

THE INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE PRESS ASSOCIATION

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My last Editorial for this Bulletin. The first, in April 1982, was no. 219. This is no. 451, plus unnumbered Specials over the twenty years, so I have edited more than half the material produced for IBPA since its launch in 1958. It was a great honour for me that this work was recognised by the IBPA Executive by making the outgoing Editor the 2002 Personality of the Year. (For full list of IBPA Awards see inside.)

The new Editor will pen the Editorial for the Montreal Special, but I have a chance to comment here. Montreal chalked up success in many areas: great champions, thrills and spills, joy and tears. Bill Gates in the Mixed Pairs was a major plus, leading to the most successful Press Conference the WBF has ever had. The story that slipped away: Debbie Rosenberg won the Women Pairs as husband Michael led the Open.

Entries were well down, as one might expect, on Lille, but, more worryingly, lower than Albuquerque, particularly for Women. The WBF President announced that the Programme Commission of the IOC had advised against bridge as an Olympic sport, so he now thought it unlikely that bridge would be in 2006 Winter Olympics. It was ironic that two of the most controversial matters at Montreal arose directly from the campaign to make bridge an Olympic sport.

The non-bridge media had two big stories: Bill Gates' presence in the Mixed Pairs, and Disa Eythorsdottir's refusal to take a drug test with subsequent removal of her silver medal for the McConnell Teams. But for the bridge-players at Montreal the big topic was widespread confusion about the eligibility rules for the main events, the changes in them, and their application.

The WBF says that two years ago it removed residence as a qualifying eligibility for the Bermuda Bowl, the Venice Cup, and the four main events in Montreal. Clearly most Federations and players were unaware of this dramatic change (bridge is a partnership game, and your partner living nearby is more important than their passport). The IBPA Bulletin 429 Editorial after Maastricht showed the Editor for one, uncorrected by the WBF, thought the change was being considered only for the Olympic Games. If the "nationals only" restriction had applied in Montreal, half the quarterfinalists in the Rosenblum (USA, Sweden, Poland, and England) would have been disqualified, as well as the holders, Austria, in the McConnell. Similar could be expected at the 2004 World Team Olympiad if such a restriction applied there.

The WBF saw that a substantial number of the (low) entries were ineligible and, in a July letter that your Editor has not seen, re-instated the residence rule for Montreal. This appeared to be abused by some applicants. Are Burgay and Mariani genuinely resident in Poland? Henner and Rosenblum of the USA were added to the Swedish team, with no obvious qualification to represent Sweden, further complicating matters. The WBF rightly said it needed to rethink eligibility.

Patrick Jourdain – Editor

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Jacobs retains Spingold, Sokolow-Holtz win Life Master Pairs

Washington 18-28th July 2002 From Daily Bulletins edited by Henry Francis & Paul Linxwiler

George Jacobs (Ralph Katz, and Italians Alfredo Versace - Lorenzo Lauria, Norberto Bocchi - Giorgio Duboin) retained the Spingold by beating Mike Moss (Martin Schifko of Austria, Allan Graves and Bryan Maksymetz) by 16 IMPS??

In the semifinals Jacobs beat Claus Christiansen (Lars Monksgaard, Magnus Eriksson, Ulf Nilsson of Denmark and Sweden) 88-78 and Moss beat Jimmy Cayne (Robert Levin – Steve Weinstein and Norwegians Geir Helgemo, Tor Helness, Jon Egel Furness) 142-105.

In the quarterfinal Cayne beat Bernstein 152-94; Christiansen beat Schwartz 131-122; Cayne beat O'Rourke 163-81 (conceded after 48) and Moss beat Robinson 204-102.

Life Master Pairs

First-time partners Tobi Sokolow (a member of the USA womens team that won the Venice Cup in Hammamet) & Leni Holtz overtook Lyn Deas & Curtis Creek to win the Life Masters. In third place was yet another mixed pair: Chip & Jan Martel.

| | |
|---------------------------------|------|
| 1. L. Holtz & T. Sokolow (USA) | 2135 |
| 2. C. Creek & L. Deas (USA) | 2099 |
| 3. C. & J. Martel (USA) | 2090 |
| 4. G. Hinze & N. Kamel (USA) | 2073 |
| 5. J. Hurd & J. Woolridge (USA) | 2069 |

Two-way Morton? Its immaterial

By Alan Truscott (USA)

Allan Graves conjured up a rare ending in the second qualifying round of the Life Master Pairs. The deal, rotated for convenience, was this:

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

Virtually everyone reached 3NT with the North-South cards. 1♣ - 1♦ - 2NT - 3NT was a popular auction, and a heart was led to dummy's king.

Graves, South, saw that playing diamonds would produce 10 tricks at most, and would even lead to defeat if the diamonds broke badly. At the second trick he led the ♠J from dummy, and after taking his ace West persevered with hearts.

When the declarer cashed three club winners the position became:

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

On the last club, East was caught in a non-material squeeze. He had to give up his ♥10. Graves, reading the position correctly, cashed the ♦K and surrendered a diamond to make 11 tricks.

This worked because East had to guard the pointed suits. He realized too late that he could have avoided this altogether by crossing to his hand in clubs at the second trick and leading a low spade. West would then be forced to duck, allowing the declarer to win with the jack and play diamonds for 11 tricks.

But if East held the ♠A, the winning play would be the ♠2 from dummy at the second trick. This was a two-way Morton's Fork, a term I invented nearly 40 years ago. Students of English history will recall that Cardinal Morton raised money for King Henry VII by telling wealthy merchants that they must be able to spare something for the royal coffers whether they were spenders or savers. Whether you spend or save, you have been Forked. It's all immaterial. Or non-material.

Sonny Moyse, alive and well

Zia Mahmood and Michael Rosenberg got to the top spot on this layout from the first final session of the Life Master Pairs.

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

West

Zia
1♣
1NT
3♥ (2)
3NT

East

Rosenberg
1♠
2♦ (1)
3♠
4♥

(1) Checkback.

(2) Four hearts, maximum.

East–West found the superb Moysian fit. Even a trump lead doesn't hurt declarer; there's no way to prevent Zia from scoring six top tricks in aces and kings along with four other tricks from ruffs. Plus 620 earned the pair 61 out of a possible 64 matchpoints.

*The ACBL Charity Foundation gave cheques totaling \$5000 to Guide dogs for the Blind, Crisis Link (a helpline equivalent to the Samaritan's), and BridgeAtSchools.

* Inducted into the Hall of Fame were:

Hugh Ross, Carol & Tommy Sanders, Paul Soloway, Emma Jean Hawes, Hermine Baron, Sam Fry. Ira Corn won the Blackwood Award.

*The Grand National Open was won by: Eric Rodwell, Russ & Sheila Ekeblad, Michael Seamon, Jeff Meckstroth, and Mark Molson.

* Al Levy was elected ACBL President for 2003.

Sure there's a squeeze, but which opponent?

Mike Becker, East, noticed early in the play that his chances were good for 12 tricks. The problem was which opponent should he attempt to squeeze.

The hand was played in the Life Master Pairs final.

| | | |
|-----------|-------------|-----------------|
| Board 24 | ♠ Q | |
| Dlr: West | ♥ 8 7 2 | |
| Vul: None | ♦ K 8 7 6 5 | |
| | ♣ J 8 6 3 | |
| | ♠ 10 7 5 | ♠ A K 9 8 6 4 2 |
| | ♥ A 10 5 | ♥ Q 3 |
| | ♦ A 3 2 | ♦ Q 4 |
| | ♣ K 5 4 2 | ♣ Q 10 |
| | ♠ J 3 | |
| | ♥ K J 9 6 4 | |
| | ♦ J 10 9 | |
| | ♣ A 9 7 | |

West

Pass
2♣ (1)
3NT

North

Pass
Pass
All Pass

East

1♠
2NT

South

Pass
Pass

(1) Drury

Becker's 2NT response to the Drury 2♣ was unusual, but he knew the doubleton queens would be helpful if partner had a little something in each suit.

With two aces and a king in the other suits, his partner had no trouble raising to 3NT, a contract missed by the vast majority of the field. Becker let the opening heart lead ride to his queen and then cashed one spade to make sure the suit would run. Next came the ♣Q, taken by South's ace. South reverted to hearts and Becker won the ace.

Now he had lost a trick and could take all the rest of the tricks but one – the right setup for a squeeze. He saw that he could squeeze South if he had the ♦K – he also would have to protect his ♥J. Becker would cross to the ♣K and run spades, coming to a two-card position. On the next-to-last trick South would have to make a losing discard from ♥J and ♦K-x.

If North had the ♦K, Becker could get his 12th trick via a Vienna Coup.

Which to try? Becker decided to see if he could get some help from his opponents. He led a second spade and sure enough, North played an encouraging diamond. So it was the Vienna Coup. He crossed to the ♦A and ran the spades.

This was the position as he led his last spade:

| | | |
|-------|-------|------|
| | ♠ — | |
| | ♥ — | |
| | ♦ K | |
| | ♣ J 8 | |
| ♠ — | | ♠ 2 |
| ♥ 10 | | ♥ — |
| ♦ — | | ♦ Q |
| ♣ K 8 | | ♣ 10 |
| | ♠ — | |
| | ♥ J | |
| | ♦ — | |
| | ♣ 9 7 | |

South had to keep the ♥J so was forced to discard a club. Becker pitched the heart, and now North had no discard available. No matter what he did, Becker had the last two tricks for plus 490. That was worth 64.5 matchpoints out of a possible 65.

Diamond master

By Barry Rigal (USA)

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

Roger Bates and Chris Willenken crossed swords here – and Bates came off the better. After a simple auction of INT-3NT, Bates (South) received the ♥J lead and immediately passed the ♦8. Willenken (East) ducked it, thereby doing his best to get his name in the papers. Now if declarer repeats the diamond finesse, he goes down.

But Bates knew his defenders were capable of the ducking play from any holding that included the jack. The opening lead made it relatively unlikely that West had four diamonds to the jack, plus who would want to fall victim to such a play? You'd never hear the end of it!

So Bates rejected the second finesse, playing diamonds from the top and emerging with 10 tricks.

Nicely defended – but it was Bates who got to have his name in the “highly commended” column.

Picking the Jack

In search of the elusive overtrick Larry Cohen has a reputation as an excellent matchpoint player — and with good reason. He was declarer on this deal from the Life Master Pairs Final.

| | | |
|-----------|-----------------|----------------|
| Dir: West | ♠ Q 10 2 | |
| Vul: Both | ♥ Q 5 | |
| | ♦ A J 9 8 6 | |
| | ♣ 9 8 4 | |
| | ♠ A 8 7 6 | ♠ J 3 |
| | ♥ 10 9 2 | ♥ 8 |
| | ♦ 7 5 | ♦ K Q 10 4 |
| | ♣ J 6 5 2 | ♣ A K Q 10 7 3 |
| | ♠ K 9 5 4 | |
| | ♥ A K J 7 6 4 3 | |
| | ♦ 3 2 | |
| | ♣ — | |

| West | North | East | South |
|----------|-------|------|-------|
| Pass | Pass | 1♣ | 4♥ |
| All Pass | | | |

(Deal rotated.) Cohen, South, declared 4♥ on the lead of the ♦7. He won the ace (inserting an intermediate diamond from dummy might be OK, too, but let's assume the play of the ace) and drew trumps, noting that West began with three, East one.

You have 10 sure tricks, but since this is matchpoints it would be nice if we could play the spade suit for just one loser to make an 11th trick.

If the spades are 3-3 it will be almost even money who holds the jack. If they are 4-2 the oddity is that you will play the defender with the doubleton for the jack.

Cohen played on diamonds first to discover the layout in that suit. East had four good diamonds yet had opened One Club. On enquiry East-West stated that they open 1♦ when they're 4-4 in the minors, and would frequently open 1♦ even with four diamonds and five clubs to allow a 2♣ rebid.

That made it likely that East held six clubs and only two spades. So Cohen played a spade to the queen and picked up the jack on the next round for 11 tricks and 60 out of 64 matchpoints.

Spingold emotions despair and elation

When you're the underdog in a Spingold match, it's always disheartening when one of the stars on your opponents' team plays a hand double-dummy and makes a contract that looks as if it had no chance.

Richard Oshlag and David Lindop of the Robert Bernstein team were impressed and unhappy after Adam Zmudzinski played this deal perfectly.

| | | | |
|-----------|-------------|-------------|--|
| Dlr: West | ♠ J 5 4 2 | | |
| Vul: Both | ♥ J 10 6 5 | | |
| | ♦ K 10 | | |
| | ♣ A Q 4 | | |
| | ♠ K Q 8 7 3 | ♠ A 9 6 | |
| | ♥ 8 | ♥ Q 9 4 3 2 | |
| | ♦ Q 6 3 2 | ♦ 9 7 | |
| | ♣ 8 7 3 | ♣ J 9 5 | |
| | ♠ 10 | | |
| | ♥ A K 7 | | |
| | ♦ A J 8 5 4 | | |
| | ♣ K 10 6 2 | | |

| West | North | East | South |
|---------------|----------------|---------------|-------------------|
| <i>Oshlag</i> | <i>Balicki</i> | <i>Lindop</i> | <i>Zmudzinski</i> |
| Pass | Pass | Pass | 1♦ |
| 1♠ | Dbf | 2♠ | 3♣ |
| Pass | 3♠ | Pass | 4♥ |
| Pass | 5♣ | All Pass | |

Oshlag led the ♠K (which denied the ace) and continued with a low spade to partner's 9. Zmudzinski, playing in a Moysian 4-3 fit, had to make an instant decision should he reduce his hand to three trumps by ruffing? That's what he decided to do after some thought. Then he led a diamond and finessed the 10.

It worked. He took the ♦K and came back to his hand with the ♥A. He switched back to diamonds, and when Oshlag played the queen, which he was known to hold, Zmudzinski ruffed with the ace. Then he cashed the trump queen and finessed the 10. That was it – he had his 11 tricks.

There was one saving grace for Oshlag and Lindop – their teammates got to 3NT and made it for a push.

Oshlag turned the tables on this deal where he found the killing lead.

| | | | |
|-----------|--------------|-----------|--|
| Dlr: West | ♠ A 10 8 3 2 | | |
| Vul: None | ♥ J 8 5 3 | | |
| | ♦ 2 | | |
| | ♣ A 6 4 | | |
| | ♠ J 9 4 | ♠ K Q 6 5 | |
| | ♥ A 7 6 4 | ♥ 10 9 2 | |
| | ♦ 10 9 4 | ♦ J 8 6 5 | |
| | ♣ K 10 8 | ♣ 7 2 | |
| | ♠ 7 | | |
| | ♥ K Q | | |
| | ♦ A K Q 7 3 | | |
| | ♣ Q J 9 5 3 | | |

| West | North | East | South |
|---------------|----------------|---------------|-------------------|
| <i>Oshlag</i> | <i>Balicki</i> | <i>Lindop</i> | <i>Zmudzinski</i> |
| Pass | Pass | Pass | 1♦ |
| Pass | 1♠ | Pass | 3♣ |
| Pass | 3♥ | Pass | 3NT |
| All Pass | | | |

Oshlag decided to lead a spade, but he gave a bit

of thought to which he should play. He led the jack, the killer. Zmudzinski put up dummy's ace and led a heart to the queen and ace. Oshlag continued the attack on spades, leading the 9. Declarer covered with the 10 and Lindop with the queen. He switched to a diamond, won with the queen, and Zmudzinski finessed successfully in clubs. He returned to his hand with the ♣J and set up the suit by giving up a club to Oshlag.

Once again Oshlag led a spade, and his earlier high leads paid off – Lindop was able to score both his 6 and his king to set the contract. That was worth 5 IMPs because their teammates played in 3♣, making five.

The match was close all the way, with the Bernstein team finally upending the Coleman team to take over their #9 seed.

Count, count, count

Curtis Cheek found a neat way to pick up an extra trick on this deal from the Life Master Pairs. Accurate counting was the key. Cheek was playing with partner Lynn Deas.

| | | | |
|------------|-------------|-----------|--|
| Dlr: North | ♠ A 5 3 | | |
| Vul: None | ♥ J 8 4 3 2 | | |
| | ♦ Q 9 6 | | |
| | ♣ 10 4 | | |
| | ♠ J 10 8 2 | ♠ K Q 9 7 | |
| | ♥ 10 5 | ♥ 9 7 | |
| | ♦ J 4 | ♦ K 10 7 | |
| | ♣ 9 7 5 3 2 | ♣ K Q J 8 | |
| | ♠ 6 4 | | |
| | ♥ A K Q 6 | | |
| | ♦ A 8 5 3 2 | | |
| | ♣ A 6 | | |

| West | North | East | South |
|-------------|-------|--------------|-------|
| <i>Deas</i> | | <i>Cheek</i> | |
| | Pass | 1♣ | 1♥ |
| 3♣ | 3♥ | Pass | 4♥ |
| All Pass | | | |

(Deal rotated.) West led the ♣2 (third- and fifth-best) which ran to the jack and ace. Both opponents followed to two rounds of trumps. Cheek reasoned that spades were probably 4-4 since neither opponent bid them. Since West led a fifth-best club, East probably had four. East's inferential count, therefore, was 4-2-3-4.

Declarer can take advantage of this information in an attempt to hold his diamond losers to one. If East holds ♦K-10-x or ♦K-J-x (meaning that West has the doubleton jack or 10), then an intrafinesse in the suit would secure the extra trick.

After drawing trump, Cheek led a low diamond to dummy's 9. East won the 10, cashed a high club and shifted to the ♠K. Cheek won dummy's ace and called for the ♦Q. East covered with the king, but declarer played the ace smothering West's 10. Declarer could now run diamonds from the top to pitch dummy's spade losers.

Making five for a great score.

Strip play works

By Barry Rigal (USA)

Zia found a great play on this deal.

| | |
|-----------|------------------|
| Dlr: West | ♠ A Q 10 5 |
| Vul: E-W | ♥ 7 4 |
| | ♦ A 8 3 |
| | ♣ J 9 6 5 |
| | ♠ 9 4 2 |
| | ♥ 8 |
| | ♦ K 7 |
| | ♣ K Q 10 8 7 4 2 |

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

He reached 5♣ and West slipped fractionally by leading the ♥A-K. Zia ruffed, and instead of relying on the double finesse in spades, he decided to strip the diamond suit just in case something happened. Did it ever!

On the second diamond West produced the queen, then Zia ruffed the third diamond high as West discarded. Since East was virtually marked with a 2-4-6-1 shape, Zia decided that the right play was to lead to the ♠Q, cash the ♠A and exit with a club. It worked.

East had ♠J-x and a singleton club and was endplayed to concede the ruff and discard. This was worth game swing in a Spingold match.

Japan Takes Pacific Asian Teams, Marston-Del'Monte the Pairs

*From Daily Bulletins edited by Brian Senior & Robert Zajac
Bangkok, Thailand June 2002*

Teams (multiple round robins over 8 days)

Open

| | |
|--------------------|-------|
| 1. Japan | 405 |
| 2. Indonesia | 403 |
| 3. Australia | 381 |
| 4. China | 376 |
| 5. New Zealand | 352 |
| 6. Malaysia | 319 |
| 7. Thailand | 317 |
| 8. China Hong Kong | 297.5 |
| 9. China Macau | 295 |
| 10. Chinese Taipei | 281 |
| 11. Philippines | 275 |
| 12. Singapore | 223 |

Ladies

| | |
|--------------------|-------|
| 1. China | 374 |
| 2. Chinese Taipei | 339 |
| 3. New Zealand | 289 |
| 4. Indonesia | 287 |
| 5. Australia | 279 |
| 6. Singapore | 266 |
| 7. Japan | 246 |
| 8. China Hong Kong | 207.5 |
| 9. South Korea | 199 |
| 10. Thailand | 194 |

Youth

| | |
|--------------------|-------|
| 1. China Hong Kong | 328 |
| 2. Thailand | 292 |
| 3. China | 288 |
| 4. Chinese Taipei | 283 |
| 5. Australia | 282 |
| 6. Singapore | 233.5 |
| 7. Japan | 164 |

Seniors

| | |
|----------------------|-------|
| 1. Indonesia | 328 |
| 2. Australia | 313 |
| 3. Thai (Magic Eyes) | 309.5 |
| 4. Japan | 309.5 |
| 5. New Zealand | 277 |
| 6. Thailand (CBLT) | 251 |

Pairs

(96 pairs – 2 session qualifier, 2 session finals)

Open

| |
|---|
| 1. Paul Marston - Ishmael Del'Monte (Aus) |
| 2. Tom Jacob - Malcolm Mayer (NZ) |
| 3. Henry Wong - Nobuyuki Hayashi (HK/Jap) |

Consolation

| |
|---|
| 1. Mantanee – Supote Yaisawang (Thailand) |
|---|

THE YEAR 2002 IBPA AWARDS

The IBPA Personality of the Year

Patrick Jourdain (Wales)

The IBPA Executive and Awards Chairman kept their nomination for 2002 Personality well hidden from the retiring Editor. "Fred Gitelman is the nomination" the Editor had been told.

So Barry Rigal began the citation by saying:

"On occasion a stalking-horse is needed to conceal one's intentions. This time Fred Gitelman filled the role.

Each sport has its irreplaceable personalities. This year's nomination fulfils that role for bridge. He has identified his job for IBPA with his own personality over a period of twenty years.

Although the IBPA Executive might seem a worthy bunch, we know who the members judge the key figure to be. IBPA stands or falls by its Bulletin and the Bulletin stands or falls by the Editor. Patrick Jourdain is a man of great principles and convictions. When he thinks something is wrong he says so. When he is enthusiastic about something he lets us know. He has worked tirelessly for IBPA, and to foster bridge around the world, but particularly in Britain and in Wales.

As a player this year he achieved a unique record in the Camrose, the Home Internationals of Britain that has been running for sixty seasons. This was not, as you might expect, that he has lost more matches for Wales than other player! It is that he became the only player to have beaten all five countries in the event in individual matches. In 1977 he played for Scotland beating Wales, then returning to Wales, he recorded wins for that country against the other four, completing the list this season with a win against the Republic of Ireland.

He is known as a singer, modest skills at tennis and golf, a collector of shampoo bottles, and, in his younger days, a man of great appetite. It is said that when at a quiz the question was "how many food-groups are there?" one of Patrick's team-mates gave the answer "five". When told the correct answer was "Seven", he said, "Not now. Patrick has eaten two of them!"

I commend to you a true friend of bridge and of your Executive: **Patrick Jourdain**.

Barry Rigal



Photograph: Ron Tacchi

Awards Chairman Barry Rigal presents the Personality of the Year Award to Patrick Jourdain

The Digital Fountain Hand of the Year

Digital Fountain is a technology company specializing in data delivery. Its Chief Executive Officer and President is Cliff Meltzer, the husband of Rose Meltzer who in Paris, 2001 became the first woman to win the Bermuda Bowl. Further details about Digital Fountain can be found on their website:

www.digitalfountain.com

Player: Sebastian Kristensen (Den)

Journalist: Otto Charles Pedersen (Den)

See IBPA Bulletin No. 441 page 10

Danish Tournament Sep 2001

Sebastian Kristensen (28) from Denmark is a very talented young player, who started to play bridge only 2½ years ago. Sebastian hopes to be able to finish his studies in The United States, and his big dream is to become a professional bridge player in The States. Here is a deal from a recent tournament.

Dealer: West ♠ A Q 10 8
 N/S Game ♥ 9 5 4
 ♦ K Q 5 4 3
 ♣ 10

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

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

| West | North | East | South |
|------|-------------|----------|----------------------|
| | Jan Nielsen | | Sebastian Kristensen |
| INT | Pass | Pass | 2♥ |
| Pass | 4♥ | All Pass | |

INT = 15-17; 2♥ = Hearts and minor

West led ♠3. Kristensen won with ♠Q, and led ♣10

overtaking with ♣Q to West's ace. West continued a spade to dummy's ace, and ♦ K was covered by the ace and ruffed in hand. South knew the remaining high-card points were in West. It looked as if he was going to lose three trump-tricks, but he did not give up.

South ruffed a club-winner in dummy, cashed the top diamond, pitching a spade from hand, ruffed a spade, ruffed another club-winner and ruffed a diamond in hand. The position was:

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| ♠ None ♥ A Q J ♦ None ♣ 5 | ♠ 10 ♥ 9 ♦ 5 4 ♣ None | ♠ None ♥ 7 2 ♦ 10 9 ♣ None |
| ♠ None ♥ K 10 ♦ None ♣ K J | | |

A third club-winner was ruffed with ♥9, removing West last exit card ♣5! South could play any card from dummy pitching a club. West had to ruff and lead away from his ♥AQ.

This was a very nice declarer play. Kristensen's dream might come true.

IBPA Editor: Note that declarer made *no* club tricks. His tally was seven trumps, two spades and a diamond.

The other hands on the short-list were:

Geir Helgemo (Norway) by Jan Martel (USA) also Bulletin 441 page 10; Daniela von Arnim (Germany) by Brent Manley (USA) Bulletin 442 page 12; Sabine Auken (Germany) by Christian Farwig (Ger) Bulletin 442 page 6; Michal Kwiecien (Poland) by Mark Horton (Eng) Bulletin 445 page 11; Krzysztof Jassem (Poland) by Richard Colker (USA), Bull 446 page 11.



Photograph: Ron Tacchi

Jens Auken of Denmark receives the awards from Alan Truscott on behalf of Sebastian Kristensen and Otto Charles Pedersen

The Romex Award for Best Auction

Sponsored by George Rosenkranz (Mexico)

Players: Anton Maas & Bep Vriend (Net)

Journalist: Jos Jacobs (Net)



Photograph: Ron Tacchi

Anton Maas and Bep Vriend receive their award from Edith Rosenkranz with Jan Van Cleef representing journalist Jos Jacobs

See: Bulletin 447 page 6.

European Mixed Teams. The article also reported an auction to the same contract at the other table by Peter & Dorthe Schaltz (Den)

Board 19 ♠ K Q 2
Dealer: South ♥ Q 9 7 2
E/W Vulnerable ♦ K Q J 9 6 2
 ♣ None

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

♠ A 7 6 4 3
 ♥ A K 4
 ♦ A 4 3
 ♣ 4 3

Closed Room

| West | North | East | South |
|-------|-------|----------|--------|
| Auken | Maas | Auken | Vriend |
| | | | 1♠ |
| Pass | 2♦ | Pass | 3♣ |
| Pass | 3♠ | Pass | 4♦ |
| Pass | 4NT | Pass | 5♦ |
| Pass | 5NT | Pass | 6♦ |
| Pass | 7♦ | All Pass | |

The auction began naturally, and Bep Vriend used the 3♣ bid to create a forcing situation, as 3♦ would not have been forcing. Once spades had been agreed, the 4♦ cuebid denied a club control. So Maas could check

the keycards (5♦ showed three of five with spades as trumps), and ask for kings with 5NT, knowing that the one king shown by 6♦ was the much needed king of hearts. Now Anton could count at least 13 tricks with diamonds as trumps. Well bid.

Needless to say, a few pairs reached 7♠. With the spades not behaving it had no play. Unlucky?

The other auctions on the short-list were: Huub Bertens & Ton Bakkeren (Net) by Patrick Jourdain (Wales) Bulletin 449 page 9; Knud-Erik & Ellen Jensen (Den) by Charles Otto Pedersen (Den) Bulletin 445 page 15; Jon Cooke & Martin Garvey (Eng) by Peter Burrows (Eng) Bulletin 443 page 14; Hajdu-Szilagy (Hungary) by Mark Horton (Eng) Bulletin 444 page 6.

The Fr. Joseph Hahn & Arthur Kong Award for Best Defence

Sponsored by Rita Shugart (USA)

Player: Tony Forrester (Eng)

Journalist: Andrew Robson (Eng) in **The Times**

Bulletin 443 page 4; Las Vegas Nov 2001

In the Pairs at the Las Vegas Nationals Tony Forrester of England played with James Mates (IBPA Editor: Britain's ITN - Independent Television News - News Correspondent, and son of Tory MP and former Minister, Michael Mates) and concocted the following gem:

Dir: North ♠ Q J 10 9
Vul: None ♥ A Q J 4 2
 ♦ A Q
 ♣ 10 3

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

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



Photograph: Ron Tacchi

Andrew Robson (left) and Tony Forrester (right) received their awards from Henry Francis

| West | North | East | South |
|-------|-------|-----------|-------|
| Mates | | Forrester | |
| 1♥ | Pass | 2♦ | |
| Pass | 2♠ | Pass | 3♣ |
| Pass | 3NT | Pass | 4♣ |
| Pass | 6♦ | All Pass | |

Mates did very well to start with a spade, and Tony's ace was ruffed away. Declarer placed the ♣ A-K and ruffed a club . . . not so fast! On the second top club Tony dropped the queen! That persuaded declarer to table a diamond to the queen, losing to the king. Back came a spade and declarer ruffed. He cashed the ♦A, and when the 4-1 split came to light declarer was dead. He could not get off dummy without forcing himself again, and he finished four in the glue. Had Tony removed the losing option in trumps, declarer would have 12 tricks easily.

Other defences on the short-list were: *Paul Soloway (USA) by Patrick Jourdain (Wales) Bulletin 442 page 13; David Berkowitz (USA) by Irina Levitina (USA) Bulletin 443 page 3; Morten Bilde (Den) by Villy Dam (Den) Bulletin 443 page 15; Andrew Robson (Eng) by Jos Jacobs (Net) Bulletin 445 page 9; Bobby Richman & Ishmael Del'Monte (Australia) by Richard Solomon (NZ) Bulletin 449 page 16.*

The okBridge Award for a Junior

Player: Mikhail Krasnosselski (Russia)

Journalist: Michael Rosenblum (Russia)

Bulletin 450 page 13

European Junior Teams, Torquay

Under 25s; Round 1; Russia v. Sweden

| | | | |
|---------------|----------------|-----------------|--|
| Board 15 | ♠ A 7 | | |
| Dealer: South | ♥ K 8 3 | | |
| N/S Vul | ♦ 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 |
|------------|----------|---------------|--------|
| Malinovski | Cullin | Krasnosselski | Upmark |
| | | | Pass |
| 2NT | Pass | 3♠ | Pass |
| 4♠ | All Pass | | |

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

The opening lead from South was the singleton

jack of diamonds to the queen and king. North, Cullin, switched to ace and another spade and Mikhail misguessed, finessing and 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 ♥10 and Cullin correctly withheld the king. Declarer won cheaply and ran all the trumps bar one.

At this point 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 that 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 the ace of hearts, discarding the diamond, and then finesse the ♣9.

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

The other Juniors on the shortlist were:

Vincent Demuy (Can) by Ib Lundby (Den) Bulletin 440 page 3; Krzysztof Buras (Pol) by Andrzej Aleksandrzak (Pol) Bulletin 441 page 5; L. H. Chin (Hong Kong) by Brian Senior Bulletin 449 page 5; Romain Tembouret & Jean-Francois Grias (France) by Patrick Jourdain (Wales) Bulletin 451.



Photograph: Ron Tacchi

Journalist Michael Rosenblum and a member of the Russian junior team for Mikhail Krasnosselski accept the Junior award from a representative of OKBridge

IBPA Column Service

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

213.

Zia Mahmood is sometimes associated with the spectacular coup, and the big confidence trick, but he demonstrated that one can achieve equally elegant plays in the quiet part-score:

| | | | |
|------------------------------|--|--|----------------------------|
| Dealer: East N/S Game | ♠ K 10 5 3 ♥ A ♦ 9 8 5 4 ♣ Q 4 3 2 | | |
| | ♠ 6 2 ♥ Q 5 3 ♦ A J 10 ♣ K J 7 6 5 | ♠ A J 9 8 ♥ 9 7 4 ♦ Q 7 6 3 ♣ 9 8 | |
| | ♠ Q 7 4 ♥ K J 10 8 6 2 ♦ K 2 ♣ A 10 | | |
| West <i>Gordon</i> | North <i>Sharif</i> | East <i>Schapiro</i> | South <i>Zia</i> |
| Pass All Pass | 1♠ | Pass Pass | 1♥ 2♥ |

Gordon, West, accurately led a spade, to the ten and jack. Zia took this and played two rounds of clubs. Gordon won and played a second spade. Schapiro won and returned a heart with the idea of knocking out the entry to dummy, a slight inaccuracy on which Zia was quick to pounce.

Reading the position perfectly, instead of trying to cash the queen of clubs, he ruffed a low club to hand and played the king of hearts then the jack of hearts. Gordon was endplayed into leading diamonds or conceding a discard on dummy's queen of clubs, for Zia's eighth trick.

214.

Peter Weichsel is a thrice world champion (*IBPA Editor: Four if you count the World Transnational in Jan 2000 as well as the two Bermuda Bowls and one Mixed Pairs*) who is well known for never giving in, and never conceding an inch more ground than is necessary. In the US Nationals at Miami he was defending holding the West hand. His opponents had reached Six Spades after South had shown a very strong black two-suiter.

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

Weichsel found the best opening lead of a heart and declarer won the ace and crossed to the ace of diamonds, then played a spade to the king and ran the queen of diamonds, discarding his jack of hearts. What would you play now as West?

Weichsel at single-dummy found a defence that might elude many of us looking at all four hands; he ducked the queen of diamonds in tempo! Now declarer naturally took another ruffing finesse in diamonds and only now Weichsel did take the king and played the fourth round of diamonds. When his partner Bobby Levin ruffed this trick one of declarer's sure winners had vanished. The best he could do was to try to ruff a club in dummy, but Levin could overruff dummy's nine of spades with the 10 for down one.

Notice that if Weichsel had won the second round of diamonds there would have been three safe three discards for declarer's clubs on the diamonds, so this defence was absolutely necessary to beat the contract.

215.

As you might expect when some of the best players in the world are gathered together at a US Nationals, some great plays were made but some were missed. Here was an opportunity that caught my eye.

Dealer: South ♠ 10 7 3

E/W Vulnerable ♥ K 8 5

♦ A Q J 4 3

♣ 8 6

♠ J

♥ Q J 7 6 4 3

♦ 9 8 2

♣ A J 4

♠ K 9 8 4

♥ 10

♦ 6 5

♣ K 10 9 7 3 2

♠ A Q 6 5 2

♥ A 9 2

♦ K 10 7

♣ Q 5

| West | North | East | South |
|----------|-------|------|-------|
| 2♥ | Pass | Pass | 2♠ |
| Pass | 3♥ | Pass | 4♠ |
| All Pass | | | |

As South you play Four Spades after West's weak two opening. Fortunately West leads the nine of diamonds, not a heart. Play on.

Well, you need a favourable spade lie, and the normal hope might be that East has the king of spades, or that someone has the jack doubleton in trumps. But the point of the hand is that with East likely to hold trump length, you should perhaps try to exploit some of the 4 1 spade splits, by taking the queen of diamonds in dummy and leading the ten of spades at trick two from dummy. If West has the bare nine or eight of spades, you play the suit for one loser legitimately. If, as here, East covers with the king (it is hard to avoid doing that, is it not?) you win the ace, lead a spade to the seven and later on, cross to dummy with a heart to take a trump finesse, to bring in ten tricks.

If you lead a trump to the queen at trick two you have two trump losers, and must go down as the cards lie.

216.

One of the strongest talents that left British Bridge in the 1960's was Ken Barbour. Ken had already represented Great Britain at the age of 25 before retiring from the game at the age of 30. Happily, after a 20-year hiatus, Barbour has taken up the game seriously again. Playing a Relay Club with another British expatriate, Alan Truscott he perpetrated the following coup. Put yourself in the East seat to appreciate the full beauty of it.

Dealer: North ♠ Q 7 3

Game All ♥ A 8 5

♦ A J 2

♣ K 8 6 5

♠ K 8 5 4

♥ 9 7 4 3

♦ 9 6

♣ 10 9 4

♠ A 10 9 6 2

♥ J 2

♦ 10 8 3

♣ Q J 2

♠ J

♥ K Q 10 6

♦ K Q 7 5 4

♣ A 7 3

After Truscott had opened a 12-15 no-trump Barbour relayed to find out he was facing a hand with the red aces and the king of clubs. Hoping to find a minor club honour or some other good news Barbour jumped to Six Diamonds in a fit of youthful enthusiasm. With a blind opening lead West tried the 10 of clubs, and, perhaps without giving the matter sufficient thought East followed with his small card, which systemically encouraged the lead. Barbour played for his only chance by ducking this trick - setting West an almost impossible problem.

It was natural for West to continue with a second club. Now Barbour could throw away his spade loser on the fourth round of clubs and when the jack of hearts came down, another impossible contract had come home.

In the postmortem East came in for a large share of the blame; on a really good day he might just have been able to foresee this position arising, and to prevent it he could have overtaken his partner's lead - so as to be able to cash the ace of spades if declarer ducked the first trick. It is fair to say that this analysis is a lot easier after the event!

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COME TOGETHER IN MENTON

FORMAT

The championship will include:

- Mixed Teams
- Mixed Pairs
- Open, Women's and Senior Teams
- Open, Women's and Senior Pairs
- Side Games

RIGHT OF ENTRY

Bridge players (registered members of WBF NBOs) from all WBF zones, in good standing with their Federation, are entitled to participate. All events will be **TRANSNATIONAL** and there will be no restrictions on numbers of entries per NBO.

VENUE

Palais de l'Europe, Menton, Côte d'Azur, France

REGISTRATION

Must be made through your own Federation before **30th April 2003** and sent to:

April 2003 and sent to:
European Bridge League
Gianarrigo Rona – President
Via Ciro Menotti 11/C
20129 Milano – Italy
Tel. +39 02 7000 0333
Fax +39 02 7000 1398
E Mail: ebl@federbridge.it

Non-European players may also register by internet as from October 2002.

ENTRY FEES

To be paid in cash (Swiss Francs, Euros, and US Dollars) at the Tournament Reception and Registration Desk in Palais de l'Europe in Menton:

Mixed Teams - Swiss Francs 1200
Mixed Pairs - Swiss Francs 400
Open Teams - Swiss Francs 1400
Women's Teams - Swiss Francs 1400
Senior Teams - Swiss Francs 1200
Open Pairs - Swiss Francs 700
Women's Pairs - Swiss Francs 700
Senior Pairs - Swiss Francs 500

HOTEL ACCOMODATION

Please contact:

Syndicat des Hoteliers de Menton
Tel. +33 4 9335 9803
Fax +33 4 9357 1010
E-mail: info@hotelmenton.com

HOW TO REACH MENTON

- By plane: Nice Côte d'Azur Airport (30 mins.)
- By train: Menton Railway Station

FURTHER INFORMATION

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INFORMATION ON INTERNET

www.eurobridge.org
www.worldbridge.org
www.ecatsbridge.com

PROGRAMME & SCHEDULE OF PLAY

Saturday 14th Opening Ceremony
Mixed Teams (Qualifying round)
Sunday 15th Mixed Teams (Qualifying round)
Monday 16th Mixed Teams (16- & 8- Final/
Consolation Swiss)
Tuesday 17th Mixed Teams (4- & Semi-final)
Mixed Pairs (Qualifying 1st & 2nd Sessions)
Wednes. 18th Mixed Teams (Final)
Mixed Pairs (Qualifying 3rd &
Final 1st Sessions)
Thursday 19th Mixed Pairs (Final 2nd & 3rd Sessions)
Friday 20th Men, Women & Senior Teams
(Qualifying Sessions)
Saturday 21st Men, Women & Senior Teams
(Qualifying Sessions)
Sunday 22nd Men, Women & Senior Teams
(Qualifying Sessions)
Monday 23rd Men, Women & Senior Teams
(16- & 8- Final / Consolation)
Tuesday 24th Men, Women & Senior Teams
(4- & Semi-final)
Men, Women & Senior Pairs
(1st & 2nd Qualifying Sessions)
Wednes. 25th Men, Women & Senior Teams (Final)
Men, Women & Senior Pairs
(3rd Qual. & 1st Semi-final)
Thursday 26th Men, Women & Senior Pairs
(2nd & 3rd Semi-final)
Friday 27th Men, Women & Senior Pairs
(1st & 2nd Final & Consolation)
Saturday 28th Men, Women & Senior Pairs
(3rd Final Session)
Closing Ceremony & Prize-Giving at 7.30 p.m.
followed by Victory Banquet

Play will start at 10/10.30 a.m. and finish at 8/8.30 p.m. each day, except for Saturday 14th June, when play will start in the afternoon after the Opening Ceremony.

AWARDS

Gold, silver and bronze EBL Medals will be awarded. Winners will receive the title of European Open Champion. Honour prizes will be presented to the best ranking pairs and teams in each category. MasterPoints will also be awarded.

COME TO MENTON
TO ENJOY TOGETHER

**THE FIRST EUROPEAN
OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP**

Declarer triumphantly exited with a spade, expecting West would have to return a diamond into his tenace, but he was shocked to see West cash a winning club, before conceding the last trick to declarer's king of diamonds.

One down. At the other table France made Four Hearts on the normal play for a swing of 10 IMPs.

The article was called "The Safety Play and Strip Squeeze NOT"

* Barry Rigal reports on the ACBL Junior Camp:

Ophir Reshef found a great falsecard on this deal:

| | | | |
|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Board 2. | ♠ A Q | | |
| Dealer: East | ♥ 9 7 5 4 | | |
| N/S Vul | ♦ K Q J 8 7 | | |
| | ♣ A 6 | | |
| | ♠ J 6 4 3 2 | ♠ 9 7 5 | |
| | ♥ 6 | ♥ A J 10 8 2 | |
| | ♦ 9 4 2 | ♦ A | |
| | ♣ K 10 7 2 | ♣ Q J 9 8 | |
| | ♠ K 10 8 | | |
| | ♥ K Q 3 | | |
| | ♦ 10 6 5 3 | | |
| | ♣ 5 4 3 | | |
| West | North | East | South |
| 1♠ | 2♦ | 1♥ | Pass |
| Pass | 3♥ | Pass | 3♦ |
| All Pass | | Pass | 3NT |

N/S really belong in a partscore - 2NT is their best-scoring spot but an aggressive auction such as the one shown is quite reasonable.

Ophir Reshef was sitting South and on a parallel auction (he had been doubled in 3NT) he was treated to a heart lead. Gauging the situation accurately, he called for a low heart from dummy, and when East put up the ace he dropped the queen! East sniffed the air suspiciously for a few minutes then took the bait and returned a low heart, letting Ophir run this to dummy's nine and collect his ten tricks for all 15 matchpoints out of 15.

Of course, had South played low at trick one, East might well have found the club switch that beats the game.

This deal had both a simple and complex solution to making Four Hearts after West, who had overcalled

clubs, led three rounds of the suit, East discarding a spade:

| | | |
|-------------|---------------|------------|
| Dealer East | ♠ A 9 5 | |
| Both Vul. | ♥ 7 5 4 | |
| | ♦ A K 9 4 | |
| | ♣ 4 3 2 | |
| | ♠ 8 6 | ♠ K Q 3 2 |
| | ♥ 5 3 | ♥ J 10 8 |
| | ♦ J 3 2 | ♦ 10 8 7 5 |
| | ♣ A K Q J 9 6 | ♣ 10 8 |
| | ♠ J 10 7 4 | |
| | ♥ A K Q 9 2 | |
| | ♦ Q 6 | |
| | ♣ 7 5 | |

Declarer ruffed and drew three rounds of trumps. He then ran the jack of spades. A diamond return from East mangled the entries for a squeeze. The defenders were Ryan Humphreys and Jonathan Ohliger.

Had declarer drawn only two rounds of trumps, he would have had the third trump to return to hand. He can squeeze East either by winning the diamond switch in hand, cashing the top spade (Vienna Coup) and running all the trumps, or by the more complex Criss-Cross: winning the diamond switch in dummy, and cashing trumps throwing spades from dummy.

IBPA Editor: Amazingly the Criss-Cross works without-the-count. Had declarer simply played a fourth trump and thrown a spade from dummy, East would have been squeezed. A diamond discard gives a trick at once and another spade discard allows declarer to set up the suit.

Declarer might also have relied on East having no more than four diamonds. After drawing trumps, you eliminate all the diamonds with a ruff, and then run the jack of spades. As East has only spades left the return gives the game.

IBPA Editor: Yes, what East, with five diamonds, would realise the advantage of hanging on to the fifth card when discarding on the third club?

The Swiss game finished in a decisive win for Katmandu. Joel Wooldridge was part of that team, and he produced a maneuver that I had only seen Michael Rosenberg try before. He psyched a no-trump against a pair playing DON'T -who thus did not have a penalty double available to them. This is the full hand, and it might constitute a first in that it could be the only time that a pair with 32HCP between them never bid, without having been barred through an infraction.

Dir:North ♠ J 6 4
 Vul:N-S ♥ 4 3
 ♦ A 7 4 3
 ♣ 9 4 3 2

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

 ♠ 9 3 2
 ♥ Q J 10 9
 ♦ 9 8 5
 ♣ 8 6

When Joel opened INT East had no option but to pass (some play double followed by 2NT shows a 2NT opening bid -that would have worked well enough here). Now Flemming Clausen guesses very well to pass rather than to transfer out to 2♥ which would certainly have let East back in. When West saw no reason to reopen the contract became INT down four on less than stellar defense - but it is always hard to defend against a psyche. Since 6NT made in the other room it hardly mattered.

Stefan Back showed me a deal, where his own overbid had put his partner, Gerben Dirksen, in a perilous spot.

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

| West | North | East | South |
|----------|-------|------|-------|
| Pass | 2♥ | Pass | 2♠ |
| Pass | 2NT | Pass | 3NT |
| All Pass | | | |

Gerben won the club lead in hand and led a heart to the king and a club to his jack. When West exited with a club Gerben won two rounds of the suit ending in dummy, observing East throw three diamonds. Now he led a heart to the seven! He inferred that East's failure to pitch a heart suggested four, hence West's ace had to be bare. When West led the diamond king Gerben let him hold it, and then West's jack of spades went to the

queen, king and ace. Now came two winning hearts, this being the position as the last heart was led

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

On the last heart West came down to the bare nine of spades and the doubleton queen of diamonds, but Dirksen threw him in with a spade to lead diamonds into the tenace. Contract made! This was a beautifully played hand!

Two declarers, Lisa Burton and either Glickman or Hirschman found the partial elimination on this deal:

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

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

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

| West | North | East | South |
|----------|-------|------|-------|
| 4♠ | 4NT | 3♠ | Pass |
| 5♠ | Pass | Pass | 5♣ |
| All Pass | | | Dble |

South led the queen of hearts. The successful declarers won, unblocked the ace of diamonds, used a trump entry and the second heart to eliminate the diamonds, and then led a club to the ten. North, after cashing two clubs, had to concede a ruff and discard.



POINTS FROM THE POSTBAG

LETTERS ...

The Editor reserves the right to shorten correspondence

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* Maureen Hiron of Spain submits this deal as an early entry for next year's IBPA Defence Award:

It features Ireland's Adam Mesbur and Nick Fitzgibbon playing against Portugal in 2002 European Championships in Salsomaggiore:

| | | | |
|---------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|
| Dealer: North | ♠ J 6 2 | | |
| Game All | ♥ A Q 10 | | |
| | ♦ K 10 8 5 | | |
| | ♣ A K 4 | | |
| | ♠ 10 8 4 | ♠ K Q | |
| | ♥ 9 7 6 3 | ♥ K 4 | |
| | ♦ A J 2 | ♦ 9 7 3 | |
| | ♣ 7 6 5 | ♣ Q J 9 8 3 2 | |
| | ♠ A 9 7 5 3 | | |
| | ♥ J 8 5 2 | | |
| | ♦ Q 6 4 | | |
| | ♣ 10 | | |
| West | North | East | South |
| Mesbur | | Fitzgibbon | |
| | 1♦ | 2♣ | 2♠ |
| Pass | 2NT | Pass | 3♥ |
| Pass | 4♠ | All Pass | |

South reached Four Spades which, with a sight of all four hands, seems a simple enough game to bring home.

West, Adam Mesbur, led the seven of clubs, taken with dummy's ace. A low spade went to the king and ace, followed by a finesse of the heart ten, which East, Fitzgibbon, allowed to hold! Next came a low diamond to the queen, ducked without a flicker by West.

Declarer now confidently finessed again in hearts. On winning his now bare king East put his partner on lead with the ace of diamonds, for West to lead a third heart. East ruffed and West for the defence's third trick, and with West holding the 10-8 of trumps sitting over South's nine, a further trump trick was guaranteed.

IBPA Editor: Maureen's late husband, Alan Hiron was the winner, in 1990, of the inaugural World Senior Pairs Championship, partnering Albert Dormer. The event, played each four years, most recently last month in Montreal, will be called the Hiron Trophy.

* This deal from the European Schools Championships in Torquay made the short list for the okBridge 2002 Award for a Junior, but has not yet appeared in an IBPA Bulletin. It was reported by Patrick Jourdain in the Daily Bulletin in Torquay.

The Juniors had the evening off on Friday. This gave the chance for the Schools to feature on Viewgraph. Spectators saw a high-standard match between Germany and France. The French were able to applaud the defence of Romain Tembouret & Jean-Francois Grias on this deal:

Schools Session 4; Board 16.

| | | | |
|--------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|
| Dealer: West | ♠ K 9 | | |
| E/W Vul | ♥ 8 5 3 | | |
| | ♦ J 6 5 4 | | |
| | ♣ K 8 5 3 | | |
| | ♠ Q 6 5 4 3 | ♠ J 8 7 | |
| | ♥ Q J | ♥ 10 7 6 | |
| | ♦ Q 3 | ♦ A 8 7 2 | |
| | ♣ Q 10 6 2 | ♣ 9 7 4 | |
| | ♠ A 10 2 | | |
| | ♥ A K 9 4 2 | | |
| | ♦ K 10 9 | | |
| | ♣ A J | | |
| West | North | East | South |
| Tembouret | Smirnov | Grias | Kraemer |
| Pass | Pass | Pass | 1♥ |
| 1♠ | 2♥ | 2♠ | 3♠ |
| Pass | 4♥ | All Pass | |

West, Romain Tembouret, led a low spade against South's Four Hearts. It looks as if declarer has only a heart and two diamonds to lose. He won the spade lead in hand over East's jack, and laid down a top trump. When the queen of hearts fell from West declarer feared the suit was 4-1, and he would need to play the suit from dummy to prevent East making two trump tricks. So declarer crossed to dummy with the king of spades and led a trump, finessing when East played a small one.

The intention was to guard against a bad trump break, but it proved to be an "unsafety" play when the defence found the best reply: West led a low diamond to East's ace, and East returned his trump to prevent declarer ruffing his losing spade.

Declarer regretted not taking his spade ruff earlier, but he spotted a way he might recover. He thought West held the guarded queen of diamonds and, as West was known to hold the queen of spades, he could be subject to a strip-squeeze endplay.

Declarer cashed his remaining trumps, played the jack of clubs to dummy's king, and returned to the ace in hand. He had three cards left, a spade and two diamonds. West was supposed to hold the same.