

# THE INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE PRESS ASSOCIATION

**Editor: ..... PATRICK D JOURDAIN**

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**BULLETIN**  
**www.IBPA.com**  
**mail@ibpa.com**

**President:**

HENRY G FRANCIS  
6875 Stornaway Drive  
Memphis, TN 38119 USA  
(1) 901 754 3405 F: 901 398 7754  
Email: hfranci1@midssouth.rr.com

**Executive Vice-President:**

JEAN-PAUL MEYER  
34 rue de docteur Blanche  
75016 Paris, FRANCE  
(33) 1 4296 2550 F: 1 4020 9234  
Email: jpmbridge@aol.com

**Organizational Vice-President:**

PER E JANNERSTEN  
Villa Cicero  
S-77400 Avesta, SWEDEN  
Email: per@jannersten.se

**Chairman:**

ALAN TRUSCOTT  
3333 Henry Hudson Parkway  
Bronx, NY 10463 USA  
Email: alantruscott@aol.com

**Secretary:**

Mrs MAUREEN DENNISON  
148 Thornbury Road, Osterley  
Isleworth TW7 4QE, ENGLAND UK  
(44) 20 8560 3788 F: 20 8568 3553  
Email:  
maureen\_dennison@ibpa.freereserve.co.uk

**Membership Secretary:**

Dr STUART STAVELEY  
Rhu-na-Bidh, Shieldaig, Strathcarron  
Ross-shire IV54 8XN SCOTLAND UK  
(44) 1520 755 217 F: 1520 755 355

**Treasurer:**

HANS CHRISTER ANDERSSON  
Arstagatan 20 C  
75434 Uppsala, SWEDEN  
(46) 18 253584 O: 18 175764  
Email: jus289n@tinet.se

**Honorary General Counsel:**

WILLIAM J PENCHARZ  
5 Gt College St. London SW1P 3SJ UK  
Email: bill.pencharz@radcliffes.co.uk

**Awards Secretary:**

BARRY J RIGAL  
Apt 8E, 22 West 26th Street,  
New York NY 10010, USA  
Email: barryrigal@mindspring.com

**Sponsored Members' Secretary:**

IRENA CHODOROWSKA  
UI Sewastopolska 3m41  
02-758 Warsaw, POLAND  
Email: trans@syrena.com.pl

**Production Editor:**

ANNA GUDGE  
The Old Railway Station  
Long Melford, Suffolk CO10 9HN England  
Email: ibpa@ecats.co.uk

**C**ongratulations to Canada on winning the Mens event at the IOC Grand Prix in Salt Lake City, and to France on winning the Womens (some consolation for their disappointment in the Paris final).

Your Editor was not in SLC so this Editorial is based on comments from those that were. The show put on for the Olympic Assembly was a good one though few availed themselves of the opportunity to see it.

Media coverage in the USA, particularly from NBC, and the Wall Street Journal giving the event front page news, was better than bridge has seen there for a long time. The coverage was also not as scathing as one might have feared, though some negative remarks from high-placed members of the Olympic movement hint that it will not be an easy ride for bridge to obtain the approval it is seeking later this year for the 2006 Winter Olympics.

In Britain there has been a positive turn from the Government. The Sports Minister met two members of the British team for Salt Lake City before they travelled out. He gave public backing to the concept of mind-sports and expressed willingness to amend the 1937 Act of Parliament that defines sport as physical, provided chess and bridge could come up with an acceptable definition.

The British bridge team in Salt Lake City was invited to join the reception for the British Olympic athletes arriving for the Winter Games. Triple Olympic gold medallist and oarsman, Matthew Pinsent, (present to take part in the Opening Ceremony) indicated some familiarity with bridge, though he did not reveal his attitude towards it becoming an Olympic sport.

At the risk of offending some of the world's best bridge players, the Editor draws attention to the lack of uniform for the USA team. In the past Americans have competed under the ACBL North American heading. In Paris, in the aftermath of 11<sup>th</sup> September, one detected an increased sense that the team was representing something bigger than themselves. This should be symbolised by the team uniform.

If political sensibilities within the ACBL make it difficult to spend the money then surely the team can afford it themselves. When you think of the small countries that manage it, one feels Americans representing their country might go further than wearing the same tie.

By chance the finalists in the Mens event, Canada and Poland, both had team colours of red and white. Still, I don't think we need Home and Away kit like the contact sports.

*Patrick Jourdain - Editor*

Address all editorial correspondence to: **PATRICK D JOURDAIN**  
Flat 8, Felin Wen, Rhiwbina, Cardiff, Wales CF14 6NW  
Tel: (44) 29 2062 8839 Fax: (44) 29 2061 5234  
Email: patrickjourdain@compuserve.com

# 46<sup>th</sup> EUROPEAN BRIDGE TEAMS CHAMPIONSHIPS

Scheveningen 1932 – Salsomaggiore 2002

70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Organised by the European Bridge League and the Italian Bridge Federation

In cooperation with the Nederlandse Bridge Bond

**Palazzo dei Congressi, Salsomaggiore Terme,  
Italy From 15<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> June 2002**

## Timetable

❖ Opening Ceremony	Sat 15 <sup>th</sup> June
❖ Open Teams	Sun 16 <sup>th</sup> – Sat 29 <sup>th</sup> June
❖ Ladies Teams	Wed 19 <sup>th</sup> – Sat 29 <sup>th</sup> June
❖ Senior Teams	Wed 19 <sup>th</sup> – Sat 29 <sup>th</sup> June
❖ Anniversary Celebration	Sat 22 <sup>nd</sup> June
❖ Closing Ceremony	Sat 29 <sup>th</sup> June

## Registration of Teams

Registration of teams for all three championships, which must be from the Federation, should be sent, **by 15<sup>th</sup> April 2002. It is very important that this deadline is respected to enable us to define the format and schedule of play.**

## Registration of Players' Names

Registration of players' names must be sent by 30<sup>th</sup> April 2002 (if not informed with the confirmation of team entry). Entries and team formations should be sent to:

Gianarrigo Rona - EBL President -  
Via Ciro Menotti 11/C - 20129 MILAN - Italy

Fax: +39 02 7000 1398 E-mail: ebl@galactica.it

## Entry Fees

Open Teams	SFr. 3.500
Ladies Team	SFr. 3.000
Senior Team	SFr. 2.500

The entry fees must be paid (also in Euro) by Bank Transfer **before or on 30 April 2002** to European Bridge League Marc De Pauw - Treasurer

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

## Systems Registration – Open and Ladies Teams

Systems for the Open and Ladies Teams have to be registered with the European Bridge League by 10<sup>th</sup> May 2002. A separate letter will follow explaining the requirements.

## National Teams (Right to entry)

Every NBO is entitled to enter one Representative Team for each Championship.

All players in the Senior Teams must be 55 years of age at the start of the event. They have to be born on or before **19<sup>th</sup> June 1947.**

## Scorers

When the NBOs send the entries of their teams they are kindly requested to indicate whether they need scorers or not. **During the Championships it will be impossible to arrange for scorers.**

The cost of the scorer's service is **Euro 30 per match and scorers have to be booked for all matches.**

## Hotel Accommodation

For information on Hotel Accommodation and reservations please contact:

EVENTI s.r.l. Contact: Katia or Alessandra

Tel. +39 0524 571664

Fax. +39 0524 579047

E-mail: info@salsocongressi.it

## Dress Code

The whole team, including the Captain and Coach and NBO Officers must wear the same uniform. Thus trousers (and skirts) and tops must be of the same colour and general design. The team uniform must contain the logo of the country and **may contain discreet sponsor logos.**

**Formal Occasions:** Uniform consisting of blazer and tie (or neck scarf) all of the same colour with logo indicating the country, and trousers and skirts all of the same colour.

**During Play:** Tee shirts, polo shirts, shirts and blouses all of the same colour with the team's logo indicating the country, and trousers and skirts all of the same colour.

If sweaters, cardigans and sweatshirts are used, they must be of the same colour and carry the team logo. Team members cannot wear shorts or open-toed sandals.

In Salsomaggiore we will celebrate the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the European Teams Championships, which started in 1932 in Scheveningen (The Netherlands).

# Canada Takes Men's Event, France the Women's at IOC Grand Prix

From Bulletins edited by Mark Horton, 1<sup>st</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> February 2002

## Mens event: Final

**Canada** (Keith Balcombe, Gordon Campbell, Nicholas Gartaganis, Peter Jones, Fred Gitelman, Joseph Silver) beat **Poland** (Cezary Balicki-Adam Zmudzinski, Michal Kwiecien, Jacek Poletylo, Jacek Pszczola, Marek Wojicki, npc Alicja Kornasiewicz) 76-64.5 in the final.

In the play-off for third place **Italy** (Giorgio Duboin, Lorenzo Lauria-Alfredo Versace, Guido Ferraro-Dano de Falco npc Marie Teresa Lavazza) beat **Norway** (Geir Helgemo-Tor Helness, Terje Aa-Glenn Grotheim, Jon Furunes-Per Erik Austberg) 95-29.

In the semifinals Canada beat Italy 109-98 and Poland beat Norway 112-89.

## Round Robin Final Standings:

1.	Italy	173
2.	Norway	144.3
3.	Poland	141.5
4.	Canada	140.7
5.	Indonesia	135
6=	Brazil, Egypt	129
8.	USA	127
9.	India	113.5
10.	Australia	109

## Womens event

In the final **France** (Veronique Bessis-Benedicte Cronier, Catherine D'Ovidio-Sylvie Willard) beat the **USA** (Mildred Breed, Amalya Kearse, Jill Meyers, Shawn Quinn, Sharon Osberg, Kerri Sanborn, playing captain Rose Meltzer, coach Peter Weichsel) 173-80.

In the play-off for third place the **Netherlands** (Jet Pasman, Anneke Simons, Marijke v.d. Pas, Bep Vriend npc Ed Franken, coach: Chris Niemeijer) beat **Germany** (Sabine Auken, Beate Nehmert, Andrea Rauscheid, Elke Weber) 67-21.5.

In the semifinals France beat the Netherlands 113-65; USA beat Germany 109.3-67.

## Round Robin Final Standings

1.	France	163
2.	Germany	152
3.	USA	151
4.	Netherlands	148
5.	Austria	139.3
6.	China	137
7.	Great Britain	130
8.	Canada	119.3
9.	South Africa	100
10.	Japan	96

## Juniors

There was a tie 135-135 in the final between **The Americas** (Augustin Madala-Carlos Pellegrini of Argentina, Joel Wooldridge-John Hurd of the USA) and **Europe North** (Bas Drijver-Sjoert Brink of the Netherlands, and Andreas Marquandsen-Martin Schaltz of Denmark).

In the play-off for third place North America beat Europe South 129-126.

Norberto Bocchi's mother was taken ill just before the team travelled and the Italians would play five handed, whilst Norway's Geir Helgemo was travelling from the NEC tournament in Japan. Another team to be deprived of the services of one of their stars was that of the Venice Cup holders from Germany. Daniela von Arnim, who is expecting a child in April, was advised not to travel, and was replaced by Elke Weber.

All sports need superstars and personalities. If you are looking for one in the world of bridge, few shine brighter than Germany's Sabine Auken. When Germany faced old rivals The Netherlands on Yugraph in Round 6 Auken was at the helm here:

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

West	North	East	South
Simons	Auken	Pasman	Weber
	1♠	Pass	INT
2♣	2♥	Pass	3♥
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

East led the two of clubs. Auken played low from dummy, winning in hand over West's nine, and then ran the ten of hearts. West won and led a high club (*IBPA Editor: Fatally!*) for East to ruff with the queen of trumps. Now East returned a diamond.

The bidding marked West with most of the missing high cards so Auken played low from dummy, and the jack forced the ace. Declarer was still a trick

short, but could take advantage of the fact that West's remaining clubs included the 4.

No sooner than commentator Peter Weichsel pointed out a complex route to success, Auken followed it:

She cashed the ace of spades, took two rounds of trumps, ending in the dummy, led the ♣7 and when West covered, let it hold, discarding the ♦3. West was endplayed into conceding an extra trick to dummy in the minors.

Auken's line relied on West's spade queen being a singleton. In the Post Mortem she spotted how one might cater for it being a doubleton: when West covers the club seven you ruff with your last trump, cash the second top spade, throwing a diamond, and ruff a spade. With dummy down to ♦Q and a club tenace of ♣A8 West is squeezed and then endplayed.

Bulletin Editors rely on several sources for copy, not least the players themselves. If Joey Silver comes to you with a hand you can be sure it will be a story worth printing. Take a look at this from the match between Canada and Norway. The star of the show is Tor Helness

Dealer: South     ♠ A 9 4  
 All Vul            ♥ 10 7 6  
                       ♦ A 8 6 2  
                       ♣ K Q 4

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

♠ K 5 3  
 ♥ A Q 9 4  
 ♦ Q 9 4 3  
 ♣ 3 2

West	North	East	South
<i>Gitelman</i>	<i>Helness</i>	<i>Silver</i>	<i>Furunes</i>
Pass	1♦	Pass	1♥
2♣	Pass*	Pass	3♦
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

North's pass denied three-card heart support.

East led a club and declarer won with the king. His next move took a very long time, but it was very effective – the ten of hearts. East did his best by playing the king, but declarer took the ace and played a club. West put up the ace and returned a club. Declarer won in hand and played a heart to the nine, pinning the eight. He could return to hand with a spade and play his last heart, ducked by East. There was still a spade entry to dummy for the fourth heart.

Say that declarer had attacked diamonds rather than hearts. If East held the king of diamonds, West would

be a heavy favourite to hold the king of hearts. However, if West was forced to win an early heart trick with the king, there was a decent chance that the king of diamonds would be onside.

On the same deal in the match between Poland and Brazil Chagas made three tricks less:

West	North	East	South
<i>Balicki</i>	<i>Chagas</i>	<i>Zmudzinski</i>	<i>Brenner</i>
			Pass
Pass	1♦	1♠	Dble
2♣	Pass	Pass	2♠
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

East led the five of clubs and declarer was allowed to win with the king. He cashed the ace of diamonds and played a diamond to the queen and king. West played back the jack of clubs and declarer played low!

Now West cashed his clubs for three down, -300. Even if declarer had put up the queen of clubs he would not have made the contract, as the winning line involves making four heart tricks, and the play in diamonds had already left declarer a vital entry short.

West	North	East	South
<i>Figueredo</i>	<i>Pszczola</i>	<i>Campos</i>	<i>Kwiecen</i>
			Pass
3♣	Pass	Pass	Dble
All Pass			

With perfect defence the defenders can inflict an 1100 penalty, but the +800 they achieved was enough for 15 IMPs to Poland.

In the Womens event when Great Britain faced Austria in Round 8, both teams were looking for a big win. There were some big swings, but neither team could establish any real ascendancy, Austria eventually winning 31-25 IMPs, 16-14 VP.

Dealer: West     ♠ 9 6 5 3  
 All Vul            ♥ A  
                       ♦ J 9 7 6  
                       ♣ 8 4 3 2

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

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Weigkricht</i>	<i>Goldenfield</i>	<i>Fischer</i>	<i>Brunner</i>
1♣*	Pass	1♥*	1♠
2♥	3♠	Pass	Pass
4♥	Pass	4♠*	Pass
5♥	All Pass		

Five Hearts can be defeated, but it is far from easy. After cashing the ace of spades, South must switch to a heart. Do you see why?

Well, at the table, South switched to a club. Declarer won with dummy's jack, cashed the king of spades to pitch a club, and played two more clubs, ruffing the third one high. Now she exited with a heart. North had to win and play a diamond and Doris had not come this far to go wrong. She played the ten of diamonds and scored up +650.

West	North	East	South
<i>Smith</i>	<i>Erhart</i>	<i>Dhondy</i>	<i>Terraneo</i>
1♥	Pass	3♥	3♠
4♥	4♠	Pass	Pass
5♥	All Pass		

This time West was declarer, but North led a spade to South's ace, and without apparent thought Sylvia switched to the two of hearts! She said afterwards that it didn't seem to be so difficult! Well done indeed, and +100 for a huge swing to Austria.

Doris Fischer must have been reasonably confident on this next deal, that One Diamond redoubled would prove to be a making contract:

In some systems Four Diamonds would not only agree the suit, but also be RKCB. It was a fine effort to get to the Grand Slam after the intervention.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Weigkricht</i>	<i>Goldenfield</i>	<i>Fischer</i>	<i>Brunner</i>
1♦*	Dble	Redble	1♠
Pass	Pass	2♠*	Pass
2NT	Pass	4♦	Pass
4♥	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♥	Pass	5♠	Pass
5NT	Pass	7♦	All Pass
West	North	East	South
<i>Smith</i>	<i>Erhart</i>	<i>Dhondy</i>	<i>Terraneo</i>
Pass	1♥	3♥*	Pass
6♦	All Pass		

Three Hearts asked West to bid 3NT with a heart stopper.

With two of the top teams in the world, Poland and Norway could be expected to put on a good show in their semi-final match in the 4<sup>th</sup> IOC Grand Prix. They did not disappoint, and the Norwegians got right down to business on the first deal of their second-round set with a major game swing.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Helgemo</i>	<i>Balicki</i>	<i>Austberg</i>	<i>Zmudzinski</i>
Pass	Pass	Pass	INT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Geir Helgemo led the ♣K and switched to the ♠10. Adam Zmudzinski ran that to his king and played the ♣J from hand. Helgemo won and continued spades, Per Erik Austberg winning the ♠Q when Zmudzinski inserted the jack. Zmudzinski later misguessed in diamonds and ended two off for minus 200. In the Open room, Jon-Egil Furunes for Norway did much better.

West	North	East	South
<i>Kwiecen</i>	<i>Helness</i>	<i>Pszczola</i>	<i>Furunes</i>
Pass	Pass	Pass	INT
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♥
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Michal Kwiecen started with the ♣Q, switching to the ♠10 at trick two. Furunes won the ♠K in hand and advanced the ♣9. Kwiecen, with visions of crashing an honor into his partner's now-singleton ♣J, played low. Furunes was due a club trick in any case, but it worked out much better for him to get it early instead of late. When the ♣9 held, Furunes tried a low heart to the jack and queen. Jacek Pszczola, East, won the ♥Q and got out with a low heart to Furunes' ace and West's 9. Furunes then continued his excellent card play with a low diamond to the 10. When that held he followed with the ♦K and a diamond to the ace in his hand, testing diamonds to determine whether they were 3-3, with some luck in the heart suit also a possibility, before having to decide on a spade finesse for the contract. The even diamond split and the fortunate lie of the heart suit meant an overtrick for Furunes and a 13-IMP gain for Norway.



## Canadian Shutout

Few observers would have picked Canada to defeat Italy in the semi-final round of the 4<sup>th</sup> IOC Grand Prix, but the underdogs rallied for an exciting victory. Not content with one surprise victory, the Canadians were hard at work on another in the second set of the final against the favored team from Poland. Not only was Canada winning – they were thrashing the strong Polish team. Canada won the second set 44-0 to lead by 46.5 IMPs at the halfway point.

Gitelman played expertly on this deal to help his team to a major swing

Dealer: West	♠ A 10		
E/W Vul	♥ K J 10 7 2		
	♦ 7 6 4		
	♣ 6 3 2		
	♠ K Q J 2	♠ 7 6 5 3	
	♥ A 6 3	♥ 5	
	♦ A 10 2	♦ K 9 8 3	
	♣ 9 8 5	♣ K Q 10 4	
	♠ 9 8 4		
	♥ Q 9 8 4		
	♦ Q J 5		
	♣ A J 7		
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Kwiecen</i>	<i>Gartaganis</i>	<i>Pszczola</i>	<i>Jones</i>
1♣	1♥	1♠	2♣
2♠	Pass	Pass	3♥
Dble	All Pass		

This must have been scary for Michal Kwiecen and Pszczola – scoring only five tricks against the heart partial by Nick Gartaganis. Still, the Poles prevailed and scored plus 100. At the other table, Gitelman and Joe Silver found their way to a vulnerable game. All Gitelman had to do was make it.

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Gitelman</i>	<i>Balicki</i>	<i>Silver</i>	<i>Zmudzinski</i>
1♣	2♥	Dble	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

Cezary Balicki led the ♦6, and Gitelman studied the dummy for a long time before starting to play. Eventually, he played low, and won Zmudzinski's ♦J with the ace. Gitelman then cashed the ♥A, ruffed a heart and played a spade to his king and Balicki's ace. Balicki exited with his ♠10 to Gitelman's queen. Gitelman then ruffed his last heart and played a low diamond from dummy. Zmudzinski won the ♦Q and played a fourth round of hearts, but Gitelman was able to ruff, draw the last trump and claim, giving up only the ♣A from there. That was plus 620 and 11 IMPs to Canada.

*IBPA Editor: If North, when in with the ace of trumps (it is best to hold up a round) switches to a club and South ducks the king declarer is in trouble. It works better to win trick*

*one in dummy to preserve the entry back to the West hand.*

Just as Italy had suffered on slam swings against Canada, so did the Poles. The final two deals of the set represented major setbacks for Poland.

Dealer: South	♠ Q 7		
Both Vul	♥ J 4		
	♦ A K 7 4		
	♣ Q 9 8 6 5		
	♠ K J 8 6 5 4	♠ 9 3 2	
	♥ Q 6 5 2	♥ 10	
	♦ 3 2	♦ J 9 8 6	
	♣ 10	♣ K 7 4 3 2	
	♠ A 10		
	♥ A K 9 8 7 3		
	♦ Q 10 5		
	♣ A J		
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Kwiecen</i>	<i>Gartaganis</i>	<i>Pszczola</i>	<i>Jones</i>
1♠	Dble	2♠	4♥
All Pass			

With his good spots and the fall of East's ♥10, Peter Jones had no trouble taking 12 tricks for plus 680. Would Poland be able to engineer a slam swing of their own? The answer was yes, but not in the way that they wanted.

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Gitelman</i>	<i>Balicki</i>	<i>Silver</i>	<i>Zmudzinski</i>
2♠	3♠	Pass	1♣
Pass	5♣	Pass	4♥
All Pass			6♣

Zmudzinski's 1♣ opener was Polish, meaning it could be a minimum balanced hand or any of a wide variety of strong, unbalanced hands. It appeared that, after the 3♠ cuebid, South was to bid 3NT with a minimum and a spade stopper. Zmudzinski's 4♥ bid, therefore, showed a strong hand. The way the auction developed might have worked out all right for Poland were it not for the terrible break in clubs. Still, it seems that Gitelman's 2♠ bid completely derailed North-South in auction.

Gitelman started with a low diamond to the jack and queen. Zmudzinski cashed the ♣A and followed with the jack, ducked by Silver. Declarer was forced to use a diamond entry to dummy to drive out the ♣K. Silver won the third round of clubs and played the ♥10. Zmudzinski took the ♥A. If diamonds were 3-3 he could still succeed by squeezing West in the majors. So declarer cashed ♠A, before going to dummy. In the end, because he had failed to unblock the ♥J earlier, Zmudzinski could not endplay Gitelman for down one by exiting with dummy's ♠Q. He had to settle for minus 200 and a 13-IMP loss.

## IBPA Column Service

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

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One thing about Rubber Bridge is that you have to make up in the play what you drop in the auction; on the following deal 6♣ appears to be far better than 6NT despite the bad trump split (South can ruff a diamond and leave himself with many chances) but 6NT offered some fascinating play.

Dlr: South	♠ A K 3		
Vul: Both	♥ K 6 4		
	♦ K 9 7		
	♣ A Q 6 5		
	♠ 10 4	♠ J 8 6 5	
	♥ A J 7 2	♥ 9 8 5	
	♦ 6 5 2	♦ Q J 8 5 4	
	♣ 10 7 3 2	♣ 9	
	♠ Q 9 7 2		
	♥ Q 10 3		
	♦ A 10		
	♣ K J 8 4		
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
Pass	1♦	Pass	1♣
Pass	2♥	Pass	2NT
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♦
Pass	6NT	All Pass	

Some ambiguity about whether 4♣ was Gerber or showing a club fit led to the 4-4 fit being missed. On the lead of the ten of spades South cashed four rounds of clubs, on which East parted with two diamonds, echoing in the suit, and a low heart. Since she would surely have pitched a spade from three small, South cashed out the spades via the finesse, and that persuaded West to discard a small heart and a small diamond. Since West would surely have led a heart without the ace, she was likely to hold that card. So declarer, going for the grandstand finish, (on the grounds that anyone can take a finesse!) cashed the ace and king of diamonds to strip West of her exit cards, and led a heart to the queen. West won the ace but was endplayed to lead away from the jack, round to South's ten, and the contract came home.

As a side-issue, the question of vacant spaces in the heart suit is a little difficult to apply. Does the fact that West can be inferred to hold the ace of hearts in her four-card suit make it more likely that she has the jack (on a 4-3 basis)? Or is it an even money shot here?

194.

Leszek Rabiega found one of the best plays I have ever been on the receiving end of. See if you can match wits with him — he was sitting South and playing Pairs, so that overtricks really mattered.

Dlr: East	♠ 10 4		
Vul: Both	♥ A 9 7 5 3 2		
	♦ Q 8 3		
	♣ 9 8		
	♠ Q J 8 6 5	♠ K 3 2	
	♥ 6 4	♥ Q J 10	
	♦ 10 5 2	♦ K J 7 4	
	♣ K Q 5	♣ J 6 2	
	♠ A 9 7		
	♥ K 8		
	♦ A 9 6		
	♣ A 10 7 4 3		
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
Pass	2♦(1)	Pass	INT
All Pass		Pass	2♥

(1) Transfer to hearts.

As West, I led the ♠Q to the 4, 3 and 7. I woodenly continued with a low spade — wouldn't you? Consider declarer's problem. If he wins and ducks a club, I lead a diamond through, and though declarer gets one diamond away on the clubs, he can't get them both away — so he gets plus 140.

Rabiega found the brilliant play at trick two of ducking the second spade. That left my partner on lead; she played a club and Rabiega rose with the ace and cashed the ♠A, pitching the other club. Now he ruffed a club, played the ♥A and a heart to the king, ruffed a club, gave up a heart and claimed plus 170. Very nicely done!

While the literature has a number of these avoidance plays recorded, most of them are fairly artificial — and not so easy to spot at the table. All credit to declarer for getting it right without the foreknowledge that there was an unusual play to find.

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195.

On this deal from the 2000 Cavendish Jeff Meckstroth and Boye Brogeland had the chance for a rather unusual ducking play. In turn this gave the defence the chance to return the favour with an unusual shift.

Dlr: East Vul: N/S	♠ 10 ♥ Q 9 7 ♦ K Q 10 7 3 ♣ K 9 5 3	♠ A 9 7 6 5 2 ♥ A 5 ♦ 9 8 ♣ J 7 6	♠ J 8 ♥ J 8 6 4 3 ♦ A 6 5 ♣ Q 8 2
	♠ K Q 4 3 ♥ K 10 2 ♦ J 4 2 ♣ A 10 4		
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
Pass	Dble	2♠ Pass	Pass 3NT
All Pass			

When East opens a weak 2♠ the normal continuation is for North to reopen with a double and for South to jump to 3NT, since the penalty available from passing is likely to be unsatisfactory at the vulnerability. Both Boye Brogeland and Jeff Meckstroth were confronted with this position and on the ♠J lead they made the first critical decision to duck. If declarer wins the first spade and drives out the ace of diamonds a spade continuation leaves declarer with just eight tricks.

When a spade was continued at trick two they pitched a heart from dummy and the defence did well not to win the ♠A but to let declarer score the trick cheaply. Now the declarers drove out the ♦A, and the defence won the third round as East discarded a neutral spade, suggesting something in both the unbid suits; what next? At one of the featured tables Levy as West now led a heart against Meckstroth and Chemla cashed his two major suit aces; however, Jeff had the rest. At the other table a low club brought the clubs in for no losers.

West might do better to win the second diamond and exit with a diamond, leaving declarer to guess the hearts.

196.

It is unusual to find declarer hoping for a 5-1 trump split, but on the deal that follows, the bad split actually gave declarer extra chances.

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

After North's light double South found himself in Four Hearts, and West kicked off with the king of diamonds. The most obvious chance for success is to find the hearts splitting and the jack of spades onside. South started to draw trumps, but got lucky when he played the jack of trumps to find the ten appearing as a clear danger signal. Declarer believed the card to be a true one so switched tack and cashed the ace of spades, running the spade suit from the top when West produced the seven and nine. The appearance of the jack of spades let declarer cash the fourth spade to pitch a second club, as West threw a diamond.

Now at the critical moment in the hand, South led a diamond from dummy, on which East pitched a club. West won the queen of diamonds, but from here on the defence could not beat the contract. The most elegant shot is for West to underlead the ace of clubs to East, who can play a trump now. However, declarer can win in hand and lead a low diamond, planning to ruff the fourth diamond high in dummy. If East ruffs in to play another trump, South can draw trumps finishing in hand and cash his master diamond at trick 13; and on any other defence South can crossruff high.

There is however a defence at trick seven; although East knows his partner has the master diamond, he must ruff when declarer plays a diamond from dummy, and lead a trump. Declarer can win in hand and lead the jack of diamonds and West must duck! That lets East ruff and lead another trump, and South is left with a losing diamond in hand at trick 13.



# Helgemo-Helness win Cap Gemini Ernst & Young

16<sup>th</sup> World Top Invitational Pairs Tournament, 17-20 January 2002

Mark Horton reports on the famous event played in The Hague.

Mixed emotions were on display as thirty-two of the world's finest players assembled in The Hague. There was excitement at the prospect of another great tournament tinged with sadness at the realisation that this would be the last time the famous blue spade of Cap Gemini Ernst & Young would be in evidence.

The clear favourites were Geir Helgemo & Tor Helness and they completed a runaway victory. It was their third triumph, their previous victories having come in 1994 and 1996. They are the only partnership to have recorded three wins, overtaking the previous record of two that they shared with Zia/Rosenberg, Chagas/Branco and Zia/Robson.

While they were winning what was almost an exhibition, there was an exciting struggle for the remaining prizes that was only decided as the boards finally ran out. These were the final standings:

1.	Helgemo	Helness (Nor)	888
2.	Brogeland	Saelensminde (Nor)	821
3.	Auken	VonArnim/Reps (Ger)	815
4.	Gromov	Petrinin (Rus)	807
5.	Jansma	Verhees (Net)	798
6.	Karwur	Sacul (Indo)	793
7.	Gawrys	Jassem (Pol)	743
8.	Leufkens	Westra (Net)	736
9.	Brenner	Chagas (Bra)	734
10.	Muller	De Wijs (Net)	723
11.	Kwiecien	Pszczola (Pol)	719
12.	Mahmood (USA)	Robson (GB)	706
13.	Gitelman (Can)	Stansby (USA)	701
14.	Garner	Weinstein (USA)	674
15.	Garozzo	Versace (Ita)	668
16.	Madala	Ravenna (Arg)	661

Daniela Von Arnim did not feel well at the end of the second session and her husband Klaus Reps proved to be an able substitute.

Boye Brogeland from Norway is certainly one of the youngest players ever to appear in this prestigious event. He is beaten in this respect by (among others) his fellow-countryman Geir Helgemo, who made his debut here while still a junior, and also by Alfredo Versace. All of them are very much looking like veterans now, as teenager Agustin Madala from Argentina enters the scene here. Together with Pablo Ravenna, he already represented Argentina in the recent Bermuda Bowl. Having thus earned an invitation for our tournament, the two had to face Brogeland and Saelensminde in Round 2's battle of youth.

This was the first board, with Andrew Robson's defence at another table the star:

Dealer: South	♠ K 10 2		
None Vul	♥ J 4 2		
	♦ Q 9 7 3		
	♣ 10 7 6		
	♠ 8 3		♠ J 7
	♥ K 8 5 3		♥ A Q 9 7 6
	♦ 5		♦ K J 2
	♣ Q J 9 5 4 2		♣ A K 3
		♠ A Q 9 6 5 4	
		♥ 10	
		♦ A 10 8 6 4	
		♣ 8	

West	North	East	South
<i>Brogeland</i>	<i>Ravenna</i>	<i>Saelensminde</i>	<i>Madala</i>
Pass	INT	Dble	1♠
2♥	2♠	4♥	2♦
5♣	Pass	5♥	4♣
Pass	Pass	Dble	5♣
			All Pass

Going on to 5♣ looks like a sensible insurance policy, but it turned out differently when most E/W pairs preferred to double 4♣. There are ten tricks for the taking, provided you take the right view in diamonds. So when the Norwegians found the save, they had already done very well, and the extra 200 points they gained when the Argentineans went on to 5♣ did not matter too much. As it was, the first swing of the match went to Norway, 8 IMPs. The only other EW pair to find the heart save were Muller-De Wijs.

If one looks at it superficially, 4♣ cannot go down, but Zia and Robson had other ideas.

West	North	East	South
<i>Zia</i>	<i>Garner</i>	<i>Robson</i>	<i>Weinstein</i>
Pass	2♠	3♥	1♠
4♥	4♣	All Pass	4♦

Zia and Robson did not take the save either, but they showed they had good reasons for that. Zia led the ♥K which Andrew Robson overtook to switch to a devilish ♦2. Who can blame declarer for reading this as an obvious singleton instead of spotting what was going on? Up went the ace and down went the contract, the late Edgar Kaplan would have said. Nobody else matched this defence, so here we certainly have a candidate for a brilliancy prize.

A few boards later, we had another instance of declarers suddenly going down in apparently ice-cold contracts:

Dealer: South     ♠ 8 7 6 4  
 N/S Game        ♥ 9 3  
                     ♦ K 7 4 2  
                     ♣ 9 5 2

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

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Zia</i>	<i>Garner</i>	<i>Robson</i>	<i>Weinstein</i>
1♦	Pass	2♥	2♠
Pass	Pass	4♦	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

Weinstein led two top clubs and switched to a spade. In view of the bidding, Robson elected to place North with heart length, so he crossed to the ♥Q and led low to the ten. With the ♦K wrong too, this meant a quick one down, 6 IMPs to the Americans.

Declarer could also be led astray by a cunning defence. This is what Auken-Von Arnim did on VuGraph:

West	North	East	South
<i>De Wijs</i>	<i>Auken</i>	<i>Muller</i>	<i>Von Arnim</i>
Pass	Pass	3♥	1♠
4♥	All Pass		Pass

1♠ showed four with a longer minor. Von Arnim led the top clubs followed by another club. Well done, as declarer ruffed in hand and then took the "marked" trump finesse. Of course, he had been guided into thinking that South was trying to protect her partner's trump holding. One down.

The Argentineans staked their claim to the Romex award with this auction:

Dealer; West     ♠ A 5 4 3  
 Game All        ♥ A 3  
                     ♦ A 6 5  
                     ♣ K Q 9 2

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

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Brogeland</i>	<i>Ravenna</i>	<i>Sælensminde</i>	<i>Madala</i>
Pass	1♣	Pass	1♥
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♥
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♣
All Pass			

With all other pairs recording -100 in 3NT, the Argentineans did exceptionally well this time to produce a controlled auction to stay out of game. Please note that 3NT still has no play when the diamonds are 4-4. Another 6 IMPs and a 59-41 win.

Two pairs were unlucky on this deal:

Dealer: East     ♠ 10 8 7 3 2  
 None Vul        ♥ 10 8 6  
                     ♦ Q 5 3  
                     ♣ J 8

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

♠ —  
 ♥ 9 5 3  
 ♦ K 10 9 8 6  
 ♣ Q 9 6 5 4

West	North	East	South
<i>Garner</i>	<i>Pszczola</i>	<i>Weinstein</i>	<i>Kwiecien</i>
2♣	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♠	Pass	2♥	Pass
3♦	Pass	3♣	Pass
4♠	Pass	4♦	Pass
5♦	Pass	4NT	Pass
	Pass	7♠	All Pass

With probably two good black suit fits and all the outside controls the grand looked a good proposition, as both East and West had suggested extra values in their bidding approach. The final contract was very good. A dummy-reversal leads to 13 tricks if spades are 3-2 and the side suit breaks don't contain a singleton somewhere. As it was, Weinstein would have made his contract had North held four hearts to his five trumps. Even then, the dummy-reversal works if properly timed.

West	North	East	South
<i>Jassem</i>	<i>Sacul</i>	<i>Gawrys</i>	<i>Karwur</i>
2NT	Pass	1♠	Pass
3♠	Pass	3♥	Pass
5♦	Pass	4NT	Pass
6♥	Pass	6♣	Pass
	Pass	7♠	All Pass

6♣ was a grand slam try, happily accepted by showing extra values in hearts (the queen). Now Gawrys could count 13 tricks, it looked.

As you can see, with the actual layout 12 tricks are the maximum. So instead of being candidates for the best bid hand, both pairs had to accept a 13-IMP loss.

In between the two boards shown above, board 13 presented some problems of a different kind.

Dealer: North ♠ A 8  
 All Vul ♥ Q 6 3  
 ♦ 10 6 4 2  
 ♣ J 7 3 2

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

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

The normal contract is 4♠ which was reached at all tables. How would you play?

The straightforward line is not good enough. If you win any lead, cross in hearts and run the ♠J you go down. South takes the queen, cashes the ♣A and gets a club ruff after North comes in with the ♠A.

Garner and Jassem did better. They won the lead in dummy and immediately led a spade away from the king. When South did not rise with the queen (and who would blame them?), they were home.

Helgemo made the game effortlessly. He got a club lead to the ace and South switched to a heart. He took the ace and finished all defensive hopes by playing a spade to the king.

This was probably the best played hand of the event:

Dealer: South ♠ Q 6  
 None Vul ♥ J 7  
 ♦ K 10 8 3 2  
 ♣ 10 7 4 3

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

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Kwiecien</i>	<i>Helness</i>	<i>Pszczola</i>	<i>Helgemo</i>
Pass	3♦	Dble	1♦
4♥	All Pass		Pass

North led the ♦2, taken by dummy's ace. Michal Kwiecien's first good move was to play a club to the king. When the jack appeared, he decided to draw exactly two rounds of trumps, the ♥AQ, before leading another club from dummy, South winning the ace perforce, as expected. Now, if South returns a trump, he can win and establish the spades while the ♣Q remains in dummy as an entry to the last spade in case South holds off. But South returned a diamond, so Kwiecien had to ruff in hand and lead a spade to South's jack. Back came another diamond, ruffed by declarer again, followed by another spade to the queen, king and ducked.

The next spade went to the ace, and what can South do now?

If he plays another diamond, dummy's ♥8 can ruff this while a spade goes away from declarer's hand. After this, dummy can play top spades through South, intending to throw his club loser. As this plan will succeed at the first or the second attempt, the contract is home. If South returns the last trump at any stage, declarer cannot be shortened any more and will have time to establish the spades at ease while the ♣Q remains there as the necessary side entry.

This deal offered an interesting choice of games:

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

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

♠ 9 3  
 ♥ A Q 10  
 ♦ 10 9 7  
 ♣ K 9 5 4 3

It is a matter of style and appreciation whether you end up in 4♠ or 4♣ as East. There is one marked difference, however: 4♠ goes down easily on the heart ruff, and 4♣ has some play if you time the hand properly.

On YuGraph, Versace did not find the club lead against Leufkens, but led a diamond instead. Now Leufkens had time to play a heart to the king and ace and a heart later towards dummy's jack without any danger of getting shortened. +620.

Only after a club lead, the hand becomes interesting. Ravenna ruffed the club lead and first drove out the ♠A. He ruffed the club continuation and then, instead of leading a low heart from hand, crossed in diamonds to lead a heart towards the king and ace. Another club now saw him lose control. He ruffed and led a heart to dummy, but South could win his queen and remove declarer's last entry to his hand by playing a diamond. South's last trump could be picked up by playing winning spades, but with no entry back to hand declarer had to lose a diamond in the end. One down.

Sabine Auken showed how to play the hand. She won the club lead with dummy's ace and immediately led a heart to the king and ace. A club was ruffed and a heart went to the queen. Another club was ruffed and only now the ♠A was driven out. Yet another club return was ruffed by declarer with her last trump, but she was able to cross to dummy in diamonds to cash the ♥J and collect the last outstanding trump, and get back to her hand in diamonds to enjoy all the spades. Simple and effective for a very well-earned +620.

After 16 glorious years, the **Cap Gemini** party is finally over.

# The Australian Summer Nationals, Canberra

By Ron Klinger (Australia) Columnist Sydney Morning Herald

The premier event on the Australian bridge calendar is the **National Open Teams**. 14 qualifying rounds produce 16 finalists who play off in knock-out matches. Several were conceded with 48 of 64 boards played, including the final where BRAITHWAITE (Andy Braithwaite - Alan Turner, Gunnar Hallberg - Lionel Wright, Michael Cornell - Richard Jedrychowski) beat COURTNEY (Michael Courtney - Peter Gill, Jill Courtney - Tania Lloyd) 152-89.

Both semi-finals were conceded after 48 boards, COURTNEY beat NEILL (Bruce Neill - John Roberts, Rob Fruewirth - Matt Mullamphy, Peter Smith - Paul Yovich) 162 - 56 and BRAITHWAITE beat OTVOSI (Erwin Otvosi, Marek Borewicz, Espen Erichsen, Calin Gruia, Jacek Romanski, Marek Szymanowski) 132 - 72.

## 'Very few matches are won by conceding defeat.'

The **National Women's Teams** (NWT) was won by Margaret Bourke-Jillian Hay, Felicity Beale - Diana Smart, Sue Lusk - Therese Tully, who defeated Elizabeth Havas - Barbara Travis, Val Biltoft - Alida Clark, Jane Alabaster - Jan Cormack) by 145-112 in the final.

The **National Seniors' Teams** (NST) was won by Jim Borin - Bill Haughie, Zoltan Nagy - Ron Klinger who defeated Roger Januszke - Bill Westwood, Harold Bettman - Leslie Kalmin by 169-106 in the final.

## National Open Pairs:

1. Colin Baker	Michael Ware
2. Gunnar Hallberg	Lionel Wright
3. Pauline Gumby	Warren Lazer
Plate: Judy Frazier	Judy Mott

## National Swiss Pairs:

1. Robert Grynberg	David Stern
2. Paul Marston	Bob Richman
3. Andy Braithwaite	Alan Turner

## Men's Pairs:

1. Ashley Bach	Ishmael Del'Monte
2. Magnus Moren	Terry Strong

## Australian Youth Pairs:

Nic Croft	Arian Lasocki
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## Australian Youth Teams:

Nic Croft	Arian Lasocki
Tony Nunn	David Wiltshire

## National Youth Selection

### Pairs stage:

1. Mark Abraham	Michael Wilkinson
2. Leigh Gold	Kenneth Wan
3. Nic Croft	Arian Lasocki
4. Ken Dalley	Joshua Wyner
5. Marc Deaton	Justin Williams

Pair 1 went into the Australian Youth Team. Pair 2 chose Pair 3 to playoff against Pairs 4 and 5 for the remaining team berths and won by 170-108 over 64 boards.

## The Pin is mightier than the Sword (7 Feb 2002)

The Australian Mixed Teams at the Summer Festival of Bridge in Canberra was won by Helen Knott, Dagmar Neumann, Jo Simpson, George Bilski, Michael Prescott. This was a well-played hand from an early round:

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Griff Ware</i>		<i>Kieran Dyke</i>	
—	—	—	1♦
3♣ (1)	4♣ (2)	Pass	5♣ (3)
Pass	5♦	All pass	

- (1) Weak
- (2) Strong diamond raise
- (3) Cue-bid

West led the ♦7, won by South, who returned a trump to dummy's queen. A low spade to the nine fetched the queen and West exited with the ♥8 to the queen and ace. Declarer ruffed the spade shift and played the ♣A, discarding a heart from dummy. Next came a club ruff and spade ruff, followed by the ♣Q. On the actual layout, this would pin East's jack and give South an extra club trick, regardless how West played.

If West covered, dummy would ruff and with the ♣J dropping, South's ♣10 would be high for another heart discard. In practice West played low and Dyke discarded a heart from dummy. He thus lost just one heart and

one spade.

The Summer Festival NOT News, edited by Earl Dudley, included this fine deal, reported by Ben Thompson:

Dealer: East      ♠ K Q 10 8 6 3  
 Love all          ♥ Q 9 4  
                       ♦ A J 9  
                       ♣ 9

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

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Gumby</i>	<i>Rosendorff</i>	<i>Lazer</i>	<i>Lilley</i>
Pass	1♠	Pass	1♣
Pass	2♦*	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♠	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

South was in 3NT on the ♥5 lead: four - six - ten. On the ♠J, West showed an even number and so Lilley played low from dummy. He continued with a diamond to dummy's jack and East's king. Lazer returned a diamond to knock out the entry to dummy's spades. The ♦8 was covered by the ten and ace.

Lilley now played the ♠K and discarded the blocking ♦Q. West was in trouble. A diamond return would give declarer access to dummy's spades and a low heart would do the same if declarer played low from dummy. Gumby therefore shifted to a club but Lilley captured East's king and continued clubs to secure his contract.

### Classy play and lucky day (8 Feb 2002)

This deal arose in the final qualifying round of the 2002 South-West Pacific Teams in Canberra:

Dealer: South      ♠ A 9 4 3  
 N/S Vulnerable    ♥ 6 5 2  
                       ♦ 7 5 3 2  
                       ♣ A 8

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

♠ Q 5  
 ♥ A Q 4  
 ♦ —  
 ♣ Q J 10 9 6 4 3 2

South's opening of Five Clubs ended the auction.

West led the ♦K, ruffed by declarer. The winning line is to play a low club and finesse dummy's ♣8. When that wins, continue with a low spade to your queen. If the queen were to lose to the king, you would need to fall

back on the heart finesse.

If East plays low, the ♠Q will win and the contract is safe. In practice, East will rise with the ♠K. If East now shifts to a heart you must rise with the ♥A, cash the ♠Q and lead a club to dummy's ace. You then discard a heart on the ♠A.

When East plays a heart after winning with the ♠K, it would be an error to finesse the ♥Q. West would win and the ♣K would then eliminate your entry to dummy with the spades still blocked. Tim Bourke of Canberra reported that the winning line was produced by Stephen Burgess of Christchurch. At our table Phil Markey of Adelaide also found the winning play in a trice.

In the NWT, one pair reached slam and one missed on this deal:

Dealer: East      ♠ K 10 7 3  
 N/S Game        ♥ J 4  
                       ♦ 8 4 3  
                       ♣ Q J 10 8

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

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

At both tables the bidding started:

West	East
<i>Beale</i>	<i>Smart</i>
<i>Clark</i>	<i>Biltoft</i>
	1♠
2♣	2♦
2♥	3♦
3♠	3NT...

2♥ was artificial, fourth-suit-forcing. What should West do next?

Beale bid 4♠, passed out. Clark continued with 4NT and then 6♠ over East's reply. Twelve tricks were easy despite the 4-1 trump break.

Both East-Wests bid to 6♠ in the Seniors' final.

Lusk - Tully had the best auction on this deal:

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

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

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



<b>West</b>	<b>East</b>
<i>Tully</i>	<i>Lusk</i>
	1♦
1♠	1NT
2♣	3♦
4NT	5♣
6♦	Pass

The 1NT rebid showed 15-17 points. 2♣ was artificial, asking for more about opener's hand. 3♦ showed five diamonds and did not deny three spades. That was enough for Tully to launch into 4NT and settle in 6♦. +920 was worth +10 Imps as the contract at the other table was 4♠. Cormack-Alabaster started the same way but in reply to 2♣, Alabaster jumped to 3♠ to show the 3-card support and Cormack signed off in 4♠ for +450.

6♦ is the superior slam although 6♠ will make most of the time. In the NST, Bettman-Kalmin also played in 4♠ while Borin-Haughie bid to 6♠, MAKING when North started with ♣A and another club.

### Slow White & The Seven Imps (9 Feb 2002)

The scene: Qualifying rounds of the National Seniors Teams. One of the competitors is Victorian expert, David White, Professor of Microbiology. David who has been near the top of national bridge events for over thirty years is not renowned for his speedy play.

During the second round match, one of David's opponents calls: 'DIRECTOR!'

Tournament Director David Anderson comes to the table:

Opponent: 'Could you please hurry Professor White up. He is very slow.'

David Anderson: 'If I could hurry Prof. White up, I would consider that a Lifetime Achievement Award.'

This deal comes from that match:

Dealer: East	♠ 9 4	
Both vulnerable	♥ A Q 6 4	
	♦ K Q 6	
	♣ K 9 5 3	
♠ A K Q J 10 5		♠ 7 6 3 2
♥ 10 8 7		♥ 5
♦ 10 9 2		♦ J 7 5
♣ Q		♣ A J 6 4 2
	♠ 8	
	♥ K J 9 3 2	
	♦ A 8 4 3	
	♣ 10 8 7	

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
—	<i>Sam Arber</i>	Pass	<i>David White</i>
1♠	Dble	2♠	3♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Three hearts is enough on the South cards. If you jump to 4♥, you may well goad West into bidding 4♠ and then you have to decide whether to defend or bid on to 5♥. If North raises 3♥ to 4♥, the opponents may be less inclined to sacrifice in 4♠ because of your slower auction. If North passes 3♥, then perhaps 4♥ might not make.

David lost just three tricks and wrote +170 into his scorebook. He started chiding himself for not bidding 4♥ but Sam eased his mind. "If they bid 4♠, that's only one down. Anyway the ♣Q switch at trick 2 (after ♠A was led) would hold you to nine tricks."

David was satisfied when the result from the other table came in. 5♥, one down, +100. That was worth 7 Imps.

### Thoughts for the Day

'Precision Bidding': A contradiction in terms

**Definitions:**

'Overcall': The first mistake by the defending side.

'Opponents': the other three players.

Calendar	Event	Venue	IBPA Contact
2002			
<b>FEB</b> 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

.../ continued from Page 16

\* *Elly Ducheyne* says: At the Forbo at the end of February the countries of the Nations Cup on the Friday evening are: USA/Canada, Norway, Italy and the Netherlands. We have 35 foreign teams and 29 Dutch teams in the main event on Saturday and Sunday 23/24<sup>th</sup> Feb.

\* *Yuri Covalenko* has become the father to a baby boy.

\* *Leo Neimo* has retired as Executive Secretary of the Finland BF after 30 years service. His successor is: Kenneth Simonsen, Maamiehentie 2 R 87 FIN-00760 Helsinki, Finland  
E-mail: kenneth.simonsen@abaris.fi  
Phone: +358-40-5377997

Neimo continues as an IT consultant with the Federation.

\* *David Stern* has a new e-mail address:

FROM stern@mail.com TO:

**david@thesterns.com.au**

My backup email addresses are still

**david\_stern@yahoo.com** or **david@dbbc.net**

7 Lawson Street, Paddington, Sydney 2021

Australia

Phone +61 2 9331-7896 Fax +61 2 9360-2716

Mobile: +61 4 1111-1655 (04-1111-1655)

\* *Jens Otto Pedersen (Charles)* reports: Here is an unusual hand from The Danish pair championships – semi-finals: a small slam with no Aces! Indeed, counting the king of trumps as an ace, declarer was missing all five!

Dealer: West      ♠ -  
Love all          ♥ K Q 9 4  
                      ♦ K Q J 7 3  
                      ♣ J 10 7 4

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

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Morten Mortensen</i>	<i>Knud Erik Jensen</i>	<i>Søren Asger Petersen</i>	<i>Ellen Jensen</i>
1♥	2♦	4♥?!	5♣
Pass	6♣!?	Dble	All Pass

Lead ♥A? West succeeded in finding the killing lead ... suicide really! A disaster, allowing South to make the small slam without any of the 5 aces!

\* *Harvey Bernstein* submits a deal from his column in the *Cleveland Plain Dealer* aimed at local players:

Dealer: East      ♠ 3 2  
Love all          ♥ 4  
                      ♦ Q J 5 2  
                      ♣ A K J 10 7 4

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

♠ Q 10 6  
♥ A K J 6 3  
♦ A 9 3  
♣ Q 6

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

Thanks to Don and Kathy Sulgrove of Twinsberg for this hand from a local duplicate game. It is an excellent example of the difference between rubber bridge and the match-point version of the game.

The bidding needs a little explanation. West's double showed a "one suited" hand. North's 3♥ bid was alerted and explained as showing six clubs and four diamonds with forcing values.

West led the king of spades, followed by the ace and then a third spade. South (Kathy Sulgrove) won the queen and counted her tricks. Six clubs, a diamond, two hearts and a spade brought her to ten. But she was pretty sure that West held both the king of diamonds and the queen of hearts, and the run of the clubs was going to bring a lot of pressure to bear if he had those cards.

In order to execute a Vienna Coup against West, she cashed the ace of diamonds before running her clubs.

With three tricks left, West had to hold the king of diamonds because of the queen of diamonds in dummy. The heart discard left the queen unprotected. Declarer played a heart to the ace and won the last three tricks with the ace, king and jack of hearts. Making five instead of four was an excellent result.

# POINTS FROM THE POSTBAG

The Editor reserves the right to shorten correspondence  
LETTERS ...

Email: [patrickjourdain@compuserve.com](mailto:patrickjourdain@compuserve.com) (or [100430.2021@compuserve.com](mailto:100430.2021@compuserve.com))

\* The Australian BF, having initially decided not to take up the Salt Lake City invitation (as reported in January's Bulletin), did field a team.

\* Paul Hackett reports that the NEC Cup was won by John Armstrong, Brian Senior, Brian Callaghan, and Pablo Lambardi who won \$12,000. Canada was second, and third was Hackett's own team: Brigitte Mavromichalis, Justin, Jason, Geir Helgemo, Terje Aa and Glen Grotheim. The three Norwegians went on to Salt Lake City.

\* Alan Truscott reported the death of Norman Kay on 18<sup>th</sup> January. Kay (b. 1927) partnered the late Edgar Kaplan for over forty years. Kay did not win a world title but took silver in the 1961 Bermuda Bowl and 1968 Olympiad.

\* Paul Magerman reports the death of Jo Van den Borre of Belgium, one of IBPA's earliest and most long-standing members. Born in 1917 he was the author of two books on bridge.

\* David Bird reported this deal from the annual bridge match between the two British Houses of Parliament in his column in the Mail on Sunday:

Game all	♠ K 7 4		
Dealer East	♥ J 10 5 2		
	♦ 8 5 3		
	♣ A Q 3		
	♠ 10 8 5 3	♠ Q 9 6	
	♥ -	♥ A 8 7 6	
	♦ K 2	♦ A J 9 4	
	♣ K 10 9 8 5 4 2	♣ 7 6	
	♠ A J 2		
	♥ K Q 9 4 3		
	♦ Q 10 7 6		
	♣ J		
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
Baroness	James	Lord	Michael
Oppenheimer	Mates	Gisborough	Mates MP
		Pass	1♥
2♣	3♣	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

The deal comes from the 27th encounter between the House of Lords and the House of Commons, sponsored by London Export. North club cue bid showed a sound

raise in hearts and Sally Oppenheimer led the ten of clubs against the heart game reached by Michael Mates MP. How would you play the contract?

Remembering that West had overcalled in clubs, Mates ran the club lead to his jack. He then led the king of trumps to East's ace, discovering the 4-0 break. The trump return was won in the dummy and declarer set about a classic partial elimination play. He finessed the jack of spades and cashed the ace and king of spades. After discarding a diamond on the ace of clubs, he ruffed dummy's queen of clubs, completing the elimination of both black suits.

At this stage, with one trick already lost, he was in his hand with Q-10-7 of diamonds and two trumps. Dummy held 8-5-3 of diamonds and two trumps. It may have seemed a hopeless position but what could Sally Oppenheimer do when a low diamond was led? If she played the two, she would have to win the second round of diamonds (whether East returned a diamond or a trump) and give declarer a ruff-and-discard. She in fact defended strongly, rising with the king and playing another diamond, a defence that would have succeeded if East held A-Q-x-x in the suit. Michael Mates held the diamond queen, however, and made the vulnerable game, scoring a big swing for the Commons.

\* Barnet Shenkin spots a small flaw in a comment by Henry Francis on the okbridge final. On Board 44 (Jan Bulletin page 3) West's four trumps (AJ72) prove too much for declarer even if the 7 is a small one. A heart lead is followed by a second heart when in with the ace of trumps. When West is in with the jack he switches to the king of diamonds, spoiling declarer's entries. He must either lose both clubs or a further trump and the ace of clubs.

\* Richard Solomon reports The New Zealand National Congress will be held in the Quality Hotel, Hamilton, New Zealand from June 29th to July 6th 2002. Hamilton is one hour south of Auckland by road. NZ has 16,000 registered players who play at 112 clubs affiliated to the Federation. 500 compete in the Nationals.

Sample some of the country's magnificent scenery (have you seen Lord of The Rings?). For more details contact me at:  
e-mail: [RKSolomon@xtra.co.nz](mailto:RKSolomon@xtra.co.nz) or  
Fax: + 64 9 2328873.

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