

THE INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE PRESS ASSOCIATION

Editor: PATRICK D JOURDAIN

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

BULLETIN
www.IBPA.com
mail@ibpa.com

N° 446 Year 2002

Date March 16

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

The ACBL Bulletins of February and March contain details of the Reisinger Appeal that caused controversy. Your Editor is not concerned about that individual case, understanding the Committee's reasoning. It is the statement made that the majority of the USA's top players want to do away with the Appeals Procedure that worries your Editor.

A few controversial high-profile decisions that overturn a TD's ruling is not a good reason for abandoning Appeals. What about all the controversial TD rulings that wise Appeals Committees over-turn to improve things? An Appeals Committee chosen for sound and unbiased bridge judgment must be better placed to make the bridge-judgment decisions than the TD.

In high-profile cases the Appeals Committee also has to defend their decision in public with reasons. This is much better protection than a TD's individual ruling given without quoting reasons.

Passell is quoted as saying "the TDs should rule the game as the referees do in other sports". Yet most sports are moving in the direction of bridge, introducing in high level games, off-field referees with the advantage of television pictures and extra time for thought. Laws allow Referees to make on-the-spot decisions (often wrong and much criticised) mainly because there is no sensible alternative.

Gitelman is quoted as saying that the Appeals Procedure "makes old friends hate each other." Why? If it is human to be more upset when a group makes a decision and you hear both sides of the argument put fairly, than when an individual makes the decision without giving reasons, then that is a reaction the players must rise above.

IBPA members should by now know the Editor's view. Current Law gives the TD the primary role in determining Law, and the Appeals Committee the main role in determining fact and matters of bridge judgement. Your Editor feels there is a good case for transferring determination of fact to the TD. When the facts are not agreed the Appeals Committee is hardly better placed than the TD to determine the truth. And if a TD is present at the table (as in world championships late stages, and, I would suggest, major finals in American Nationals) then the TD is much better placed to make the decision on fact. The number of Appeals at Camrose matches has dropped dramatically since the requirement to have a TD at both tables came in a few years ago.

So, put a TD at each table whenever you can, make the TD sole arbiter of fact, but leave matters of bridge judgment to a committee with the time and skill to consider the logic fairly.

* * * * *

Did you think ageing players, having competed in Open Championships retired gracefully to the Seniors? Quite the reverse! See Postbag for how England, Scotland, and Wales are doing the opposite for their Teams in the European Championships this June.

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

Norwegians Win Pairs title in Houston

From Daily Bulletins at the American Spring Nationals in Houston, Texas March 7-17th

Boerre Lund, 35, and **Joergens Molberg**, 33,



of Trondheim, Norway won the Open Pairs from Larry Cohen & David Berkowitz. Nick Nickell & Dick Freeman were third.

Lund is a postal worker and Molberg a maths teacher who assisted Glen Grotheim in writing the Viking Club. They were playing for the first time as partners in an American Nationals.

In the Vanderbilt of 79 teams the early highlights were:

In Round 2 the Bermuda Bowl champions, led by Rose **Meltzer** lost 98-169 to George **Mittelman** of Canada.

Barry **Rigal's** team eliminated the No. 6 seed led by Richard Schwartz (Mike Becker, Zia Mahmood, Michael Rosenberg, Larry Cohen, David Berkowitz)

In the Round of 16 Rita **Shugart** (Robson, Forrester, Boye Brogeland) lost to Reese **Milner** 109-132.

In the quarterfinals:

Milner (Marc Jacobus, John Mohan, Sam Lev, Piotr Gawrys, Jacek Pszczola) beat the no 1 seed (mostly the holders) Jack **Coleman** (Bob Crossley, Adam Zmudzinski, Cezary Balicki, Andrew Gromov, Alekzander Petrunin) 160-99.

Grant Baze (Michael Whitman, Glen Grotheim, Terje Aa, Gary Hayden) beat **Steve Robinson** (Peter Boyd, Kit Woolsey, Fred Stewart, Bart Bramley, Sidney Lazard) 143-115.

Nick Nickell (Dick Freeman, Bob Hamman, Paul Soloway, Eric Rodwell, Jeff Meckstroth) beat **Roy Welland** (Bjorn Fallenius, Brad Moss, Fred Gitelman, Steve Garner, Howard Weinstein) 139-101.

Richard Pavlicek (Michael Polowan, Chris Willenken, Ron Smith) beat **Malcolm Brachman** (Eddie Wold, Mark Lair, Chuck Burger, Eric Greco, Geoff Hampson) 174-109.

Semifinal, as we go to press, is Milner v. Baze; Nickell v. Pavlicek.

Barry Rigal reported this deal featuring Larry Cohen against one of the Italian Olympiad champions:

Dealer: East ♠ Q 9 8 6
 E/W Vul ♥ A J
 ♦ K Q
 ♣ A 9 8 7 3

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

♠ A K 3
 ♥ 10 6 5 4
 ♦ A 9 8 5 4
 ♣ J

| West | North | East | South |
|----------------|--------------|---------------|------------------|
| <i>Polowan</i> | <i>Cohen</i> | <i>Bocchi</i> | <i>Berkowitz</i> |
| Pass | 2♣ | Pass | 1♦ |
| Pass | 2♠ | Pass | 2♦ |
| Dble | Pass | Pass | 3♥ |
| Pass | 4NT | All Pass | Redble |

Cohen was in 4NT. Norberto Bocchi led a heart to the king and ace. The jack of hearts drove out the queen, and a third heart put declarer in dummy.

Cohen unblocked the diamonds, and East threw a spade, suggesting five. Cohen crossed to a top spade, noting West's ten. He led the nine of diamonds to tighten the position. West won and switched to a club. Cohen rose with the ace, crossed back to dummy with a spade, and cashed the ace of diamonds.

In the three-card ending Bocchi had to keep two spades and the boss heart. Cohen exited with a heart and received an extra spade trick at the end.

This deal from the Vanderbilt was both bid and played well by Eric Greco with Geoff Hampson:

Dealer: West ♠ A J 5
 ♥ 7 2
 ♦ 9
 ♣ A K Q 10 7 5 2

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

♠ K 10 9 6 3
 ♥ A K Q
 ♦ A J 7 6
 ♣ 4

Greco (North) & Hampson bid unopposed:

1♣-1♠-3♥-4♦-4♥-4NT-6♣-7♣-Pass

3♥ showed a three-card spade raise FTG with good clubs.

4♦ was RKCB for clubs.

4♥ showed 3 keycards.

4NT asked for the trump queen

6♣ said Yes, but no outside kings.

East led a low diamond.

Greco went up with the ace and made the key play at trick two of ruffing a diamond. He then laid down two top trumps discovering that West still had the jack guarded.

Greco continued: heart to the ace, diamond ruff, heart to the king, diamond ruff, ♠A, spade to the king, and the ♥Q, pitching his third spade.

In the two-card ending dummy was on lead, and West was caught in a trump coup.

You can find the Bulletins and Results from the Houston Nationals at www.acbl.org, both in HTML (i.e. as web pages) and as full editions available in PDF format which requires Acrobat Reader.

Stop Press !

Teams captained by Reese Milner and Nick Nickell powered their way into the final of the Vanderbilt Knockout Teams. Milner trailed the Grant Baze team by 11 IMPs entering the final 16 boards, but they crushed their opponents, 70-7, to emerge with a 155-103 victory.

In the other semifinal match, Nickell started quickly against Pavlicek team, winning the opening quarter 36-7. The match was never in doubt from that point as Nickell won, 121-76.

Further to report in last Bulletin

In Memoriam : Jo Van den Borre

Jo Van den Borre passed away after a protracted illness on Sunday 20th January 2002.

Jo was born 03-01-1917 and became an engineer. He taught textile technology in a college. He was also a journalist of the Libre Belgique. After ending his school job he became a public relations executive for Siemens.

Jo's main hobby was bridge. He was the bridge-journalist for numerous Belgium newspapers and international bridge-reviews. He wrote also books on bridge

He was Chief Tournament Director in the Belgian Bridgefederation and Non-playing captain of various national teams; from 1970 he was a Tournament Director of the WBF and was director in many European and world bridge Championships.

He was also member of the board of directors of the O.L.V. hospital of Knokke.

Paul Magerman

| Calendar | Event | Venue | IBPA Contact |
|------------------------------|--|------------------------|--|
| 2002 | | | |
| MAR 16/22 29/Apr 1 | EBL Mixed Pairs and Teams, Easter Festival, | Ostend London | www.eurobridge.org EBU +44 1296 394 414 |
| APR 23/28 | Portuguese Open | Estoril | Portugese BF |
| MAY 9/10 | Bonn Nations Cup | Bad Godesberg, Germany | g.mattsson@t-online.de |
| | 21/26 European Women's Bridge Festival | Sicily | anna@ecats.co.uk |
| JUN 7 & 8 | World wide Bridge Contest | Clubs everywhere | anna@ecats.co.uk |
| | 16/30 European National Teams, | Salsomaggiore | EBL |
| | 29/6 Jul New Zealand National Congress | Hamilton | RKSolomon@xtra.co.nz |
| JUL 7/17 | European Youth Team Championships | Torquay | youthcmte@bridge.gr |
| | 15/20 Commonwealth Bridge Championships | Manchester | EBU 44+ 1296 394 414 |
| | 18/28 ACBL Summer Nationals | Washington | ACBL |
| AUG 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 |
| NOV 25/28 | European Simultaneous Pairs | Clubs everywhere | anna@ecats.co.uk |
| | 28/ 8 Dec ACBL Fall Nationals | Phoenix | ACBL |
| 2003 | | | |
| MAR 6/16 | ACBL Spring Nationals | Philadelphia | ACBL |
| JUN | European Open | | EBL |
| JUL 17/27 | ACBL: Summer Nationals | Long Beach, CA | ACBL |
| AUG 8/17 | England Summer Nationals | Brighton | EBU 44+ 1296 394 414 |

Lavazza Team wins last Forbo Nations Cup and Forbo Bridge Tournament

From Bulletins edited by Jan van Cleeff and Patrick Jourdain, Scheveningen, Feb 22/24

Nations Cup

4-team Invitation, 3 x 20 board matches VPs

1. Italy

(Giorgio Duboin, Norberto Bocchi,
Alfredo Versace, Lorenzo Lauria,
Guido Ferraro, Marie-Theresa Lavazza) 58

2. North America

(Fred Gitelman, Brad Moss,
Howard Weinstein, John Carruthers) 52

3. (on split tie) Netherlands

(Huub Bertens-Ton Bakkeren,
Gert-Jan Paulissen-Bart Nab) 52

4. Norway

(Boye Brogeland-Erik Saelensminde,
Artur Malinowski-Geo Tislevoll) 13

Forbo Tournament

64 teams seeded into 8 sections, top two of each into "A" Final, next into "B" Final etc.

"A" Final:

- | | |
|--|-----|
| 1. Lavazza | 121 |
| 2. Michael Polowan (Steve Robinson, Apolinary Kowalski, Piotr Tuszyński) | 120 |
| 3. 't Onstein (Net) Anton Maas, Ramondt, Jan Jansma, Louk Verhees) | 120 |
| 4. North America (Gitelman) | 114 |
| 5. Netherlands Orange | 114 |
| 6. Denmark "B" Norgaard, Caspersen, Nicolaisen, Raulund | 113 |
| 7. Bulgaria (Jerry Stamatov, Karaivanov x 2, Trendafilov) | 109 |
| 8. Denmark "A" (Schaltz, Schaltz, Andersen, Christiansen) | 107 |
- "B" Final: A. Waterlow (I. Panto, A. Kay, J. Dhondy)
England
- "C": Indonesia (Lasut, Manoppo, Karwur, Sacul)
- "D": Hokl
- "E": Journalists (Jean-Paul Meyer, Mark Horton, Pierre Adad, Guillamin)

For 11 years Forbo Linoleum has sponsored the event, formerly the Hoechst. For all 21 years IBPA's Elly Ducheyne has been the main organiser. There was a waiting list for teams to make the 64 who competed over two days.

In the last round of the Congress Italy met North America. Seven of the players were the same as were involved in the Reisinger photo-finish and Appeal. This time Italy won and took the trophy by a single point.

The first deal was a humdinger. Although only 3 IMPs changed hands large quantities were at stake:

| | |
|---------------|------------------|
| B17 | ♠ None |
| Dealer: North | ♥ K 10 2 |
| Love all | ♦ K 10 7 5 |
| | ♣ K J 9 8 6 2 |
| ♠ A 2 | ♠ J 10 9 8 6 4 3 |
| ♥ Q J 6 5 | ♥ A 9 8 7 3 |
| ♦ A Q J 4 3 | ♦ None |
| ♣ 10 3 | ♣ 7 |
| | ♠ K Q 7 5 |
| | ♥ 4 |
| | ♦ 9 8 6 2 |
| | ♣ A Q 5 4 |

At one table Gitelman & Moss played in Four Spades redoubled making. (The defence have a club, a heart and two trumps to make, so one assumes South led a red card). 880 to North America. At the other table the auction was:

| West | North | East | South |
|------|-------|--------|----------|
| | 1♣ | 2♦ | Dble |
| 4♥ | Pass | Pass | 5♣ |
| 5♥ | Dble | Redble | All Pass |

Two Diamonds showed both majors. There was some confusion at the table about West's alert, and the matter was not cleared up until after West's Four Heart bid. Spectators feared a possible repeat of the Reisinger ending. This would have spoilt the conclusion of a great tournament and, to their credit, Carruthers & Weinstein did not even call for a ruling.

| West | North | East | South |
|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| <i>Gitelman</i> | <i>Mali'wski</i> | <i>Moss</i> | <i>Tislevoll</i> |
| Pass | 1♠ | 2♣ | 1♥ |
| All Pass | | | 4♥ |
| West | North | East | South |
| <i>Brogeland</i> | <i>Carruthers</i> | <i>Sael'minde</i> | <i>Weinstein</i> |
| Pass | 1♠ | 2♣ | 1♥ |
| Pass | 4♣ | Pass | 3♥ |
| All Pass | | | 4♥ |

At the table where IBPA member Geo Tislevoll was declarer, Gitelman led a low club from the West seat. Moss won the ace and switched to a trump. This was won in dummy, declarer came to hand with a spade to the ace, ruffed a club, cashed the ♠K (throwing a club), ruffed a spade, drew trumps, and led his diamond.

Gitelman played low smoothly but declarer, of course, put up the king and claimed 11 tricks. 450 to Norway.

At the table where North America declared the same contract, Boye Brogeland was on lead as West. His choice was the devilish ♦7!

Poor Weinstein, who had hardly recovered from his long journey, inevitably put in the jack. Erik Saelensminde won with the queen, and shot back a trump. Declarer could unblock the spades, but when West came in with a club, he led a second trump to put paid to the game. A further 50 was worth 11 IMPs to Norway.

Weinstein had a quick look to see who held the ace of diamonds. "Welcome to the Nations Cup," said Brogeland, revealing his subterfuge.

This was the first board of the match, which started proceedings at Norway's home table:

Dealer: North ♠ A J 5 3
 Love all ♥ K 10 5
 ♦ K 3
 ♣ J 9 6 3

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

| West | North | East | South |
|-----------------|------------------|-------------|------------------|
| <i>Gitelman</i> | <i>Mali'wski</i> | <i>Moss</i> | <i>Tislevoll</i> |
| 2NT | 1♣ | Pass | Pass |
| 3♥ | Pass | 3♣ | Dble |
| | | 3NT | All Pass |

| West | North | East | South |
|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| <i>Brogeland</i> | <i>Carruthers</i> | <i>Sael'minde</i> | <i>Weinstein</i> |
| Dble | 1♣ | Pass | Pass |
| Dble | Pass | 1♠ | 2♣ |
| 2NT | Pass | 2♦ | Pass |
| | | 3NT | All Pass |

Again the contract was the same at both tables. Both Norths led a low club to the king and ace.

When Gitelman was declarer as West he led the ♠Q at trick two. Malinowski allowed this to hold, and when the next spade came, he ducked again. Gitelman put in the ten. When this held he knew North still had both the ace and jack.

South had Passed the opening bid, so declarer also knew both red kings were offside. He led a diamond to the ace, and a second diamond to North's king. Malinowski now erred by continuing with a low club to South's ten. Gitelman let this hold and won the next club, discarding a heart from dummy. He then cashed the two remaining diamonds, ending in dummy.

North was in trouble. He could discard a heart on the third diamond, but on the last he had to throw one of his black winners (he chose ♠J). Gitelman exited from dummy with a spade. North won and could cash a club, but then had to play a heart. 400 to North America.

At the other table, after a club to the king and ace, Brogeland had the same inference about the red kings being offside, and he began with ace and another diamond. Carruthers won, and carefully continued with the *nine* of clubs.

Brogeland let this hold, so North now followed with the *jack*, retaining his precious small club.

Brogeland won the third club, and tried ♠Q. As at the first table, North ducked, and ducked again when the second spade was led. Brogeland had the same end-play in mind, and realised he did not need to risk the finesse. He put up the king and cashed the two diamonds.

Carruthers threw a heart on the first, and then a high spade (the ace) on the next.

Brogeland exited from dummy with a spade to North's jack. Then came the crucial difference. North was able to play his carefully preserved small club to South's ten, and a heart from South finished declarer's chances. This was a further 50 to North America and 10 IMPs.

These two swings almost cancelled each other out, but North America had the better of the remaining exchanges to win the match 62-30 or 22-8 in VPs.

Match 2 Italy v. North America

Olympiad champions Norberto Bocchi & Giorgio Duboin of Team Lavazza faced Weinstein-Carruthers of the North American team that led the standings. The first board provided good copy:

| | | |
|---------------|--------------|-----------|
| Board 1 | ♠ A K 4 | |
| Dealer: North | ♥ K 10 6 | |
| Love all | ♦ A K 7 4 2 | |
| | ♣ 10 6 | |
| | ♠ Q 10 8 5 2 | ♠ J 9 7 6 |
| | ♥ 2 | ♥ Q J 8 4 |
| | ♦ J 6 5 | ♦ 9 8 |
| | ♣ K 5 4 3 | ♣ A 8 2 |
| | ♠ 3 3 | |
| | ♥ A 9 7 5 3 | |
| | ♦ Q 10 3 | |
| | ♣ Q J 9 7 | |

| West | North | East | South |
|-----------------|---------------|-------------|---------------|
| <i>Gitelman</i> | <i>Bocchi</i> | <i>Moss</i> | <i>Duboin</i> |
| | 2♣ | Pass | 2♦ |
| Pass | 2♥ | Pass | 3♣ |
| Pass | 3♦ | Pass | 3♠ |
| Pass | 4♦ | Pass | 4♥ |
| All Pass | | | |

The Italians new secret weapon, unveiled last year, is the Two Club opening showing 18/19 balanced. (Well to tell the truth, Bocchi has 17, but we teach beginners to add 1 point for a five card suit, so it must be alright for world champions too.) South's Two Diamonds was a transfer, promising hearts, and North's Two Hearts was almost compulsory. South's Three Clubs was a game-forcing relay, Three Diamonds was little more than waiting, Three Spades promised clubs, and Four Diamonds agreed hearts but was more encouraging than bidding Four Hearts (the equivalent of what is known as Last Train). South signed off in game.

If you look at the report of the match between Norway and North America you will see that Howard Weinstein was caught on the first board by Brogeland underleading an ace at trick one. Whether this point was in the mind of Brad Moss we cannot tell, but he knew dummy had a club suit, and his first card after dinner was the TWO of clubs lead.

Bocchi put up the Queen from dummy, and there was a little hesitation from West before he came up with the successful play of putting on his king. How embarrassing for the defence if West withholds that card!

At trick two West returned a diamond. Bocchi won in the South hand, played a trump to the king and a low trump back. When East smoothly contributed the eight, Bocchi went into thought. If the trumps were not breaking he had to put in the nine. But this "safety" play might actually be the ruin of the contract.

There were two dangers if West could beat the

nine. One was a diamond ruff and the other was a club ruff. How embarrassing to go down when the trumps were 3-2!

Your reporter feels that Bocchi had picked up the clue that East had underled his Ace at trick one. That ruled out the possibility of the club ruff, and also the danger that East held a singleton diamond. However, there remained the danger that West's switch was to a singleton. He might be able to win the heart, put East in with the Ace of clubs and receive a diamond ruff. After due consideration Bocchi came up with the winning answer... he put in the nine of hearts. When West showed out declarer knew he had saved his game.

At the other table Weinstein made the same safety play but in a less risky situation. Flat board.

The Commonwealth Bridge Championships

Manchester, 15/20th July, 2002

Run by the EBU and Manchester

27 Countries have indicated their participation

| | | |
|-----------------------|-----------|--------------|
| Antigua | Australia | Bahamas |
| Barbados | Bermuda | Canada |
| Dominica | England | Guernsey |
| Guyana | India | Isle of Man |
| Jamaica | Jersey | Malaysia |
| Malta | Mauritius | N. Ireland |
| St. Kit's & St. Nevis | | Scotland |
| Singapore | Sri Lanka | South Africa |
| Trinidad & Tobago | | Tanzania |
| Uganda | Wales | |

St. Lucia is not competing.

Bangladesh, Botswana, Pakistan, New Zealand, and Zambia have yet to indicate definitely.

The numbers are limited to 32 countries.

Do you have a bridge related Web Site ? If so, please email Anna Gudge (anna@ecats.co.uk) with the URL - the internet address - and we will feature all our Members Bridge Websites in a future edition of the Bulletin!

Romanians win Sicilian Teams, Italy takes Pairs

Cefalu, Sicily

December 2001

The Sicilian Open was held in Cefalu in December. Locals and Italians joined a dozen invited teams to fill the Hotel Costa Verde and take advantage of excellent food and wine.

Teams (90 Teams) result:

| | | |
|---|-----------------------------|-----|
| 1 | Onix (Romania) | |
| | Marina-Tomescu-Lungu-Stirbu | 262 |
| 2 | Keiko (Poland) | 253 |
| 3 | Pacific (Romania) | 251 |

Pairs (152 pairs)

| | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|--------|
| 1 | Failla G.-Attanasio D. (Italy) | 62.27% |
| 2 | Kierznowski R.-Gierulski B. (Pol) | 61.66% |
| 3 | Korosadowicz-Novak (Pol) | 61.03% |

This hand was played by team winners, Marina and Tomescu, against the Italian Juniors. As there are no hand records the smaller pips may not be accurate. The Romanians reached a slam on a 4-3 fit:

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

| | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------|
| South | North |
| 1♣ (strong) | 2♣ (4 controls) |
| 2NT | 3♣ (Stayman) |
| 3♥ | 3NT |
| 4NT (Invitational) | 6♦ |
| Pass (after a great deal of thought!) | |

The club lead was won in dummy and the diamond finesse lost. On the return South played a heart to the queen, a heart to the ace and a low heart. When West showed out but did not ruff in front of dummy, the ten of trumps was marked with East. So, after the heart ruff, declarer finessed the nine of diamonds and claimed his slam.

Six Notrumps normally failed, though it might succeed by picking up three diamond tricks and then squeezing West in the black suits.

IBPA Editor: Did declarer consider playing a second trump before ruffing the third heart, I wonder? That gains if

a doubleton heart is with ♦10x either side but loses on the actual layout. Close decision.

The squad from Wales reported this unusual flat board:

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

| | | | |
|--------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|
| North | East | South | West |
| 2♦(i) | Pass | 6♥ | Dble |
| All Pass | | | |

(i) (3-7 both Majors)

To pick up a nice 20 count in fourth seat and find the bidding at the six level before you have a chance to bid must be pretty disappointing, particularly when your least damaging option is to pass! Result = 1210 at both tables.

The father and son combination of Gary and Dafydd Jones of Wales won the prize for leading visiting pair outside the main prize list. Here is father in the Pairs:

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

South, Gary, opened INT and was raised to 3NT.

West led ♥3. South won and played a club to the jack and queen.

East then switched to a spade. South won and played another club. West won the third club and continued a spade. South won this, crossed to dummy with a heart and cashed the clubs, East throwing three spades. Now

declarer returned to hand with the third heart and threw East in to lead away from the king of diamonds.

This was worth 72% of the matchpoints.

Here was an unusual lead problem. You hold:

♠ Q x x ♥ J 10 9 x x ♦ x x x ♣ x x

The bidding goes (with you and your partner silent):

1♦-1♠-3♣-4NT*-5♥*-6♠-7NT

This was natural except for straightforward Blackwood.

Partner doubles the final contract and you have to find a lead.

Partner probably has an ace, but can you work out which suit you must lead?

The answer was: a spade.

The remaining hands were:

♠ A x x

♥ x x x x

♦ x x x

♣ x x x

♠ None

♥ A Q

♦ A K Q J 10 x

♣ K Q J x x

♠ K J 10 x x x x

♥ K x

♦ x

♣ A 10 x

On any lead but a spade declarer claims his grand slam at once.

Recent books received by Editor

| Title | Author | Published by | Description |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------|--------------|---------------------------------|
| The Encyclopedia of Bridge | Various | ACBL | 880 pages |
| Masterpieces of Declarer Play | Julian Pottage | MBS | 128 pages A5, softback, £7.99 |
| Understanding the Contested Auction | Klinger/Kambites | MBS | 128 pages, A5, softback, £7.99 |
| Bridge Conventions for You | Klinger/Kambites | MBS | 144 pages, A5, softback, £8.99 |
| Negative Doubles for ACOL players | Marty Bergen/Bourke | MBS | 128 pages, A5+, softback, £8.99 |
| Hocus Pocus | Erwin Brecher | Author | 202 pages, £9.50 |

MBS= Master Bridge Series in association with Peter Crawley, Cassell & Co.

Contact: Alex Dover: Tel: 44 +20 7420 5596; e-mail: axd@orionbooks.co.uk

Hocus Pocus price includes postage to UK addresses and is available from Erwin Brecher, 86 North Gate, Prince Albert Road, London, NW8 7EJ and also from www.panaceapress.net and bookshops.

*The new Encyclopedia is, of course, an essential for all bridge journalists. If you want details on how to obtain a copy, please contact Henry Francis (e-mail address on front of Bulletin).

* *Julian Pottage spots* that the page of Former Contributing Editors to the Encyclopedia marks Tony Friday as deceased. He is in fact very much alive and has recently represented England in two Camrose matches, winning both.

Henry Francis adds: Jim Loy of the United States was a major contributor to the new edition of the Encyclopedia of Bridge. However, he was not listed among the contributors through an oversight on my part.

Jim studied the Fifth Edition thoroughly and sent along hundreds of corrections and updates. He even noticed when a period or a comma was lightface when it should have been bold. He was a primary factor in the upgrading of the book.

IBPA WEBSITE NOTICE

To access a Bulletin on the IBPA website, enter the website address www.IBPA.com followed by a forward slash, then the Bulletin code, immediately followed by .pdf

The April Bulletin will have code 447yt so you will need to type:

www.IBPA.com/447yt.pdf

If you would like to receive an email telling you when the Bulletin has been uploaded to the website, please email Anna Gudge (anna@ecats.co.uk) and ask to be added to the list.

Home Players win The Icelandair Bridge Festival 2002

15-18 February

By Stefan Gudjohnsen (Ice)

As usual, the Icelandair Bridge Festival was held in February, but this time there was a shortage of foreign bridge stars. Last minute cancellations struck a heavy blow on the proceedings.

The Hackett twins made a second appearance after winning the Swiss pairs last year, along with Papa Hackett and Geir Helgemo, who had just won the Cap Gemini with Helness. This time around though, they could do no better than fourteenth place, leaving it to Paul and Helgemo to save their reputation by taking fourth place.

The Swiss pairs was won by former world champions, Jon Baldursson and Thorlakur Jonsson, followed by their teammates from Yokohama, Arnthorsson and Johannsson.

In the Swiss teams, the guests could do no better than a disappointing ninth place, first place being taken by an Icelandic/American team, spearheaded by our only professional player, Hjordis Eythorsdottir, now living in the United States and her teammates, Barry Goren, V. Sigurdsson, H. Erlingsson, J. Sigurjonsson and R. Magnusson.

Former world champions, Arnthorsson and Johannsson, along with the brothers Anton and Sigurbjorn Haraldsons, were a close second.

In some cases it can be hard to choose the winning side on a deal and one deal in the Swiss teams was a very complex one.

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

South (Jason Hackett) opened 2NT (19-21), and Justin bid 3♠, a transfer to 3NT. It really does not matter, which system you are playing, the final contract almost certainly will be 3NT played by South.

At almost all tables, West led ♠3 and South faced a difficult task to make nine tricks. The club suit has to come in for four tricks. So you play low and what-

ever East plays, to retain the jack as entry, you win the king or ace. You then play ♣Q, which holds, and another club.

West, knowing how many clubs East has by his first discard, will often win the second club. But now he has to find a safe exit. Most Wests played a small heart and when declarer put in the ten, East must win and does best to continue hearts. Declarer wins and must now play a diamond honour, before playing a spade. East has to duck, otherwise he has no entry to the fourth heart and now is the right time to play a small spade towards dummy. It does not matter if West takes the queen at once, and blocks the suit, as declarer only needs two spade tricks.

Note that if West ducks the club twice, declarer must find a discard on the third club. A diamond seems the obvious choice, but then the defence give declarer a diamond trick, wait for his next move and gets the fifth trick in whichever red suit he plays next. But declarer has an alternative, he can discard ♠A on the third club! Now the contract is always made, even if West now leads ♥J. South wins that trick and plays a high diamond. If East ducks, he leads a spade towards dummy. If East on the other hand wins the diamond, he cannot return a heart, because of ♥10 in dummy.

Against the Hackett twins, West a former international Eliasson Hjalti (partnering his son Eirikur), led a spade, and held up the club to the third round Jason wrongly discarding a diamond. A diamond switch ducked now beats the game but East's second club had implied preference for hearts. So West found the next-best play of the jack of hearts. This was enough to defeat the contract, when Jason did not play a diamond honour before playing a small spade. West went in with ♠Q and another heart set up a fifth trick for East whilst declarer's communications were still tangled.

IBPA Editor: Deep Finesse says a heart lead at trick one is the only one to beat 3NT. If West leads a spade, declarer must play low from dummy and win with an honour in the South hand and play on clubs. If West holds up the club ace until the third round, South's ONLY successful discard against best defence is his other high spade. However, to be fair to Jason, that would fail when WEST had a red ace.

NEC Cup won by England

Yokohama, 28th January-3rd February, 2002
From Bulletins edited by Eric Kokish & Richard Colker

In the final of the NEC Cup **Brian Senior** (Pablo Lambardi, John Armstrong, Brian Callaghan) beat **Canada** (Jurek Czyzowicz, Kamel Fergani, Darren Wolpert, Nicolas L'Ecuyer) 138-132 to take the first prize of \$12,000. The runner-up received \$6,000.

In the play-off for third place **Hackett** (Paul, Jason, Justin, Geir Helgemo, Terje Aa, Glen Grotheim, npc Brigitte Mavromichalis) beat

e-bridge (Sam Lev-Lyn Blanchard, Piotr Gawryskrzysztof Jassem) 60-55 to win the third prize of \$3,000. Fourth received \$2,000.

In the semifinals England beat e-bridge 114-69 and Canada beat Hackett 124-69.

In the quarterfinals e-bridge beat Japan Naito 151-77; Canada beat Sweden 124-73; England beat India 76-71; Hackett beat the USA 101-95.

38 teams competed. Round Robin results:

| | |
|--|-----|
| 1. e-bridge | 161 |
| 2. Sweden | 154 |
| 3. England | 149 |
| 4. Hackett | 138 |
| 5. Japan Naito | 135 |
| 6= Canada, USA, India | 132 |
| 9= Japan GA, Netherlands, Austria/Denmark | 131 |
| 12= Russia, Japan SD | 130 |
| 14. Chinese Taipei | 129 |

The Award for Best Played Hand went to Krzysztof Jassem for this excellent column hand reported to the Bulletin by Jason Hackett:

Board 20 ♠ A J 9 6
Dealer: West ♥ 10 8 6 4 2
Vul: Both ♦ K
 ♣ K Q 7

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

♠ K 3 2
♥ Q J 9 3
♦ 9 8
♣ A J 6 4

| West | North | East | South |
|------------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------|
| <i>Justin H.</i> | <i>Gawrys</i> | <i>Jason H.</i> | <i>Jassem</i> |
| 1♠ | Pass | 1NT | Pass |
| Pass | Dble | 2♦ | 2♥ |
| Pass | 3♥ | Pass | 4♥ |
| Pass | Pass | Dble | All Pass |

At two tables North was declarer in Four Hearts. East led the singleton spade. The declarers won in hand and played a trump. East went up with the ace, put his partner in with a diamond to the ace, and received a spade ruff. West still had the ♥K to set the game.

When Jassem was declarer as South, Justin Hackett found the spade lead from the West hand. Jassem made his game by the simple matter of playing four rounds of clubs throwing his losing diamond.

This was not exactly a Scissors Coup in the sense that the defence could still engineer a ruff, as they did: West ruffed the last club, East ruffed a spade, but when declarer won the next lead he played a trump and the ace and king fell together! The defence had made three trumps, but no diamond trick.

This was the key deal from the final:

Board 56 ♠ K 9 6 2
Dealer: West ♥ K 6 4
Vul: None ♦ 5 4 2
 ♣ 9 6 2

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

♠ J 8
♥ 10 9 8 5 2
♦ 10 7 6
♣ Q 5 3

Open Room

| West | North | East | South |
|----------------|---------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| <i>Fergani</i> | <i>Senior</i> | <i>L'Ecuyer</i> | <i>Lambardi</i> |
| 1♣ | Pass | 1♠ | Pass |
| 3NT | All Pass | | |

Closed Room

| West | North | East | South |
|------------------|----------------|------------------|------------------|
| <i>Callaghan</i> | <i>Wolpert</i> | <i>Armstrong</i> | <i>Czyzowicz</i> |
| 1♣ | Pass | 1♠ | Pass |
| 3NT | Pass | 6♣! | All Pass |

The 3NT rebid showed a hand based on a powerful clubs, but John Armstrong's leap to 6♣ still looks ambitious. North actually led a trump to give declarer no worries. In fact the slam is not too bad: if the trumps don't come in declarer still has the chance of the heart finesse or a favourable lead.

IBPA Column Service

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

197.

Tony Forrester wrote a BOLS tip about the power of the closed hand. This hand is an example of the theme. After a slightly off-centre INT opening bid followed by a transfer and mildly aggressive invitational raise by North, South declared 4♠. Of course this auction has protected all the side suits, but the 4-1 trump split and the heart honour location makes 4♠ tough, particularly on the awkward 3rd and 5th ♥3 lead to East's ten.

| | | | |
|-------------|---------------|-------------|--------------|
| Dir: North | ♠ K 8 6 5 4 3 | | |
| Vul: None | ♥ K 6 5 | | |
| | ♦ 6 | | |
| | ♣ 8 7 6 | | |
| | ♠ A 10 9 2 | ♠ 7 | |
| | ♥ J 9 3 2 | ♥ A 10 8 7 | |
| | ♦ J 7 3 | ♦ K 10 9 2 | |
| | ♣ 9 2 | ♣ K J 5 3 | |
| | ♠ Q J | | |
| | ♥ Q 4 | | |
| | ♦ A Q 8 5 4 | | |
| | ♣ A Q 10 4 | | |
| West | North | East | South |
| Pass | Pass | Pass | INT |
| Pass | 2♥ | Pass | 2♠ |
| Pass | 3♠ | Pass | 4♠ |
| All Pass | | | |

The best declarer can do is to take the ♥Q, cash the ♦A and ruff a diamond. Then the key play is to lead a low heart from dummy, exploiting the power of the closed hand, and that sets East a sticky problem. If South had the ♥J as either a doubleton or as part of a four-card holding, it would probably be critical to take the ♥A now. Even if that were not the case, it was hardly clear that ducking the ace would necessarily gain a trick.

Rightly or wrongly East took the ♥A and shifted to a club. When South put in the ♣10, that led to ten tricks, as there were now just two trumps and a heart to lose. Given that this deal was played at Board-a-Match and the result from the other room was a partscore of 2♠ for 140, the whole board turned on the defence by East. While it is easy to criticize the play, the fact remains that if a player is not given the chance to err, he will not be tempted to do so!

198.

Jerry Goldfein (who was part of the USA National team in Rhodes five years ago) had a neat hand on which he rejected what was apparently his best line, and spotted the winning alternative.

| | | | |
|-------------|-------------------|-------------|--------------|
| Dir: West | ♠ K Q 8 5 | | |
| Vul: Both | ♥ A J 10 8 3 | | |
| | ♦ Q 7 4 | | |
| | ♣ 2 | | |
| | ♠ 10 4 | ♠ J 3 2 | |
| | ♥ 9 5 2 | ♥ K Q 7 6 4 | |
| | ♦ — | ♦ A 9 8 6 | |
| | ♣ K Q J 8 6 5 4 3 | ♣ 10 | |
| | ♠ A 9 7 6 | | |
| | ♥ | | |
| | ♦ K J 10 5 3 2 | | |
| | ♣ A 9 7 | | |
| West | North | East | South |
| 3NT (1) | Dble | 4♣ | 5♣ |
| Pass | 5♥ | Dble | 6♦ |
| Pass | Pass | Dble | All Pass |

(1) Club or diamond pre-empt.

6♦ looks like a fine spot, but the 4-0 trumps and the 8-1 club split are potentially very awkward to overcome.

On the lead of the ♣K, Jerry won and led the ♦K. If trumps were not 4-0, he intended to ruff a club with the ♦Q in comfort. When East won the trump ace and returned a diamond, Jerry resisted the temptation to try to ruff a club low in dummy since the auction had strongly suggested the bad club break.

Instead, he drew all the trumps and decided to play West for the tripleton nine of hearts. He crossed to the ♠Q to advance the ♥J. East covered, and Jerry ruffed. Then he went back to the table with the ♠K and played the ♥A followed by the ♥10, covered and ruffed. But now when the ♥9 fell, Jerry could use the ♠8 as a late entry to cash dummy's ♥8, for his 12th trick.

199.

The first Pairs game of the Cincinnati Nationals saw a fine showing by Kerri Sanborn, recognized as amongst the very top women players in the world, partnering her husband Steve. Steve is also a fine player, and he produced a piece of imaginative thinking here, which was appropriately rewarded.

| | | | |
|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|
| Dir: East | | ♠ 5 | |
| Vul: Both | | ♥ 9 6 5 4 | |
| | | ♦ A 9 7 3 | |
| | | ♣ A Q J 10 | |
| | ♠ K Q J 10 8 | | ♠ 9 6 4 3 |
| | ♥ 10 | | ♥ K Q 8 |
| | ♦ K J 10 6 4 | | ♦ 5 2 |
| | ♣ 6 3 | | ♣ 9 8 5 4 |
| | ♠ A 7 2 | | |
| | ♥ A J 7 3 2 | | |
| | ♦ Q 8 | | |
| | ♣ K 7 2 | | |
| West | North | East | South |
| | | Pass | 1♥ |
| 2♥ | 3♠ | Pass | 4♣ |
| Pass | 4♦ | Pass | 4♥ |
| All Pass | | | |

Say that you reach a heart contract as South (actually it does not matter particularly whether it's 4♥ or 6♥). To get a good score on a spade opening lead, your sole problem in making 12 tricks is to hold your heart losers to one. West had overcalled with a Michaels Cuebid over Sanborn's opening 1♥ bid, so, given that he had 10 cards in spades and a minor, the chances were good that the hearts were 3-1. How should you play the trumps?

Well, if you lead a low heart from dummy and East follows small, it seems the normal percentage move to play West for the singleton king or the queen, not the ten — it's a 2-1 shot after all. However, Sanborn improved his odds by leading the NINE of hearts from dummy. When East followed with the 8 imperturbably, Sanborn decided that that player did not have the 10 — he would probably have covered the nine if he did. ♠ That is a useful defensive duck to add to your armoury!♥ So if East had three hearts, as expected, they had to be the king queen eight. Backing his judgment, Sanborn put in the ♥J to make 12 tricks for a very fine score.

200.

When the Cavendish Pairs event of 2000 started, one of the best value partnerships was quite clearly the French line up of Abecassis Quantin. Michel Abecassis took advantage here of a very small defensive slip to bring home a very tough game contract against Simon De Wijs and Ricco van Prooijen. This was Abecassis Quantin's auction to 4♠.

| | | | |
|----------------|----------------|------------------|---------------|
| Dir: North | | ♠ Q 10 6 | |
| Vul: None | | ♥ J 6 3 | |
| | | ♦ K Q 10 9 | |
| | | ♣ A 10 3 | |
| | ♠ 3 | | ♠ K 8 4 |
| | ♥ Q 10 8 5 4 2 | | ♥ A 9 |
| | ♦ 6 5 4 3 | | ♦ A J |
| | ♣ 8 7 | | ♣ K J 9 6 4 2 |
| | | ♠ A J 9 7 5 2 | |
| | | ♥ K 7 | |
| | | ♦ 8 7 2 | |
| | | ♣ Q 5 | |
| West | North | East | South |
| <i>Quantin</i> | | <i>Abecassis</i> | |
| | 1♦ | 2♣ | 2♠ |
| Pass | 3♠ | Pass | 4♠ |
| All Pass | | | |

On a club lead Abecassis rose with the ace and drew trumps with the aid of the finesse. Then he led a diamond to the king and ace and back came a sneaky low heart, although simply playing clubs from the top would have surely tempted declarer to misguess diamonds. Michel flew with the king and exited with a low heart.

East was forced to win the ace and cash the ♣K, then exit with the ♣J, since he had no hearts left, and thus could not kill dummy's menace in that suit. Abecassis ruffed and ran his trumps, reducing to a show up squeeze. On the last trump West had to keep his ♥Q and reduce to one diamond, so now Michael could play the queen in the knowledge that his only legitimate remaining chance was for the jack of diamonds to fall from East.

/... continued from page 16

* Wales finished second to England in the current Camrose series, beating both Irelands and the Scottish team for Salsomaggiore. The IBPA Editor has been selected for the European Open Teams. Last year he competed in the European Seniors. Your Editor played this deal in the Camrose match in December when Wales beat Northern Ireland 65-21.

| | | | |
|---------------|------------------|-----------|--|
| Board 3 | ♠ J 9 7 3 2 | | |
| Dealer: South | ♥ J 8 7 | | |
| E/W Vul | ♦ J 10 8 6 3 | | |
| | ♣ None | | |
| | ♠ 6 5 4 | ♠ K Q 8 | |
| | ♥ 6 5 | ♥ A 9 4 3 | |
| | ♦ A Q 9 7 5 | ♦ K 4 2 | |
| | ♣ A J 6 | ♣ K 8 7 | |
| | ♠ A 10 | | |
| | ♥ K Q 10 2 | | |
| | ♦ None | | |
| | ♣ Q 10 9 5 4 3 2 | | |

Closed Room

| | | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| West <i>Anderson</i> | North <i>Thomas</i> | East <i>Greenwood</i> | South <i>Denning</i> |
| Pass | Pass | 2NT | Pass |
| 3NT | All Pass | | 2♣ (a) |

(a) Precision

Open Room

| | | | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| West <i>Ratcliff</i> | North <i>Mackenzie</i> | East <i>Jourdain</i> | South <i>Campbell</i> |
| 1♦ | Pass | 3NT | All Pass |

Both tables reached Three Notrumps by East.

In the Closed Room Denning led ♣10 won by the jack. At trick two declarer cashed the ace of diamonds, finding the 5-0 break. He ducked a heart, won the next club, (North throwing a second spade) knocked out the ace of spades, and South cleared the clubs. On this North was able to throw a diamond. Declarer could not duck another heart as South held winning clubs. So the game went one off.

In the Open Room South led a high heart. Jourdain allowed this to hold and South then switched to a club. This was won in dummy with the jack and North threw the two of spades (normal count). South was known to have seven clubs and almost certainly doubleton ace of spades. It already looked as if the ninth trick would depend on squeezing North in diamonds and spades. It was likely the diamonds were 5-0, so declarer began with the seven of diamonds, covered by eight and king.

Declarer played the queen of spades, South winning to play another club. Jourdain won in dummy and ducked a

heart. (Deep Finesse shows it would have been better to duck the heart before knocking out the ace of spades, as the defence can prevail by returning a spade if declarer does that first.) South won the heart to clear the clubs in this ending:

| | | |
|-----------|------------|-------|
| | ♠ J 9 | |
| | ♥ J | |
| | ♦ J 10 6 3 | |
| | ♣ None | |
| ♠ 6 5 | | ♠ K 8 |
| ♥ None | | ♥ A 9 |
| ♦ A Q 9 5 | | ♦ 4 2 |
| ♣ 6 | | ♣ K |
| | ♠ 10 | |
| | ♥ Q 10 2 | |
| | ♦ None | |
| | ♣ 9 5 3 | |

North could throw a heart on this trick, but, when the ace of hearts was cashed, dummy discarding a spade, he was caught in a squeeze-without-the-count. If he threw a diamond East would duck a diamond. When he threw a spade, declarer made two spade tricks. 12 IMPs to Wales.

* *Yuri Covalenko says:* My wife's name is Alexandra and my new baby son's name is Max Gabriel (details missing from last month's Postbag).

* *Jon Sveindal sends kind words about the Editor's 20 years, adding "In Norway we had a ski jumper called Wirkola (he was also an excellent soccer player!) - he was so good that jumping after him always affected the performance marks (negatively) given by the jury for the next competitor's efforts. Taking on the position as editor in the Bulletin will be like "jumping after Wirkola".*

* *Sending kind words about the Editor's 20 years, Danny Roth comments on Bulletin 445:* In the IOC Grand Prix hand played by Sabine Auken (page 3) the trump suit was:

| | | |
|-------|----------|-----|
| | J 10 6 4 | |
| A 9 5 | | Q 8 |
| | K 7 3 2 | |

Auken successfully ran the ten to West's ace, and then East received a ruff with the queen.

Note first that if East covers an honour with an honour, the defence is guaranteed a second trick in the suit. And if East then receives a ruff with the eight, it is only because declarer has the six that she does not lose three trump tricks!

Furthermore when East took the ruff she was ruffing a loser. I think if she covers the first round, and then throws away instead of ruffing, the contract fails.

* *Harvey Bernstein submits two more deals from his column in the Cleveland Plain Dealer aimed at local players:*

Dealer: South ♠ K Q
 Love all ♥ K 9 5 3
 ♦ Q 10 3
 ♣ K Q 7 2

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

♠ J 8 5
 ♥ A Q J 8 6
 ♦ A 7 4
 ♣ A 8

| South | West | North | East |
|-------|------|-------|----------|
| 1♥ | Pass | 2NT | Pass |
| 3NT | Pass | 4NT | Pass |
| 5♣ | Pass | 6♥ | All Pass |

Thanks to Stan Dub of Shaker Heights for this interesting slam from the Flight A Swiss Team event in November at the Buckeye State Sectional Bridge Tournament in Solon. Dub held the South cards. His partner was Jerome Rolnick of Lyndhurst. Their teammates, playing the East-West hands at the companion table were Bernie Olmsted of Warren and Frank Aquila of Fairlawn.

The auction was fairly straight forward for this level of competition. Two no trump was the Jacoby convention which shows a game forcing raise in hearts. Three no trump shows a balanced 16 to 17 high card points. Four no trump was Roman Key Card Blackwood, and the five club response showed zero or three key cards.

The opening lead was the jack of clubs. Dub won the ace and drew trumps in three rounds. A spade went to the king and ace.

East returned a diamond. Dub won the ace, unblocked the spades, and played all of his major suit winners, squeezing West in the minors to make the slam.

At the other table, the same contract was reached and the jack of clubs was also the opening lead. Declarer won the ace, drew trumps in three rounds and led a spade to the king and the ace. Olmsted returned the three of clubs. Declarer won the king and all of a sudden, there was no play for the contract. The club play had cut the communication between declarer and his dummy and he had no way of squeezing West. The simple play of returning

partner's opening lead was worth 14 IMPs helping the team win the match and eventually, first place in the event.

Dealer: North ♠ Void
 Love all ♥ K 10 9
 ♦ J 10 8 4
 ♣ A K 8 7 5 3

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

♠ A K 8 6 4
 ♥ 4 2
 ♦ A 7 5
 ♣ J 10 9

| West | North | East | South |
|----------|-------|------|-------|
| | 1♣ | 1♠ | 3NT |
| All Pass | | | |

Thanks to Gene Benedict of Toledo for sending this hand from the Flight A Swiss Teams at the Wolverine Regional Bridge Tournament in Detroit, MI that was held in October. Phil Becker of Beachwood sat South. His partner was Nancy Adair of Plymouth, MI.

The auction was the same at both tables as was the opening lead of the two of spades. Declarer discarded a diamond and won in hand.

Both declarers recognized the potential blockage in the club suit and so took the club finesse.

East won and played a second spade. Both declarers won, discarding a heart and played five rounds of clubs.

East was squeezed in three suits. With five cards remaining East kept two winning spades, the king, queen of diamonds, and therefore had to bare his ace of hearts.

Becker was careful to keep both of his little hearts and discarded a second diamond on the last club. Now he led a low heart. East was able to cash two spade tricks, but when he played the king of diamonds, Becker won the ace and played the carefully preserved four of hearts to the king in dummy for his ninth trick.

At the other table, on the run of the clubs, declarer had thrown one of the small hearts from hand, and could no longer make the game.

POINTS FROM THE POSTBAG

The Editor reserves the right to shorten correspondence

LETTERS ...

Email: patrickjourdain@compuserve.com (or 100430.2021@compuserve.com)

* *Christina McEachen, EBL Secretariat, reports:*

As from 12 February 2002, the EBL has the new e-mail address: ebl@federbridge.it

* *IBPA's President, Henry Francis, who is Editor-in-chief of the new Encyclopedia says:* Printing of Volume VI of the Encyclopedia of Bridge is finished and mailing started in February. All those who purchased the book before it was printed will find that their copy has been auto-graphed by the chief editor.

Contact Henry for further details.

* *Goran Mattsson says the Bonn Nations Cup will be held in the Stadthalle Bonn, Bad Godesberg, Germany from 12.30 pm on Wednesday 9th May to late on Thursday 10th May. The Prize fund is 3,600 Euros.*

Contact:

Raumerstraße 12, 50935 Cologne
Tel.: 0221/4301267; Fax: 0221/437421
g.mattsson@t-online.de

* *Jean-Paul Meyer reports on some significant upsets in the February Trials for the French Open team for Salsomaggiore: 8 teams played a round robin to qualify first four for the semi-finals of the trials for the European teams championship in Salsomaggiore.*

A real surprise was the elimination of the very strong squad: Chemla, Philippe Cronier, Soulet, Abecassis, Mari, and Vinciguerra.

It was also a surprise that the womens quartet, recent winner of the IOC grand prix (*IBPA Editor: and silver medallists in the Venice Cup*) finished last. (D'Ovidio, Veronique Bessis, Willard, Benedicte Cronier playing with Patrick Grenthe and Pierre- Jean Louchart).

Semi-finals and final will be played beginning of April: Multon, Quantin, Palau, Allegrini, Bompis, Sainte-Marie v. Levy, Mouiel, Perron, Lebel, Zimmermann, Saporta; and Rombaut, Michel Bessis, Voldoire, Bitran, Toffier, Duguet, v. Kass, Eisenberg, Sussel, Salama, Guillaumin, Meyer. Winner takes all.

The four women eliminated from the Open Trials this year will be able to play in the Womens Team. The Paris six go through to an eight-pair final with the selectors picking three from the top four.

* In the European Championships Ireland plays as All-

Ireland. Their Trials were won by Rex Anderson & David Greenwood of Northern Ireland teaming up with Adam Mesbur & Nick Fitzgibbon of the Republic. Niall Toibin & Pat Walshe of the Republic have been added as the third pair for Salsomaggiore.

* *By a strange quirk the Open Teams for Salsomaggiore from England, Scotland, and Wales all contain players who last year competed in the European Seniors in Tenerife*

The England Trials for Salsomaggiore finished in a 160-board final where Paul Hackett (Tony Waterlow, Danny Davies & John Armstrong) won by 3 IMPs over his twin sons Justin & Jason Hackett, Tony Forrester & Andrew Robson, David Mossop & David Price. As the winners were a four-man team the selectors, after consultation with the winners, added one pair from the losing finalists, the twins. Last year Paul Hackett & Tony Waterlow represented England in the Seniors in Tenerife.

Tony Priday, 79, the former European champion, renewed his international career in the Camrose for England against Wales after an 18-year break. Priday partners former Swedish junior international Nick Sandqvist, who now lives in London. Priday won both his matches, against Wales and the Republic of Ireland.

* *Scotland's Trials for Salsomaggiore saw the elimination of the four pairs from their Camrose squad in the semifinals. The Trials winners included Irving Gordon, World Seniors Pairs Champion, and Victor Goldberg, (78 now but 79 by the time he plays in the Europeans). Goldberg represented Britain in the 1969 Europeans partnering IBPA member Sam Leckie, and in the 1979 Europeans partnering Barnet Shenkin.*

Last year Goldberg & Gordon represented Scotland in the European Seniors. Their team-mates in the Trials were Derek Diamond (best known as a bridge-player for naming his business Diamond Holding) & Miroslav Dragic (when on-form known as "Magic Dragic", when off-form amended to "Tragic Dragic"). They added Malcolm Cuthbertson & John Matheson.

Goldberg has also renewed his Camrose career that started in 1957, playing in the match that Scotland lost 33-57 to Wales. He has therefore played in six different decades.

/continued on page 14 ...