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Editor:PATRICK D JOURDAIN

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www.IBPA.com
mail@ibpa.com

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President:

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

Executive Vice-President:

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

Organizational Vice-President:

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

Chairman:

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

Secretary:

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

Membership Secretary:

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

Treasurer:

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

Honorary General Counsel:

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

Awards Secretary:

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

Sponsored Members' Secretary:

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

Production Editor:

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

The last month saw some major international championships. At the European Championships in Salsomaggiore Italy won the Open for an incredible fifth time running. Their lead four, Versace-Lauria, Duboin-Bocchi seem to be a class above the rest.

Spain won silver for the first time, with the assistance of two former Italian internationals, Buratti & Lanzarotti, who have changed allegiance. Norway took bronze. Bulgaria and Sweden (who lost their first five matches) also qualified for next year's Bermuda Bowl.

The Netherlands triumphed in the Womens event. It seems very surprising that this was their first European gold medal. Perennial medal contestants Germany and England took silver and bronze. Italy and Sweden (squeaking through again into fifth) were the other qualifiers.

The event saw the 70th Anniversary celebrations with many past champions present. The players will probably remember the heat. This made the stamina test of 740 deals even greater.

A week later the European Youth Championships began in Torquay. Some of the players had been in their Open Team in Salsomaggiore, so after a further 420 deals they have earned a good rest from bridge! The Riviera Centre was an excellent venue for a Junior championship. Italy, Denmark and Norway took the medals in the Under 25 age group, with France also qualifying for the next World Juniors. In the Under 20s Israel, Poland and Norway took the medals.

Before this event had finished the English Bridge Union was also host to the first Commonwealth Nations Bridge Championships in Manchester. IBPA member Paul Hackett, and Manchester's Jeff Morris had been the motivating force behind a championship run the week before the Commonwealth Games as bridge was not in the main Games. The Commonwealth has 72 nations covering half the globe. (For those unfamiliar with the group, it is former members of the British Empire less one of the early leavers now known as the USA.) Of these 72 nations 36 have a bridge Federation, and of these 28 fielded a team in Manchester. (New Zealand was the only major absentee.)

The format was complicated by the need to accept two Patron's teams (who between them picked up more than half the cost of the event) and both these, denied medals, qualified from the round robin to one semifinal. This left the other semifinal, between Canada and Wales, to determine the leading medals. Canada won 144-137. India took bronze by winning the Consolation. Australia, leading their Pool with a match to play, was the unlucky team eliminated by losing to Pakistan.

With the participants voting this event a major success, in four-years time, when the Games are in Melbourne, the Australian Bridge Federation is expected to take up the opportunity of being host.

Patrick Jourdain – Editor

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

Italy wins fifth consecutive Europeans,
Netherlands has first win in Womens,
France takes Seniors

From the Daily Bulletins edited by Mark Horton,
Salsomaggiore 15-29th June 2002

Open 38 nations, 20 board matches, top 5 to Bermuda Bowl:

- Italy** Alfredo Versace, Lorenzo Lauria, Norberto Bocchi, Giorgio Duboin, Antonio Sementa, Francesco Angelini n.p.c. Marie Teresa Lavazza, coach Massimo Ortensi
- Spain** Andrea Buratti-Massimo Lanzarotti, Juan Ignacio Torres-Antonio Frances, Luis Lantaron-Juan Carlos Ventin; n.p.c. Amadeo Llopart, coach: Dragan Markovic.
- Norway** Boye Brogeland-Erik Saelensminde, Geir Helgemo-Tor Helness, Terje Aa-Glen Grotheim, npc Rolf Olsen coach: Per-Ove Grime
- Bulgaria**; 5. **Sweden**.

Butler Ranking	Brds	IMPs/bd
1. Lorenzo Lauria (Ita)	540	1.46
2. Alfredo Versace (Ita)	620	1.27
3= Buratti-Lanzarotti (Spain)	640	1.20
5. Norberto Bocchi (Ita)	600	1.12
6. Giorgio Duboin (Ita)	620	1.07
7= Fredin-Lindkvist (Swe)	580	0.87
9= Trendafilov-K Karaivanov (Bul)	500	0.86
11= Aydin-Yilmaz (Tur)	400	0.67
13= Aviram-Barel (Israel)	540	0.65
15= Muller-De Wijs (Neth)	540	0.58
17= Lesniewski-Martens (Poland)	520	0.53
19= Morath-Gustawsson (Swe)	480	0.52
21= Brogeland-Saelensminde (Nor)	500	0.51

Women 23 nations, 20 brd match, top 5 to Venice Cup

- Netherlands** Bep Vriend-Marijke van der Pas, Jet Pasma-Anneke Simons, Wiettske van Zwol-Femke Hoogweg, npc Ed Franken, coach: Chris Niemeijer.
- Germany** Sabine Auken-Daniela von Arnim, Pony Nehmert-Andrea Rauscheid, Elke Weber-Ingrid Gromann npc Christoph Kemmer, coach Michael Yuen.
- England** Sandra Penfold-Nevena Senior, Michelle Brunner-Rhona Goldenfield, Nicola Smith-Heather Dhondy, npc Jimmie Arthur, coach Alan Mould
- Italy**; 5. **Sweden**.

Butler Ranking	Brds	IMPs/bd
1= Penfold-Senior (Eng)	240	0.80
3= Torielli-Vanuzzi (Ita)	180	0.70
5. Daniela von Arnim (Ger)	280	0.69
6. Sabine Auken (Ger)	380	0.68
7= Dhondy-Smith (Eng)	380	0.58
9= Pasma-Simons (Net)	280	0.55
11= Nehmert-Rauscheid (Ger)	340	0.53
Pilipovic-Sver (Croatia)	440	0.53

Seniors 19 nations, 20 brd match, 2 to WBF Seniors

- France** Christian Mari-Francois Leenhardt, Pierre Adad-Maurice Aujaleu, Philippe Poizat-Guy Lasserre, npc Yves Aubry.
- Israel** Pinhas Romik-Shalom Zeligman, Yeshayu Levit-Adrian Schwartz, Nissan Rand (pc)-Yuda Sagiv
- Denmark** Peter Lund-Steen Moller, Fleming Dahl (pc)-Georg Norris, Hans Werge.

Butler Ranking	Brds	IMPs/bd
1= Lasserre-Poizat (Fra)	200	1.04
3. Pinhas Romik (Isr)	240	0.89
4= Schippers Henk-Elly (Net)	260	0.87
6. Zeligman (Isr)	240	0.84
7= Adad-Aujaleu (Fra)	259	0.83

Deals from Days 1-3 were given in the last Bulletin.

Open Round 9 Italy v. Iceland

The warning double allowed Lauria to make his game:

Board 5. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

♠ Q3	♠ 5
♥ K 10 8 5 2	♥ A J 9 7 6 4
♦ 8 6 4	♦ K Q J 7 2
♣ Q 6 4	♣ A
♠ A 10 8 6 4	♠ K J 9 7 2
♥ Q 3	♥ —
♦ 10 9 3	♦ A 5
♣ 8 5 3	♣ K J 10 9 7 2

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Johansson</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Jonsson</i>	<i>Duboin</i>
Pass	1♥	2♥	
Pass	3♣	4♦	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

Please note that Bocchi did not double the final contract. A club was led to the ace and declarer, not having received a warning, played a low heart to the queen and king. A club came back, declarer ruffing, and the diamond continuation was won by South who persisted with clubs. As Bocchi now held one more trump than declarer he had to come to two more tricks for one down, Italy +50.

Closed Room

West <i>Versace</i>	North <i>Ingimarsson</i>	East <i>Lauria</i>	South <i>Einarsson</i>
Pass	2♠	4♦	Pass
4♥	Dble	All Pass	

Here, North had been kind enough to issue a warning, so Lauria won the spade lead and first drove out the ♦A. He ruffed the next spade and crossed to the ♦10 in dummy to advance the ♥Q. This was covered by the king and ace, and South showed out. Lauria now could cross to dummy's ♦9 and play another trump through North. Next came the ♥A and a top diamond, North ruffing. As Lauria would exit in diamonds to endplay North in trumps again, the contract was home. Italy +590 and another 12 IMPs for an already ominous-looking lead of 24-6 after five boards.

Open Round 10: Bulgaria v. Poland

Kalin Karaivanov of Bulgaria played well here:

Board 12. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

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

Closed Room

West <i>Karaivanov</i>	North <i>Lesniewski</i>	East <i>Trendafilov</i>	South <i>Martens</i>
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Open Room

West <i>Zmudzinski</i>	North <i>Stamatov</i>	East <i>Balicki</i>	South <i>Karaivanov</i>
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IBPA: No auction given by Daily Bulletin for either room

This looks a routine game in 3NT, and indeed it was in the Open Room. Poland got +430 when Balicki set up a squeeze possibility first and then decided to take the diamond finesse after all for his 9th trick. As North really had been squeezed, he in fact made an overtrick.

In the Closed Room, Kalin Karaivanov had to cope with a nasty trump lead in 4♥. We could see in the Vugraph Auditorium that several declarers had gone down in 4♥, but Kalin showed the way. The first trump went to the jack and ace, and the ♣K was won by North's ace. Another trump came back, won in dummy, and the ♣J was played, declarer shedding a spade. North won the queen and shifted to the ♠Q, ducked all round. Declarer won the spade continuation, drew the last trump and advanced the ♦J. Had North covered this, declarer's next move would have been to play the ♣9 and thus establish the clubs, but when North did not cover,

the jack won the trick and the hand was over immediately for a well-earned +420 and...no more than a push.

Tony Gordon comments: This hand was well-played by the Bulgarian declarer, but North had a spectacular counter available. When North wins declarer's ♣K with his ace, he can disrupt declarer's timing by exiting with the ♦K! He subsequently plays a second diamond when he wins the ♣Q and, try as he might, declarer cannot come to a tenth trick.

England – 3 Germany – 4

By Stefan Back (Germany)

Although England scored a convincing 21-9—victory over Germany in round 14, the Germans had their moments as well. On board 11 Tomasz Gotard and Josef Piekarek, winners of the Schiphol Teams 2002, found a defence where the last trick could have been a prediction of the score of the soccer world cup final between these two countries. (IBPA Ed: *Neither made it*) East's ♠4 was the setting trick.

Board 11. Dealer South. None Vul.

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

West <i>Piekarek</i>	North <i>P. Hackett</i>	East <i>Gotard</i>	South <i>Waterlow</i>
1♦	1♠	Dble	Rdble
2♦	2♠	3♦	Pass
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

Gotard led ♦9 to the king, ace and 7. Piekarek returned ♥10 to declarer's king. North continued with ♣Q to East's ace, who now played back ♥Q to the ace. After ♣KJ, North discarding a heart and a diamond, declarer called for dummy's ♥8 here:

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

West, Piekarek, ruffed high with ♠J, declarer overruffed

with the queen and East contributed ♥J (!) to make sure West ruffed the next heart. North then ruffed ♦3 and played his winning heart from dummy. Piekarek knew to insert ♠6, which declarer had to overruff with ♠10 to be able to trump his last diamond in dummy. Declarer continued with ♠9 to his ♠2 and East's king. East's ♠8 now forced out North's ace, which meant that the last trick "saw" the final score:

England: ♠3 Germany: ♠4

Down one and a perfect trump promotion, which led to a 6 IMP gain for the Germans, when in the other room North/South scored a part score in spades.

Match Winner

This deal from the Round 14 match between Wales and the Czech Republic featured the IBPA Editor, (who retires this month in Montreal after 20 years in the post) making a textbook play to defeat a slam:

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Mraz	Ratcliff	Kurka	Jourdain
1♦	Pass	1♠	Pass
1NT	Pass	2♣*	Dble
2♦*	Pass	3♦	Pass
3NT	Pass	4♦	Pass
4♥*	Pass	4NT*	Pass
5♥*	Pass	6♦	All Pass

East-West were playing a weak notrump. Two Clubs was a strong relay (Two Clubs redoubled would have been a pleasant spot for East/West but South survived his ambitious lead-directing entry into the auction.)

3♦ was forcing and 4♦ a natural slam try. 4NT was Keycard for diamonds and West showed two without the trump queen.

North naturally led a club to the king and ace and declarer played the five of diamonds for the two, ace and NINE from South. This gave declarer the option of playing South for a singleton. Declarer now played the ♦3 from dummy. When South followed with the six he went into deep thought before eventually playing the king and conceding one down.

IBPA Editor: Declarer could have made it harder for South by crossing to dummy with a heart to play the ace of trumps. This means South has to decide whether to false-

card before he knows his partner's singleton. It could be embarrassing to play the nine if North turns out to have bare ten! However, as I was the player sitting South I can state that South was aware of this while declarer was thinking what to do, and had already decided to drop the nine even if declarer began trumps from the dummy. It is 3-1 on that North's singleton is NOT the ten.

Tomas Mraz recalled that he had attended the junior camp in Fiesch some years ago when Patrick Jourdain was one of the lecturers. He turned to Patrick and said, 'You were giving me lessons then and you are still giving me lessons now!'

It gave Wales 11 IMPs as the result at the other table was 3NT+3 – and Wales only won the match 58-41.

Open. Round 15 Netherlands v. Ireland

Louk Verhees played well to make Four Hearts here (IBPA Ed: *But the Daily Bulletin did not give an auction*)

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

East led a spade to the ace of his partner who returned the suit. Declarer ruffed, and cashed the ♥10. No doubt he had been intending to duck a diamond, and ruff a diamond, but with trumps 4-0 he would be forced down to the same number of trumps as West before clubs had been established. So he played a club to the king, and another three rounds of trumps, to reach:

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

Declarer has lost only one trick so far. He played a second club and East had to duck again. Now the last spade is ruffed, declarer exited with the third club and East was caught in a standard Bath coup.

Women Round 7 England v Austria

By Tony Gordon (England)

Nicola Smith played this hand well:

Board 14. Dealer East. None Vul.

<p>♠ 43 ♥ J862 ♦ A1053 ♣ AK6</p> <p>♠ AK9852 ♥ Q10 ♦ 64 ♣ Q42</p>	<p>♠ 10 ♥ 9753 ♦ KJ98 ♣ J875</p> <p>♠ QJ76 ♥ AK4 ♦ Q72 ♣ 1093</p>
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Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Redermeier</i>	<i>Dhondy</i>	<i>Schnitzer</i>	<i>Smith</i>
2♠	Dble	Pass	1♣
Pass	3NT	All Pass	2NT

Nicola Smith won the low spade lead with her queen and cashed her top hearts felling West's honours. A club to the king and a diamond to her queen brought her up to eight tricks, and she continued by ducking a diamond to East. When Schnitzer exited with the ♦J, the hand was an open book. Smith won dummy's ♦A, cashed the ♣A and exited with a third club in the knowledge that whichever opponent won this trick would be endplayed. If East won the trick, she could cash a club and a diamond, but would then have to lead into dummy's heart tenace. If West won the trick, which is what happened at the table, she could cash her top spades but that would establish declarer's ♠J as her ninth trick. +400 to England.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Brunner</i>	<i>Popp</i>	<i>Goldenfield</i>	<i>Semmelrath</i>
1♠	Dble	Pass	1♦
Pass	3NT	All Pass	INT

In the other room, Karin Semmelrath won the opening low spade lead with her jack and ran the ♦Q. This was not an auspicious start, but it was not immediately fatal. Goldenfield won her king and her club switch went to the nine, queen and ace. Now Semmelrath crossed to hand with the ♥A and finessed the ♦10, which was fatal. Goldenfield continued diamonds and declarer took her ace and cashed the other top heart. Two more rounds of hearts endplayed East and guaranteed a trick for declarer's ♣10, but that was only her eighth trick, so she was one down for +50 and 10 IMPs to England.

The next board was a textbook hand, this time with Michelle Brunner as the heroine:

Board 15. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

<p>♠ 3 ♥ KQ98643 ♦ Q6 ♣ J53</p> <p>♠ Q2 ♥ 102 ♦ AK1087432 ♣ 8</p>	<p>♠ K109765 ♥ J ♦ 95 ♣ Q1092</p> <p>♠ AJ84 ♥ A75 ♦ J ♣ AK764</p>
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Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Brunner</i>	<i>Popp</i>	<i>Goldenfield</i>	<i>Semmelrath</i>
4♥	Pass	6♥	4♦
			All Pass

Brunner's overcall made it easy for the English pair to reach the heart slam, and Popp led a diamond to her partner's king. Semmelrath switched to a trump and Brunner won in hand and ruffed the ♦Q. Isolating the spade menace was the next matter of business, so Brunner drew trumps with the ♥A and then ruffed a spade. A club to the ace and another spade ruff completed the process, and the run of the trumps then squeezed North in the black suits for +980 to England.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Redermeier</i>	<i>Dhondy</i>	<i>Schnitzer</i>	<i>Smith</i>
3♥	3♠	4♥	5♦
All Pass			

Smith's 1♦ opening proved more effective in the Open Room where she was surprisingly allowed to play undoubled in 5♦. After a spade to the ace, on which Smith dropped the queen, East completed a hand she will want to forget by trying to cash the ♣AK. So England scored +600 for a gain of 17 IMPs.

Round 15 Austria v. Switzerland

Board 14 was interesting in relation to slam bidding.

Board 14. Dealer East. None Vul.

<p>♠ 542 ♥ 754 ♦ 10432 ♣ K97</p> <p>♠ K8763 ♥ J96 ♦ A ♣ J1042</p> <p>♠ QJ10 ♥ 832 ♦ 75 ♣ AQ863</p>	<p>♠ A9 ♥ AKQ10 ♦ KQJ986 ♣ 5</p>
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When you are playing a natural system it seems to be very difficult, perhaps impossible, to reach 6♦. Though it is very understandable that the Hungarians bid 6♥ it is not the right contract. On a club lead and the trumps 4-2 or worse, you go down.

Playing a strong club system makes life sometimes easier. Jovi Smederevac and Sascha Wernle playing for Austria against Switzerland had a characteristic Blue Club sequence:

West	East
<i>Wernle</i>	<i>Smederevac</i>
1♠ (3 controls)	1♣ (strong)
2♠	2♦
3NT (minimum)	3♦
4♠ (cuebid)	4♦
Pass	6♦*

* knows that ♣A or ♦A will do

Another interesting point is that 6♦ is even a better contract than 3NT. In one of the women's matches declarer went down in 3NT after a club lead by South for jack and king, a club to the queen and the eight of clubs, ducked in dummy.

Møller Shows How

By Mathias Bruun Denmark

My former partner, Steen Møller, still knows a thing or two about bridge. On the following deal he won his contract in the Seniors where I failed in the Open teams.

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

	♠ A J 4 3		
	♥ A Q 9 4		
	♦ K 8		
	♣ A K 3		
♠ 10		♠ Q 7 5 2	
♥ K 10 6 3		♥ J 8 7 5 2	
♦ A 7 5		♦ Q 9 3	
♣ Q J 10 6 4		♣ 2	
	♠ K 9 8 6		
	♥ —		
	♦ J 10 6 4 2		
	♣ 9 8 7 5		
West	North	East	South
<i>Rapf</i>	<i>Lund</i>	<i>Graf</i>	<i>Møller</i>
Pass	2♣*	Pass	2♦*
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♣*
Pass	3♥	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

In the Round 6 Seniors match between Denmark and Austria Steen Møller proved that 4♠ can be made even if you misguess diamonds.

The Danes had a Baron sequence to 4♠ played by South. West led the ♣Q to dummy's ace and South ruffed a heart

and ran the ♦J. East took the queen and played back a diamond to his partner's ace. Now the ♣K was ruffed away and East returned his remaining diamond not to help South in the major suits. South discarded the club loser from dummy and took the right view in spades, playing low to the ace and finessing the queen on the way back. The two winning diamonds took care of the heart losers.

As the Austrian declarer in the same contract at the table started trump with a small to the king and another the hand collapsed and he finished three down.

Open Round 17 Italy v Czech Republic

Board 4 was among the most sensational of these Championships.

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Duboin</i>	<i>Zadrazil</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Vozabal</i>
Pass	Pass	1♠	2♦
4♣	Pass	4♦	Pass
4♠	5♦	Pass	Pass
5♥	Pass	6♠	All Pass

It is difficult to understand why North did not raise diamonds at once, but it paved the way for the Italians to once again show their reverse double convention. 4♦ was a cuebid and 4♠ denied heart control. The pass of 5♦ was forcing, so Duboin could show a third round heart control freely now. That was all Bocchi needed. Italy +1430.

This score was reached at many tables all over the Palazzo Congressi. In the Open Series, the hand was often a push at either 1430 or 680.

But one can expect that will not be the case when Versace-Lauria are dealt the NS hands.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Volhejn</i>	<i>Lauria</i>	<i>Svoboda</i>	<i>Versace</i>
Pass	2♠	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♣	3♠	4♠
5♠	Pass	Pass	6♦
All Pass (?!?!)			

2♠ showed minors, and that's all Versace needed to know with his big double fit. As neither side could judge ex-

actly what was going on, the final contract did not even get doubled. Not that it mattered very much, as the double would only have saved 2 IMPs. As it was, Versace went two down when Volhejn led the ♠A and duly switched to a heart. Italy 15 IMPs.

In the other two series, we saw a number of 1540's on the score sheets. In the Open Series, there was only one instance of this score (as far as we know). Our congratulations therefore go to Dimitris Kalavanas of Cyprus who induced his opponent to lead the ♣9, thus making his slam on the N/S cards.

Open Round 24 - Spain v Russia The Quadruple Dummy Reversal

IBPA Editor: For amusement at the Final Banquet the Hospitality Desk ran a vote for "The Most Beautiful at the Championship". Hilary Dowling-Long of Ireland won in the Female category, Guido Hopfenheit of Germany in the Male. The Daily Bulletin mentioned the IBPA Editor's vote that the most beautiful thing at the championship was Round 24 Board 15! Oddly the Daily Bulletin gave no details of Andrea Buratti's quadruple dummy reversal to make a grand slam. So Tony Gordon was despatched to search the hand records:

Board 15. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

<p>♠ K J 10 7 2 ♥ A Q 10 9 6 4 ♦ — ♣ J 4</p> <p>♠ 9 5 4 ♥ 8 ♦ K 7 5 4 2 ♣ K 9 3 2</p> <p>♠ A Q 6 ♥ K J 7 ♦ Q 10 9 6 ♣ A Q 6</p>	<p>♠ 8 3 ♥ 5 3 2 ♦ A J 8 3 ♣ 10 8 7 5</p>
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West <i>Petrunin</i>	North <i>Buratti</i>	East <i>Gromov</i>	South <i>Lanzarotti</i>
Pass	1♥	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♥
Pass	3♥	Pass	3♠
Pass	3NT	Pass	4♣
Dble	Pass	Pass	Rdble
Pass	4♦	Pass	4♠
Pass	4NT	Pass	6NT
Pass	7♥	All Pass	

Tony Gordon says: The above Open Room bidding is taken from the match records, so there are no explanations of any conventional bids.

East, Gromov, led ♦A. Burratti ruffed, played the ♥6 to dummy's ♥J, ruffed another diamond, played the ♥10 to dummy's ♥K and ruffed a third diamond. Declarer crossed to a spade to ruff a fourth diamond, then crossed to the club ace and drew the last trump with the seven

to complete the dummy reversal and make his contract.

In the other room, Dubinin went one down in 7♥ on a trump lead to lose 20 IMPs.

IBPA Editor: But the grand can even be made on the trump lead if declarer wins in dummy dropping West's eight, and begins ruffing diamonds high. Declarer can use two spade entries, a second trump, and the club ace, for the five entries needed to ruff four diamonds and get back to draw East's trump with dummy's seven.

Senior among Seniors

By Alex Montwill (Ireland)

This is the 70th anniversary of the European Bridge Championships. It is also the 50th year of international bridge for Joe MacHale of Ireland, who first participated in the 1953 championships in Helsinki. Here he is in action in the 16th round of the Seniors match against Italy.

Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

West <i>Latessa</i>	North <i>Montwill</i>	East <i>Gigli</i>	South <i>MacHale</i>
			1♠
Dble	Pass	2♣	Dble
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

Having avoided the heart game, which has no chance on a top club lead, Joe had to use his 50 yrs experience to make the tricky 4♠.

He ducked the lead of the club king. The defence then continued with the diamond ace and another diamond, which gave declarer the chance he needed.

Joe realised that the point of the deal was to make two heart tricks without losing two hearts. On the queen and jack of diamonds he discarded two hearts, and then played heart ace and a small heart.

West was now end/played. His best exit is a trump, but even that cannot beat the contract. On the lead of ♠9 declarer covers with the ten, and establishes two entries to dummy, to ruff a heart, and later reach the established last heart. A small spade covered by the eight leads to the same result, plus 620 and a gain of 12 IMPs to Ireland.

Open, Round 32 Spain v. Bulgaria

This board featured excellent declarer play by Ivan Nanev:

Board 18. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

<p style="text-align: center;">♠ J8 ♥ AJ ♦ AJ842 ♣ J842</p> <p>♠ A7432 ♥ 9843 ♦ 10753 ♣ —</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">♠ Q5 ♥ KQ1052 ♦ K ♣ AQ763</p> <p>♠ K1096 ♥ 76 ♦ Q96 ♣ K1095</p>
---	--

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Lanzarotti	Stamatov	Buratti	Karaivanov
		1♥	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

In the Closed Room East declared 4♥. Against this contract, South found the good lead of a heart. North won the ace and returned the suit to declarer's king. A club

was ruffed in dummy, followed by a low spade from dummy to queen and king. At this point the contract could not be made any more and in fact declarer went two down. Bulgaria +100.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Mihov	Ventin	Nanev	Lantaran
		1♣	Pass
1♦	Dble	1♥	Dble
4♥	All Pass		

In the Open Room South made the same lead against the same contract. Declarer won the heart return and ruffed a club in dummy, just as in the Closed Room.

But Nanev had a clue that playing on spades would not work. North's double showed diamonds, and South's double showed values in spades and clubs. So, after the club ruff, Nanev asked for a diamond. North rose with the ace and played another diamond, ruffed by declarer. Another club was ruffed in dummy and the third diamond in hand, stripping South of the suit. Nanev completed his masterpiece by playing ♣A and ♣Q to end-play South in spades. Brilliant. Bulgaria +420 here and 11 IMPs.

The final score: 54-29 to Bulgaria, 20-10 V.P.

The leading five teams in the Open & Women's series will represent Europe in the 2003 Bermuda Bowl and Venice Cup respectively.

Open Teams

Rank	Team	VPs	Rank	Team	VPs	Rank	Team	VPs
1	Italy	767	14	Denmark	576	27	Monaco	506
2	Spain	696.5	15	Hungary	572	28	Croatia	502
3	Norway	679	16	Greece	570	29	Belgium	492
4	Bulgaria	675	17	Russia	568	30	Slovenia	490
5	Sweden	665	18	Czech Rep	565	31	Ukraine	468
6	Poland	659	19	Austria	553	32	Switzerland	455
7	Netherlands	638	20	Scotland	551	33	Faroe Islands	448
8	England	637	21	Finland	550	34	Yugoslavia	433
9	Israel	635	22	Lebanon	547	35=	Liechtenstein	384
10	France	629	23	Wales	537	35=	San Marino	384
11	Turkey	622	24	Ireland	525	37	Cyprus	338
12	Germany	591	25	Portugal	523	38	Latvia	314
13	Iceland	589	26	Romania	521			

Women's Teams

Rank	Team	VPs	Rank	Team	VPs	Rank	Team	VPs
1	Netherlands	424	8=	Spain	379	17	Austria	329
2	Germany	414	10	Russia	370	18	Hungary	308
3	England	408	11	France	361	19	Ireland	307
4	Italy	404.5	12	Czech Rep	359	20	Turkey	288.5
5	Sweden	385	13	Poland	348	21	Iceland	263
6	Norway	384.5	14	Scotland	347	22	San Marino	212
7	Denmark	380.5	15=	Finland	336	23	Faroe Islands	190.5
8=	Croatia	379	15=	Israel	336			

Senior Teams

Rank	Team	VPs	Rank	Team	VPs	Rank	Team	VPs
1	France	371	7	Turkey	303	13=	Austria	266
2	Israel	361	8	Czech Rep	299.5	13=	Sweden	266
3	Denmark	347	9	Italy	293	15	Wales	248.5
4	Netherlands	330	10	Scotland	292	16	Ireland	228
5	Poland	328	11	England	291	17	Switzerland	211
6	Croatia	308.5	12	Germany	279	18	Spain	208
						19	Portugal	188.5

Canada, Wales, India take medals in first Commonwealth Nations Bridge Championships

From Daily Bulletins edited by Paul Bowyer and Patrick Jourdain

Manchester, 15-20th July 2002

28 national teams were joined by two Patron's teams in the 5-day inaugural Commonwealth Nations Bridge Championships. The event was part of the Spirit of Friendship Festival preceding the Commonwealth Games for those not in the 17 sports accepted for the Games.

The two Patrons contributed substantially to the cost of the event. They were Brigitte Mavromichalis, unable to attend through poor health, and Maple Finance of Canada whose Director, Bill Fung, is a former member of Manchester Bridge Club. The two teams were not permitted to win medals.

The 30 teams were seeded into two pools playing a full round robin within their pool of 9 board matches. The top two from each pool qualified for a semifinal and final. Meanwhile the remainder played a two-day consolation multiple teams, joined by a dozen teams who had not competed in the main event. If, as happened, both Patron's teams qualified for the semifinals, the bronze medal would go to the leading national team in the Consolation.

In the semifinal to determine the leading medals Canada beat Wales 144-137 over 48 deals to give **Canada** (Judith & Nick Gartaganis, Gordon Campbell & Keith Balcombe) the gold medal and **Wales** (Tim Rees & Filip Kurbalija, Gary & Dafydd Jones, Peter Goodman & Adam Dunn, npc Jim Luck) the silver. In the other semifinal **Mavromichalis** (Paul Hackett, Justin Hackett, Jason Hackett, Tony Forrester, John Armstrong) beat **Maple Manchester** (Bernard Goldenfield, John Holland, John Hassett, Bill Hirst, Gary Hyett, Boris Ewart) with the latter conceding after 36 boards, 145-53 behind.

In the final, reduced to 36 boards as the main medals had already been decided, Mavromichalis beat Canada 102-75 to take the Maple Trophy. In the play-off for third place Wales beat Maple Manchester 69-63.

Consolation:

1. **India** (C R Bandrinath, K R Venkataraman, P Sridharen, R Krishnan, Sunit Chokshi, S Sundarraman) +151 IMPs
2. **Manchester County** (Joy & Irving Blakey, Jeff Smith & Syd Travers) +131 IMPs
3. **Northern Ireland** (Ian Lindsay, John Murchan, Robert Plunkett, Ciara Burns, John Lavery, Michael Coffey) +109 IMPs
4. **Singapore** + 91 IMPs
7. **England**; 8. **Pakistan**; 9= **Scotland**, **Bermuda**; 11. **Malta**; 15. **Zimbabwe**; 17. **Jersey**; 18. **Sri Lanka**; 20. **Jamaica**; 21. **Australia**; 26. **Isle of Man**; 27. **Tanzania**; 29. **South Africa**

Qualifying Round Robins

Pool "A"

1. Canada 315; 2. Patron (Maple) 297; 3. India 284; 4. England 246; 5. Scotland 228; 6. Zimbabwe 226; 7. Trinidad & Tobago 220; 8. Singapore 217; 9. Kenya 207; 10. Sri Lanka 205; 11. Jamaica 204; 12. Isle of Man 203; 13. Jersey 189; 14. Mauritius 175; 15. Antigua & Barbuda 168.

Pool "B"

1. Patron (Mavromichalis) 277; 2. Wales 274; 3. Australia 266; 4. Pakistan 258; 5. Northern Ireland 257; 6. South Africa 240; 7. Bermuda 230; 8. Malaysia 220; 9. Guyana 210; 10. Guernsey 208; 11= Malta, Uganda 203; 13. St. Lucia 197; 14. Barbados 184; 15. Tanzania 165.

Did you think New Zealand was unrepresented in Manchester? Wrong! In the first match on Viewgraph (Australia v. South Africa) Australia fielded Paul Marston and Ishmael Del'Monte, both former New Zealand representatives. At the other table Australia fielded a Hungarian, George Caspar, and an American, Bobby Richman.

For South Africa, Craig Gower and Wayne Chu were on Viewgraph against the Moscoto system used by Marston-Del'Monte. South Africa's newest talent, Alon Apteker partnered Bernard Donde.

This deal was fascinating:

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

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Richman</i>	<i>Donde</i>	<i>Gaspar</i>	<i>Apteker</i>
			1♠
Pass	INT	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♠	All Pass	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Chu</i>	<i>Del Monte</i>	<i>Gower</i>	<i>Marston</i>
			1♥*
Pass	INT	2♦	2♠
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

In the Closed Room North's response of 1NT was forcing. He continued with an invitational raise when South showed a six-card suit. South Passed (though the thought that nine tricks could be as easy in notrumps as spades might have been attractive). South had eight top tricks, but when the diamond finesse lost and he did not guess the hearts, Three Spades failed by one. 50 to Australia. It was on Viewgraph that the fascination came. Marston's Moscito opening of One Heart promised at least four spades (possibly with a longer minor) in the range 9-14 points. North's One Notrump response was natural, up to 11 points. The next two calls were natural, with South showing a six-card suit. Nine tricks looked to be the limit of the hand so Del'Monte bid the only game in which that is sufficient.

Had East, Gower, led a diamond, the hand would have been over quickly. Declarer gets his eighth trick on the lead, and sets up a heart. The defence cannot run four club tricks. (If East switches to a middle club, won by West and the nine is returned, North can cover to stop the suit, and if East tries a low club first, then North can duck the second round of clubs, to leave East on lead with the queen still standing guard.)

Gower made the hand interesting by finding the best lead of a low club. If West continues the suit declarer will duck and you can see later how the play might continue successfully for declarer. But Chu, in with the ace of clubs, made the sensible switch to the ten of diamonds. Declarer climbed up with the ace, and led a low heart. East has to duck, so dummy's queen won. Now Del'Monte, not knowing the ace of hearts was bare, rattled off his six spades.

This was the ending with the last spade to cash:

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

Look at the beautiful symmetry of this ending. Declarer cashed the last spade, throwing his king of hearts from hand. What could East do? If he bared either minor suit king he would be put on lead with it to concede a trick at the end in the other minor. When he actually chose to jettison his ace of hearts, Del'Monte exited from dummy with a club. Gower made two club tricks but had to concede declarer's ninth trick to the queen of diamonds. Australia had scored 400 and 10 IMPs.

Australia won the match 30-4 or 23-7 in victory points, and displayed the quality that makes them one of the favourites to qualify from their Pool.

In the Round 2 match between Patron (Manchester) and India, John Holland made what looks an impossible contract:

Board 16	♠ J 10 8 5 4 2	
Dealer: East	♥ A J 6 2	
Love all	♦ 5 4	
	♣ K	
	♠ K 9 6 3	♠ Q
	♥ Q 3	♥ K 9 8 7 4
	♦ A K 9	♦ J 10 7 6 2
	♣ A Q 8 5	♣ 3 2
	♠ A 7	
	♥ 10 5	
	♦ Q 8 3	
	♣ J 10 9 7 6 4	

Both tables reached 3NT by East. Holland, East and Bernard Goldenfield bid, unopposed:

Pass-1♠-1NT-2NT-3♥-3NT-Pass

The Indian declarer took the club finesse at some point and finished three down.

When John Holland was declarer as East South led the ♣J. As they were playing "strong tens" Holland put on the ace and dropped the king. Next came the ♥Q taken by North. A heart continuation is best for the defence but North switched to a spade. South won the ace and played another spade. Dummy's king won, and declarer cleared the diamonds. Now South exited with a heart. Holland won, cashed the other two diamonds, and, in the three-card ending, led a club. When South split, he let the ten hold, and took the last two tricks with dummy's queen-eight. He had made one trick in each major, four diamonds, and three clubs.

This grand slam from Round 4 was bid identically by Tony Forrester (South) & John Armstrong playing for Patron I v. Guyana and Gary & Dafydd Jones, the father and son pairing representing Wales (Dafydd, 22, was the youngest competitor in the national event) against Malta.

Board 30	♠ A Q J 9 6 4 3	
Dealer: East	♥ Q 2	
Love all	♦ Q 10 7 4	
	♣ None	
	♠ K 10 7 2	♠ 8 5
	♥ 6 4	♥ 9 5 3
	♦ J 8 3	♦ 9 6 5 2
	♣ Q J 3 2	♣ 9 8 7 5
	♠ None	
	♥ A K J 10 8 7	
	♦ A K	
	♣ A K 10 6 4	

Their unopposed auction was:

2♣-2♠-3♥-3♠-4♣-5♥-7♥-Pass

(England gained 17 IMPs for 7♥ as Canada reached 6♠ down one!)

For Patron I, receiving the lead of ♦8, Forrester found an interesting way to check that it was safe to continue

the suit .. he put in the ten from dummy! When East did not cover he could rely on West holding the jack. He cashed a second diamond, ruffed a club, threw a club on the ♠A, and led ♦Q. When East followed he threw the last loser, unblocked trumps, ruffed a spade high, and claimed.

This deal from Round 15, the final match of the qualifying round robin, provided some fascinating end-positions as well as the crucial swings that saw the Pool leader, Australia, eliminated and Wales overtake them to go through:

Board 39	♠ A 6	
Dealer: South	♥ K 2	
Both Vul	♦ A Q J 10 9 4	
	♣ 9 4 2	
	♠ K 9 8 7 5 4	♠ J 3
	♥ 9 3	♥ A Q J 8 7 5 4
	♦ K 6 5 3	♦ 8 2
	♣ 7	♣ 8 3
	♠ Q 10 2	
	♥ 10 6	
	♦ 7	
	♣ A K Q J 10 6 5	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Richman</i>	<i>Sarfraz</i>	<i>Gaspar</i>	<i>Masood</i>
1♠	2♦	2♥	3♣
Pass	3NT	Dble!	All Pass

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Rasheed</i>	<i>Del'Monte</i>	<i>Billal</i>	<i>Marston</i>
Pass	1♦	3♥	4♣
Pass	4♦	Pass	5♣
All Pass			

Australia were lucky to make 5♣ by South after East's heart pre-empt, but West led a diamond, and declarer finessed. Pakistan still gained heavily when, at the other table, East doubled 3NT and on the lead of ♠J declarer made 11 tricks for 1150 and 11 IMPs. Pakistan beat Australia 23-7.

In Wales v. Malaysia Malaysia reached an unenterprising 4♦ just made. For Wales Adam Dunn (North) and Peter Goodman reached 6NT by North. Auction:

1♣-1♦ (2♥) 3♣-3♥-4♣-4NT-5♠-6NT

Declarer has ten top tricks. East led ace and another to give declarer an 11th trick and West was eventually squeezed in spades and diamonds for the twelfth. (Declarer actually ran the clubs before playing off the ace of spades, so he had to guess in the ending which suit West had unguarded, but fortunately for Wales he got that right.) Wales won the match 22-8 to move into second spot ahead of Australia.

Les Steel, North for Scotland against Zimbabwe (the

latter team contained former Norwegian international Leif-Erik Stabell who partnered Tor Helness before moving to Zimbabwe) was also in 6NT after this auction:

West	North	East	South
<i>Brooke</i>	<i>Steel</i>	<i>Stabell</i>	<i>Whittaker</i>
Pass	2♦	2♥	3♣
Pass	3NT	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♦	Pass	4♠
Pass	6NT	All Pass	

East led the spade jack and the trick went queen, king, ace. Declarer rattled off the clubs, and this was the ending when the last was led:

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

West could not afford to throw a spade or a diamond, so had to ditch his heart. Declarer threw a heart, finessed in diamonds and then exited with ♠10 and another, throwing West in to lead away from his king of diamonds. Declarer had made two spades, seven clubs and three diamond tricks for his contract.

If West does not cover the queen of spades at trick one the slam cannot be made! The South hand lacks a vital entry, and the timing is wrong for the squeeze.

In the semis this was a crucial deal:

Board 20	♠ 3 2	
Dealer: West	♥ Q J 10 8 7	
Game all	♦ None	
	♣ A Q 7 6 3 2	
	♠ A J 8 6 5	♠ K Q 10 8 7
	♥ 9 3 2	♥ K 6 5
	♦ A K 9 7 6	♦ J 10 5
	♣ None	♣ 10 5
	♠ 4	
	♥ A 4	
	♦ Q 8 4 3 2	
	♣ K J 9 8 4	

Canada v. Wales

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Campbell</i>	<i>Goodman</i>	<i>Balcombe</i>	<i>Dunn</i>
1♠	2♠	4♠	4NT
Dble	5♣	Pass	Pass
5♠	All Pass		

Closed room

West	North	East	South
Gary J	Nick G	Dafydd J	Judith G
1♠	2♠	4♠	4NT
Pass	5♣	Pass	Pass
5♠	6♣	Dble	All Pass

The first round of bidding was the same at both tables, with North making a Michael's cuebid to show hearts and a minor, and South's 4NT seeking North's minor. (Some partnerships would use 5♣ as Pass or correct, and 4NT would therefore also be a slam try.)

Nick Gartaganis scored 1540 for 6♣ doubled. Though Five Spades can go three off, Campbell recorded +680 (The Welsh North imaginatively underled his ace of clubs, hoping for a diamond ruff, though the way to get it was to lead the queen of hearts.) 19 IMPs to Canada. In the other semifinal, between Patrons:

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Jason H	Holland	Justin H	Goldenfield
1♠	2♣	3♣	5♣
5♦	5♥	5♠	All Pass

Closed room

West	North	East	South
Ewart	Forrester	Hyett	Armstrong
1♠	2♠	4♠	4NT
5♠	Pass	Pass	Dble
Pass	6♣	Pass	Pass
Dble	All Pass		

The Manchester North-South failed to find the heart lead and diamond switch that beats Five Spades. Forrester had no problems in Six Clubs doubled. Again 19 IMPs, to Patron 1.

Here are two articles (one of particular interest to cricket fans) by the IBPA Editor that missed the Bulletins:

Ashantha De Mel of the Sri Lankan bridge team played Test cricket for his country from 1982 to 1988. At one point he was his country's leading fast bowler. Aged 21 he played in the first match in which Sri Lanka was awarded Test status, in Colombo in 1982. De Mel took 5 England wickets. Sri Lanka lost that match but two years later, at Lord's, they drew with England. De Mel again took five wickets.

On this deal from the Commonwealth Nations Qualifying Round 6 match between Sri Lanka and Jersey, De Mel and his partner, Anton Selvanayagam defended well:

Board 17	♠ A Q 10 9 5 2
Dealer: North	♥ K J 9
Neither Vul	♦ J
	♣ A 5 3
♠ J 7 4	♠ K
♥ A	♥ Q 7 3 2
♦ 9 6 5 4	♦ Q 10 8 7 3 2
♣ K 10 9 6 4	♣ J 2
	♠ 8 6 3
	♥ 10 8 6 5 4
	♦ A K
	♣ Q 8 7

West	North	East	South
De Mel		Anton	
	1♠	2♦	2♠
3♦	4♠	All Pass	
West	North	East	South
	Yasa		
	1♠	2♦	2♥
3♦	4♠	All Pass	

Both tables reached Four Spades by North after East had overcalled Two Diamonds, and a diamond was led and won in dummy.

At the other table the declarer for Sri Lanka was Yasa Karunaratne. At trick two he led a heart. West won the ace and continued with a diamond. Declarer threw his losing club, and, recalling East's overcall, decided to play a trump to the ace. Bingo! When the king fell, declarer followed with the king of hearts. West ruffed and solved any problems for declarer by playing a club. If West exits with a trump best defence beats the game, as when declarer leads a club East can rise with the jack of clubs to prevent West being endplayed.

At De Mel's table, at trick two declarer cashed the second diamond throwing a heart, and then led a heart taken by West's ace. De Mel led a trump and declarer finessed the queen. Anton won, and gave West a heart ruff. De Mel now exited with a trump. Declarer next led a low club from hand. If he had been planning to put in the seven to endplay West, this plan was foiled when East put in the jack. Declarer tried the queen and conceded two off when this was beaten by the king and De Mel returned the ten of clubs.

Sri Lanka won the match 18-12.

With both Patron's teams through to the semis some would have preferred that the bronze medal had gone to a play-off between those teams who finished third in the two qualifying pools, Australia and India. So it was a happy outcome that **India** Chakravarty Badrinath (playing captain), Ramaratnam Krishnan, Sreenivasan Sunderraman, Padmanabhan Sridhav, Ramakrishnan K. Venkataraman, and Suneet Chokshi won the Consolation and therefore the bronze medal.

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

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
	<i>Krishnan</i>		<i>Badrinath</i>
Pass	Pass	1♦	1♠
2NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Suneet</i>		<i>Venka</i>	
Pass	1♦!	Pass	1♠
Pass	Pass	Dble	2♥
Pass	2♠	Pass	Pass
Dble	All Pass		

In the Closed Room West was in 3NT. Krishnan led ♠7 ducked round to West's jack. A priori, whether to tackle the diamonds by playing them from the top, or by taking two finesses is very close. Here North is likely to have the greater length but declarer is short of entries to take two finesses and set up spades.

Suffice it to say that West began by finessing the ten of diamonds. South won and found the excellent switch to the ♥3. North won and returned the suit to South's jack, and then the queen pinned West's ten. The defence now had three hearts, a spade and a diamond to take, enough to set the game. When declarer, short of entries to hand, decided to change tactics and play diamonds from the top, it went two off for 200 to India.

In the Open Room North stirred up trouble for himself by opening very light third in hand. The Indian pair sitting East-West, Suneet and Venka, were quick to take a penalty out of Two Spades. West led a diamond, East won and returned a trump, and West later switched to a heart. The defence duly made a heart, two diamonds, two clubs and three trump tricks for a further 500 and 12 IMPs to India.

If any IBPA member knows an e-mail address of any of the Indian or Sri Lankan teams please let them know of my e-mail address and I will send them on request a copy of the item.

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 September Bulletin will have code 451yg so you will need to type:

www.IBPA.com/451yg.pdf

Remember - You can download a copy of the Handbook from www.ibpa.com (click the link at the bottom of the page).

When you try to open it will ask for a password: which is ihccaT (EXACTLY as typed)

Italy win Under 25s, Israel the Under 20s at European Youth Championships

From Daily Bulletins edited by Brian Senior & Peter Gill Torquay, England 8-18th 2002

The European Youth Championships, held in Torquay, England, saw 22 nations in the Under 25s. They played a full round robin of 20-board matches. The medals went to:

Italy Furio di Bello, Stelio di Bello, Ruggiero Guariglia, Francesco Mazzadi, Fabio lo Presti, Stefano Uccello npc Gianpaolo Rinaldi, coach Andrea Pagani.

Denmark Kjaere Gjaldbek, Boje Henriksen, Bjorg Houmoller, Andreas Marquardsen, Martin Schaltz, npc Jacob Ron, coach: Lars W Pedersen.

Norway Olav Ellestad, Stig Roar Hakkebo, Gunnar Harr, Ronny Joerstad, Nils Kare Kvangraven, Stian Sundklakk npc Sven Olai Hoyland.

France, in 4th place, also qualified for the next World Junior Championships.

In the Under 20s there were a record 15 nations. The medals went to:

Israel Eliran Argelasi, Eran Assaraf, Ory Assaraf, Lotan Fisher, Idan Grunbaum, Gilad Ofir npc Yaniv Zack

Poland, the holders took silver: Jacek Kalita, Wlod Karkowicz, Piotr Nawrocki, Filip Niziok, Jan Sikora, Piotr Zielinski, npc Leszek Nowak, coach: Piotr Dybicz

Norway Erie Eide, Petter Eide, Espen Lindqvist, Allan Livgerd npc Olav Lillebuen.

The Trump Guard Squeeze

by Michael Rosenblum (Russia)

U25 Round 1 Russia v. Sweden

Board 15	♠ A 7		
Dealer: South	♥ K 8 3		
N/SVul	♦ A K 8 5 3 2		
	♣ J 4		
	♠ J 10	♠ K 9 8 6 4 3 2	
	♥ 2	♥ A Q J	
	♦ Q 9 7 6 4	♦ 10	
	♣ A Q 9 5 3	♣ 10 7	
	♠ Q 5		
	♥ 10 9 7 6 5 4		
	♦ J		
	♣ K 8 6 2		

West	North	East	South
<i>Malinovski</i>	<i>Cullin</i>	<i>Krasnosselski</i>	<i>Upmark</i>
2NT	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♠	All Pass		Pass

Malinovski's opening showed both minors and Michael Krasnosselski's response was natural.

The opening lead from South was the singleton $\diamond J$ to the queen and king. North, Cullin, switched to ace and another spade and Mikhail misguessed, finessed, losing to South's bare queen.

If South does not lead a heart at this point North will get squeezed in the red suits by the run of trumps and then two club winners. But Upmark found the switch, to $\heartsuit 10$ and Cullin withheld the king. Declarer won cheaply and ran all the trumps bar.

Five tricks remained. Dummy was down to three clubs and two diamonds. North had to keep two hearts, and two diamonds to prevent declarer establishing the suit with a ruff, so he had to come down to the bare jack of clubs. Reading the position Mikhail led the ten of clubs to the queen, and returned with a diamond ruff to cash $\heartsuit A$ and finesse the nine of clubs.

At the other table West also opened 2NT, but East settled for Three Clubs. This went three down after Alexei Zaitsev led a trump.

Lead of the Tournament?

By Peter Gill (Aus)

U25 Round 10

Even looking at all four hands it is not obvious what is the best lead for South against Seven Spades:

Board 12	$\spadesuit 987$	
Dealer: West	$\heartsuit QJ852$	
N/S/Vul	$\diamond 8$	
	$\clubsuit 9874$	
$\spadesuit KQ104$		$\spadesuit A532$
$\heartsuit 1097$		$\heartsuit AK4$
$\diamond AKQ732$		$\diamond 64$
\clubsuit None		$\clubsuit KQ52$
	$\spadesuit J6$	
	$\heartsuit 63$	
	$\diamond J1095$	
	$\clubsuit AJ1063$	

England v. Poland

West	North	East	South
<i>Skalski</i>	<i>Birdsall</i>	<i>Branowski</i>	<i>Burgess</i>
1 \diamond	Pass	1 \spadesuit	Pass
4 \diamond	Pass	4NT	Pass
6 \clubsuit	Pass	6 \heartsuit	Pass
7 \spadesuit	All Pass		

4 \diamond was a raise to 4 \spadesuit with good diamonds. 4NT was keycard and 6 \clubsuit showed two keys plus a void. 6 \heartsuit asked for the queen of trumps.

At the other table David Gold was also in Seven Spades.

He received a diamond lead. He drew three rounds of trumps, when the diamonds did not break, he set them up with a ruff, and took the ruffing finesse in clubs to dispose of his losing heart.

The same happens on a trump lead. But at the table where 18-year-old Oliver Burgess was on lead he led the jack of clubs!. Unaware that the diamonds were not breaking the declarer Jacek Baranowski ruffed in dummy. Declarer chowed good technique by cashing just two rounds of trumps before testing diamonds, but North was able to ruff the second round and the slam went two down, for 17 IMPs to England.

Denmark v. Hungary

West	North	East	South
<i>Szegedi</i>	<i>Marquardsen</i>	<i>Mraz</i>	<i>Schaltz</i>
1 \diamond	Pass	1 \spadesuit	Pass
3 \heartsuit	Pass	3NT	Pass
4 \heartsuit	Pass	4NT	Pass
5 \spadesuit	Pass	5NT	Pass
6 \diamond	Pass	7 \spadesuit	All Pass

South, Martin Schaltz, IBPA's youngest member, led $\clubsuit 6$, having the same successful effect as Burgess.

At the other table:

West	North	East	South
<i>Gjaldbaek</i>	<i>Marjai</i>	<i>Henriksen</i>	<i>Hegedus</i>
1 \diamond	Pass	1 \spadesuit	Pass
4 \clubsuit	Pass	4 \heartsuit	Pass
5 \clubsuit	Pass	5 \heartsuit	Pass
5NT	Pass	6 \heartsuit	Pass
7 \spadesuit	All Pass		

South, Hungary's Gal Hegedus, led $\clubsuit 3$!! The play was identical once again. Denmark went two down for an incredible but highly complimentary flat board.

Note that the ace of clubs lead from South does not beat the slam as declarer can use one heart entry to ruff another club, and after unblocking trumps, the other heart serves as entry to draw trumps and claim. (six trumps, two hearts, three diamonds, and two clubs.)

In the Schools the Dutch reached Seven Spades by West. North led a club and this beat the slam as declarer cannot set up diamonds, and has two many losers to ruff. This was unlucky, particularly as their opponents, France, had stopped in game at the other table.

Final Standings for the European Youth Championships

Junior Series (Under 25)

1	ITALY	430
2	DENMARK	414
3	NORWAY	410.5
4	FRANCE	410
5	POLAND	401
6	ENGLAND	392
7	ISRAEL	388.5
8	NETHERLANDS	380
9	SWEDEN	378.5
10	RUSSIA	376.5
11	ESTONIA	373
12	CZECH REP.	367
13	CROATIA	336
14	GERMANY	332.5
15	TURKEY	323
16	AUSTRIA	309
17	HUNGARY	304.5
18	BELGIUM	300.5
19	FINLAND	297
20	GREECE	281
21	SPAIN	242.5
22	SCOTLAND	217

Schools Series (Under 20)

1	ISRAEL	311
2	POLAND	308
3	NORWAY	289
4	NETHERLANDS	284
5	SWEDEN	270
6	GERMANY	251
7	DENMARK	250
8	FRANCE	232
8	ITALY	214
10	AUSTRIA	211
11	ENGLAND	210
12	CZECH REP.	165
13	IRELAND	150
14	SCOTLAND	90
15	WALES	88

Butler Ranking Junior Series

1	ITA	Mazzadi	Io Presti	380	0.86
2	NOR	Hakkebo	Kvangraven	240	0.76
3	ENG	Gold	Hydes	380	0.72
4	FRA	O. Bessis	deTessieres	280	0.71
5	DEN	Gjaldbaek	Henriksen	340	0.62
6	ISR	Hoffman	Lellouche	320	0.61
7	NOR	Ellestad	Joerstad	260	0.58
8	EST	Matisons	Rubins	420	0.55
9	SWE	Cullin	Upmark	380	0.54
10	TUR	Basaran	Ucan	120	0.53

Butler Ranking Schools Series

1	ISR	Argelasi	Fisher	80	1.44
2	POL	Karkowicz	Zielinski	160	1.39
3	ISR	O. Assaraf	Ofir	260	1.26
4	SWE	Salomonsson	Sivelind	240	1.23
5	NED	Drijver	De Pagter	220	1.08
6	NOR	E. Eide	Lindqvist	280	0.93
7	ISR	E. Assaraf	Grunbaum	220	0.91
8	POL	Nawrocki	Niziok	160	0.82
9	NED	Molenaar	Verbeek	220	0.80
10	POL	Kalita	Sikora	240	0.76

Calendar	Event	Venue	IBPA Contact
2002			
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	14/28	European Open Championships	Menton, France
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

POINTS FROM THE POSTBAG

The Editor reserves the right to shorten correspondence

LETTERS ...

Email: patrickjourdain@compuserve.com

* Barry Rigal sends a deal from the USA:

Dlr: North ♠ K Q 2
 Vul: N/S ♥ A
 ♦ A 7 6 4 2
 ♣ K 10 9 2

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

South	West	North	East
Aaron Silverstein	David Moss	Karen Manfield	Jonathan Levine
1♥		1♦	Pass
2NT	Pass	3NT	2♣ Pass
			All pass

Opening lead: Spade jack

After the unfortunate opening lead the spade king won in dummy. Declarer unblocked the heart ace, played the queen of spades ducked, then a spade to the ten and ace.

West shifted to a low diamond to the Queen and King. Aaron Silverstein ran the hearts and spades now. This was the ending.

♠ ——— ♥ ——— ♦ A 7 ♣ K 10	♠ ——— ♥ ——— ♦ 9 2 ♣ A 6	♠ ——— ♥ 5 ♦ J ♣ 7 4
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On the last heart, what happens in the ending? A vice or a stepping-stone – or something else?

To prevent South setting up a club, West had to throw a diamond and AS pitched a club from dummy. If East bares his diamond declarer overtakes the jack, if he keeps two diamonds AS cashes the diamond jack and exits with a club to take trick 13.

If West pitches a club instead declarer pitches a dia-

mond from dummy and leads a club up to take the last two tricks.

* Ron Tacchi says: I have all the deals of the European Championships in Salsomaggiore available in 'Deep Finesse' format (all 740 of them). I can make them available for handling costs of two centimes per deal (Euros 14.80 or ten pounds Sterling). If you are interested email me on 'salso@PrestigeC.com'

Tacchi can also provide the same for both Ostend and the World Championships in Paris.

* Philip King says: My new email address is: thephilking@btopenworld.com.

Please delete the previous address - philking@dircon.co.uk from your computer.

* Larry Cohen writes: Here is a lead problem from Round of 16 of the Team Trials here in Memphis. My partner, David Berkowitz held:

♠ xxx ♥ KJ ♦ xxx ♣ Axxxx

After this auction, starting to his right:

1♥	Pass	2NT*	3NT
6♥	All Pass		

*=Jacoby

What would you lead? I think it is right to lead what David did — a diamond. This was the full deal:

♠ K x x x ♥ x x x x ♦ A Q ♣ K x x	♠ A Q J 10 x ♥ A Q 10 x x x ♦ x x ♣ —
--	--

A diamond was the only lead to beat it. They can make from other side (maybe 6♠ after 1♥-1♠?)

* Marty Bergen has a Summer special offer of 50% off. For details see:

<http://www.larryco.com/MartyBergen.htm>
 or call +1 800 386-7432

* Clement Wong of Hong Kong says: Two deals in the July issue, page 5 and 14, where the defenders dropped their queens to put declarer on the wrong track, recalled my Bols Tip 'Queening your defence' published in the mid nineties. The theme was that dropping a queen from a doubleton will often gain.