 2		
	♦ J 10 8 6 5		
	♣ K 3		

West	North	East	South
<i>Kapala</i>	<i>Eide</i>	<i>Buras</i>	<i>Lindkvist</i>
	1♣	1NT	Dble
2♥	2♠	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

In the Closed Room Aal, East for Norway reached Three Hearts and he did well to escape for one off and 50 to Poland.

In the Open Room there was sound defence by Kapala and Buras of Poland and excellent declarer play by Espen Lindkvist of Norway. Declarer has four diamonds and three obvious black tricks in 3NT. If West leads a heart or a spade declarer can easily set up his extra tricks in the majors. So West did well to start with the passive king of diamonds. Declarer won and cleared the suit, giving East a very difficult problem. He took a fair shot by exiting with the jack of clubs, though the ace of clubs is probably a better play in case declarer has a singleton king of clubs.

Declarer correctly won this in hand with the king and led the queen of hearts. East won this and found a reasonable shot once more by exiting with the ten of clubs. He now had two winning clubs to cash if declarer tried to set up a heart trick. However, South knew what was going on, and with eight top winners, and five losers, (*IBPA Ed: Thanks for quoting my BOLS Tip*) now played off his long suit, diamonds.

East could not withstand the pressure of the last

diamond. He had to keep three spades and the top heart, so had room for only one club.

Declarer could now safely set up a heart, but, knowing the ending, chose the more spectacular line of cashing his king of spades and exiting with a heart to leave poor East to lead up to dummy's ace jack of spades at the end. Despite this result Poland beat Norway into second place by just a couple of Victory Points, (averaging 20/25 Victory Points a match) with France in third place.

190.

From the 2000 Spingold Joey Silver found a nice line in defence to a game.

Dir: South	♠ A Q 3		
Vul: Both	♥ J 9 8 6 4 2		
	♦ 9 7 6		
	♣ 4		
	♠ 10 6 5 4	♠ K J 7 2	
	♥ A 7	♥ 5	
	♦ K J 5 4	♦ 10 8	
	♣ K Q 7	♣ 10 9 8 5 3 2	
	♠ 9 8		
	♥ K Q 10 3		
	♦ A Q 3 2		
	♣ A J 6		

West	North	East	South
Pass	2♦	Pass	1NT
Pass	4♥	All Pass	3♥

He led a top club against 4♥, and partner followed high. With dummy having a singleton, this was an extension of the "obvious shift" principle. Since a diamond would have been the obvious shift, encouragement in clubs showed no great interest in diamonds. Declarer won and returned the ♥Q. Joey took the ♥A and shifted to a spade. When declarer finessed, Debbie Rosenberg as East won her ♠K and shifted to a diamond. Now declarer had no chance.

At the other table West ducked the ♥Q for fear of crashing the ♥A, and that allowed South to take the spade finesse with the endplay chances intact. East won the ♠K and shifted to the ten of diamonds, but declarer could take this with the ace and eliminate the spades. When West was thrown in with the ♥A, he had to offer a ruff and discard or give South a trick in either minor, while South still had a heart entry back to hand.



191.

Any contract that will make if a finesse succeeds cannot be considered hopeless. Sometimes though the auction will tell you that there has to be something better. Put yourself in South's shoes and see if you can spot the improvement.

Dlr: North      ♠ Q J 5 4  
 Vul: N/S      ♥ 10 8 6 5  
                   ♦ A K 7  
                   ♣ 4 2

♠ 9 6                      ♠ 10 8 7 2  
 ♥ K J 9 7 3              ♥ 4 2  
 ♦ 10 4                    ♦ Q J 8 3  
 ♣ K Q J 10               ♣ 6 5 3

♠ A K 3  
 ♥ A Q  
 ♦ 9 6 5 2  
 ♣ A 9 8 7

West	North	East	South
	Pass	Pass	1♣
1♥	Dble	Pass	INT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

When Denmark played Canada in the Venice Cup both declarers (Cimon and Bilde) reached 3NT and knew that the auction had indicated that the heart finesse would fail. They ducked the first two clubs, and worked out that West had the long club from the defensive signals.

They won the third club, and decided against trying to find a favourable heart distribution with the jack singleton or doubleton. Instead they cashed the ace and king of diamonds, then the ace and king of spades, and exited with the fourth club. At this point West had nothing but hearts left, and had to lead into declarer's ace queen, to concede the ninth trick.

As you can see, the natural play might seem to be for declarer to win the second or third round of clubs and cash all the spade winners, but then there is no way back to hand to endplay West in clubs. In order to succeed, declarer needs to find West with relatively short spades and diamonds; but the auction has made that a virtual racing certainty.

192.

One of the more complex subjects in Bridge was identified by Gabriel Chagas, and referred to as an intra-finesse. What is that you say? Well, perhaps this will make it clear – the board comes from a Pairs tournament where overtricks are especially significant.

Dlr: East              ♠ A J 9 2  
 Vul: Both            ♥ A 9 5 4  
                           ♦ Q 8  
                           ♣ A 5 2

♠ 8 7                      ♠ Q 6 5 4 3  
 ♥ K Q 2                ♥ 10 6  
 ♦ K J 10 9 3 2        ♦ 7 6 4  
 ♣ Q J                    ♣ 10 8 4

♠ K 10  
 ♥ J 8 7 3  
 ♦ A 5  
 ♣ K 9 7 6 3

West	North	East	South
		Pass	1♣
1♦	Dble	Pass	1♥
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

After opening the South hand 1♣, you declare 4♥. West leads the jack of diamonds, having overcalled in the suit, and when you put up the queen it holds the trick, with East suggesting that he held only three diamonds. Now what do you need in hearts to hold your losers to just one trick to emerge with your overtrick? Well one possibility is to locate a doubleton king queen somewhere, or to find West with a bare honour. However, the journalist's play is to lead a heart to the eight, then regain the lead and run the ♥J, playing for the intra finesse, to pin the ten. Essentially this manoeuvre requires a combination of a finesse and a pin and is great copy when it works. But that is not the whole story; look at the auction. West has six diamonds, and it is a fair inference that he does NOT have short spades or clubs; he might have led the suit if he did. All things considered, it is surely more likely that West had a singleton ♥Q or ♥K, in which case the right play in trumps would be to start with the ace. That makes the calculation very close — are you prepared to follow your instincts, or do you want the good story? At the table the intra-finesse worked — maximum irritation for any journalist who would give up his story to follow the percentages and lose out on both counts!

# The Younger Cohen

## by Henry Francis (USA)

“On a good day I’m only the third best bridge player in my family.” That’s the word from Jordan Cohen of Thornhill ONTARIO, whose team, representing Canada, reached the semifinals of the third annual OKbridge Internet Worldwide Bridge Championship. Canada opposes the United States and defending champion Romania opposes France in the other semifinal.

Third best in a family? That doesn’t sound like much - unless your family is the Beckers or the Seamons . . . or the Cohens. Jordan’s dad is Ralph, many-time North American champion who has placed high representing Canada at the world level. He also is a former CEO of the American Contract Bridge League. Billy, Jordan’s younger brother, has been a powerhouse on the North American scene for many years. Other bridge-playing Cohens, all Life Masters, include Joan, Ralph’s wife; Fran, Jordan’s wife, and Mitchell, Jordan’s youngest brother.

Jordan has always loved bridge, but “at the ‘family’ stage of my life, OKbridge has allowed me to sate my passion for the game. I play primarily with Steve Cooper on OKbridge. I also play my dad (Billyspa on OKbridge).. Being able to play regularly with my dad when we live 1000 miles apart is a plus. Dad’s ‘comments’ on my play must of necessity be muted.”

*Jordan caddied at a tournament when he was 8 years old and played in his first duplicate in 1968 aged 12.*

“After we moved to Memphis in 1972, Billy and I started to play regularly, and for years we were by far the youngest players in Memphis. I remember how happy my parents were when Billy and I won a regional in Belleville IL in 1974. We were too young to pick up our prizes - 4 bottles of wine, so Mom and Dad thanked us profusely as they collected the wine on our behalf.

“We’ve also played regularly as SWISS FAMILY COHEN over the years, with Fran and/or my mom and/or my brother, Mitchell, and we’ve won our fair share of events.”

Jordan, now 45 years old; is a lawyer who has practiced corporate-commercial and real estate law in Toronto for the past 20 years. He and Fran have been married for 21 years and they have three children.

His partnership with Steve Cooper began in the school bridge club in the eighth grade. “We now play four or five times a week on OKbridge, usually VERY late at night.”

Steve says “My father taught me and seven of my friends when we were 12 years old. I played a lot of tournaments until my kids were born, but I have been semi-retired since then. Family life has kept me away from the game, but OKbridge is just what the doctor ordered! I usually play after everyone is asleep, and I never have to leave my home. I play almost every night, midnight until 2 a.m.”

Cooper, 45 years old, was a lawyer for 15 years, but is now a financial planner. He and his wife Diane have been married 22 years and have 2 children.

A recent hand from OKbridge play offers a good example of the Cohen-Cooper bidding style - some science, some blasting.

♠ A 7 4 3	♠ J 9 8 5	
♥ 5 2	♥ K 10 8	
♦ J 8 6 5	♦ A Q 2	
♣ 8 7 5	♣ A K 6	
		♠ K 10 6 2
		♥ J 9 7 6 4
		♦ 7 4
		♣ 3 2
		♠ Q
		♥ A Q 3
		♦ K 10 9 3
		♣ Q J 10 9 4

Jordan, North, opened a 14+ to 17 notrump. Cooper’s two spade response asked Jordan whether he was min or max. After his three club response showing a max, Cooper bid three spades, a slam try with spade shortness. Jordan, seeing all of his values outside of spades, showed his interest by bidding four spades. Cooper then leaped to six clubs.

West led ♣5, won cheaply in dummy. Cooper gave up a spade, and the trump continuation revealed trumps to be 3-2. That gave Cooper an extra chance, which he put into effect. He ruffed a spade, crossed on a diamond, ruffed a spade, crossed on a diamond, ruffed a spade, crossed on a heart, and claimed. He risked 5-1 diamonds, but brought home the slam on the dummy reversal.

## 2002 European Women's Festival

\* *Anna Maria Torlontano*, Chairman of the EBL Womens Committee, reports that the 2002 Women's Bridge Festival will be held in Palermo, Italy from 21 - 26 May 2002.

The event is a transnational event open to all lady bridge-players, of whatever rank and from outside Europe.

Brochures and registration forms can be obtained from Anna Gudge -

anna@ecats.co.uk; Tel: +44 1787 881920; fax: +44 1787 881339 – in English or French

*Anna Maria says* "We offer five unforgettable days in one of the most beautiful and interesting cities of Europe -Palermo. It is a lively city, mainly in the Baroque style, situated on the Tirreno sea, in the Italian region of Sicily. It is an important harbour, and famous for its climate, the fragrances, the luxuriant gardens and for the beauty and importance of its rare monuments.

It is a place that everyone should experience at least once in their lives, and what better opportunity than at a European Bridge Festival where you can combine a marvellous Holiday with our own favourite sport, Bridge! And it is at the height of the season as well, in the best month of all, May!"

## The European Simultaneous Pairs November 2001

Italy swept the board on Monday 26 November, with the leading three pairs being Italian - congratulations go to **G Zolzettich and A Ripesi** from the Circolo del Bridge Salerno, who achieved 72.94% to win overall. 56 clubs took part, with 2,300 players participating from 8 countries.

On the Tuesday, 2,182 players took part from four countries - this time the winners came from the ASB Sporting Club in San Severo, where **Donato DeMartinis and Alfonso Cristalli** achieved 73.80%.

On the Wednesday, 2,206 players in 57 clubs from 7 countries participated. The winning pair was **P Gergati and R Terenzi** from the Associazione Bridge Chiavari who had a magnificent 76.10%

The final evening, the Thursday, saw a participation of 610 players from 21 clubs in 6 countries. The winners were **Brigitte Mauch and Gisela Nissen** from the Bridge Club Göppingen in Germany with 72.43%.

The results can all be found at [www.eblsims.org](http://www.eblsims.org). The next EBL Simultaneous will be from 25th - 28th November.

## 4th IOC Grand Prix, Salt Lake City 02 - 06 February 2002 Hilton Salt Lake City Centre

The Opening Ceremony is at 18.00 hours on 02 February and will be followed by the first session of play. The Final finishes at 19.00 on Wednesday 06 February.

More information is available on the **WBF Web Site** at [www.bridge.gr](http://www.bridge.gr) and the Results and Bulletins will be published there as usual.

**E-Bridge** will be showing the Vu-Graph matches free of charge at [www.e-bridgemaster.com](http://www.e-bridgemaster.com) - you will need to register on the site to see the Vu-Graph but no charge will be made

Teams:

Open	Women
Australia	Austria
Brazil	Canada
Canada	China
Egypt	France
India	Germany
Indonesia	Great Britain
Italy	Japan
Norway	Netherlands
Poland	South Africa
USA	USA

A junior match between Europe and North & South America will also be held.

More information is also available in the article by Gianarrigo Rona on page 14.

## SUBSCRIPTION REMINDER

If you have not yet paid your annual subscription (£40 pounds sterling) for the year 2002 please do so now, as the next Bulletin will be the last one sent.

If possible use the Form supplied with the December Bulletin. Even if you have no subscription to pay please check this Form and return it to the Membership Secretary with corrections to your personal details.

Membership Secretary, **Stuart  
Staveley.**

For contact details, see front of  
Bulletin

/... continued from Page 16

He was also the translator into French of all the "Test" collection written by Hugh Kelsey. To Aimée Laniel, with whom he shared his life for some forty years, we send our deepest and most sincere expression of sympathy.

\* *More details on the Commonwealth Games Bridge Championship from July 15-20:*

Venue: Manchester University's Whitworth Hall, Main Campus, Oxford Rd, Manchester M13 9P

Programme:

Monday 15th evening Opening reception

Tuesday 16th Round Robins start; play continues over 3 days approx 10:30am - 6:30pm

Friday 19th Knock out semi finals & open teams

Saturday 20th Final, 3/4th play off, open teams final session, Closing banquet

Format Based on at least 20 teams, a round robin will be played in two seeded groups, with two teams to qualify from each group. Approximately 45 boards per day with screens (except in the consolation event). Entry to the Open teams event for the non-qualifiers will be open to local players.

Systems: No HUMS or brown stickers until the knock-out stage. General WBF regs apply. Teams are limited to 6 players, with or without an NPC.

\* *Sending New Year Greetings Martin Arle of Helsinki says: "nice play by Jason Hackett on p.3 of no. 443, but the defence was most helpful. North's trump shift could not achieve anything and led to disaster for n-s. If North plays back a spade honour and South, when he gains the lead with the king of trumps, returns a heart, all beautiful squeezes are destroyed!*

\* *News of the IBPA President's health and that of his wife following the car accident that prevented their visit to Paris. In response to a query from the Editor Henry Francis replies: Dorthy's head problems apparently are solved. The doctors believe she suffered inner ear problems and a brain bruise as well as the concussion, which would account for the various head problems she was suffering. As for me, my right leg is completely healed, and the left leg is well on the way. Although it was originally felt that I would need skin grafts, the skin has reformed making grafts unnecessary.*

*IBPA Ed: We all wish you a speedy recovery.*

\* IBPA welcomes Tony Forrester as a new member. He is the bridge columnist of the Daily (and Sunday) Telegraph (2 million readers) responsible for a daily column with a bridge hand. The IBPA Editor is bridge correspondent of the DT, responsible for bridge news.

The award candidate featuring Forrester (see December, page 4) was written up by Andrew Robson in the Times of 17<sup>th</sup> December.

\* *Ron Klinger reports on three changes in Australian bridge journalism.* Stephen Lester has resigned as Editor of the Australian Bridge Magazine, Peter Jamiseon is the new Editor; Denis Howard, the former WBF President, has resigned as bridge correspondent of the Sydney Morning Herald. Klinger himself has taken up this post, moving from the Weekend Australian where the new correspondent is Paul Marston.

\* Bridge-player *Richard Henriques* was the Judge in the high-profile year-long British court case against Leeds United football players Lee Bowyer and Jonathan Woodgate for criminal assault of an Asian student. Bowyer was found not guilty, Woodgate guilty of affray (i.e. being part of the group involved). One of the accused was jailed for six years, Woodgate was sentenced to 100 hours community service, and Henriques made the footballers responsible for court costs of a million pounds (1.4 million dollars) for lying in statements to the police.

Before his appointment to be a Judge Henriques was the successful prosecuting counsel in the Bulger case (Britain's youngest-ever convicted killers) and the Dr. Shipman case (Britain's most-prolific convicted serial killer).

In 1964 Henriques represented Oxford University at bridge, partnering one of the Lester brothers (Peter, perhaps?, who later represented Australia), in a match when the IBPA Editor was playing for Cambridge University.

\* *Phillip Alder* has a new area code for his telephone. From 11<sup>th</sup> February it changes from 561 to 772. (Stupidly, says Alder, they didn't get a new area code for cellphones and pagers.) This will not affect Larry Cohen or Marty Bergen, who will stay with 561.

\* *Evelyn Senn, an honor Member of IBPA and a former IBPA Secretary and Treasurer reports:* I have sold my house, and from 1<sup>st</sup> February 2002 am moving to an apartment for senior citizens:

Schouwenhove 95, 2332 D5 Leiden, Netherlands

\* The football authorities usually schedule the World Cup final in July co-inciding with the European Youth Bridge Championships. But this year the date is Sunday, 30<sup>th</sup> June. Bridge-players attending the European Team Championships in Salsomaggiore should be aware this is the day most return. The semifinals are on 25<sup>th</sup> June.

\* *Scott Cardell, referring to the last board of the Norway-Italy Bermuda Bowl semifinal* (November, page 5 & 6) On Board 16, the declarer (Helness) missed an almost sure trick play, given a clue from the opponents' silence in the bidding.

Board 16. Dealer West. E/W Vul.

<p>♠ K Q 5 4 3 ♥ 6 5 4 3 ♦ — ♣ K Q 9 2</p> <p>♠ 8 ♥ A 10 9 8 7 ♦ K 10 9 ♣ J 8 6 3</p>	<p>♠ A J 9 2 ♥ K Q J 2 ♦ 6 5 4 2 ♣ 10</p>
<p>♠ 10 7 6 ♥ — ♦ A Q J 8 7 3 ♣ A 7 5 4</p>	

West	North	East	South
<i>Duboin</i>	<i>Helness</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Helgemo</i>
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♦
Pass	2♥	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

The play went: ♥K ruffed, ♦Q covered and ruffed, ♥ruff, ♦A throw a heart, ♦J. West, who passed as dealer has shown up with ♥A and ♦K109, so the hearts are very likely 5-4 and East has ♠A. Instead of discarding his last heart, Helness should have thrown a club, leaving:

<p>♠ 8 ♥ A 9 8 ♦ None ♣ J 8 6 3</p>	<p>♠ K Q 5 4 ♥ 6 ♦ None ♣ K Q 9</p> <p>♠ A J 9 2 ♥ Q J ♦ 6 ♣ 10</p> <p>♠ 10 ♥ None ♦ 8 7 3 ♣ A 7 5 4</p>
---	--

Declarer should now cross to his hand in clubs, ruff his last heart and lead the good ♦8. West ruffs and declarer over-ruffs. Next another club is led and though East ruffs declarer needs only two more tricks and there is nothing the defense can do to prevent his success.

This line also works if it is West who has 4 trumps and 1 club, (or even if East has all five! E.g. ♠A J 9 8 2 ♥K Q 2 ♦6 5 4 2 ♣10)

\* *Boye Brogeland* says: In the "Paris Round Up" (December B443, page 13, column 2, second paragraph) my play in 4♥ from trick six was not as described by Barry Rigal.

After three rounds of diamonds ruffed, ♥10 to the North's queen, and a spade switch to the jack and ace, I played the jack of hearts from my hand. North won with the ace and continued spades. Now I won with the king and played another spade to endplay South (North's trump was the 5, dummy's the 6). Actually

North could have made it more difficult by ruffing South's ♠Q and then switching to a club. Then I have to put in the 8 (which is the right play as I can take the club finesse with the jack in the next round).

*IBPA Editor: Well done. The hand diagram is on page 12 of the December issue.*

\* *Ron Klingner* strongly condemns the decision of the Australian BF not to take up the invitation to field a Mens team in Salt Lake City because three of their Paris team could not go. Klingner says there were players who represented Australia in the Zonals willing to complete the team and pay their own expenses and he wrote to the Australian BF to state this.

\* *Hervé Pacault* says: The Biarritz Festival is from 18<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> February. Contact nos: 33+

05 5652 0046 – 01 4520 9806 – 05 5956 0442

## THE IBPA 2002 HANDBOOK

*Per Jannersten* says: You can now download a copy of the Handbook from [www.ibpa.com](http://www.ibpa.com) (click the link at the bottom of the page).

When you try to open it will ask for a password: ihccaT

*Anna Gudge* says :Warning! This is a very big file and may take a long time to download. If you just click on it, it will try and open in your browser and will (eventually) ask you for the password.

If you right-mouse-click on it, you can save it to your desktop or to a folder. When you try and open it, it will ask for the password.

The Handbook has been printed and will be distributed to members by the end of February.

## IBPA WEBSITE NOTICE

To access a Bulletin on the IBPA website, enter the website address [www.IBPA.com](http://www.IBPA.com) followed by a forward slash, then the Bulletin code, immediately followed by .pdf

The February Bulletin will have code 445kt so you will need to type:

[www.IBPA.com/445kt.pdf](http://www.IBPA.com/445kt.pdf)

# Extracts from an open report of the EBL President, Giannarigo Rona

On Wednesday 17 October I participated, as EBL President, with Paul Magerman in the European Sports Forum, organised in Brussels (Belgium) by the European Commission for Education and Culture. The IOC President, Dr Jacques Rogge, and the EOC General Secretary, Mr Mario Pescante, were the guests of honour. Bridge was invited, fully hosted. This experience will be very useful to present to the European Community a project to develop the teaching of bridge in schools and other educational establishments. We hope to have the Community's support to prepare and start the project.

In Paris in October, 5 new Members were admitted to the WBF: United States of America, Bahrain, Korea, Tonga, Senegal, and Ecuador was reinstated.

Salt Lake City. The Championship will be held in the Hilton Hotel between 2<sup>nd</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> February 2001. The Executive Council approved this format: a complete round robin in the men's and women's series, followed by semi-finals and final, and only simple systems. This will enable non-bridge players to follow the play. There will be an opening cocktail and a closing banquet. The criteria to invite the teams were: past Olympiad winners, holders of WBF main championships trophies, host country of the next event, and good young players publicity-wise worldwide, particularly from prospective "winter sports" countries where the winter games are held.

The following teams will be invited to Salt Lake City. Men's series: Australia, (*IBPA Ed: See Postbag from Klinger!*) Brazil, Canada, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Italy, Norway, Poland, USA. Women's series: Austria, Canada, China, France, Germany, Great Britain, Japan, the Netherlands, South Africa, USA. In the Junior series two European representatives will be invited.

Marc Hodler, IOC Vice President, was appointed President of the WBF Congress.

The Executive Council approved the adoption of the new symmetrical cards, already used in Paris at the World Teams Championships

Concerning the 2003 Bermuda Bowl and Venice Cup Championships, the President said he would continue to explore other possibilities while awaiting the reply from Indonesia in June next year, after the election of the Indonesian Bridge Federation's new board.

The Regulations for the 2003 Bermuda Bowl and Venice Cup were decided: In both events Europe will send 5 teams, with the possibility to send a 6<sup>th</sup> if there is an odd number of teams.

The 2004 World Bridge Team Olympiad will be held in Istanbul, Turkey.

Concerning the 2005 Bermuda Bowl and Venice Cup, there is a request from the Netherlands to host the event on the occasion of the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Dutch Bridge Bond. The EBL Delegates supported this request and asked the WBF Council to interpret the rule on hosting these Championships with flexibility, on the occasion of important celebrations or anniversaries or special events in general. Currently the rule does not permit this kind of Championship to be held in Europe or North America, but only in the other Zones to assist the non-developed countries to improve the practice of bridge. No decision was taken.

Concerning the 2006 World Championships, the Executive Council decided to hold these in Europe, excluding France who had declared it would be unable to support the organisation onus after Lille 1998 and Paris 2001 and probably an European Event in 2003. No decision was taken.

The Constitution and Bye-Laws of the WBF will have to be changed in due course if bridge becomes an Olympic Sport. The Executive Council moved to authorise the President to incorporate or reincorporate the WBF in any country that he deems in the best interest of the WBF.

Concerning the systems allowed in bridge competition, on the proposal of the Systems Committee it was decided that after Montreal no Brown Sticker or Hum Systems will be authorised for the Rosenblum and the McConnell Cup even in the KO phases. The same regulation will be applied for the Olympiad. All of this will be specified in the System Policy for the next four-year cycle.

The Executive Council decided that in the WBF Championships all the team players should receive medals but not the title for the players who had played insufficient boards.

The Executive Council decided to appoint Anna Gudge and Mark Newton to the WBF Master Point Programme.

On the 17<sup>th</sup> November I was in Malmö (Sweden), with Jean-Claude Beineix, Jens Auken and Micke Melander, to visit the venue and the hotels for the organisation of the 2004 European Teams Championships. The visit was very successful and the Executive Committee decided to assign to Sweden the organisation of the European Open, Women's & Senior Teams 2004 to be held in Malmö in the second half of

the month of June. The contract will probably be signed before the end of January 2002.

On the 30<sup>th</sup> November and 1<sup>st</sup> December I was in Montecarlo (Monaco) to attend the EOC General Assembly, where Mario Pescante was elected President for the next four years. The IOC will decide about new sports to be included in the Winter Olympic Games in Turin 2006 during a special Session of the Meeting to be held in November 2002 in Mexico.

On the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> December in Amsterdam, hosted by the Dutch BB, the Autumn EBL Executive Committee met.

Today the EBL has 44 affiliated NBOs, including Lebanon and, after the split of Great Britain: England, Scotland and Wales. Compared with the 48 European IOC Member Countries, the EBL does not allow Albania, Andorra, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Republic of Macedonia, Georgia, Republic of Moldova, and Slovakia (for the IOC Great Britain is one country and Lebanon is in the Asian zone). The 44 affiliated NBOs total 380,000 registered members plus some 20,000 youth members (under 20 years). The situation is more or less stable, considering the last triennium, with an increase of a few hundred members.

The EBL has 18 NBOs with less than 500 registered members and 6 with less than 1500. On the other hand, the EBL has 8 NBOs with more than 10,000 members, and 2 of these have more than 90,000 members, 3 have more than 30,000 and 1 has more than 20,000.

The Executive Committee took the following decisions:

In Salsomaggiore Terme (Italy) in June 2002 during the European Teams Championships the 2<sup>nd</sup> EBL NBO Officers' Seminar will be held. The dates and the programme will be informed in January.

In Tabiano Terme (Italy) in September 2002 the 1<sup>st</sup> EBL Bridge Teachers Seminar will be held. The Committee is preparing the programme to send to all NBOs.

In August/September 2003, in a venue to be decided, the next EBL TD Course will be held.

In Palermo (Italy) from 21<sup>st</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> May 2002 the Jamboree – the Ladies Bridge Festival – will be held. The EBL Womens Committee will send a brochure on this event to all NBOs.

In Tel Aviv (4<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> February 2002), Malta (19<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2002), Brighton (12<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> August 2002) respectively the Second Tel Aviv Senior Congress, the Second Mediterranean Senior Congress and the Third European Senior Congress will be held. The EBL Seniors Committee will send information on these events to all NBOs.

In Torquay (England) from 7<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> July 2002 the European Junior & School Bridge Teams Championships will be held.

In Bruges (Belgium) from 4<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> August 2002 the WBF/FISU University World Teams Championship will be held.

In Cannes or Menton (France) from 14<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> June 2003, the European Open Championships will be held: the Championships will start with Mixed Pairs, followed by Mixed Teams, Open, Womens & Senior Pairs, Open, Womens & Senior Teams. The Mixed and Senior events will be transnational. All the events will be without any restrictions on number of entries and will also be open to non-European players.

Starting from the Ostend Mixed Championships, 16<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2002, mobile-phone and IT instruments, alcohol and smoking will also be penalised with a fine (*IBPA Ed: I assume he means in the playing area!*).

Starting from the Salsomaggiore Championship, 15<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> June 2002, the EBL Dress Code Rule will apply. The members of the Teams, in each series, **must** play in national uniform and attend Opening and Closing Ceremonies in formal national uniform.

New symmetrical cards will be used in future European Championships, starting in Salsomaggiore, June 2002.

The Official EBL TD Register was updated following the results of the TD Course held in Tabiano Terme, September 2001.

The EBL Master Point Committee was assigned the task of restructuring the EBL Master Point Programme.

A project for a EBL Team Champions Cup, reserved to the teams winning their national championship, is being studied, to be submitted to the NBOs for their approval.

The EBL Statutes Committee will prepare the General Principles for the NBOs' Statutes to be in line with those of the IOC and the Olympic Charter.

The EBL Simultaneous will continue in November 2002. The Executive Committee is confident that the NBOs will promote this event.

The terms "Lady" and "Ladies" in EBL vocabulary will change to "Women" and "Womens".

The suspension of the Spanish Bridge Federation was revoked after the Agreement defined in Madrid last July and on condition of the complete fulfilment of all the clauses included.

# POINTS FROM THE POSTBAG

LETTERS ...

The Editor reserves the right to shorten correspondence

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\* The Channel Trophy is an annual friendly for the juniors of Belgium, France, England, and Netherlands. It was held the weekend before Christmas in Ostend. Results:

Under 25s: 1. Netherlands 115; 2. England 84; 3= France, Belgium 80.

Under 20s: 1. England 102; 2. Netherlands 90; 3. France 87; 4. Belgium 81.

England U20s: J. Atthey & B. Green; D. Happer & S. Stockdale (Leics); J. de Souza & P. Wilson; n.pc. M. Starkings.

Tragically, in November, a recent member of the England Under 20s bridge team, Reignolde Mahboubian-Jones, aged 20, was found dead at his University, Oxford. Cause of death was not established.

\* The December issue of *Le Bridgeur* published a difference of opinion between two IBPA members, both good friends of your Editor. *Jens Auken*, Chairman of Appeals at the last European Championships, was replying to what he rated a serious allegation made by Editor Jean-Christophe Quantin in the magazine.

Making allowances for précis and your Editor's limited grasp of French, the cause of the offence to JA was a statement by J-C Q saying: "Red card to Jens Auken, Chairman of Appeals, for his aggressive attitude towards members of the Swiss team and their captain Roger Kutner. Not content with having rendered an unjust ruling, he continued to harass verbally our Swiss friends in front of the Commission brought in to judge the claim of their Dutch opponents."

Auken replies that neither his nor any of his Committee's (*De Wael, Bruni, Endicott, Møller*) comments had not been sought before this statement was made, and that when the Swiss captain complained of the Chairman's aggressive tone, the other members of the Committee, without reservation, said the Chairman's comments had not been out of place.

Auken adds the facts of the case are to be found in the EBL Appeals Booklet 2001 Tenerife Appeal No. 6, allowing people to make their own judgement about the ruling.

*IBPA Editor: See also Tenerife Daily Bulletin 7 page 14. The case hinged on whether declarer, Anton Maas, had been damaged by a defender's explanation of leads.*

J-C Q says that with the publication of

Auken's reply, as far as he is concerned, the matter is closed.

## Jean-Marc Roudinesco 1932-2001

Jean-Marc Roudinesco, who died on the last day of the year 2001, was an IBPA member and a prolific author of bridge books in the French language.

At the 1999 European Championships in Malta Roudinesco earned the admiration of all by coming direct from a chemo-therapy course for cancer to compete in the Seniors and win the gold medal. At the following Europeans in Tenerife his team took silver. He was named as a member of the French Seniors team in Paris but, following a relapse, was too ill to play.

Roudinesco was European champion in 1966 and 1970 and represented France in the Bermuda Bowls of 1967 and 1971. His best known book is perhaps *La Majeure par 5* and his most recent a dictionary of suit combinations.

His friends within IBPA will mourn the passing of one of our most distinguished members.

J-P M adds:

Jean-Marc came from a family of well-known physicians. His father was the doctor of the painters Degas and Renoir, and so built up the world known Roudinesco collection.

Jean-Marc began studies in medicine too but he was more attracted by bridge and he began to shine when he was in his early twenties. He had two European titles with Jacques Pariente and Jean-Louis Stoppa, twice finalist of the Bermuda Bowl. He played many world pairs finals with Claude Delmouly.

Though fighting for his life he was European senior team champion in Malta- 1999- and silver medallist of the same event in Tenerife last year.

He contributed to *le Bridgeur* for decades in *Le Ring* - a French "challenge the champs". He wrote several successful books as "*La majeure cinquième*," "*Gagnez en tournoi par paires*," "*Diaboliquement vôtre*" with Pietro Bernasconi and more recently the tremendous work represented by "*le dictionnaire des maniements de couleurs*" that he translated and edited in an English version.

/continued on page 12 ...