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THE INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE PRESS ASSOCIATION

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

N° 447 Year 2002

Date May 1

On Easter Monday your Editor switched on his computer to find it destroyed by a major power surge. Although the hard disk was undamaged, and the main files are security-copied every fortnight it was two weeks before the new computer was up and running.

e-mails in the in-tray at the time are not accessible, and address books had to be reconstituted. So if any member has sent material that has not appeared in any form it may help to resubmit.

Issue 446 was dated 16th March. The intention had been to bring out the April issue slightly earlier. Instead it now makes sense to date this issue 1st May. Members will not lose out on the total number of issues since in July we expect to have a normal issue and the European Special.

* * * * *

The April and May issues of the magazine Bridge Plus contain a debate about Law when action is taken by a player whose partner has revealed something about his hand through, for example, thought before Passing.

Law says that the recipient of unauthorised information from partner must exclude from amongst the logical alternatives open to him those suggested by the unauthorised information. TDs and Appeals Committees have guidelines for how certain they must be that an action is a logical alternative.

This leads the magazine Editor to argue that Bridge Law must not depend on subjective judgment, and campaigns for a change in Law.

The point at issue has been misunderstood. All sports rely on the Law Enforcer making subjective judgments. For example, in an analogy from cricket: put simply, it is not an offence for the batsman to stop a ball with his leg *unless the ball was going to hit the wicket*. So when a batsman stops the ball with his leg the Law Enforcer has to make a subjective judgment: would the ball have hit the wicket? If not, there is no penalty; if so, a severe penalty: the batsman is out.

Similarly at bridge, it is not an infraction for a player to ask questions at his turn to call, or to think before Passing, but the information thereby available is unauthorised for partner; it is an infraction if partner does not exclude alternatives suggested by this unauthorised information. Therefore the Law Enforcer must make a subjective judgment as to what those possible alternative actions were.

Once he has decided there was an infraction Law lays down a clear penalty, if the action taken damaged the other side, it is cancelled. So the Law Enforcer has to make two further subjective judgments: was the other side damaged, and what would have happened if the infraction had not occurred? This is similar to a referee awarding a penalty try in rugby if he considers that but for some offence the non-offender would have scored. Think also of the obstruction rule in many sports. Such subjective judgments cannot be avoided in Law.

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LAVAZZA & MAAS-GLABBEEK take Gold at European Mixed Championships

From Bulletins edited by Mark Horton, Jos Jacobs, & Franco Broccoli Ostend 15-22nd March 2002

A record 405 pairs competed in the four-day European Mixed Pairs Championship held in Ostend. This was the last EBL in March. From next year, 2003, the event will be held in the June of odd-numbered years along with other EBL Transnational events.

Gold went to Willem Jan Maas & Hedwig Van Glabbeek of the Netherlands. The runners-up were Steve Eginton & Kath Nelson of England. Bronze went to Franck Multon & Myriam Varenne of France.

Scores (130 pairs in final):

1.	W. Maas & H. van Glabbeek (Net)	57.9
2.	S. Eginton & K. Nelson (Eng)	56.6
3.	F. Multon & M. Varenne (Fra)	55.9
4.	P. Marinkovic & N. Sver (Croatia)	55.8
5.	P. Chemla & C. D'Ovidio (Fra)	55.7
6.	B. Refi & S. Zagajsek (Croatia)	55.6

Consolation

1.	Jerome Rombaut – Vanessa Reess (Fra)	57.7
2.	Antonio Vivaldi – Enza Rossano (Ita)	57.7
3.	Carlo & Maria Totaro (Ita)	57.6

Teams (92) then semifinal and final

Final **Lavazza** (Marie-Theresa Lavazza, Giorgio Duboin, Monica Cuzzi, Alfredo Versace, Guido Ferraro of Italy + Maria Erhart of Austria) beat **Stoppa** (Jean-Louis Stoppa, Daniele Avon, Francois Strez, Marianne Serf all of France) by 81 IMPs

Play-off for third place:

Popova (Dessy Popova, Rossen Gunev, Ahu Zobu, Ofer Haramati of Bulgaria, Israel and Turkey) beat **Mali** (Artur Malinowski of Norway, Anna Sarniak, Siv Thoresen, Tomasz Winciorek of Poland)

Semifinal:

Lavazza beat Mali	66-55
Stoppa beat Popova	58-50

Swiss Teams

5	Auken	287.0
6	Zimmermann	275.0
7	Vives	275.0
8	Fornaciari	274.0
9	Willard	273.0
10	Uisk	269.0
2		

Photograph courtesy of Ron Tacchi



The winners of the European Mixed Pairs Championship

Photograph courtesy of Ron Tacchi



The winners of the European Mixed Pairs Championship

Philippe Toffier's Cautiousness

French Philippe Toffier playing with Nicole Van Poperinghe had two occasions to shine in the last qualifying session Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul

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

Playing in Two Hearts in the North seat after West had opened the bidding, he showed his capability in suit management by attacking trump from South, selecting the five of hearts, the bare ace was with West so the score of 110 gave him 75 % of the top on the board.

Where do they Come from ?

From 29 countries... Austria 5 Belgium 34 Bulgaria 4 Croatia 6 Czech Rep. 5 Denmark 10 England 27 Finland 4 France 94 Germany 26 Greece 1 Hungary 1 Iceland 13 Ireland 8 Israel 10 Italy 68 Lithuania 1 Luxembourg 3 Malta 1 Netherlands 20 Norway 8 Poland 22 Portugal 3 Russia 7 Scotland 3 Spain 3 Sweden 5 Switzerland 4 Turkey 6 Wales 2 Yugoslavia 2

Utmost Preference

François Stretz, North and his partner, Marianne Serf used sophisticated suit preference signals on Board 26 of the second session of the final of the Pairs event.

Board 26. Dealer East. All Vul.

<p>♠ 9 4 3 ♥ 5 ♦ A K 9 5 3 ♣ A K Q 9</p> <p>♠ Q 8 6 ♥ Q J 7 4 3 ♦ 6 4 ♣ 8 5 2</p> <p>♠ 10 2 ♥ A 10 9 2 ♦ J 7 2 ♣ J 6 4 3</p>	<p>♠ A K J 7 5 ♥ K 8 6 ♦ Q 10 8 ♣ 10 7</p>
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The contract was Two Spades by East after North had opened One Diamond.

South led the two of diamonds (third and fifth best) and when North cashed ace and king of diamonds South contributed the jack on second round - first signal for hearts.

North played a precise queen of clubs to show his holding and then shifted to his singleton heart. South won with the ace and played back the two of hearts - second signal for clubs. So, after ruffing the heart North could play a low club to South's jack and enjoy a second ruff. Two down, and +200 for N/S was a very good score for them.

A Hand From The Second Session (Final)

Board 20. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
	<i>Winciorek</i>		<i>Sarniak</i>
Pass	1♥	Pass	2♦
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

A wheel had come off, it looks, in this Polish Club auction, but the explanation is easy. South thought for a moment that North had opened 1♠ and rebid 2♥. East led a club to the jack. Next came the ♥AK and a heart ruff, followed by the AK and a diamond ruff. Two more clubs brought the tally to nine and with the lead in dummy, North's trumps were good enough to score one more trick, beating the popular 600's in 3NT. We still have one problem to solve. Is this hand going to be nominated for a bidding or a declarer play award, or even both? N

Following the Law

Writing bridge books is no way to make a living, but every once in a while a book catches the imagination of the public and gives both author and publisher a pleasant surprise. The top two books in the all time list are *Why You Lose at Bridge* and *Reese on Play* while in recent years Larry Cohen's *The Law of Total Tricks* recorded unprecedented sales. The basic idea is simple, you bid to the level of your trump fit. Look at this deal from yesterday's final qualifying session:

Board 5. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Damiani</i>	<i>Auken</i>	<i>Lise</i>	<i>Auken</i>
	1♣	1♥	Dbl
3♥	3♠	4♥	Dbl
All Pass			

Despite having a flat hand, four card support for hearts means a jump to Three Hearts is in order. No problem for the bronze medal winner of 1998 one José Damiani, although one doubts he has had the time to read any bridge books in the last few years! The subsequent bidding saw East/West emerge with an excellent score, as the position in diamonds meant there was no defence to Four Hearts. This was the second board of the round:

Board 6. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Damiani</i>	<i>Auken</i>	<i>Lise</i>	<i>Auken</i>
		Pass	1♠
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♦
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

The bidding strongly suggested that West lead a club and Damiani selected the ace. His partner encouraged with the four, so he continued with the jack. That held, so he played a third round, forcing dummy to ruff, which might have been awkward for declarer on a different layout. Here she could cash the queen of spades, come to hand with a diamond to the jack and play on spades, claiming ten tricks when West discarded on the third round.

When Dutch Meet

In the third round, the leaders were to meet another Dutch pair, who had started the session lying 5th. The first board ended their chances:

Board 25. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Ter Laare</i>	<i>Maas</i>	<i>Willemse</i>	<i>V. Glabbeek</i>
	Pass	1♣	Dble
Pass	2♦	Pass	Pass
2♠	Dble	Pass	Pass
3♣	Dble	All Pass	

Marco ter Laare's experiments did not come off this time. 2♠ will go down one on the heart ruff, and 3♣ fared even worse. Declarer had to lose five top tricks anyway and a heart ruff made it down two for 500 and another clear top score to the leaders.

Grimbergen Raises

You may have noticed that the cafeteria serves a number of excellent Belgian beers, one of which rejoices in the name of Grimbergen. That may or may not have anything to do with the strange happenings at two tables on this deal from the final session of the Consolation Pairs.

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
			1♥
Pass	3♦	All Pass!	

By a remarkable coincidence two Austrian pairs fell into the same trap on this deal, forgetting that they were playing Bergen Raises, and therefore imagining that the jump shift showed a weak hand with diamonds. With four hearts going down almost all around the room making nine tricks in diamonds proved to be a remarkably good result.

We say almost because at one table the declarer, Denmark's Dorte Schaltz, took advantage of a defensive error, coupled with a brilliant piece of table presence.

Dorte was in Four Hearts and won the spade lead in dummy to play a heart to the king. West ducked, but just a fraction of a second too slowly. Backing her instincts, declarer played a diamond to the ten, a diamond to the ace and a diamond. Now the losing spade could go on the fourth diamond.

Brilliant!

A Question of Deception

The first round of the Teams Championship featured a number of interesting deals, not least this one:

Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

As you might imagine, all roads lead to 3NT, the simplest route being the one adopted at our featured table:

West	North	East	South
<i>Mouiel</i>	<i>Schaltz</i>	<i>Willard</i>	<i>Schaltz</i>
Pass	Pass	1NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		Pass

South led the five of spades and North played the ten. That is not the best card in this situation, as you do not want declarer to realize that the spade suit is blocked. The jack is certainly preferable, and as North is likely to be getting in with the ace of diamonds the queen may also persuade declarer to do the wrong thing by ducking rather than winning. In any event, declarer took the first spade and forced out the ace of diamonds. When North continued with the queen of spades declarer was able to win and knock out the ace of clubs. Notice that North could have saved the day by switching to a heart at trick three, admittedly a difficult play to find.

A Brilliancy - and A Brilliancy Missed

Many declarers were heartbroken on this deal from the final session of the Pairs Championships, but at least one took his chance – whilst another missed his.

Board 20. Dealer West. All Vul.

<p>♠ Q 9 ♥ A 10 6 4 3 ♦ A Q ♣ K 9 7 2</p> <p>♠ 10 5 3 ♥ 5 ♦ J 10 7 5 4 ♣ Q 10 6 3</p>	<p>♠ 4 2 ♥ J 9 7 2 ♦ K 9 8 ♣ A 8 5 4</p> <p>♠ A K J 8 7 6 ♥ K Q 8 ♦ 6 3 2 ♣ J</p>
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West	North	East	South
	<i>Gotard</i>		<i>Gotard</i>
Pass	1♥	Pass	2♠
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♥
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♦	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♥	Pass	6♥
Pass	6NT	All Pass	

The German pair had a controlled auction to the excellent 6NT played by North. With a difficult lead, East decided to try the four of clubs, and suddenly declarer had a chance to overcome the bad heart break.

Thomas Gotard won the first trick with the king of clubs and cashed the king and queen of hearts getting the bad news. He now turned his attention to the spade suit and with everyone down to five cards this was the position:

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

When declarer played the last spade, discarding the six of hearts from hand, East had no good discard. Either red suit would allow declarer to score three tricks, and the ace of clubs would allow declarer the luxury of an end play in either red suit. Surprisingly +1440 proved to be a top for North-South!

At another table one North/South pair did remarkably well to reach Six Spades from the short side – but Nevena Senior found the only lead to give the defence a chance by selecting a trump. In practice declarer did not find a winning line, but one is available! It relies on the not unreasonable premise that the passive lead suggests that East was faced by an awkward choice at trick one. Suppose you take the simple view of drawing trumps and going after the hearts. When the bad break is revealed you set up a long heart and play some spade winners. Retaining one spade you go to dummy with the ace of diamonds and cash the long heart to get rid of your losing club. There are various variations depending on what East/West discard, but this is one possible ending:

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

Declarer now plays the king of clubs, ruffs East's ace and exits with a diamond, forcing East to give the last trick to the nine of clubs.

If East keeps an extra diamond, at the point you play the fourth heart from dummy you simply discard your losing club from hand and East is endplayed, having to lead into the diamond tenace or away from the ace of clubs.

Grand Slam Auctions

Board 19. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>V Prooijen</i>	<i>Schaltz</i>	<i>Hoogweg</i>	<i>Schaltz</i>
Pass	2♦	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♣	Pass	3NT
Pass	4♦	Pass	4♥
Pass	5♣	Pass	5♦
Pass	5♥	Pass	6♦
Pass	7♦	All Pass	

This auction needs much explanation. 2NT showed a balanced 15-18. 3♣ enquired and 3NT was the minimum range, 15- 16. 4♦ set trumps and 4♥ was a cuebid. 5♣ then was a Danish asking in clubs, 5♦ denying any club control (very useful information in view of North's void). 5♥ then was another asking bid and N 6♦ showed second-round control as well as three aces. That's all North needed to know. Well bid! Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Auken</i>	<i>Maas</i>	<i>Auken</i>	<i>Vriend</i>
Pass	2♦	Pass	1♠
Pass	3♠	Pass	3♣
Pass	4NT	Pass	4♦
Pass	5NT	Pass	5♦
Pass	7♦	All Pass	6♦

A much more natural auction in which the 4♦-cue denied club control. So Maas could check the aces and ask for kings with 5NT, the one king shown by 6♦ being the much needed king of hearts. Now Anton could count at least 13 tricks with diamonds as trumps. Well bid too. Needless to say that a few pairs managed to reach the grand slam, but in the wrong denomination. With the spades not behaving, 7♠ has no play. Unlucky?

A Very Slight Amelioration But A Great Brillancy

Monica Cuzzi, playing in the Lavazza team, Catherine d'Ovidio, playing in Zimmerman's team, and perhaps few others won brilliantly Three No-Trumps on this deal in Round 10.

Board 13. Dealer North. All Vul.

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

East opened the bidding with One Spade, and South finished in 3NT, West led the three of spades showing three cards and the jack was taken by the king.

With eight top tricks, simple minds would just take the diamond finesse and go two down

Monica and Catherine knew better.

If the queen of diamond would be on side what could East do on five rounds of clubs?

She had to keep the ace of hearts, four spades – otherwise declarer can play a heart - and only two diamonds.

To put it in other words East could not discard a spade nor the ace of diamonds, so she had to hold only two diamonds. The finesse has no merit, and having seen no interesting discard our declarers played the ace and king of diamonds and down came West's queen of diamonds.

The chance to find the queen of diamonds second in the hand who has only three spades but four clubs is nothing more than 4%. But that was the case. Well done girls to foresee the situation so clearly.

Of course Four Hearts makes with no skill needed but is difficult to bid.

Curse of Jonson strikes at last

When one has teams called Jonsson and Johnson in the same tournament, one can call it a small miracle that it takes 13 rounds for the confusion to strike.

At one table East and West had both already explained their system to the opponents, when it turned out they did not know one another.

In fact, the player that turned out to be at the wrong table was not needed at all, since her teammates had meanwhile started their match without her.

Hand from the Semi Final

As LVAZZA made it easy going in the first half of their semifinal v. MALLI, we will concentrate in this report on the other semifinal match: STOPPA v. POPOVA. The latter team won the qualification and thus earned the privilege to choose an opponent, but in spite thereof one would expect a close match here, as the experienced French were doing better and better as the championship went on. The first board was a nice test in declarer play, successfully passed by both declarers.

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

At both tables, South was in 4♠ and found the correct line.

Duck the lead of the ♥Q, win the next round, draw trumps and play a club to the jack followed by a club to the queen.

No swing.

When Leaders Meet

In the penultimate round, the leaders met the eventual winners of the silver medals.

One would expect to see some good bridge from the two leading pairs, but what happened can only be described as a comedy of errors.

Board 17. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Eginton</i>	<i>Maas</i>	<i>Nelson</i>	<i>V Glabbeek</i>
1♠	Pass	Pass	1♥
2♠	INT	2♣	2♥
Dble	All Pass	Pass	Pass

West did well to double and lead the ♠A, but when he shifted to a club rather than the ♥A and another, declarer should have made her contract. Apparently, she lost count of the trumps and conceded one down in the end. Would the N/S efforts be vain after all?

Board 18. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Eginton</i>	<i>Maas</i>	<i>Nelson</i>	<i>V Glabbeek</i>
2♣	Pass	1♦	Pass
2♠	Pass	2♦	Pass
3♠	All Pass	2NT	Pass

NWe assume West intended his 3♠ as forcing, but East was not on the same wavelength.

As a consequence, both pairs had divided the matchpoint honours equally at this table.

2002 EBL CHAMPIONS CUP

Warsaw, Poland

25th-27th October 2002

The EBL is proud to announce the first ever European Champions Cup in collaboration with CA-IB Bank. The event will be held in Warsaw, Poland, from 25th to 27th October 2002.

Right to participate

The EBL Champions Cup - CA-IB Trophy is an official EBL competition reserved to EBL NBOs which have has their own National Open Teams Championship structured in series, with a pyramidal format.

The Open Team Champions of the first 7 NBOs classified in the European Open Teams Championship in Salsomaggiore Terme, June 2002, plus the Team Champions from the Host Country, will be allowed to participate. If the Host country is already classified in the first seven positions of the ranking, the 8th will also be allowed to participate. An official invitation from the EBL will be sent to the Federations of all these teams before 1st July 2002.

The Federation should send their replies, with the name of the Teams, Captain and Players, by 31st July 2002. After the approval from the EBL Credentials Committee, confirmation will be sent to the Federations in the next 48 hours. If a Federation is unable or not permitted to participate, the Champions Teams of the following NBOs in the ranking of the European Open Teams Championship will be invited.

Format

The Teams will be divided into two groups of four which will play a complete Round-Robin of 20 board matches after which the two top teams of each group will play a 32 board K.O. semi-final match. The winning teams will play a 32 board K.O. final match for the 1st place and the loser a 24 boards K.O. play-off match for 3rd place. The other four Teams will play another two matches to classify for 5th place.

Schedule of Play

Friday 25th

- 16.00 Welcome Cocktail
- 16.30 Round-Robin 1st Match
- 20.45 Round-Robin 2nd Match

Saturday 26th

- 10.00 Round-Robin 3rd Match
- 15.30 Semi-finals / Consolation

Sunday

- 11.00 Final / Play-off
- 19.00 Prize-giving & Victory Banquet

Prizes

The EBL Champions Cup - CA-IB Trophy will be awarded to the winning Team and replicas to the players. Gold, silver and bronze medals will be awarded to the players of the first 3 Teams classified.

Cash prizes totalling \$15.000 will be awarded:

1st team	\$7.000
2nd	\$3.500
3rd	\$2.250
4th	\$1.250
5th	\$1.000

Another Bushel of MatchPoints

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Maas		Van Glabbeek	
	Pass	Pass	2♣
Dble	2♦	3♣	3♥
3NT	All Pass		

2♣ showed both majors, at least 4-4, but 3♥ should be taken as a six-card suit at least and strong distributional values. North now led the ♥Q, after which declarer could make only 11 tricks. On a more normal-looking diamond lead, made at many other tables, there are 12 tricks...

Forthcoming Events

The 16th World Wide Bridge Contest Clubs: Friday 7 & Saturday 8 June 2002

Full details of the Contest can be found at www.ecatsbridge.com - please click on the Sims button and you will see the link to all the details for the event. The links to the ranking lists will also be on this site, and there is a link provided on the new WBF site at www.worldbridge.org

Many countries are entering the event, and the WBF hopes that, with the assistance of the IBPA in generating as much advance publicity as possible, the event will be even more successful than in 2001.

As last year, the clubs will send their results, by email or using the special scoring program provided, to the central server, where the event will be re-scored immediately across the field.

All participants will receive a souvenir booklet containing the commentary written by Eric Kokish.

Players will be able to watch the scores change as new results come in, as well as having the chance to add their own comments online. They can look at the personal score cards for their own partnership as well as those for other pairs taking part in the competition.

The 18th European Youth Team Championships Torquay, England, 7 to 17 July 2002.

The event comprises a Junior and a Schools series. It is open to national teams of the EBL member countries and is organized by the European Bridge League in co-operation with the English Bridge Union.

The Championship is the flagship of the EBL youth programme. It was inaugurated in 1968 in Prague (Juniors only). The Schools series was added in 1994.

The Championships are open to all member countries of the EBL. The format is a simple round-robin of 20-board matches.

The Opening Ceremony will take place on Sunday 7 July, evening. The first round of the Junior series will follow at 20.30 hrs.

The Congress of the National Juniors' Officials will take place on Thursday 11 July 2002, at 10.00 am. All NBOs are urged to participate.

The Schools series will start with an opening reception on Thursday 11 July, evening. The first round of the series will be played the following morning at 10.00 hrs. Thereafter, the same programme will be followed as by the Junior series.

The Championships will end with the Prizegiving Ceremony on Wednesday 17 July, 20.30 hrs.

The 46th European Teams Championships Salsomaggiore, 16 - 29 June 2002

The President of the European Bridge League, Mr Gianarrigo Rona writes:

In Salsomaggiore we will celebrate the 70th Anniversary of the European Teams Championships, which started in 1932 in Scheveningen (The Netherlands), and I am confident that on this extraordinary occasion all the NBO Presidents will be present and all the NBOs will send their National Teams to participate in all the three Championships thus showing to the whole World the great progress achieved by the Bridge Family and our pride in belonging to it, our friendship, solidarity, similarity of ideas, without barriers, differences, distinctions; to show our resolute answer to the attempts to destabilize and create divisions which some have madly tried to do; to show our desire to enjoy all together, according our motto, "Bridge for Peace".

Opening Ceremony	Saturday 15th June
Open Teams	Sun. 16th - Sat. 29th June
Women's Teams	Wed. 19th - Sat. 29th June
Senior Teams	Wed. 19th - Sat. 29th June
Anniversary Celebration	Saturday 22nd June
Closing Ceremony	Saturday 29th June

The World Bridge Championships Montreal, Canada 16 - 31 August 2002

The 2002 World Championships will be held at two of Montreal's finest Hotels: The Queen Elizabeth and The Bonaventure Hilton. All regional events will be at the Bonaventure Hilton, and most World Championship events will be at the Fairmont Queen Elizabeth, although some sections will be placed in the Bonaventure Hilton depending on numbers.

This great Championship is open to bridge players from all over the world - they don't have to be Championship standard players - just a reasonable standard (if you are not sure, contact your national bridge federation)

This wonderful tournament will give all participants a unique opportunity to mix with and perhaps play against some of the greatest players in the world while at the same time enjoying all the delights of the great city of Montreal.

Players wishing to participate should contact their National Bridge Federation as soon as possible. They can find additional information on the WBF Website at www.worldbridge.org or they can email anna@ecats.co.uk or go to www.ecatsbridge.com.

IBPA Column Service

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

201.

Watch Barnett Shenkin, an ex British International living in Florida, hoping to be the second Scot to make it to the US Team behind his old partner Michael Rosenberg. Barnett and his wife Maggie bid this hand to the full. After that, the motto had to be “nil desperandum”, or never give up!

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

Playing a weak no-trump, Maggie as North opened 1♣. After the 1♥ overcall Barnett stretched a little to bid INT and Maggie raised to 3NT; not a fancied spot on the lead of the ♥10! Barnett, however, is known for his determination. Since East had not overcalled 2♥, it was a fair shot that hearts were 5 2. So at the first trick Barnett put up the ♥Q, figuring that East might just switch the attack. If not, East would ‘know’ the right return in hearts would be the ♥J, since Shenkin was marked with three cards in that suit, and indeed that was what happened.

Shenkin was now on lead, and could see that playing on diamonds would do no good, since there is no re entry to the hand. How do you create the entry you need? Well, you have to put yourself into the defenders’ shoes and try to give them a problem. Barnett found the answer when he led the ♣J at trick three. When West covered, Barnett was home. He won the ace, unblocked the diamonds and played a second club, and East was helpless. Whether he took or ducked the trick, declarer had seven minor suit winners and two tricks in the majors.

202.

Most of the field opened the North hand (why?) in the first final session of the Open/Women’s Board-a-Match Teams and reached the obvious 3NT contract — which made 90% of the time it was attempted by South. However the deal emphasized a point about the Smith Echo, namely that the most effective way to play the signal is to use the message by the opening leader as a positive request for third hand to shift.

Dir: South	♠ Q 7		
Vul: None	♥ A K Q 6 5		
	♦ 8 7		
	♣ J 10 8 7		
	♠ 9 6 5 2	♠ A 10 4 3	
	♥ 8 2	♥ J 10 9 4 3	
	♦ A K 10 2	♦ 5 4 3	
	♣ 6 4 2	♣ A	
	♠ K J 8		
	♥ 7		
	♦ Q J 9 6		
	♣ K Q 9 5 3		
West	North	East	South
Pass	1♥	Pass	1♦
Pass	2♠	Pass	2♣
Pass	3NT	All Pass	2NT

Declarer’s best play on the ♠6 lead is to hop up with dummy’s queen; whether it holds or loses to the ace, the defence is likely to continue attacking spades.

At the featured table declarer made what in practice, if not in theory, was a slight slip and was severely punished. He played low from dummy and trick one and Jeff Blond (East) put in the ♠10 to force the jack.

Now declarer led a club to the ace, and West took the opportunity to signal with the ♣6 — Reverse Smith — asking for the shift that in context had to be to diamonds. Jeff obediently led the ♦5 to the queen and king, and West went back to spades. Jeff took the ♠A and reverted to diamonds — hey, presto, down one!

203.

When this deal first made its appearance it was in a teams match where no one was chasing after overtricks too keenly. As a result the full beauty of the hand was left to the post-mortem.

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

Declarer won the opening diamond lead and drew two rounds of trumps, finding West had three. Now he crossed to a top heart and ruffed a diamond, then stripped off the hearts and exited with a third spade, hoping to receive a club shift. However, West had a safe exit with his fourth heart, and declarer conceded a club trick in the end, collecting an overtrick, and satisfied that he could have done no better. Had he been in slam, would he have given up so easily?

The winning line is for declarer to win the third heart in dummy and continue by ruffing diamonds. West must pitch a club — if he overruffs he is endplayed, and he needs the last heart as an exit card.

Now declarer finesses in clubs and ruffs the last diamond, at which point West is caught in a genuine but unusual squeeze. Again if overruffs he is endplayed, if he throws the heart he is thrown in with the trump to lead a club.

West has to bare his king of clubs and hope South misreads who holds the last heart. A throw-in fails because West has the thirteenth heart to cash. Of course if declarer has got so far into the hand he is unlikely to misguess the position, but you have to give him the chance to go wrong!

204.

The intrafinesse takes all forms. Often part of the battle is determining whether to go for the play, or whether to rely on something different.

Dir: South	♠ K 9 6 4		
Vul: None	♥ A		
	♦ K J 8 3		
	♣ J 9 8 4		
	♠ A J 8 7 2	♠ Q 5	
	♥ J 8 7	♥ Q 10 9 6 5 4 2	
	♦ 9 5 2	♦ 6	
	♣ Q 10	♣ K 7 3	
	♠ 10 3		
	♥ K 3		
	♦ A Q 10 7 4		
	♣ A 6 5 2		
West	North	East	South
1♠	2♦	3♥	1♦
4♥	4NT	All Pass	3NT

Here Kit Woolsey as South reached 4NT after a heavily contested auction. On a heart lead declarer has seven top winners in the red suits, and not enough time to develop anything in the black suits easily. In other words, declarer needs the clubs to lie in a very specific fashion in order for them to produce three tricks.

You could try for doubleton king-queen either side, doubleton ten with West or singleton honour with East.

Suppose you win the ♥A, cross to a diamond, and take one more top diamond to find East with shortage. On that basis you should play West for short clubs.

You lead up to the jack of clubs. If (as happened at the table) West puts up his honour and clears the hearts, go to dummy in diamonds and play the club jack to squash the ten (K10 or Q10 is more likely than KQ alone). When the cards lay precisely as Woolsey required them to do, he racked up plus 430 for a fine result, since the heart sacrifice costs only 300.

As frequently occurs in an intrafinesse, West could have left declarer with work to do had he put in the ten of clubs on the first round of the suit. Then Woolsey would have had to decide if West had 10x, or his actual holding.

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 May Bulletin will have code 448df so you will need to type:

www.IBPA.com/448df.pdf

Freeing up the market

By Paul Marston (Australia)

Like security at airports, restrictions on bidding methods are on the rise. We might need tighter security at airports but do we really need all these restrictions on bidding method, especially at the highest levels of the game?

Why not simply leave it to pairs to defend themselves? It's not as if they need a different defence for every new concoction – a generic approach will work in most cases - the same way it does against natural bids. For example, if the opponents bid 1Cx (1Dx) 1Sx, we are expected find our own way if 1Sx shows spades no matter what else it shows or excludes. It doesn't matter if 1Sx shows 6-9 HCP, is unlimited, shows five spades or denies hearts, and so on. So why not when 1Sx shows something other than spades?

Yet Jeff Rubens argues in his December 2001 editorial that it is unfair to bid (1Cx) 1Dx (1Sx) where 1S shows hearts.

The fairness argument is nothing new. At various times over the years, the experts of the day have sought to have methods banned on the basis of fairness - the list includes the likes of takeout doubles, Stayman, and the Roth Stone system.

But what is unfair about a bid simply because it doesn't show the bid suit? The obvious thing to do is to play double as takeout of any shown suit, hearts in this case, and other bids as before. Oh sure, you have to bid 2Sx if you want to bid spades but so too do the opponents.

Why should pairs that don't bother to make such simple agreements be protected - especially at the highest levels of the game? Why should they not simply have to pay the price as happens in every other area of the game?

It may be more difficult to cope with an artificial bid that doesn't show a suit. That is why there is no universal agreement about how to bid over an opening 1NT. (Which is why the 10-12 HCP notrump has a growing following.)

Okay, so bids that show no suits take leading players out of their comfort zone but is their comfort our main concern? Given that bridge is on track to be an Olympic sport, I would have thought the opposite to

be the case – the more discomfort they experience, the more interesting the contest.

Once the legal avenues are closed, I am sure that top players will soon work out effective generic defences and they will happily go to the table knowing that they can handle whatever the opponents dish up. This will remove a slab of unwelcome bureaucracy, which is in keeping with the growing mood to see directors empowered to make final decisions, doing away with appeal committees. Removing committees, rules and regulations will help create a much happier atmosphere in the game and it will inspire a renewed search for excellence in bidding. This will surely be good for the game. To use a chess analogy – imagine telling a bright youngster that he can't use his own opening because the opponents don't know how to defend against it! If the chess people started doing that they would start losing young players the way bridge does.

I also note that the WBF imposed stringent system restrictions for the Grand Prix event in Salt Lake City. For example, they wouldn't let you open 1Dx to show hearts. Apparently this had a lot to do with "keeping it natural for the public". (Despite this, very few people came to watch.) This is minimizing the role of bidding method in the game but there is no evidence to suggest that this is a good thing. Indeed, quite the contrary. It was conflict over bidding that had everyone interested in the game all those years ago when Culbertson waged his battle of the century. Also, players in my clubs love to play multi twos and the like. We have no system restrictions and we do more than 20,000 tables a year. It is the clubs with complex rules and regulations that are struggling for business.

Okay, so an unusual system may be confusing to those watching a vugraph – but only if the commentators don't tell them what is going on. But bridge needs commentators, no matter what systems are being used, just like golf does. Golf on television is only interesting because there is a commentator to tell you what is going on. And so it is with bridge.

Paul Marston, Sydney, March 2002

./.. continued from page 16

If South held the club king why did he not cross to dummy to lead the first trump? East must rise with the ace and play a second spade. Then West can win the next trump and cash a spade.

IBPA Editor: On this trump layout declarer does not gain by playing three rounds of diamonds to dispose of the losing spade. But suppose West's trumps had been KQ doubleton. Then declarer can succeed by starting with one round of trumps, forcing East to unblock the ace and play a spade, and then three rounds of diamonds, ditching the spade, leaving West to ruff with the remaining trump honour.

* *Jean-Paul Meyer reports: The French Open team in Salsomaggiore will be: Michel Bessis, Jerome Rombaut, Albert Bitran, Jean-Michel Voldoire, Michel Duguet, and Philippe Toffier; (n.p.c. Alain Levy).*

They won the 128 boards final by 7 IMPs (including a +18 IMP carry over) v. Pierre Zimmermann, Pierre Saporta, Michel Lebel, Michel Perron, Alain Levy, Hervé Mouiel.

Womens team: Catherine d'Ovidio, Véronique Bessis, Benedicte Cronier, Sylvie Willard, Danièle Avon and Fabienne Pigeaud (Bénédicte's sister) npc Patrick Grenthe.

* *Radek Kielbasinski of Poland (and the EBL Executive) reports that there may soon be a bridge-player in space. A*

Polish company called EFL has been taken over by a French Bank for 250 million US dollars. EFL's main owner, Mr. Czarnacki, is a bridge-player. He has applied to be the second "tourist in space", at a cost of 20 million dollars.

EFL and three other sponsors have also provided \$40,000 to sponsor a new bridge event in Poland. More details in the next issue.

Kielbasinski adds support for the Editorial in the last Bulletin in favour of retaining Appeals Committees. He says that the Appeals procedure is something bridge can be proud of, and other sports envy.

He adds a point about the flaws in such sports as boxing and figure-skating "where the directors can destroy the sport".

IBPA Editor: That point, valid as it is, relates to Judges in the *subjective* events, rather than Referees in the *objective* sports (whose job is to implement the Laws rather than judge who is the best). The Editorial made the point that most objective sports are now copying bridge in introducing the equivalent of Appeals Committees whenever practical.

* *Alasdair Forbes of Glasgow reports a deal from the January Camrose match between Scotland and the Republic of Ireland where Hanlon-McGann had an accurate defence, and at the other table, Les Steel had an interesting problem as declarer in Six Hearts:*

Calendar	Event	Venue	IBPA Contact
2002			
MAY	9/10 Bonn Nations Cup, 21/26 European Women's Bridge Festival	Bad Godesberg Sicily	g.mattsson@t-online.de anna@ecats.co.uk
JUN	1/2 Amstelveen International Bridge Tournament (Fomer Schiphol Tournament - see Postabag for more information)	Amstelveen	Tel: +31 611 011 420
	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
NOV	20/30 ACBL Fall Nationals,	New Orleans, LA	ACBL

Board 28 ♠ J
 Dealer: West ♥ A Q J 8 3
 N/S Vul ♦ A 2
 ♣ Q J 8 7 4

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

♠ 6 5 2
 ♥ K 9 6 2
 ♦ K 9 8 7 5 4
 ♣ None

Open Room

West	North	East	South
	<i>Hanlon</i>		<i>McGann</i>
1♠	2♠ ⁱ	3♠	4♥
4♣	Pass	Pass	Dble

ⁱ2♠ showed hearts and clubs

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Timlin</i>	<i>Steel</i>	<i>Keaveney</i>	<i>Whittaker</i>
1♠	2♥	3♠	4♦
4♣	5♦	Pass	6♥
All Pass			

At this point of the 30-board match Scotland were well behind and needed swings.

In the Open Room, against Four Spades doubled, Tom Hanlon led ♣J. Hugh McGann ruffed, returned a heart to his partner's ace, received a low club ruffed (McKenney), switched to the king of diamonds, diamond to the ace, and a third club ruff. This was six tricks for the defence and +500 to Ireland.

So Scotland would achieve a small gain if Willie Whittaker pressed on to Five Hearts. Well, as you can see, he jumped to Six Hearts, knowing of the good fit.

Gay Keaveney led ♠4. Rory Timlin won with the ace. We will see later what would have happened had Timlin switched to the ten of trumps.. In practice he tried the ten of diamonds. Steel won the ace, and drew trumps, ruffed out the diamonds, and conceded one off, making five diamonds and six trump tricks. This was a further 100 to Ireland or 12 IMPs.

There was a way to make the slam (improving Scotland's score by 26 IMPs), by means of a dummy reversal, which I am sure Steel would have found had West switched to the ten of trumps at trick two. You put on the jack or queen, but overtake with the king to ruff a spade high. Then you lead the three of trumps and finesse the six (*IBPA Editor: And congratulate West if he held 107 doubleton!*). Another spade is ruffed high, then you ruff out the diamonds, and finally return with a club ruff, to use the nine of trumps to draw East's last trump and claim the remainder.

Note that when West played a diamond at trick two, Steel must win with the ace and play the queen or jack of trumps to the king if he is to make the slam. Also note it does not help East to put in the seven of trumps on the second round.

Ireland also gained 1 IMP on a deal where McGann cue-bid a void at the five level and was left to play there vulnerable for six down ... but his team-mates had recorded +620 on the other cards! Ireland won 53-37.

* *The Charity Challenge Cup was held on the 15th March backed by the company Mr. Bridge & Bridge Plus magazine, raising money for the NSPCC. Your Editor faced this problem on Board 15:*

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

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

West	North	East	South
	<i>Hirst</i>		<i>Jourdain</i>
Pass	INT	2♣	1♠
3♣	3♥	Pass	2♥
All Pass			

On North's cards I prefer a raise to 2♠ as suggested by Bernard Magee's Commentary. I was in 4♥. West led a club to the queen and ace. The king of hearts fetched the ten from East so I was compelled to follow with the queen, and then a finesse of the nine, East throwing clubs. What now?

If you draw the last trump and misguess spades you will not feature on the matchpoint list. I tried a ploy not mentioned in the Commentary, a low spade to the ten. When this held I could claim 11 tricks. If it had lost and the defence cashed a club, and then played two rounds of diamonds, I would be in the South hand, but with an entry back to dummy with ♠K to draw the last trump. The line loses only when West has singleton queen of spades.

* *Phillip Alder says: My new area code is in action now (though 561 will still work until 11.11.02). So, my numbers are:*

Tel: +1 772-219-8434 Fax: +1 772-219-8083

Website: www.phillipalderbridge.com

Alder, who is British, became a U.S. citizen on March 28. He has two passports.

* *Anna Gudge reports:* e-bridge will produce online vugraph for the 2002 World Championships in Montreal, Canada, Aug 16-31.

e-bridge will provide this service as a live feature. The bidding and play will be transmitted from the playing tables directly to the Internet. Spectators will enter a special vugraph room on e-bridge's web site and watch the match as it develops. Experts' commentary of the matches will be provided online by chat.

This service will be offered for semifinals and finals of the Rosenblum (August 27-28), and McConnell Cup (August 26-27). e-bridge will transmit one of two matches that are running in parallel. The service will be also offered for the finals of Pairs event (August 29-31), e-bridge will transmit two best pairs in parallel.

After the event live vugraph will be converted to offline vugraph and available for access to all visitors to e-bridge and ACBL Online websites (www.e-bridgemaster.com, www.acbl.com).

Access to both vugraphs (live and offline) will be free to all.

Look in the Documents section of:

www.ecatsbridge.com

for Press Releases from the WBF or Federations - click on the link to Press Releases to see the most recent ones. Older Press Releases are contained in the relevant folders, with dates.

* *Denis Robson*, Chairman of the Organising Committee for the Commonwealth Nations Bridge Championship 2002 reports: It is in Manchester from Tuesday 16th July (opening ceremony on Monday evening 15th July at 1900 in Manchester Town Hall) to Sat 20th July, for the *Maple Finance Group (Canada) Trophy*.

We believe that there will be 29 countries, and a Patron's team:

Antigua & Barbuda, Australia, Bahamas, Barbados, Bermuda, Canada, Dominica, England, Guernsey, Guyana, India, Isle of Man, Jamaica, Jersey, Malaysia, Malta, Mauritius, Northern Ireland, Pakistan, Patron's Team, St. Kitts & Nevis, Scotland, Singapore, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Trinidad and Tobago, Uganda, Wales, Zimbabwe.

The Patron is Brigitte Mavromichalis from Barbados. Brigitte has been invited to enter a transnational (but entirely Commonwealth) team into the event. Their status is that they cannot lay claim to the trophy or the title, or to the medals. In other words, if they finish in the top four places overall, the medal winners will be the other three teams.

Based on 30 teams, there will be two groups of 15 teams per group playing a full round robin over three days of 9-board matches with the top two in each group going through to a semifinal (48 boards) on Friday. On Saturday there will be a 48-board final and 36-board play-off

before the Closing Banquet.

Whilst the knock-outs are in progress there will be a Consolation transnational event called the Manchester 2002 Challenge Trophy for eliminated players and others to make up 40 teams.

Venue: Manchester University's Whitworth Hall in the Whitworth Building, Main Campus, Oxford Road, Manchester, M13 9PL. Main Hotel: Britannia Hotel, Manchester, M1 3LI

Tel: (+44) 161 2282288; Fax: 161 2369154

Website: www.britanniahotels.com

* *Jon Sveindal says:* From Saturday 23 March my new e-mail address is:

jon.sveindal@chello.no

* *Dr Prakash Paranjape says:* I have a bridge website www.demicoma.com running since 15th August, 1998. DEMICOMA stands for DEstructive MInors COnstructive MAjors, a bidding system developed by me. The DEMICOMA website will eventually carry all the material about the DEMICOMA system, however, at present, it runs Bridge News from India, problems and solutions, deals and reports of some major Indian tournaments, book reviews, and articles on special topics.

* *Pieter van Rooy reports* that the former Schiphol Tournament will be held on the weekend of 1st and 2nd of June. The main sponsor is the Municipal of Amstelveen and the new venue is its new Congress Centre. The name of the event is Amstelveen International Bridge Tournament. Several of the teams will be practising for the European Championships two weeks later. Entry fee: 120 euros per team.

Contact: Tel: +31 611 011 420

Anna Gudge reports: Details of the European Women's Festival in Sicily are on the EBL Website

The closing date for the **World Championship in Montreal** is early June so don't leave it too long. Entries via your Federation.

For results of the **Bridge Great Britain Simultaneous Pairs** (over 12,000 players from 8 countries in April's three-days) go to www.ecatsbridge.com and click on the Sims button then follow the links. BGB raises funds for teams for England, Scotland and Wales to play in European and World Championships. The scoring programs written by Ruth Edmondson and Stephen Brown now produce the right files for the ECats Scoring System, so if your club uses either of those, get in touch with them for an upgrade.

The World Wide Bridge Contest is on 7 & 8 June and we hope it is going to be even bigger this year. Full details can be found in the Sims Section on www.ecatsbridge.com and there is a link from the WBF site at www.worldbridge.org.



POINTS FROM THE POSTBAG

The Editor reserves the right to shorten correspondence

LETTERS ...

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* *Slawek Latala reports* a deal from the Polish Trials for Salsomaggiore. Declarer in 4♥ was Marek Szymanowski, partnering Jacek Romanski. It is a candidate for Hand of the Year:

Dealer: East	♠ A K 9 8 5 2		
Love all	♥ Q 8 5		
	♦ J 9		
	♣ J 2		
	♠ J	♠ Q 10 7 4	
	♥ 10 9 2	♥ 3	
	♦ Q 8 6 5	♦ K 10 7 3	
	♣ K Q 8 4 3	♣ A 10 7 6	
	♠ 6 3		
	♥ A K J 7 6 4		
	♦ A 4 2		
	♣ 9 5		
West	North	East	South
<i>Krajewski</i>	<i>Romanski</i>	<i>Jeleniewski</i>	<i>Szymanowski</i>
Pass	1♠	Pass	1♥
Pass	4♥	Pass	2♥
Pass		All Pass	

West led ♠J. Marek won in dummy, came to a hand with a trump and led another spade. It could not help West to ruff a loser (the defence can take only two clubs) so West threw a club. Marek won the king and now claimed!

"I play a spade and ruff low in hand. If you over-ruff only one trump remains. You can cash two clubs but I can enter dummy with a heart to the queen, ruff a spade high and re-enter dummy with a trump to the eight to reach the spades and discard both my losing diamonds."

"If you don't over-ruff, I will duck a diamond and take a diamond ruff instead if necessary."

IBPA Editor: Bit of a show-off, what!? Marek had spotted the danger. Suppose he ducks the diamond before ruffing the third spade. The defence win, cash two clubs ending with East and play a spade through. Declarer has to ruff high, and, short of an entry to set up spades, then has to ruff his diamond. He can unblock the heart queen, but cannot get off dummy to draw the last trump without West making a trump to break the contract. The difference by having ruffed the third spade low is that if East tries to promote a trump by playing the fourth spade he has set up dummy's spades!

* *Jan Kamras says:* The final Swedish trials for Salsomaggiore were held April 12-14 at Casino Cosmopol in Malmö with strong international participation from Denmark, Holland and elsewhere. For further info:

jkamras@san.rr.com. Designated web-page will be reachable via link from

www.bridgefederation.se/welcome/index.htm

* *Krastyu Kavlakov of Bulgaria reports* a missed opportunity on a deal from the Sofia Bridge Club Christmas Pairs on 23rd December (*unrecorded pips supplied by Editor*)

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

West	North	East	South
Pass	1♦	2♥	Pass
3♥	3NT	Dble	Pass
Pass	Redble	Pass	5♣
All Pass			

North-South were playing Strong Club. North's 3NT had a two-way meaning: either a long solid diamond suit with a stop in the opponent's suit, OR a minor two suiter, at least 10 cards. (*IBPA Editor: How does partner know what to do if the defence Pass, I wonder?*) The Redouble showed both minors, with longer diamonds (he must remove to 4♣ with equal length or longer clubs).

West led a fourth-best spade to the queen and king. South played a low trump to the jack and ??? East won the queen, and played another spade. A second round of trumps saw East winning, and having no spade to play, the game made.

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