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I am very pleased that your Executive has appointed John Carruthers of Canada to succeed me as Editor in September. I remain in office for the editions of August and September. We will jointly edit the Montreal Special, and John will take over on his own for the October issue.

Carruthers, 55, was Editor of the Ontario Kibitzer for five years. He was an editor of technical writing for five years, and co-author of two books ("Creating Effective Manuals" and "Ex-Etiquette"), and numerous articles on computer technology. He is currently a project manager "close enough to retirement to think I might live long enough to make it."

In bridge as a player he has represented Canada at three Olympiads and five Rosenblums, won four Canadian national titles, two North American titles, and twice won the Forbo in the Netherlands. He has been n.p.c. at seven world championships, including the Canadian women when they won bronze in 1989 in Perth, and the Canadian Juniors when they took the world silver in 1991. He was Onsite Organiser of the 1997 World Junior Championships in Hamilton (visiting Cardiff the previous year to see the European Youth Championships run by the current IBPA Editor). "This was the most exhilarating but exhausting thing I've ever done in bridge."

John says "I live in Toronto with Katie Thorpe and our four cats - Justine, Balthazar, Mountolive, and Clea. Katie has managed to put up with me for 28 years - rumour has it she's being nominated for both sainthood and the Nobel Peace Prize."

He is interested in baseball and gambling and says "other hobbies include travel, golf, reading, music, and running. I play bridge better than I play golf (some partners avow that I'm equally bad at both)."

He aims as IBPA Bulletin Editor to keep up the high standard, regularly to publish writers from all over the world, and to help convince more colleagues outside Europe to join the IBPA.

* * * * *

Those members who have already replied to last month's questionnaire are thanked. Those who have not yet done so are invited to do so now. Please have your reply in before the end of July, so the Executive can study them in Montreal.

There will be no European Special. Hands from the first few days in Salsomaggiore are included in this Bulletin, thanks to Tony Gordon (as your Editor is concentrating on playing in the Open). Our Production Editor is to add the rankings to the cover sheet as the Bulletin will have been printed. The August issue will go out early with the remainder of the results and hands.

Patrick Jourdain – Editor

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Pessoa Retains Portugese Open, Buratti-Lanzarotti win Pairs

By Patrick Jourdain (Wales) in Cascais, Portugal April 2002

My favourite overseas trip each year is to Cascais and Estoril near Lisbon for the Portugese Open. The hospitality is warm, the food excellent, and the midweek teams schedule leaves time for golfers to play before the single evening session.

This year my bridge team had three golfers (yes, I include myself in that description now) Mike Hirst, Ian Panto and I, and one, Tony Waterlow, whose daytime activities included shopping with his wife, Ann. The visitors always include a sizeable contingent from the Netherlands, several Scandinavians, and the top Spanish pairs. From England came the Hackett team of Paul, Ross Harper, Justin H, and Ursula Harper.

Portugal has two top class mixed pairs. One is Maria Lara & Manuel Capucho. The other is Sofia Pessoa & Jorge Castanheira. The latter retained the teams title (this year with Rui Pinto & Juliano Barbosa, last year with Jorge dos Santos, Rui Santos, Carlos Pimenta, and Manuel Oliveira). The runner-up was the Dutch team Klaver.

- | | |
|--------------|-----|
| 1. Pessoa | 168 |
| 2. Klaver | 163 |
| 3. JM Santos | 160 |

Asked for a hand from the event Jorge began with the deal from the Trials that cost him making the Portugese Open team for the Europeans in Salsomaggiore:

Dealer: West ♠ A K 6 4
 Game All ♥ 3
 ♦ A Q 8 7
 ♣ A J 10 2

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

♠ Q
 ♥ Q J 8 7 5
 ♦ J 10 9 6 2
 ♣ 8 3

West	North	East	South
Sa	Pessoa	Lopes	Castanheira
1♥	Dble	Pass	2♦
Pass	2♥	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♦	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

The other table had stopped in Three Diamonds and made it with an overtrick. Castanheira was in 3NT. If he could make this, he and Pessoa would be part of the team in Italy.

West led ♣K. Declarer won, led a spade to the queen and the nine of diamonds. West discarded a heart, and East, Jorge Lopes, let the nine win.

The 4-0 break in diamonds meant declarer would have a problem reaching the last diamond in his own hand, so he next led the ♣8 covered by nine and ten.

Declarer followed this with the ♦Q and again East ducked. Declarer now had eight tricks on top. He cashed the top spades, on which West, Joao Sa, wisely unblocked the jack and ten of spades to leave East with an entry.

Declarer effectively now had to decide whether West held three or four spades.

Reading West as 3-5-0-5 or 3-6-0-4 declarer exited with a heart. This line failed as West won, and put East in with a spade, to play another heart through declarer. Declarer lost three hearts, a spade and a club.

The game would have been made if declarer had exited first with the spade. East wins and plays a heart, but when West wins this he is endplayed into conceding the ninth trick.

This deal is from the last match of the Teams:

Board 19 ♠ K 5 4 2
 Dealer: South ♥ A 9 2
 E/W Game ♦ 103
 ♣ Q 9 6 3

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

West	North	East	South
	Pessoa		Castanheira
Pass	2♥	Pass	1♥
All Pass			4♥

After a simple auction, Jorge was declarer in Four Hearts.

Declarer has a loser in spades, and clubs, so the key appears to be how you handle the trump suit. To play ace and another, or take two finesses is a priori quite close, but here there is a snag. If you are going to ruff your losing diamond you cannot take two finesses.

If so the problem appears to be whether to play

East for a singleton small trump (low to the nine is best), or a singleton honour (ace first). These are equally likely and the declarer at the other table went wrong by playing the ace of trumps after ruffing his diamond.

Jorge spotted an extra chance that saved him the trump guess. West led a spade. Jorge won in hand, and played a club. West put in the jack, and declarer ducked this. West led another spade. Jorge won in dummy, ruffed a club, seeing the king appear, took two top diamonds, ruffed a diamond, and ruffed another club. When the ace fell, the trump layout did not matter. Jorge crossed to the ace of trumps and threw his losing spade on the master club. He lost two trumps and a club, but no spade.

Pairs result (157 pairs competed over three sessions):

The Pairs was a clear win for Massimo Lanzarotti & Andrea Buratti of Italy, the former European champions who have not represented Italy for some years now. They took the trophy and a prize of 2,500 euros. (The IBPA Editor shared 1250 euros for 4th). Rumour has it that Buratti-Lanzarotti are currently seeking to represent another country.

1.	A. Buratti-M. Lanzarotti (Ita)	65.23
2.	F. Ferreira-Nuno Paz (Port)	62.43
3.	F. Fresneda-A. Wasik (Spain)	61.61
4.	P. Jourdain & M. Hirst (Wales)	60.63
5.	A. & N. Quaresma (Port)	60.23
6.	R. Tadeu-J. Passarinho (Port)	60.08
7.	L. Faria-M. Goncalves (Port)	59.91
8.	P. Hackett & R. Harper (Eng)	59.54
9.	F. Goded-L. Lantaron (Spain)	59.48

The two Harper-Hackett pairings had the same auction on this deal from the first session of the Pairs but there was a bit of family one-upmanship when they compared results:

Sess 1	♠ A J 8 5 4 3	♠ K 6 2
Board 18	♥ K 8 7	♥ A
Dealer: East	♦ Q	♦ A K 5 4 2
N/S Game	♣ A 9 3	♣ K 10 6 5
	♠ Q 10 9	
	♥ J 9 4 3	
	♦ J 8 6	
	♣ Q J 2	
	♠ 7	
	♥ Q 10 6 5 2	
	♦ 10 9 7 3	
	♣ 8 7 4	

West	North	East	South
<i>Ursula Ross</i>		<i>Justin Paul</i>	
		1♦	Pass
1♥	1♠	2♣	Pass
2♦	2♠	Dble	All Pass

The defence began the same as well: diamond king, heart ace, diamond to jack declarer ruffing.

At Paul's table declarer then played ace and another trump. Ross Harper, West, won with the ten and gave East a heart ruff. A club switch left the defence with a penalty of 500.

At Justin's table declarer made the error of playing a top heart at trick four. Justin ruffed, and played a club, declarer allowing West to win, so another heart ruff brought 800 for the defence.

In this deal from the second session Buratti & Lanzarotti reached slam more scientifically than your Editor did at another table:

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Buratti</i>		<i>Lanzarotti</i>	
	Pass	1♥	2♣
Dble	Pass	2♠	Pass
3♦	Pass	4♣	Pass
4♦	Pass	4♥	Pass
4♠	Pass	4NT	Pass
6♦	All Pass		

The Negative double made 3♦ natural and forcing. Some cue-bids followed (first or second round control) and then East's 4NT showed an odd number of keycards. West knew this to be one, so he bid the small slam.

When I was West the auction went 1♥ from partner, 2♣ overcall, 2♦, raise to 3♦, then 4NT RKCB followed by 6♦. This was a gamble that East would have either have second round club control or a spade trick to dispose of the losing club.

Those tables that greedily tried for 6♥ failed.

Castanheira & Pessoa bid slam here on minimum values:

Board 10	♠ 10 2	♠ Q 5
Dealer: East	♥ J 8 5	♥ Q 10 9 6 4 2
Game All	♦ A 3	♦ K 4
	♣ K Q 7 6 5 4	♣ J 8 2
	♠ J 6	
	♥ A K 7 3	
	♦ 10 9 7 6 2	
	♣ 9 3	
	♠ A K 9 8 7 4 3	
	♥ None	
	♦ Q J 8 5	
	♣ A 10	

Playing strong Twos their auction was:

2♠-3♣-3♦-3♠-4♣-4♦-4♠-6♠-Pass

West led a top heart, Castanheira ruffed, laid down two top trumps, and claimed all the tricks a moment later.

Even if there was a trump loser, and a 4-1 club break declarer should still manage to avoid the diamond finesse.

Suppose West has the trump trick. Then you start on clubs next. West cannot afford to ruff the second club, so you can set the suit up before West has a chance to threaten dummy's entry. And if East has the trump trick and a singleton club you do best to cash ace of clubs (testing for singleton jack) then clear the trump. Now East must play a diamond. Oddly if the diamond finesse was losing he cannot attack dummy's entry, without conceding three diamond tricks. If it was winning West will be able to cover the queen of diamonds.

Now you ruff a heart and rely on the clubs coming in or a squeeze (for example, when East is 3-7-2-1).

The Italian pair have unusual methods after their club opening (= clubs 15+, strong notrump or game force). Here is an example from the third session where the field was in notrumps:

Board 13 ♠ A 10 9 5
 Dealer: North ♥ A 7
 Game All ♦ A 9 3
 ♣ A J 10 5

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

♠ Q 7 2
 ♥ J 6 4 2
 ♦ 10 8
 ♣ Q 9 4 2

Buratti opened 1♣, partner responded 1♦ promising four hearts and North rebid a natural 1♠ denying three hearts (he would bid 1♥) with at least four spades and 15-17 points. South Passed.

At Pairs someone in spades needs to make more tricks than the INTers. In notrumps, on a diamond lead, those who played a spade to the queen (as the declarer did against us) made nine tricks. Those who began by running the ten of spades made as few as five tricks.

In spades, on a diamond lead, you might scramble ten tricks, with the diamond ruff being the extra trick. In practice Buratti made nine, probably a little above average.

Board 18 was good for the Hacketts:

Dealer: East ♠ A K 10 9 8
 N/S Game ♥ 2
 ♦ A 9 2
 ♣ Q 7 4 2

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

♠ Q 6 4
 ♥ A K 5 4
 ♦ Q 3
 ♣ A 10 6 3

Justin Hackett (South) & Ursula Harper had had an unopposed transfer auction to 4♠:

INT-2♥-2♠-3♣-3♠-4♠-Pass

West chose the poor lead of the jack of clubs, covered by queen, king and ace. Justin drew two rounds of trumps with the ace and queen, then two top hearts (throwing a diamond), ruff a heart, draw the last trump, club to the ten, ruff the last heart, and exit with a club to endplay East into leading away from the king of diamonds. Twelve tricks proved to beat almost every other score apart from his father's!:

E/W were playing the mini-notrump with a compulsory redouble if doubled (this increases both the number of escape routes and the thrill when responder leaves it in):

West	North <i>Paul</i>	East	South <i>Ross</i>
		INT	Dble
Pass	Pass	Redbl	Pass
2♦	Dble	All Pass	

West was in Two Diamonds doubled, and N/S would have a bottom if they only got 500 out of this. Paul led his singleton and Ross Harper won, cashed a second heart on which Paul threw a club, and then gave him a heart ruff with the lowest heart, to show the ace of clubs.

Paul now cashed a top spade and South encouraged. Rather than lead a club, Paul underled his king of spades. South won and gave him another heart ruff.

It looks normal to cash the ace of trumps and exit with a spade. As South holds the ten of clubs this produces 800 because declarer has to lose two clubs. However, Paul realised South must hold the diamond queen for his double of INT and so found a safer way to the key penalty. He led a third spade before cashing the ace of trumps, and then, in with the ace, a fourth spade promoted South's queen of trumps, and the defence still made the ace of clubs.

Our team-mates, Ian Panto & Tony Waterlow (Waterlow partners Paul Hackett in the England Open team for Salsomaggiore, whilst Panto is in the Senior team) scored the same magic 800 on this deal:

Board 21
 Dealer: North
 N/S Game

♠ K 10 8 3
 ♥ 6 4
 ♦ A 8 5 3
 ♣ J 8 6

♠ Q 9 7 5
 ♥ 9 8 7 3 2
 ♦ K
 ♣ 10 5 2

♠ 4 2
 ♥ A K Q
 ♦ 9 6 4 2
 ♣ A K 9 4

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Panto</i>		<i>Waterlow</i>	
	Pass	Pass	Pass
1♦	Pass	1♥	Pass
INT	Pass	Pass	Dble
Redbl	2♠	Dble	All Pass

The protective double of INT by a Passed hand to show a balanced 11 points is a sound method when it is the opening by LHO and you are non-vulnerable, but not when opponents have bid two suits and you are vulnerable!

South got the bad result he deserved. East actually led his bare king of diamonds, missing one possible trick, but it came back when declarer promptly misguessed spades, playing to the ace and finessing through opener. East won the queen and put his partner in with a heart. If West is tempted into giving East two diamond ruffs, declarer goes for only 500 as he makes three spades,

and both a club and diamond later. However, Panto saw the danger and began by laying down the king of clubs and then forcing declarer with a third heart.

When declarer ruffed, East had an extra trump and was in control. The defence made four hearts, two trumps, and two clubs. It does not help North to refuse to ruff the third heart; the defence switch to taking their two diamond ruffs, and make three trumps, three hearts and two clubs. This was worth 800 and a top.

On the same deal my partner gave us a good board by scoring 10 tricks as East in Three Hearts. I had opened INT (14-16) partner used Stayman and over Two Diamonds bid Two Hearts showing five hearts and four spades. With a maximum and crisp cards, I tried an invitational raise.

South found the best lead of a trump. Hirst won in dummy and led a diamond. When North smoothly ducked, the defence had no further chance of beating the contract. Declarer crossed to dummy once in trumps, and twice in clubs to ruff three diamonds and then exited with a club, taken by South.

To prevent the tenth trick South had to underlead his ace of spades. When he started with the ace, declarer had to make either the thirteenth club or the queen of spades.

To beat Three Hearts North has to rise with the ace of diamonds to play a second trump and after declarer takes three diamond ruffs, South must either unblock his queen of clubs or underlead his ace of spades when on play with the club queen.

PABF Championships
 Bangkok Brilliancy by Brian Senior

Board 3. Dealer South. East/West Vul.

♠ 6 3
 ♥ A J 8 5 2
 ♦ J 2
 ♣ A K 9 8

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

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

♠ K Q J 4
 ♥ K 6 3
 ♦ K Q 4 3
 ♣ J 3

If you think it matters not whether you play in 3NT or 4♥ by North/South on Board 3 in Round 4, think again.

3NT is ironclad with at least nine tricks for the taking but what about 4♥? Looking at the complete deal one may well wonder how is it possible for any declarer to fail in that contract, despite the defensive diamond ruff.

Well, it happened in the match between Australia and China Hong Kong in the Youth series. The Australian pair in the

Closed Room reached 4♥ by South after a Moscito relay sequence. L. H. Chin in the West seat led ♣7 which declarer took in dummy to play a trump to his king. On this trick Chin smoothly followed with his queen! This falsecard threw declarer completely off track. It does look as though he might play to establish the spades now, intending to use the diamonds as an entry to hand. However, convinced that hearts had to be four-one, and fearful of a bad spade break, declarer decided to attempt to ruff two clubs in hand. The opening lead had suggested that West would be the shorter in clubs, increasing the likelihood not only that the club ruffs would stand up, but also that there might be bad breaks elsewhere as West would then be short in two suits.

When West over-ruffed the third club, declarer nearly fell off his chair. Chin unerringly switched to ace and another diamond to give his partner a ruff, and the ace of spades was the setting trick.

At the half-way point in the championships, the China Hong Kong Youth team are 30 VPs ahead of second. If they continue to play like this, they will surely win the title in some comfort.

Round 1 Lebanon v Bulgaria

Board 17. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Trendafilov</i>	<i>Eidi</i>	<i>Karaivanov</i>	<i>Harfouche</i>
	Pass	Pass	3♥

All Pass

Just made, Lebanon +140.

Closed Room:

West	North	East	South
<i>Tchamitch</i>	<i>Stamatov</i>	<i>Baroudy</i>	<i>Karaivanov</i>
	Pass	Pass	2♥
2♠	Pass	3♥	Dble
3NT	All Pass		

The double showed a fair hand, but it inspired Jerry Stamatov to lead the ♥A. Though he found the diamond switch at trick two, the damage had already been done. Tchamitch won the second diamond and led a spade. When South showed out, Tchamitch won his ace and led a low spade. Stamatov did well not to put in the ten, but dummy's eight won and all was set for an endplay. ♠K, ♣AQ, ♥K, ♣K and a club throwing a heart from hand. Last trick to the ♠J. Just made, Lebanon +400 and 11 IMPs back.

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Round 2 Russia v Poland

Petrinin found a very nice squeeze to land his heart game on board 19.

Board 19. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Martens</i>	<i>Gromov</i>	<i>Lesniewski</i>	<i>Petrinin</i>

	INT		
Pass	2♦	2♠	Pass
3♦	3NT	Pass	4♥

All Pass

Martens led the ♠A and exited with a trump. Petrinin ran this to his jack, drew two more rounds of trumps and played the ♣K and another, running it to West when East showed out.

Endplayed for the first time, Martens made the best return of the ♦J to Petrinin's queen. Now Petrinin ruffed a club and led the last trump, on which he threw his losing spade, squeezing West in the process. If he threw a club, declarer's suit would get established; a diamond discard would enable declarer

US Open Team Trials

In the 120-board final of the trials to determine the team that will be nominated as the US Open International Team representative for the 2003 WBF Bermuda Bowl, *Nickell* (Nick Nickell, Dick Freman, Jeff Meckstroth, Eric Rodwell, Bob Hamman and Paul Soloway) defeated *Schwartz* (Richard Schwartz, Mike Becker, Zia Mahmood, Michael Rosenberg, David Berkowitz and Larry Cohen) by 261-232 IMPs. There will be further trials in June 2003 to select the second team to represent the USA.

to play $\diamond A$ and another to endplay West again. Very well done. Russia +420.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Krasnosselski</i>	<i>Balicki</i>	<i>Dubin</i>	<i>Zmudzinski</i>
$1\diamond$	$1\heartsuit$	$2\spadesuit$	$3\heartsuit$
Pass	$4\heartsuit$	All Pass	

Here the contract was played from the other side of the table, so Dubin could lead his singleton club, which ran to the ten and king. Zmudzinski next cashed the $\heartsuit A$ and then used his entry to dummy, the $\clubsuit A$, to take the heart finesse. He also drew the last trump and then exited with a spade to West's bare ace. Endplayed now, West had to continue diamonds, but on play again with the third round of that suit, he could safely play on diamonds, so declarer had to go one down as there was no way to dispose of the spade losers. Russia +50 and 10 IMP's for an early lead.

Board 15 looked like a routine $4\heartsuit$ game, but...

Board 15. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

	\spadesuit Q 6	
	\heartsuit Q J	
	\diamond 10 5	
	\clubsuit J 10 9 6 5 3 2	
\spadesuit K 3 2		\spadesuit J 10 8 7
\heartsuit A 9 8 3		\heartsuit K 7 6 5
\diamond A K 9 4 3		\diamond Q J 7 6
\clubsuit 4		\clubsuit A
	\spadesuit A 9 5 4	
	\heartsuit 10 4 2	
	\diamond 8 2	
	\clubsuit K Q 8 7	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Martens</i>	<i>Gromov</i>	<i>Lesniewski</i>	<i>Petrinin</i>
$1\diamond$	Pass	$1\heartsuit$	Pass
$3\heartsuit$	Pass	$3\spadesuit$	Pass
$4\clubsuit$	Pass	$4\heartsuit$	All Pass

Well, on any lead you lose two spades and a heart. This proved to be true on Vugraph too, but Lesniewski had his anxious moments when Petrinin led a low spade. Gromov won the queen, returned the suit and ruffed the third spade with the $\heartsuit Q$. Winning the club continuation, Lesniewski now had to lay down the $\heartsuit K$ and finesse the $\heartsuit 10$ on the next round to the applause of the Vugraph public. Well played by both sides.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Krasnosselski</i>	<i>Balicki</i>	<i>Dubin</i>	<i>Zmudzinski</i>
$1\diamond$	Pass	$1\heartsuit$	Pass
$3\heartsuit$	Pass	$4\heartsuit$	All Pass

In the Closed Room, on a less imaginative lead, declarer was not tested and in fact made an overtrick when North returned the $\spadesuit Q$ after winning his side's trump trick.

Round 3 Italy v Denmark

Board 20. Dealer West. All Vul.

	\spadesuit K J 6 5	
	\heartsuit 10 6	
	\diamond K 5	
	\clubsuit K Q J 9 5	
\spadesuit 9		\spadesuit Q 7 4
\heartsuit K Q J 5		\heartsuit A 9 8 3 2
\diamond 9 4 3		\diamond A Q J 10
\clubsuit A 8 6 4 3		\clubsuit 10
	\spadesuit A 10 8 3 2	
	\heartsuit 7 4	
	\diamond 8 7 6 2	
	\clubsuit 7 2	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>P. Schaltz</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>D. Schaltz</i>	<i>Duboin</i>
Pass	$1\clubsuit$	$1\heartsuit$	Pass
$3\spadesuit$	Pass	$4\clubsuit$	Pass
$4\heartsuit$	Pass	$4NT$	Pass
$5\spadesuit$	Pass	$6\heartsuit$	All Pass

Always good to bid and make a slam after an opening bid at the one-level by an opponent. The slam was on the diamond finesse, but very much odds-on in view of that opening bid. Well done, Denmark +1430.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Versace</i>	<i>Bruun</i>	<i>Lauria</i>	<i>Blakset</i>
$1\clubsuit$	Pass	$1\heartsuit$	Pass
$2\heartsuit$	$2\spadesuit$	$2NT$	$4\spadesuit$
Pass	Pass	$5\diamond$	Pass
$5\heartsuit$	All Pass		

When Versace opened the bidding in first seat, Bruun could not give away the show any more, so the Italians settled for the safe game. This late swing brought the final score to 82-34 to Italy, another maximus 25-5.

Tough defense

The Netherlands had a great start in this championship. They even took the lead after four rounds. In the fifth round however, due to a 9-21 loss to Scotland, they fell back a little. This is one of the boards on which the Scots did an excellent job by putting pressure on Jan Jansma who was faced with a tough defensive problem:

Board 15. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

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

Jansma as West heard this bidding:

West	North	East	South
<i>Jansma</i>	<i>Dragic</i>	<i>Verhees</i>	<i>Diamond</i>
Pass	4♥	All Pass	2♥*

* 5♥ and a five card in a minor, 5-10 HCP

Jansma led the ♣K and saw the nine with his partner and the eight with declarer. East-West play upside down count, so declarer could easily have a stiff club. Moreover, as Louk Verhees had not followed with the ♣Q, suggesting a spade shift, it looked like he had nothing useful in spades. Knowing nothing better, Jansma continued the suit. Wrong.

Derek Diamond ruffed and played a heart to the jack. East won the ace, returned a heart and now declarer played ♦A and another diamond. Verhees came in with the ♦K and played a low spade. Diamond guessed that one - Jansma did not switch to a spade at trick two - and made his vulnerable contract, which was 'missed' at the other table.

Afterwards, Jan Jansma, was the first to admit that he should have switched to a diamond at trick two. The best declarer could do then is to rise with the ace and play the ♥J, suggesting a finesse in trumps. If East ducks, declarer still makes his contract by ruffing a club and exiting with a heart.

Remember

All the Bulletins and results from the 2002 European Teams Championships can be found at www.eurobridge.org, including the special Bulletin produced to commemorate the 70th Anniversary of the Championship

Calendar of International Events

Don't forget to send details of your National Calendar to the Editor if you want them to be included in the IBPA Bulletin

Calendar	Event	Venue	IBPA Contact
2002			
JUL	7/17	European Youth Team Championships	Torquay
	15/20	Commonwealth Bridge Championships	Manchester
	18/28	ACBL Summer Nationals	Washington
AUG	4/13	World University Teams	Bruges, Belgium
	9/18	England Summer Nationals	Brighton
	16/31	World Bridge Championships	Montreal
NOV	25/28	EBL European Simultaneous Pairs	Clubs everywhere
	28/ 8 Dec	ACBL Fall Nationals	Phoenix
2003			
MAR	6/16	ACBL Spring Nationals	Philadelphia
JUN		European Open	
JUL	17/27	ACBL: Summer Nationals	Long Beach, CA
AUG	8/17	England Summer Nationals	Brighton
NOV	20/30	ACBL Fall Nationals,	New Orleans, LA

Germany wins Amstelveen International
By Patrick Jourdain (Wales) Amsterdam, 1/2nd June, 2002

The successor to the Schiphol and Honeywell Tournaments organised by IBPA member Pieter van Rooy was named the Amstelveen after the latest sponsor, a town near Amsterdam.

The invited teams included Germany, Sweden, Belgium, England, Wales and England Juniors in a field of 50 Dutch teams including their national squad players in Open, Ladies, Junior and Schools categories.

Germany "A" took the first prize of 900 euros.

Results:

- | | | |
|----|--|-----|
| 1. | Germany "A"
(Tomasz Gotard-Josef Piekarek,
Claus Daehr-George Cohner) | 243 |
| 2. | Modalfa-Onstein
(Anton Maas-Vincent Ramondt,
Huub Bertens-Ton Bakkeren) | 232 |
| 3= | Drenkelford, van der Berg (Neth) | 231 |
| 5. | Germany "B" | 221 |
| 6. | Daemen (Neth) | 220 |
| 7. | Netherlands Open
(Jan Jansma-Louk Verhees,
Berry Westra, van Eijck,
Wubbo de Boer-Bauke Muller) | 218 |
| 8. | Wales | 217 |
| 9= | Ramer (Neth), Belgium | 215 |

England won the contest on Friday evening open to the invited teams.

Team Wales contained John Salisbury who is re-launching his bridge career after some years gap from the national team. This deal is from the round 8 match:

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

Both tables reached Three Notrumps by East after the simple auction INT-3NT-Pass. Both Souths led a heart, taken by East's nine. That put eight tricks in sight.

At my table declarer tried for clubs to break, beginning by ducking a club to the ten, winning the heart continuation in dummy, leading a second club to the queen and ace. The king of diamonds held, the queen of diamonds lost and I cleared the diamonds. When declarer played a third club off dummy he could no longer succeed.

At the other table at trick two Salisbury led a low diamond to the jack, which held and then a low club. North went in with the queen, which was allowed to hold. A second heart was not covered, so declarer was in hand when he led the second club, a low one. South gave this a look, and put in the nine, overtaken by North's ten. That was the clue that led declarer to realise South had four clubs.

North switched to diamonds, and the suit was cleared. Salisbury now cashed the ace of hearts, the ace and king of spades, and then exited with the fourth heart to leave South to lead into the club tenace. The Dutch internationals in the Modalfa-Onstein team, eventual runners-up, did well on this deal from Round 9, both in the bidding and play:

Board 12	♠ Q 8 5	
Dealer: West	♥ 10 8 7 2	
N/S Vulnerable	♦ K 10	
	♣ 10 9 8 3	
	♠ K 10 7	♠ A 9 4
	♥ 9 4 3	♥ A K J 5
	♦ A 9 6	♦ 8
	♣ Q J 6 5	♣ A K 7 4 2
	♠ J 6 3 2	
	♥ Q 6	
	♦ Q J 7 5 4 3 2	
	♣ None	

At one table with the Dutch N/S this was the auction:

West	North	East	South
	<i>Maas</i>		<i>Ramondt</i>
Pass	Pass	1♣	2♦
All Pass			

1♣ was Polish. 2♦ doubled went only one down for 200 to East-West. In the re-play Ton Bakkeren (West) and Huub Bertens bid unopposed:

Pass-1♣-1♦-1♥-1♠-3♣-4♣-4♦-4NT-6♣-Pass

1♠ was fourth suit, 3♣ was forcing to game, 4♦ was a cue-bid, 4NT both asked and promised one keycard.

Against Six Clubs South led a diamond. Bertens won and, crucially, at once took a diamond ruff. When he played the ace of trumps, he found the suit 4-0. So he ducked a heart. He now had a trump entry to ruff another diamond, unblock the top trump, lay down a top heart if necessary (South had already played the queen), and return to hand with a spade to draw North's last trump.

This was well-played. At trick two, if declarer had played a trump, the entry position makes the play very awkward, though the slam can still be made double-dummy by dropping South's queen of hearts.

In Round 10 Wales lost to the eventual winners, but on this next deal I missed a chance to make Five Diamonds Doubled, though Tomasz Gotard still had to defend accurately in the ending to defeat the contract:

Board 19	♠ 6		
Dealer: South	♥ J 6 3		
E/WVulnerable	♦ K 10 6 5		
	♣ A 10 9 6 3		
	♠ Q 4	♠ K 8 7 3	
	♥ A Q 9 5	♥ K 10 7 4	
	♦ Q 8 2	♦ 3	
	♣ K 7 4 2	♣ Q J 8 5	
	♠ A J 10 9 5 2		
	♥ 8 2		
	♦ A J 9 7 4		
	♣ None		
West	North	East	South
<i>Goodman</i>	<i>Cohner</i>	<i>Salisbury</i>	<i>Daehr</i>
			1♠
Dble	2♣	2♥	4♠
All Pass			

For Wales Peter Goodman found the best lead of ace and another heart, and in Four Spades declarer had to lose two trump tricks for one down.

At our table:

West	North	East	South
<i>Gotard</i>	<i>Martin</i>	<i>Piekarek</i>	<i>Jourdain</i>
			1♠
Dble	Pass	2♥	3♦
Pass	5♦	Dble	All Pass

The defence can beat the contract by cashing two hearts and playing a trump, but West led a club, so a losing heart went away at once. I began with ace of spades and a spade ruff. When the queen fell it was clear that if I

could draw trumps with a successful guess and they were not 4-0 then the contract could be made by giving up a spade.

But it looked safer to duck a heart: if the defence played a trump that would sort the suit out, and if they did not I thought the contract would make on a cross-ruff.

West won the heart and played another. I ruffed this, ruffed a spade (West ominously throwing a club), ruffed a club, and ruffed another spade, West ditching his last club. So now I was forced to ruff the last heart leaving South on play in this ending:

	♠ None	
	♥ None	
	♦ K	
	♣ 10 9 6	
♠ None		♠ None
♥ Q		♥ 10
♦ Q 8 2		♦ 3
♣ None		♣ Q J
	♠ 10 2	
	♥ None	
	♦ A J	
	♣ None	

At this point I led the two of spades. If West discards his heart, I ruff in dummy and play a losing club, ditching the spade. West has to ruff and lead into the trump tenace.

But Gotard was alert. He "discarded" a small trump. Dummy over-ruffed and led a club. I threw my spade, but West was able to ditch his heart and leave East on play at trick 12. One down.

Declarer could start ruffing clubs before spades, but if he has taken two ruffs in hand when the defence are in with the heart, they can return a trump, and it is too late to set up spades. Best is to take a club ruff at trick two, then give up the heart. If the defence play a trump you can still set up spades by felling the doubleton honour, drawing trumps, and conceding a spade to East; if they don't play a trump, you can cross-ruff safely.

IBPA Column Service

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

209.

One of the most challenging yet apparently simple themes in no-trump play is to identify the danger hand and to try to plan the hand so as to isolate that player. The following hand from the finals of the US Trials shows a relatively simple example of the technique. The hand is nonetheless worth a little careful analysis.

Dealer: East ♠ A 4
 N/S Vulnerable ♥ A 9 7
 ♦ J 5 2
 ♣ A Q J 8 2

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

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Nickell</i>	<i>Berkowitz</i>	<i>Freeman</i>	<i>Cohen</i>
Pass	1♣	Pass	Pass
Pass	3NT	All Pass	INT

North-South were playing a Strong Club system whereby the opening bid of One Club showed 16+, and the normal contract of Three No-trumps was reached in very short order.

On a heart lead declarer naturally plays low from dummy and takes his queen of hearts at trick two. Now it is worthwhile considering the best way forward; to make nine tricks, declarer must play to generate five tricks from the minors. Consider the consequence of taking the club finesse at once; if the club finesse is wrong, the defence might be able to take the king of clubs and clear the hearts. If that suit splits 5 3, with West retaining the ace of diamonds as his entry to the long suit, declarer's goose is cooked. So the right play is to attack the diamonds first, and if West takes his ace declarer can later finesse clubs into the safe hand. If the club finesse is right, you have plenty of tricks, and if it is wrong East has the lead, and cannot hurt you.

Naturally, Cohen made the right play and scored up his game.

210.

One of the areas which distinguishes the expert from the competent player is in signalling. It is all too easy to signal attitude at your first opportunity and thereafter to follow mindlessly with your lowest remaining card, but the expert uses his spot-cards to impart subtle suit-preference messages. The following hand from the 1996 Macallan tournament shows an attractive example of partnership trust.

Dealer: South ♠ A J 9 4 2
 E/W Vulnerable ♥ J 10 7 3
 ♦ J 4
 ♣ 7 2

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Mittelman</i>	<i>Wolff</i>	<i>Gitelman</i>	<i>Hamman</i>
Pass	2♥	All Pass	1♥

It seems as if the defence can only get three trump tricks and their two club winners against Two Hearts, but Mittelman led a spade; Hamman won this in dummy with the ace, following deceptively with the queen, to play a trump. However Gitelman took his king and played a low spade to give his partner a ruff; then Mittelman confidently underled his ace of clubs and got a second spade ruff to beat the contract.

How did he know this was the right defence? Well, Gitelman had followed with a low spade at his first turn, which might simply have been discouraging, but had then won the first heart with the king, from a known holding of ace-king, and had then given his partner a ruff with a low spade. The combination of low cards had to be suit-preference for clubs rather than diamonds.

211.

Chuck Burger is one of the least known bridge stars of America; a lawyer by profession, who played in major tournaments for two decades with Jimmy Cayne, the President of the corporate giant investment banker Bear Stearns, a company with a turnover larger than the gross domestic product of many countries.

On this occasion however Burger was playing in the quarter-finals of the Grand National Teams (for which one qualifies by residence) with Allan Falk, a writer, who was conveniently placed to record the events at their table.

Dealer: North N/S Game	♠ K ♥ K Q 9 ♦ A J 8 4 ♣ A K J 8 3		
	♠ 10 7 2 ♥ 10 7 5 2 ♦ K 10 2 ♣ Q 10 9	♠ Q J 8 ♥ A J 4 ♦ Q 7 5 3 ♣ 6 4 2	
	♠ A 9 6 5 4 3 ♥ 8 6 3 ♦ 9 6 ♣ 7 5		
West <i>Falk</i>	North	East <i>Burger</i>	South
Pass	1♣ 4♠	Pass All Pass	2♠ (weak)

South reached Four Spades after showing a weak hand with six spades at his first turn, and Falk led a diamond to the four and Burger's queen. First of all Chuck found the unpleasant switch to a low heart at trick two, which went to the 10 and queen, so at least Burger had put himself in a position to get two more heart tricks if he could put his partner in. Declarer next played the king of spades from dummy, and Burger started his campaign by unblocking the queen.

Now declarer had to cross to hand by playing the ace of diamonds and ruffing the next diamond. When he laid down the ace of spades, Burger dropped the jack! Declarer knew that he needed trumps 3-3 to have any chance; and played for what he thought was his best chance, namely that of finding Burger with the QJ10 of spades, by playing a third trump; Falk took his ten of spades and played a second heart for one down.

Of course declarer could have succeeded in the ending by playing for 3-3 clubs with the queen well placed; but he naturally assumed that was a less likely position than the brilliant defence that Burger had found at the table. He will know better next time.

212.

The deceptive possibilities arising from letting go a nine or a ten at the strategic moment seem virtually limitless. On the following hand the manoeuvre was a well-tried one, but it scored a goal nonetheless.

Dealer: North Love all	♠ 10 7 ♥ Q J ♦ Q 6 5 4 3 ♣ A J 8 3		
	♠ Q 4 2 ♥ 10 9 8 6 5 2 ♦ A 9 ♣ K 2	♠ J 9 8 5 3 ♥ A ♦ K 8 7 2 ♣ 10 9 4	
	♠ A K 6 ♥ K 7 4 3 ♦ J 10 ♣ Q 7 6 5		
West	North	East	South
1♥ 2♥ All Pass	Pass 2♣ 2NT(1)	Pass Dble Pass	1♣ Pass 3♣
	(1) Minors.		

On a heart lead to the ace, East had to find the diamond shift to beat the contract legitimately. Instead he played the normal-looking spade, which declarer won to lead a club to the jack. To create possible confusion for declarer, East dropped the nine of clubs, trying to look like a man with the doubleton 10-9 of trumps.

It worked; declarer crossed to hand with a top spade and led the queen of clubs to the king and ace. Now declarer cashed the queen of hearts and led a low diamond. East hopped up with the king of diamonds, cashed the ten of clubs and played a third spade. Declarer could ruff in dummy but was left with a diamond and heart still to lose. (Declarer could not have succeeded even if she leaves the queen of hearts in dummy as an entry to the diamonds. The defence play spades at every opportunity, and the heart blockage leaves her with a diamond loser at the end.)

China, USA win WBF Simultaneous Pairs

By Anna Gudge & Patrick Jourdain (UK)

Friday, 7th June, 2002:

Players 11,692; Clubs 319; Countries 41

1. Ken Barbour & Markland Jones
(Arizona, USA) 76.05
2. Claudio De Martini & Franco Onnis
(Cagliari, Italy) 73.79
3. Lazzaro Calvitto & Cesare Di Lembo
(San Severo, Italy) 73.57

Saturday, 8th June, 2002:

Players 10,438 Clubs: 260; Countries 40

1. Luo Jianchao & Luoming
(Chongzhou, China) 80.55
2. Gi Rivara & CI Malfatto
(Chiavari, Italy) 75.91
3. Paul Dennis & Charles Miner
(Deland, USA) 75.54
4. Marc Fiset & Martine Lacroix
(Chicoutimi, Canada) 75.27

Ken Barbour, the former British international who now lives in the USA and often partners IBPA Chairman Alan Truscott, won the WBF Simultaneous Pairs event on Friday with a score of 76.05, partnering Markland Jones in Arizona. Italian pairs took the next three places.

There was one score better than Barbour, on Saturday, from China. Fourth place on Saturday went to IBPA member Marc Fiset & Martine Lacroix playing in Canada.

Barbour & Jones, sitting E/W on Friday, had one bad board (doubling Three Spades on Board 6 which made). They scored 78% for reaching Six Notrumps on this deal:

Board 12	♠ 10 3	
Dealer: West	♥ K 7 5 4	
N/S Game	♦ 9 7 3 2	
	♣ 9 7 3	
	♠ A K 8 7 2	♠ 9 6 5
	♥ 3	♥ A Q 10 2
	♦ A 5	♦ Q 10 6
	♣ A Q 10 6 4	♣ K J 5
	♠ Q J 4	
	♥ J 9 8 6	
	♦ K J 8 4	
	♣ 8 2	

With East declarer the contract cannot be beaten as declarer can clear the spades and later rely on the heart finesse.

See also the article by Alan Truscott, in the Postbag section on page 15

The IBPA Annual General Meeting

Will be held in Montreal early in the second week of the World Bridge Championships

Reports will be received from the outgoing officers and appointees.

Approval of Constitution as printed in the 2002 Handbook and approval of amendments to Job Descriptions in the Handbook (with references to Zonal collectors removed).

Accounts for the Year ending 31st December 2001 will be presented together with a report on 2002 and a new budget for 2003. Proposals will be made regarding subscriptions for the year 2003 with a recommendation put from the Executive regarding a reduced subscription for members opting out of receiving the printed version of the Bulletin in 2003.

Elections

The following nominations have been made by the Nominations Committee

President: Jean-Paul Meyer (France)

Chairman & new President Emeritus (joining Alan Truscott (USA) and Tommy Sandsmark (Norway)): Henry Francis (USA)

Executive Vice-President: Patrick Jourdain (Wales)

Organisation Vice-President: Per Jannersten (Sweden)

Secretary: Mrs. Maureen Dennison (England)

Treasurer: Christer Andersson (Sweden)

Hon General Counsel: Bill Pencharz (UK)

Auditor: Julius Butkow (South Africa)

Executive:

Re-standing following completion of 3 year term: **Julius Butkow** (South Africa) and **Barry Rigal** (USA)

New nomination for a 3 year term: **John Carruthers** (Canada)

If Patrick Jourdain is elected to be an Officer, then a further vacancy becomes available for a 1 year term: The nomination is: **Alan Truscott** (USA) who is retiring as Chairman.

The other members of the Executive currently in office are:

Term expiring 2002: **Fred Gitelman** (Can) (not re-standing)

Term expiring 2003: **Dilip Gidwani** (India); **Peter Lund** (Denmark)

Term expiring 2004: **Panos Gerontopoulos** (Greece); **Chris Diment** (Australia); **Jan van Cleeff** (Net)

/. continued from page 16

* Ron Klinger reports:

The Autumn Australian National Open Teams (18-21 May) was won by Mary-Anne Brifman, Seamus Browne, Ishmael Del'Monte, Kieran Dyke, Richard Jedrychowski. They finished on top at the end of the qualifying rounds and won the final by 167-135 against George Smolanko-Paul Marston, Zoltan Nagy-Ron Klinger.

This deal is from the final. My partner, Zoltan Nagy, found a fine deceptive play which put Ishmael Del'Monte onto the wrong line:

Dealer: West ♠ J 3 2
 Both vulnerable ♥ Q 9 7 3 2
 ♦ 10 5 2
 ♣ 6 4

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

♠ Q 10
 ♥ K J 5
 ♦ J 9 7 4
 ♣ A Q 9 2

At both tables this was the bidding:

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	1♦	Pass
1♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass

When Paul Marston, West, was declarer, the ♥3 was led, taken by the ace. Declarer cashed the ♠A, ♠K and then played a low club. South rose with the ♣A, took the ♥K and continued with the ♣2. Marston finessed the jack and had ten tricks, +420.

At the other table, I led ♣6 (short suits are attractive leads from very weak hands). South, Zoltan Nagy, rose with the ♣A and returned the ♣2. We play third-fifth leads so West, Ishmael Del'Monte, feared that the doubleton was with South. He could have succeeded by finessing the ♣J but if North won and gave South a club ruff, there might still be a trump loser.

If the trumps broke, it was safe to win club king as there was time to set up a club later to dispose of the heart loser.

So Del'Monte rose with the ♣K and played a spade to the ace. On this Nagy played a very fine, deceptive, card. He dropped the ♠Q.

Declarer could still succeed by cashing the ♠K and then playing a club but now he feared the trumps were 4-1.

Del'Monte therefore played a fatal diamond to his queen and led a low trump. With ♠ J-10-x, North would probably split his honours. When North followed low, declarer rose with dummy's ♠K (to duck would let South win, cash the ♣Q and allow North to ruff West's club winner). Declarer then led a club. South won with the queen as North discarded the ♦10.

A low heart was won by dummy's ace. When declarer tried to return to hand via ♦A and ruffing the low diamond, North over-ruffed and played a heart. One down. Full marks to Nagy for that ♠Q.

* David Bird's column in the Mail on Sunday reports this deal from the Oxford v. Cambridge Varsity Graduates match:

This year the Oxford captain, John Robbins, wheeled out his big guns for the annual Oxford v Cambridge Alumni match, bringing in world champion Sandra Landy and Bermuda Bowl semi-finalist Robert Sheehan. The tactic seemed to have paid off when Oxford led by 31 IMPs with one eight-board set to play. This board arose in the last set, with only two out of four tables in play due to one of the Oxford team having been taken ill.

East-West game ♠ 9 8 6 4
 Dealer West ♥ 9 8 7 4 3
 ♦ 6
 ♣ Q 9 7

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

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Ockendon</i>	<i>Mestel</i>	<i>Sheehan</i>	<i>Hinden</i>
3♦	Pass	Pass	3♥
Pass	Pass	Dble	All Pass

West	North	East	South
<i>Kelly</i>	<i>Smith</i>	<i>Green</i>	<i>Landy</i>
4♦	Pass	5♦	Dble
Pass	Pass	Rdble	All Pass

Frances Hinden arrived in Three Hearts doubled and won the diamond king lead with the ace. She drew trumps in three rounds and, instead of playing on spades, cleverly led the jack of clubs. Sheehan won with the king and found he was end-played! If he cashed spades from the top, he would waste partner's jack. If instead he underled his spades, West would be end-played when

he won with the bare jack. He would have to lead a diamond from the queen or a club, permitting a finesse of the nine. With no real clue as to the lie of the black suits, Sheehan attempted to cash the club ace. That was nine tricks and +530 for Cambridge.

At the other table Tony Kelly opened Four Diamonds, raised to Five Diamonds by Jonathan Green. What would you say now on those South cards? Sandra Landy doubled, thinking she was being talked out of something. Abbey Smith (North) left in the double and East redoubled. Neither South nor North saw fit to run and the contract was made with an overtrick when Kelly finessed South for the trump jack. That was +1400 and an 18-IMP swing. Cambridge took the last set by 36 to win by 5. Good news for the other two Cambridge pairs (John Newman/Ivor Jones, Jeremy Baker and myself) who were waiting in the bar with our fingers crossed!

* Alan Truscott writes:

Brilliant software developed in England by Anna Gudge and Mark Newton for the World Bridge Federation made it possible for players around the world to compete against each other.

In the first of the two 2002 Worldwide Bridge Contests played June 7, an American pair finished top. Ken Barbour and Markland Jones scored 76 percent playing at the Arizona Bridge Center in Phoenix, Arizona

Dealer: West ♠ 9 4 2
 E/W Vulnerable ♥ A K 8 5
 ♦ A J 10 7 2
 ♣ 10

♠ A 7 6	♠ 8 5 3
♥ 7 4 3 2	♥ J 9 6
♦ None	♦ Q 9 4 3
♣ J 9 7 6 5 3	♣ K Q 4

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

West	North	East	South
Pass	1♦	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♠	Pass	4♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

West led the club six.

The winners hit the target on the diagrammed deal by reaching 4♠ with a simple sequence. A 4-3 trump fit is often desirable when the four-card suit is strong and ruffs can be taken in the short hand. Jones, as South, could have made two overtricks by winning the club lead with the ace, ruffing a club, and maneuvering a sec-

ond club ruff. But that would require a 3-3 trump split, which was unlikely. Instead he made a good play by permitting East to win the first club trick, preserving his ace to keep control.

It did not occur to East to return a diamond and give his partner a ruff. He returned a club, which was ruffed in the dummy. South embarked on trumps, and West help up his ace for one round and then led a third club.

South won with the ace, drew trumps, and had no trouble making the remaining tricks. The lucky heart position, with the jack and nine falling in three rounds, made it unnecessary for him to guess the diamond position. This result gave Barbour and Jones 4098.6 match points, which is not a number players are used to. It represented 81.55 percent of the maximum.

Three pairs actually bid and made slams with the North-South cards. One did so in spades, which is understandable. One did so in diamonds and another in no-trump, both of which appear impossible.

* The Dutch Bridge Federation has moved to a new office, same phone, fax and e-mail:

Kennedylaan 9, 3533 KH Utrecht

Tel: + 31 (0)30-2759911

Fax: + 31 (0)30-2759900

e-mail: NBB@bridge.nl

internet: www.bridge.nl <http://www.bridge.nl>

*The WBF Website

The Official WBF Website is now at

www.worldbridge.org

instead of www.bridge.gr

Please change your "bookmarks" accordingly, as www.bridge.gr will be withdrawn in due course.

POINTS FROM THE POSTBAG

The Editor reserves the right to shorten correspondence

LETTERS ...

Email: patrickjourdain@compuserve.com

* Richard Solomon of New Zealand Bridge reports this defence by Bobby Richman & Ishamel del'Monte as a candidate for our annual Defence Award. It was originally reported to NZ Bridge by Tom Jacob, the declarer:

Dealer: West ♠ A 3
 N/S Vulnerable ♥ A Q J 6
 ♦ A 5
 ♣ A Q 10 7 5

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

At one table the final contract was Three Clubs redoubled. (IBPA Editor: Luckily for E/W that part of Solomon's fax was illegible!) Excellent play by Kieran Dyke produced 11 tricks and a score of 1640. So it was just as well we reached Six Hearts.

West, Bobby Richman led a spade. Declarer won the ace in dummy, came to hand with a diamond, took the club finesse successfully, cashed the ♣A discarding a spade, and led another club from dummy.

East showing out was a blow but the contract still had good play. With five tricks outside trumps, declarer needs only to make all seven trumps on a cross-ruff. So the defence has to stop declarer making the six of trumps.

South ruffed the third club, crossed to the ace of diamonds, ruffed another club and then led a diamond.

IBPA Editor: The text does not say what East discarded on the third and fourth round of clubs. He clearly still had a diamond left, so must have thrown a spade on one of them. May be East's safest play is throw diamonds both times.

Richman made the good play of ruffing the third diamond with the seven of trumps. Dummy over-ruffed,

and ruffed another club, leaving South on lead in this ending:

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

Declarer led a diamond. If West does not ruff, declarer ditches the losing spade from dummy and has three trumps on the return. So Richman carefully ruffed the trick with his small trump.

Dummy ruffed high. Now if East ditches his losing spade he will be forced to ruff the spade exit and lead into the Q-6. So Del'Monte carefully under-ruffed, retaining his losing spade. When declarer exited with the spade, Richman overtook the queen with his king and was on lead at trick 12 to ensure East made the setting trick with his nine of trumps.

* *Danny Roth* comments on Bulletin 448 Cavendish report page 5 Board 20: if Cheek's double had (more normally) shown the unbid suit, spades (which North could also have bid), they would have gone on to 5♥ rather than attempt to defeat 5♦.

Page 6: first hand. The club layout in 4♥ was:

A Q 8 6 3 opposite K 10

With a count showing South had four. The analysis says Erichsen's play of finessing the ten and finding North with Jx was the only hope, but he could also have tried for doubleton nine by leading the king and then running the ten. And why didn't North show his diamonds, and go on to Four Spades, as Weichsel did?