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*(The opinions expressed here are solely those of the Editor, and not necessarily the IBPA or its Executive.)*

Greetings from Toronto. I am honoured and delighted to be taking over from Patrick Jourdain upon his retirement after 20 years of faithful, brilliant service and to be the first non-Briton (okay, I was actually born in England) to take on the task. I shall do my best to prove myself equal to the challenge.

One of the goals of the IBPA Executive and myself is to broaden the reportage in the Bulletin. By this is meant we wish to report results and interesting deals from all WBF Zonal Championships each year, not merely the European and North American Zones, which has been the usual practice to date. I have spoken with some of you about this already, and I shall be contacting more of you in the months to come. Additionally, we wish to enlist more writers from other Zones to contribute to the Bulletin, and to broaden the base of women contributors.

Many of you have expressed your views to me on the Bulletin and its contents already. I can promise you that I shall always lend a sympathetic ear to your views, but ask you to keep in mind that your views are not always compatible with each other. Nevertheless, I shall try to accommodate as many suggestions as I can. This is after all your Bulletin, and although I report to the Executive, I consider that I work for all of you. That won't stop me from badgering you for material, however!

The Montreal World Championships are now history. Montreal is a wonderful city, with many fine restaurants, and the very sensible scheduling of events (play finished at approximately 20:00 each day) meant that one could enjoy a leisurely, social dinner without worrying about its affect on that evening's play. Nevertheless, the tournament provided enough material for a year's worth of Editorials. In the issues to come, I shall report on and deal with some of the larger issues that arose before, during, and after the Championships. For now, suffice to say that there were many newsworthy events to us as bridge journalists. Some of these were:

- the presence of Bill Gates to play the Mixed Pairs with Sharon Osberg
- a very low turnout in all events
- the seeming last-minute change in the Conditions of Contest which allowed, among others, a Swedish team to add two Americans at the bell (see Patrick's September Editorial)
- José Damiani's announcement that the IOC Programme Committee will recommend that bridge not be admitted to the Olympic Games
- the location of the 2003 Bermuda Bowl and Venice Cup not being finalized – Warsaw, Mauritius, Cancun, and Bali were mentioned as possibilities

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- the unexpected resignation of Chief Tournament Director Bill (Kojack) Schoder and the subsequent appointment of Max Bevan as his replacement
- the resignation of George Retek (Tournament Chairman) as Treasurer to the WBF, and the appointment of Jean-Claude Derivery to replace him
- the refusal of a member of the silver medal-winning McConnell Team from the USA, Hjordis Eythorsdottir, to submit to a drug test, and the subsequent revocation of her medal
- the theft, during the night, of the computer with the hand records for the fifth and final session of the Open Pairs Final (new deals were used)
- the many administrative and technical glitches which occurred during the Championships, such as: misplacing a half-dozen entries for the Rosenblum teams overnight and subsequently not reseeding to accommodate those teams when their entries were discovered; and having the second-placed pair going into the final session of the Mixed Pairs being able to see the results of the first-placed pair for the whole session (traveling score slips were used for all pairs events).

The deals from Montreal presented in these pages are from the Daily Bulletin, ably edited by Mark Horton, Brent Manley, and Brian Senior. Unless attributed to a third party, the material was written by one of them. Patrick Jourdain and I have jointly edited this issue. The full, detailed results and all the Bulletins can be found on the official WBF Site at [www.worldbridge.org](http://www.worldbridge.org). Should you need more detailed information about the participants such as first names, biographies, etc. many of these can be found at [www.ecatsbridge.com](http://www.ecatsbridge.com) in either the Championships section where the original registrations lists are held, or in the Personalities section. Placings for the team events had to be constructed from individual matches as they are not listed anywhere in the Daily Bulletins or the website. I apologize for any errors that may have crept into the lists in these pages as a result of my constructing the placement lists. Please note that for award purposes, Lavazza and Ferraro for the winning Italian Rosenblum team, and Eythorsdottir for the second-place McConnell team were ruled ineligible, the Italians for not meeting board requirements, and Eythorsdottir for the refused drug test.

By capturing the World Mixed Pairs Championship with Becky Rogers, **Jeff Meckstroth** has joined an elite band of record holders. Already a winner of the Bermuda Bowl, the Olympiad and the World Pairs he has now added a fourth different title, making him only the third person to achieve the Bridge equivalent of golf's 'Impregnable Quadrilateral.' (The unique achievement of Bobby Jones who won the Open & Amateur Championships of Great Britain and the USA in the same year.) The silver medal is the property of France's Babette Hugon and Jean Jacques Palau who went into the final session with a healthy lead that was swept away by the 69.99% score posted by the American combination.

Another pair recorded a tremendous score in the final session, enough to move them right through the field to secure the remaining place on the podium, a spot that they also occupied in Lille in 1998. With that clue you will realize that it was Jens & Sabine Auken.

The unlucky pair to finish fourth was Beth Palmer and Steve Robinson of the USA.

## Mixed Pairs Qualifier

### Bulletin 2 page 9 Board 21

There was nothing to the play on the next deal, but Meltzer and Weichsel had a nice auction to get to a grand slam that was by no means a universal contract.

Board 21. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Weichsel</i>		<i>Meltzer</i>	
2♣	Pass	2♦	
Pass	2♥	Pass	3♠ (1)
Pass	3NT (2)	Pass	4♦
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♣ (3)
Pass	5♦ (4)	Pass	6♦ (5)
Pass	7♥	All Pass	

- (1) Good heart raise with spade shortness.
- (2) Slam try.
- (3) One key card.
- (4) Trump queen?
- (5) Yes, plus the  $\diamond K$ .

East led the  $\clubsuit A$  and Weichsel claimed seconds later.

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

## GIVE UP TO WIN

PO Sundelin (Sweden)

Joanna Stansby executed what may prove the best played hand of this tournament. Here's her story:

### Mixed 2nd qualifying session

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Lew</i>		<i>Joanna</i>	
1 $\diamond$	1 $\spadesuit$		
2 $\heartsuit$	2 $\spadesuit$	Pass	3 $\spadesuit$
4 $\heartsuit$	4 $\spadesuit$	Pass	Pass
Dble	All Pass		

The defence started with two rounds of hearts. "I ruffed" says Joanna. "I could count eight tricks in trumps and the minors, so I needed to get a couple of ruffs in dummy and/or a squeeze. West have had some reason for his double, and since it wasn't aces so it had to be foul breaks. I couldn't afford having my diamond ace ruffed so I just exited with a small diamond. East triumphantly continued the suit but I let her hold the trick, and then there was nothing they could do. I actually needed only one ruff since there was an automatic double squeeze where no one could hold clubs, so even if they return a trump after the first diamond I still make."

590 was worth 399 matchpoints out of 414.

It seems that a club return at trick 4 and 6 may make life more difficult for declarer as it breaks up the squeeze. "Not at all", says Joanna. "West's best defence is to throw clubs on the diamonds, which will produce the following ending:"

"I will now ruff a club high, and play a small diamond. West must ruff or else I take the rest on crossruffs. But I overruff, draw the trumps ending in dummy to enjoy the established club as my tenth trick."

## Writers Can Also Play

Alan and Dorothy Truscott are both renowned as bridge writers, particularly Alan. Their efforts on this deal show that they can also play a bit. The story was related to us by their opponents in the Mixed Pairs, David and Daniela Birman from Israel.

Board 6. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>David B</i>	<i>Alan T</i>	<i>Daniela B</i>	<i>Dorothy T</i>
		1 $\clubsuit$	Pass
2 $\spadesuit$	Pass	Pass	Dble
Pass	3 $\clubsuit$	All Pass	

I guess that double dummy you would make 3NT if played by North, however, that is pretty well impossible to achieve. Given their opponents' auction, the Truscotts did very well to get into bidding and to a making contract, particularly as that contract was in a suit bid by the opposition.

Daniela led ace and another spade to dummy's king. Alan led a heart to the jack and king, won the heart return and ran the jack of clubs. After three rounds of clubs he could cash the hearts to pitch his low diamond. That was nine tricks for +110. Allowing East/West to play and make 2 $\spadesuit$  would have been a disaster for North/South, so all credit to Dorothy for finding that balancing double.

## Of Scrum Halves and Computer Kings

### By Patrick Jourdain (Wales)

Wearing the team uniform of Wales at the reception following the Opening Ceremony had its advantages. Seeing the red dragon of Wales on the blazer pocket, a couple approached. "We're from Australia, but one branch of the family came from Wales," they said. "The name's Farr-Jones".

"That name is more associated with rugby than bridge," I replied. (For those unfamiliar with the game of rugby, Nick Farr-Jones of Australia would be on any list for a World Alltime Team. To an American he might be described as the Michael Jordan of Australian rugby.)

I had said the right thing. "Nick Farr-Jones is our son," said Rosemary and Max. Australia and Wales are as close geographically as they are alphabetically, but a partnership between the two was formed for the Mixed.

A journalist is always seeking good copy, and a well-known opponent adds spice to the story, so it was fortunate that both our boards against Bill Gates and Sharon Osberg were worth reporting:

### Mixed Pairs Qualifying Session 3

Board 25. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

♠ K 7 2

♥ Q 7 5 3 2

♦ 8

♣ A K 8 3

♠ Q J 10 8 4

♥ J 9 8 6 4

♦ Q J

♣ Q

♠ 9 5 3

♥ A K 10

♦ K 10 6 5 2

♣ 6 5

♠ A 6

♥ -

♦ A 9 7 4 3

♣ J 10 9 7 4 2

West	North	East	South
<i>Jourdain</i>	<i>Gates</i>	<i>Farr-Jone</i>	<i>Osberg</i>
Pass	1♥	Pass	INT
All Pass	2♣	Pass	6♣

Gates alerted the response of INT but the subsequent auction made clear it had been forcing! Osberg's raise to Six Clubs was sensible though, as Gates explained, his suit could be as few as two cards (when opener's shape is precisely 4-5-2-2).

Rosemary Farr-Jones led a spade. Declarer's problem was how to take advantage of a favourable layout in either red suit.

Gates won the spade lead in hand, laid down one top trump, on which the queen fell, ruffed a heart, returned with a trump, ruffed another heart on which the king appeared, ruffed a diamond, ruffed a third heart seeing the fall of the ace, ruffed a diamond finding that suit was not going to contribute an extra trick, but was able to cash the queen of hearts as his twelfth trick.

The fall of the singleton queen of clubs does give declarer the option of reverting to a cross-ruff, planning to make nine trump tricks and the three outside winners, but if the queen of trumps is outstanding then declarer's timing of the red suit ruffs was best, as he had retained the chance of a diamond break if the hearts did not provide the extra trick.

Double dummy it is possible to make all 13 tricks by taking advantage both of the fall of the trump queen and the top hearts. You win the opening lead in dummy, ruff three diamonds and three hearts, drawing one high trump on the way, and then use dummy's jack of trumps to draw East's last trump, before returning to hand with the spade king to enjoy the heart queen.

Six Clubs making brought our computer king 369 out of 414 matchpoints.

The companion board showed bank executive Osberg's expertise as declarer:

Board 26. Dealer East. All Vul.

♠ A 9 5 2

♥ 7 5

♦ 10 8 7 6 2

♣ Q 4

♠ 10 6

♥ Q 10 8 6 2

♦ Q J 9

♣ K 7 3

♠ K J 7

♥ -

♦ A 5 4 3

♣ A J 10 9 5 2

♠ Q 8 4 3

♥ A K J 9 4 3

♦ K

♣ 8 6

West	North	East	South
<i>Jourdain</i>	<i>Gates</i>	<i>Farr-Jones</i>	<i>Osberg</i>
INT	Pass	1♣	1♥
Dble	All Pass	Pass	2♥

Farr-Jones looked a little worried about passing my double with a void in trumps, but all was well. The defence began: club to the ace, club to the king, spade to the king, ace of diamonds. We had four tricks in the bag and my five trumps were still all in place behind declarer, so you might expect two down, but East quite naturally continued with a second diamond, and Osberg was not un-happy to reduce her trump holding by ruffing low. One top trump revealed the layout in the suit, and she used the spade entry in dummy to ruff another diamond.

In the ending declarer laid down a top spade knowing, when I ruffed, she would make her nine of trumps on the return, and then, when she played the last spade, I could ruff again but would have to let her make her jack of trumps in hand. One down for 200 to the Australia/Wales combo was a respectable result for the USA pair (140/414 MPts), particularly when you appreciate that Osberg managed to make all six of her own trumps.

## The winning edge

It's usually good strategy to be aggressive at matchpoints. A better strategy is to combine aggression with skill at card play. The ultimate, of course, is to be aggressive, skillful and .....lucky.

Becky Rogers and Jeff Meckstroth, winners of the Mixed Pairs, didn't have much to work with in the second final session, in which they scored only about 54% to lie second, nearly two percentage points out of first.

The Americans - Rogers lives in Las Vegas, Meckstroth in Tampa FL - mounted a charge in the third final session, scoring just a whisker less than 70% to overtake France's Babette Hugon and Jean Jacques Palau, who earned the silver medal, just ahead of Sabine and Jens Auken, who also had a huge game in the third final session.

On this deal, Rogers showed the skillful part of the winning formula against one of the best mixed pairs from the U.S., Lisa and David Berkowitz.

Board 6. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>David</i>	<i>Meckstroth</i>	<i>Lisa</i>	<i>Rogers</i>
		Pass	INT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

David Berkowitz led the ♥J, ducked all around. He continued with the ♥10, on which Lisa discarded the encouraging ♣7. Rogers won the ♥A and played the ♠Q, ducked by David. He also ducked when Rogers played the ♠K. She then played a heart from hand, taken by David with the king, followed by a low club to Lisa's ace.

Lisa returned the ♦J, which went around to dummy's ace. Rogers followed with the ♠J to David's ace, and he got out of his hand with a heart to dummy's queen. This was the position as Rogers cashed the ♠10:

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

Rogers pitched her low diamond and David threw his low club. Rogers, reading the layout accurately, played a club to the king, dropping David's queen for eight tricks. Note that if Berkowitz had stiffed his ♦K instead of the ♣Q, Rogers could have played a diamond, forcing David to lead from his ♣Q at the end for the same result. Plus 120 was worth 155 out of 180 matchpoints.

The following deal illustrates how close to the edge one must stroll to come home with loads of matchpoints.

Board 18. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

Rogers' vulnerable takeout double on a 4-3-3-3 hand with 11 high-card points might be a bit much for some players, but it had the virtue of most likely making Meckstroth declarer. After West's 1♥ bid, Meckstroth had no qualms about bidding INT on his doubleton ♥J, and he was right there with 2♠ on his three-card suit when 2♥ came back to him.

Rogers, of course, knew Meckstroth could not have more than three spades, and she thought better of letting even a superb declarer such as Meckstroth play a 3-3 fit.

Obviously, had the opponents just stopped to double, they would have earned most of the matchpoints. That is not clear, of course. As it was, it was North-South who made off like bandits.

The defenders cashed the first four heart tricks, as Meckstroth pitched a spade from dummy and two clubs from hand. East then made the serious error of cashing the ♠A, followed by another spade. All Meckstroth had



to do from there was knock out the ♣A for his seventh trick. Since East-West have an easy plus 140 in 2♥, minus 100 was another 155 MPs for the winners.

On this deal, more aggressive bidding paid off with a big number for the winners.

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

(1) Lebensohl: relay to 3♣ to indicate a weak hand.

Rogers was going to take eight or nine tricks in 2♥ - and East-West should have let well enough alone. It's annoying, however, to feel as though someone is stealing from you, which East may have believed in making her own aggressive move with a takeout double on that moth-eaten collection of cards. The layout didn't have to be that bad for East-West, although East must surely have known it was possible.

Meckstroth was happy to apply the axe and the result was plus 500 on a board where plus 110 or 140 was their maximum. That score earned the winners 152 matchpoints.

## BG Smothers BG

By Brian Glubok (USA)

When Brian Glubok faced Bill Gates in the first session of the Mixed Pairs qualifying, I fully expected something mystical to happen.

After all, Bill and I share more than our initials. Both of us have played with Fred Gitelman, both were educated in Massachusetts in the Seventies (I studied at Amherst while Bill was launching Microsoft at Harvard) and we both have an entrepreneurial streak (I have a paper route in lower Manhattan while Bill is founder-chairman of the world's largest corporation).

On the first deal of our set, Bill made all 13 tricks in a vulnerable heart slam. This slightly spectacular result was surpassed on the second deal, where Gates declared 2♥.

Board 22. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Gates		Osberg	
Pass	2♥	INT	2♣ (1)
		All Pass	

(1) Majors.

My partner, Jane Thompson of Canada, led her top two spades. She then cashed the ♣A and shifted to a diamond. Gates won and played diamond winners and the ♣Q, discarding two spades from dummy. Along the way, he ruffed a club in dummy, leading to this five-card ending:

<p>♠ J ♥ A J 7 ♦ - ♣ J</p> <p>♠ Q ♥ 10 8 6 5 ♦ - ♣ -</p>	<p>♠ - ♥ Q 4 ♦ 10 3 ♣ 10</p> <p>♠ - ♥ K 9 ♦ - ♣ 7 6 3</p>
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Gates ruffed the ♣10 in dummy, both opponents following. He then led a trump from the South hand. I rose with the ace and played a spade for Jane to ruff, which she did, with the ♥K. This was the two-card ending.

<p>♠ - ♥ J 7 ♦ - ♣ -</p> <p>♠ - ♥ 10 8 ♦ - ♣ -</p>	<p>♠ - ♥ - ♦ - ♣ 7 6</p>
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Jane had to return a club and I was skewered in the extremely rare ending known as a smother play. Suddenly, my "certain" trump trick evaporated.

All in all, it was indeed a mystical round: a vulnerable slam occurs on perhaps one in a hundred deals - rare but not unheard of.

The position that occurred in the second deal, by contrast, is so rare that bridge player might play an entire lifetime without seeing it. A smother play, it is fair to say, is as rare as a Seattle street without a Starbucks.

## Mixed Pairs Final

### Bulletin 4 page 3 Board 23

Board 23. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Lev</i>	<i>Hackett</i>	<i>Sokolow</i>	<i>Sekizawa</i>
Pass	INT	Pass	Pass
Dble	Pass	Pass	2♥
Pass	3♣	Pass	2NT
All Pass			3NT

Jason Hackett stretched a trifle to open a 15-17 no trump and Miho Sekizawa transferred then invited game with 2NT. Jason suggested that 3♣ might be a good spot but Sekizawa showed touching faith in her partner's ability to make bricks out of straw and went back to 3NT.

Tobi Sokolow started with the ace of diamonds but was unable to read her partner's signal and switched to the jack of hearts. Jason won that in hand to lead to the queen of clubs and, when that held, lead back to his ten and Sokolow's ace. That is the best play to attempt to conceal the true club position but the defenders should probably work it out anyway. Now came the critical moment in the hand. When Sokolow continued with a second heart, being convinced that declarer must hold the ♦Q for his opening bid, Jason was home. He won the ♥K and crossed to the king of spades to run the clubs. On the last club, Sokolow came down to the bare king of diamonds to keep two spades. Jason cashed the ♠Q and exited with a diamond, using Sokolow as a stepping stone to the ♠A; ten tricks and a huge +630.

## Jousting with the Juniors

The most successful of the Junior Teams in Montreal was the BYRNE team from England, which just missed qualifying for the Knockout rounds in the Rosenblum. They ran into a hot defence put up by the LAMBARDI team from Argentina on the next deal.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Camberos</i>	<i>Morris</i>	<i>Lambardi</i>	<i>Byrne</i>
—	—	INT	Pass
2♦	2♥	3♥	4♣
All Pass			

Two Diamonds was a transfer and 2♥ a take-out of hearts. The opening lead was the nine of clubs to the ten, jack and king. Byrne drew trumps in two rounds then led the two of clubs to the queen and ace. Next came a club to the seven and eight. Seeing that he was in danger of being endplayed, Lambardi underled the ace-king of hearts at this point. Camberos wasted no time in returning a diamond and declarer had to duck. But now Lambardi could get out with his low club and wait for declarer to play on diamonds: one down. In the other room, the English E/W pair competed to 5♥. This was not doubled but was three down for -150.

## Eye on the Prize

Barry Rigal is well-known as a contributor to Daily Bulletins and as a Vugraph commentator at North American and World Championships. His exploits as a player are less well-known, but he is also solid there.

The Rigal team went up against the Tony Forrester squad in the Power Rosenblum round of 64. Rigal was playing with JoAnna Stansby.

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

<b>West</b> <i>Stansby</i>	<b>North</b> <i>Robson</i>	<b>East</b> <i>Rigal</i>	<b>South</b> <i>Forrester</i>
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	1♥	1♠	Pass
3♥	Pass	3♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Forrester led the ♥5 to the 4, 10 and 6. Robson continued with ♥Q, then the king, indicating his liking for clubs. Rigal ruffed the third round of hearts with the ♠Q, and Forrester threw the ♣J.

The contract could not be defeated from that point. Rigal cashed ♠A then passed the ♦J through South. Rigal then cashed the ♠K and played on diamonds. Forrester could not ruff in until the fourth round of diamonds, and on that trick Barry pitched one of dummy's clubs. The defenders ended up with one club, one spade and two hearts, and Rigal scored plus 140. As you can see, Forrester must pitch a diamond on the third round of hearts. He can then ruff in before Rigal can get a pitch and push a club through the king before it's too late.

## Double Endplay

by Barry Rigal

As we have seen before, England's Hackett twins are dangerous adversaries, partly due to their aggressive approach in the auction. This deal was a case in point.

Board 11. Dealer South. None Vul.

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

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
	<i>Jason</i>		<i>Justin</i>
—	—	Pass	1♥
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♥
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

When you bid them up you have to play them up as well. Jason's 3♥ might look a little forward, but 4♥ was a fair spot. On the lead the ten of clubs, Justin ducked in dummy and East contributed a standard-count eight.

A spade to the queen scored as East started an echo, and a trump was led to the king and ace. Justin played a second spade up, and East won his ace and exited with a third spade, allowing Justin to pitch his losing diamond. Justin then crossed to the ace of diamonds then led the ♥9 from hand. West won and was endplayed for the

first time, obliged to lead his remaining diamond as either a heart or a club would give a trick immediately.

Justin ruffed the diamond and then played queen and another heart, and West was endplayed for the second time. Having used up his only safe exit card on the previous endplay, he was now obliged to lead away from the king of clubs, and Justin had held his losers to three. Nicely done, though West could have defeated the contract had he switched to a diamond when in with the ace of spades.

## Interesting Splinter

One of the hallmarks of expert players is imagination. Gunnar Hallberg, formerly of Sweden, and Lionel Wright, formerly of New Zealand, here playing for England both showed a little imagination on this deal from the final set of their Round of 64 match in the Power Rosenblum to earn a crucial swing.

Board 18. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Wright</i>		<i>Hallberg</i>	
—	—	Pass	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♠	Pass
4♣	Pass	4♦	Pass
6♠	All Pass		

Two Clubs was strong and artificial. The 2♠ response was to play facing a minimum balanced hand. Now Wright, with such wonderful spade support and controls, wanted to invite slam and, as he was looking for a diamond control, 4♣ seemed to be a convenient way forward. Of course that was a splinter bid promising shortage, but....

Hallberg decided that, within the context of a hand that wanted to play only 2♠ facing 20-21 balanced, he could have been worse, so cuebid the ♦Q. Expecting to be facing the ♦K, Wright leapt to slam, ending the auction. East's ♣10 made the contract pretty good once a diamond lead had been avoided and, in fact, played this way up, there was no lead to threaten it. Plus 980 on this deal earned their team 11 IMPs.



## Playing Tough

Brad Moss helped his squad earn a game swing with expert play on this deal (hands rotated) from their match with the OLANSKI team from Poland.

♠ 8 6 3  
♥ 8 5 4  
♦ Q 10 8 6 2  
♣ Q 5

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

♠ A K Q 5  
♥ K 2  
♦ A 5  
♣ A K 7 4 3

West	North <i>Gitelman</i>	East	South <i>Moss</i>
—	—	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♥
Pass	2♠	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Moss's auction was artificial up to 2NT, which showed 22-23 balanced. West led the ♠9, and Moss cashed the top three spades, happily noting the 3-3 split. He then played a low club to the queen, watching the 2 from West and the 6 from East. When he played the ♣5 from dummy and East played the 8, Moss thought about his play for a bit before making the key move of playing low.

West had to win the ♣10 and was endplayed, forced to break hearts or diamonds. He chose a low diamond, and Moss put in the queen to earn his contract with an overtrick.

Moss's play in clubs was well conceived and designed to protect his ♥K. He didn't need five club tricks, after all - four would do. At the other table, declarer did not consider his plays as carefully as Moss did, and when East got in with the fourth round of clubs, the heart shift defeated the contract.

## A Nice Try

A good declarer in a difficult contract will visualize a lie of the cards that will allow him to make it, however improbable that may be. On this deal, Eric Rodwell was just such a declarer.

Board 5. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

♠ Q 6 4 2  
♥ K Q 7 2  
♦ —  
♣ A K Q J 7

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

♠ J 10 8 3  
♥ A J 9 8  
♦ Q 2  
♣ 9 3 2

West	North <i>Rodwell</i>	East	South <i>Meckstroth</i>
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	1♣	5♦	Dble
Pass	5♥	All Pass	

After Rodwell's Strong Club opening, East applied maximum pressure with a leap to 5♦. Jeff Meckstroth's double showed a few cards and a willingness to declare, and Rodwell bid 5♥. Pass would certainly not have been a good choice, with 5♦ unbeatable.

If East had happened upon a spade lead, his side might have taken the first six tricks with the aid of a few ruffs,

but naturally enough, he tried the ♦A. North ruffed, and with no time to set up spades, overtook the ♥Q and ruffed another diamond, this time with the heart king, and played the last trump from hand. He had visualized ten doubleton or third with East and five club tricks to go with the six putative heart tricks. A nice try, but two down on the actual lie of the cards.

## Planning, Planning, Planning

As location is so important in real estate, so planning is in declarer play. Dorothy Francis, playing with husband Henry, saw the problem on this deal and found the answer. It's a fine illustration of how important it is to make a plan before playing the cards.

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

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

♠ A Q J 8 7 3  
♥ 9  
♦ Q 8  
♣ A Q J 7

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

West <i>Henry</i>	North	East <i>Dorothy</i>	South
Pass	Pass	1♠	2♥
2♠	3♥	4♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		

South cashed the heart ace on opening lead and continued with the heart queen to dummy's king as Dorothy pitched a diamond. She led the spade ten and carefully followed with the seven, losing to the king. South shifted back to hearts, and Dorothy ruffed with the eight, carefully preserving the three.

Now Dorothy was ready. She cashed the ace of spades,

crossed to dummy with the ace of diamonds and took a successful club finesse. Her early care paid off handsomely here - she was able to get back to dummy by leading the spade three to the six so that she could take a second club finesse. Then when she cashed the club ace, the suit broke, and she took the 13th club for her 11th trick and a shared top on the board.

## Meltzer/Fredin I

There was plenty of potential for swings in the second set of the Power Rosenblum round of 16 match between the FREDIN and MELTZER teams - and the teams did not disappoint. Meltzer fielded Alan Sontag-Peter Weichsel against Peter Fredin-Magnus Lindkvist in the Open Room and Chip Martel-Lew Stansby against Fredrik Nystrom-Peter Bertheau in the Closed Room. Meltzer struck for a double-digit swing on this deal, where an untimely falsecard by Peter Fredin led Alan Sontag to the winning line.

Board 19. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

West <i>Lindkvist</i>	North <i>Weichsel</i>	East <i>Fredin</i>	South <i>Sontag</i>
—	—	—	INT
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♥
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

Lindkvist led the ♦4 and Fredin falsecarded by winning the ace. He switched to the ♠10 and Sontag considered his play carefully before rising with the ace. He played three rounds of trumps, ending in his hand, and played the ♣10 to Fredin's ace. When Fredin

returned a club, it was obvious he had no more spades, so Sontag won the club in hand and passed the ♦Q to Fredin, who could do no better than return a diamond. Sontag won, ruffed his losing diamond and pitched his two spades on the good clubs. That was making for and plus 420 to the Meltzer team.

In effect, when Fredin won the diamond ace and shifted to a spade, Sontag placed the diamond king with Lindkvist. Consequently, if Lindkvist also had the club ace, the opponents would be entitled to only one each of spades, diamonds and clubs, wherever the spade king was. And if the club ace were with East, he'd need to

have the spade king as well for declarer to succeed. So the finesse was totally superfluous, whoever had the king!

At the other table, North was declarer in 4♥. Stansby started with the ♣A, switching to his singleton spade at trick two. Bertheau put in the queen, losing to the king, and a club was returned to dummy's queen. Declarer then played a diamond to the 10 and ace and Stansby returned a club. Declarer discarded a spade from dummy, Martel ruffed and returned a spade, which Stansby ruffed. Declarer ruffed the club return, then tried the ruffing finesse in diamonds. The defenders had six tricks: two high diamonds, the ♣A, ♠K, a spade ruff and a club ruff - down three for minus 150 and 11 IMPs to Meltzer.

## Meltzer/Fredin II

On this deal, Alan Sontag had to play well to hold his losses to minus 200.

Board 26. Dealer East. All Vul.

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

West <i>Lindkvist</i>	North <i>Weichsel</i>	East <i>Fredin</i>	South <i>Sontag</i>
—	—	2♣	2♠
Dble	3♣	5♣	Pass
Pass	5♠	Pass	Pass
Dble	All Pass		

Fredin's 2♣ was natural and his 5♣ was cold on the lie of the cards. With the diamond

suit frozen - neither North nor South can lead the suit without sacrificing their trick - and hearts 3-3, declarer can always come to 11 tricks.

In 5♠ doubled, Sontag received the lead of the ♣10. He went up with the ace, ruffed a club, played a spade to

the ace and ruffed dummy's last club. He then played a spade to dummy and a diamond to the king and Lindkvist's ace. Back came a low heart, but Sontag went up with the king and played dummy's diamond. Fredin was stuck. He could cash the ♥Q but then he had to give Sontag a ruff-sluff and the rest of the tricks.

It was still a 3-IMP gain because the same contract was not doubled at the other table.

### Meltzer/Fredin III

The final deal of our duel to report was a wild one on which aggressive bidding by Fredin paid off handsomely.

Board 31. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Lindkvist</i>	<i>Weichsel</i>	<i>Fredin</i>	<i>Sontag</i>
—	—	—	1♣ (1)
Pass	4♣ (2)	4♠	5♥
Pass	Pass	Dble	Pass
Pass	Pass		

(1) Precision.

(2) Any solid eight-card suit.

Sontag knew what his partner's suit was, and Weichsel took the 5♥ bid as asking for spade controls. He did not have what was necessary to consider slam, of course, and it turned out he didn't even have the goods for 10 tricks in hearts. Fredin doubled, a la Lightner, and Lindkvist had no trouble figuring out which suit to lead. Fredin ruffed the club lead and cashed the ♠A before playing to his partner's ♠K. The ♦K completed the rout, knocking out the hand entry Sontag needed. He desperately tried the ♠Q, but Lindkvist ruffed, assuring a diamond loser.

The loss would have been greater for the Meltzer team except that Nystrom and Bertheau found their way to 6NT on the North-South cards and Martel and Stansby managed to get their two spade tricks before they went away on an avalanche of heart and club tricks. But it was still 9 IMPs away.

### Thrust and Parry

In the first session of the Power Rosenblum match in the round of 16 between Schwartz and Maas both sides played well on this deal, but the palm went to Larry Cohen.

Dealer West. N/S Vul

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Berkowitz</i>	<i>Maas</i>	<i>Cohen</i>	<i>Ramondt</i>
1♥	Pass	2♣*	2♥*
3♥	4♠	Pass	Pass
5♣	All Pass		

East's Two Clubs was forcing to game. When South came in to show his two-suiter, North was not put off by the vulnerability and took a pot at game. Larry Cohen thought it was just about possible that his side might have a slam, so he passed, intending to remove partner's possible penalty double. However, when West showed some support for clubs he realized that it might be a good idea to declare from his side, so he simply passed and Five Clubs became the final contract.

South's opening lead was a brilliant four of spades, but it was dummy which produced the king and that card won the first trick. Declarer was not yet out of the woods, but he asked himself why South had underled the ace of spades? A heart void was possible but much more likely was a diamond holding headed by the ace-queen. So, backing his judgment, Cohen cashed the queen of clubs and then played a club to the ten for a brilliant +440.

## The Terrible Twins

England's Hackett twins are two of the best-known faces on the international bridge circuit. These two deals from Round 3 of the Power Rosenblum illustrate both the aggression and imagination that they bring to the table.

Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Justin</i>		<i>Jason</i>	1♣
Pass	1♥	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♦	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Given the filth that the twins open, I am not quite sure what Justin was doing raising to 3NT - perhaps he upgraded the hand because of the club fit! Anyway, it was up to Jason to justify the bid.

West led a low spade to the queen and king and Jason played the ♥10. When West covered with the queen, Jason ducked. Not wishing to open up any other suit, West exited with his low heart and Jason put in the nine. When that held, he cashed the rest of the hearts. Jason threw four clubs while West threw a club and a spade and East a spade.

The discards and West's failure to switch to a diamond when in with the heart convinced Jason that the ♦Q was on his left. In that case, the natural play of a diamond to the jack would be no use. Instead, he played a club to his ten and West's jack. West could cash the ace of clubs but was then endplayed. In practice, he switched to a low diamond and Jason had four tricks there to bring his total to nine. Had West instead exited with ace and another spade, Jason was ready to take the backward diamond finesse, running the jack then finessing the nine on the way back; nicely played for +600.

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
		1♦	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♦	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♦	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Perhaps it would have worked out better had West bid 3NT directly over the 2♦ rebid but it seemed normal to check back for delayed spade support. The auction was very revealing and con-vinced Justin that a heart lead was called for. He chose the jack!

Jason won the ace of hearts and returned a low one. Can declarer be blamed for going up with the queen? The twins grabbed the first five tricks now for down one. Nice lead.

## Podgur's Power Play

If you ever teach beginners how to play bridge you will usually find that they are very eager to capture their aces and kings at the first opportunity. However, the expert is far more reluctant to part with such an important card. This deal from the qualifying stages of the Power Rosenblum illustrates the point to perfection.

Dealer North. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Nickell</i>	<i>Herbst</i>	<i>Freeman</i>	<i>Herbst</i>
—	Pass	Pass	INT
Pass	3♣*	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

Three Clubs was a puppet and South showed his five-card suit. West led the jack of hearts and declarer put up the ace and ran the ten of spades. That was that and ten tricks were soon recorded, +620.

West	North	East	South
<i>Podgur</i>	<i>Meckstroth</i>	<i>Kalish</i>	<i>Rodwell</i>
—	1♦	Pass	1♠
Pass	INT	Pass	2♣*
Pass	2♠	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

The same contract was reached at the other table and once again the lead was the jack of hearts. Declarer won in hand, crossed to the ace of clubs and played a spade to the king. When that held the trick declarer went to the king of clubs and played a second spade. He put up the queen when East played low, but when West, Leonid Podgur produced the ace the contract had to go one down.

### Mis Leading

As beginners, we are all taught not to underlead aces against suit contracts. As we get older we learn that sometimes it's a good idea - once in a while it is. This deal, featuring Drew Cannell, comes from the first session of the Open Pairs qualifying

Board 21. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Cannell</i>	<i>Schroeder</i>	<i>Carruthers</i>	<i>Cohner</i>
—	INT	Dble*	2♣
Pass	Pass	2♠	3♣
All Pass			

East's double promised one suit or both majors - and any method that lets you get two bids out of such a moth-eaten collection must have some merit. As befits a member of the Bridge Magazine panel of experts, Cannell led the three of spades. Declarer saw no point in wasting the king so East won with the ten. There was nothing obvious to do, so East switched to the king of

clubs. Declarer won and played three rounds of diamonds, disposing of his losing spade. Then he played a club and West took the jack and queen before exiting with a heart. Declarer put in dummy's ten and East won with the jack and returned a spade.

Declarer, who 'knew' East was endplayed into leading away from the ace of spades or the king of hearts happily discarded a heart and West finally took a trick with the card that most of us would have led at trick one. But then we'd have been minus 130 instead of plus 100.

### Don't Panic!

When you make an unfortunate lead, it is important to keep your wits about you. Giorgio Duboin did just that on the following deal in LAVAZZA v. KOWALSKI.

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Szymanowski</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Romanski</i>	<i>Duboin</i>
<i>Versace</i>	<i>Tuszynski</i>	<i>Lauria</i>	<i>Kowalski</i>
—	—	1♥	Pass
3♥	Dble	4♥	All Pass

Both Wests were seduced by the vulnerability into making a preemptive raise - the problem with raising on such weak hands is that partner is sometimes tempted to go on in case you just have a little more. That is what happened here. For the Poles, Apolinary Kowalski led a spade, and now there was no way to avoid down two, -100.

At the other table, Duboin led a diamond honour. Romanski won the ace and drew trumps before playing his remaining diamond towards the dummy. Duboin got it right, playing low, so the defensive diamond winner was lost but there were still four black winners to come; down one for -50, 2 IMPs to KOWALSKI, but the major loss was avoided.

There were one or two tables at which 4♥ was let through after the lead of a diamond honour when South failed to duck at trick four.



## Fredin v. Lavazza

Board 27. Dealer South. None Vul.

<p>♠ 9 7 6 ♥ K 10 7 5 4 3 2 ♦ J ♣ 5 3</p> <p>♠ J 10 2 ♥ A 8 ♦ A Q 6 4 3 2 ♣ 4 2</p>	<p>♠ A K 5 ♥ 9 ♦ K 9 8 7 5 ♣ K Q 8 6</p> <p>♠ Q 8 4 3 ♥ Q J 6 ♦ 10 ♣ A J 10 9 7</p>
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### In the closed room:

West	North	East	South
<i>Duboin</i>	<i>Bertheau</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Nystrom</i>
—	—	—	Pass
1♦	2♥	Dble	3♥
3NT	4♥	Dble	All Pass

Bertheau's somewhat eccentric "re-preempt" paid off as the defenders had only five tricks - two spades, a diamond, a heart and club, to score plus 300.

### At the other table:

West	North	East	South
<i>Fredin</i>	<i>Lauria</i>	<i>Lindkvist</i>	<i>Versace</i>
—	—	—	Pass
1♦	3♥	4♥	Pass
5♦	All Pass		

It appeared that Fredin and Lindkvist were headed for a diamond slam. Would they make it? Can you see the only lead to defeat the slam? It seems very possible that Lauria would have found the killing lead against 6♦. After all, he found the only lead to hold declarer to 11 tricks - a spade.

The spade lead removes a vital entry to dummy that declarer needs later to execute a trump squeeze on South. Look what happens on, say, a heart lead. Declarer wins the ace, pulls trumps with one round and plays a club to dummy's king. South cannot return a spade without giving declarer his twelfth trick, so he probably would get out with the ♣J. Declarer wins in dummy, plays a heart to the ace and ruffs a heart. Then he runs trumps, reaching this position:

<p>♠ J 10 2 ♥ — ♦ 3 2 ♣ —</p>	<p>♠ 9 7 6 ♥ K 10 ♦ — ♣ —</p> <p>♠ A K 5 ♥ — ♦ — ♣ 8 6</p> <p>♠ Q 8 4 ♥ — ♦ — ♣ 10 9</p>
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Declarer plays his next-to-last trump, discarding the ♠5

from dummy and South can fold up his cards and ask partner why he didn't start with a spade. If South discards a spade, declarer cashes dummy's high ones and ruffs a club back to hand to enjoy the ♠J. If declarer discards a club, West plays to dummy's ♠A, ruffs a club and returns to dummy with the other spade to enjoy the now-good ♣8. Plus 400 for Fredin/Lindkvist added up to another 3 IMPs for their side.

## The Riddle of the Sphinx

Although no Egyptian pair qualified for the final of the Women's Pairs, their most famous combination scored well on this deal.

Board 16. Dealer West. E/W Vul.

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

North led the king of diamonds and declarer won with the ace and ran the nine of hearts to South's king. Not wishing to allow declarer to shorten her trumps South found the good shot of switching to the nine of clubs. Declarer won in hand, cashed her top trumps getting the bad news and then played the ten of hearts, covered by the queen and ace. A diamond ruff to hand allowed declarer to score the eight of hearts and she then crossed to dummy with a club to cash the last heart and ruffed a diamond. Making ten tricks was a very fine score. The only lead to defeat the contract by force is the queen of hearts, which removes a vital entry from dummy.

Perhaps the most interesting lead is a low club. West wins in hand to try to sneak the eight of hearts through after cashing the diamond ace. North covers with the queen, and West ruffs a diamond. West cashes one high trump and leads a heart. South wins immediately to block the hearts and leads his remaining club to remove the entry to dummy while the hearts remain blocked. Undaunted, declarer ruffs dummy's last diamond and cashes his other high spade. He then cashes the other high trump and the good heart. When he exits from hand with his losing trump, South finds to his chagrin that declarer can discard his losing clubs on the last trump and the heart 'stepping stone' to dummy's knave. Well played!

## Defender Leads Trumps to Score a Ruff

Board 15. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

	♠ —		
	♥ 10 9 5		
	♦ 10 9 7 4 3 2		
	♣ A 10 9 2		
♠ A K Q 9 8 2		♠ 7 4 3	
♥ J		♥ A 8 7 4 3	
♦ K 5		♦ Q J 8 6	
♣ Q J 8 4		♣ 7	
	♠ J 10 6 5		
	♥ K Q 6 2		
	♦ A		
	♣ K 6 5 3		
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Berkowitz</i>	<i>Stansby</i>	<i>Cohen</i>	<i>Martel</i>
—	—	—	1♣
1♠	3♣(1)	3♠	Pass
4♠	All Pass		
(1)Weak			

Stansby's pre-emptive club raise at unfavorable vulnerability is not for the faint of heart, but it succeeded in robbing Berkowitz and Cohen of bidding space. That's not to say they wouldn't have arrived at game on their own. After all, it's only the bad spade break that defeated the game. Still, Stansby had to find the killing opening lead, a diamond, which is exactly what he started with. Martel won the singleton ace and returned a low spade. Had Berkowitz been able to see all the cards, he could have inserted the eight to make his contract, but he made the normal play of going up with the ace. He tried the diamond king next, but Martel ruffed and play a second round of trumps. It was impossible for Berkowitz to take 10 tricks from there and he finished at minus 50.

## An Early Claim (by Patrick Jourdain)

Cezary Balicki approached. "Do you want a good hand?" he said. "Is the Pope Polish?" I thought. The deal arose in the first set of the Power Rosenblum quarterfinal. The English team, containing a Scot, a Swede, and a New Zealander was playing Poland, a team containing two Italians. (In the old days we expected Poles in teams of other nationalities; now it seems the wheel has turned).

Board 5. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

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

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
<i>Zmudzinski</i>	<i>Hackett</i>	<i>Balicki</i>	<i>Hackett</i>
—	2♠	Dble	Pass
3♥	Pass	3NT	All Pass

The Poles play Lebensohl after a weak two is doubled for takeout, so West's three hearts was actually showing extra values. South led the king of spades, then a second spade. Balicki as declarer already had a problem: what to discard from dummy? He could not afford a club if North had singleton honour, he certainly did not want to ditch a diamond, and if the hearts were coming in he would be throwing a winner if he released a card in that suit.

Eventually, he chose to throw a heart on the basis that if the suit was favourably distributed, he would be home anyway. When North won trick two he switched to a heart, which went to the king and ace. South could not play a minor suit without conceding an immediate trick, and continued hearts. Declarer won in dummy with the ten and North showed out, throwing a spade. Balicki now tested clubs by cashing ace and king. When North showed out again, this time discarding a diamond, Balicki, with some flamboyance, laid down the queen of spades, and claimed. This was the ending:

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

To South he said, "You have to keep your hearts and clubs, so will have to come down to two diamonds now. I throw a heart from dummy and play two more rounds of clubs. You will have to win and return a red suit. After the ace of diamonds and top heart your partner has to keep spades guarded, so will also have to come down to two diamonds. I make a ninth trick whoever has the queen of diamonds."

The twins conceded. At the other table two spades doubled had gone only one light, so the Polish team had gained 7 IMPs.

# Championship Results, Montreal, 2002

## Power Rosenblum Teams

- 1 **Lavazza ITA (Bocchi, Duboin, Ferraro, Lauria, Lavazza, Versace,)**
- 2 Munawar INA (Asbi, Karwur, Lasut, Manoppo, Sacul, Tobing)
- 3 Burgay POL (Balicki, Burgay, Kwiecien, Mariani, Pszczola, Zmudzinski)
- 4 Fredin SWE/USA (Bertheau, Fredin, Henner, Lindkvist, Nystrom, Rosenbloom)
- 5/8 Attanasio ITA (Attanasio, d'Avosa, di Bello, Fallia, Pulga, Rinaldi)
- 5/8 Dalal IND (Choksi, Dalal, Gupta, Nadar, Satyanaryan, Venkatraman)
- 5/8 Kowalski POL (Gawrys, Jassem, Kowalski, Romanski, Szymanowski, Tuszynski)
- 5/8 Monachan ENG (Hackett, Hackett, Hallberg, Monachan, Wright)

## Open Pairs

- |    |                        |            |              |
|----|------------------------|------------|--------------|
| 1  | <b>Fantoni – Nunes</b> | <b>ITA</b> | <b>57.35</b> |
| 2  | Mahmood – Rosenberg    | USA        | 57.05        |
| 3  | Brenner – Chagas       | BRZ        | 55.02        |
| 4  | Martel – Stansby       | USA        | 54.62        |
| 5  | Gawrys – Jassem        | POL        | 54.02        |
| 6  | Eisenberg – Kass       | FRA        | 53.91        |
| 7  | Bizon – Kowalski       | POL        | 53.60        |
| 8  | Kwiecien – Pszczola    | POL        | 53.50        |
| 9  | Bianchedi – Muzzio     | ARG        | 53.45        |
| 10 | el-Ahmady – Sadek      | EGY        | 52.88        |

## McConnell Teams

- 1 **Sanborn USA (Deas, Levitina, Meyers, Montin, Palmer, Sanborn)**
- 2 Radin USA (Breed, Eythorsdottir, Pollack, Quinn, Radin, Westheimer)
- 3 Bessis FRA (Bessis, Cronier, d'Ovidio, Willard)
- 4 Vriend HOL (Hoogweg, van der Pas, Pasman, Simons, Vriend, van Zwol)
- 5/8 Arrigoni ITA (Arrigoni, Capriata, Golin, de Lucchi, Olivieri, Rosetta)
- 5/8 Auken GER (Auken, Gromann, Mirosław, Nehmert, Vechiatto, Weber)
- 5/8 Baker USA (Baker, McCallum, Rosenberg, Schulle, Simon, Walsh)
- 5/8 Dhondy ENG (Brunner, Dhondy, Godfrey, Goldenfield, Smith, Teltscher)

Full results and bulletins can be found at [www.worldbridge.org](http://www.worldbridge.org)

## Women's Pairs

- |    |                             |            |              |
|----|-----------------------------|------------|--------------|
| 1  | <b>McCallum – Rosenberg</b> | <b>USA</b> | <b>55.17</b> |
| 2  | Levy – de Heredia           | FRA        | 54.59        |
| 3  | Sanborn – Levitina          | USA        | 54.48        |
| 4  | Sutherland – Allison        | USA        | 54.45        |
| 5  | Quinn – Breed               | USA        | 52.90        |
| 6  | Deas – Palmer               | USA        | 52.00        |
| 7  | Radin – Westheimer          | USA        | 51.78        |
| 8  | Pollack – Eythorsdottir     | USA        | 51.49        |
| 9  | Gwodzinsky – Wexler         | USA        | 51.42        |
| 10 | Meyers – Montin             | USA        | 51.14        |

## Mixed Pairs

- |    |                            |            |              |
|----|----------------------------|------------|--------------|
| 1  | <b>Rogers – Meckstroth</b> | <b>USA</b> | <b>61.19</b> |
| 2  | Hugon – Palau              | FRA        | 58.59        |
| 3  | Auken – Auken              | DEN        | 58.26        |
| 4  | Palmer – Robinson          | USA        | 57.59        |
| 5  | Pasternak – Araszkievicz   | POL        | 57.11        |
| 6  | Stansby – Stansby          | USA        | 56.80        |
| 7  | Quinn – Hamman             | USA        | 56.48        |
| 8  | Greenberg - Moss           | USA        | 56.30        |
| 9  | Vriend - Maas              | NED        | 56.03        |
| 10 | Bessis - Bessis            | FRA        | 55.94        |

## Junior Pairs

- |   |                              |            |              |
|---|------------------------------|------------|--------------|
| 1 | <b>Bessis – de Tessieres</b> | <b>FRA</b> | <b>64.66</b> |
| 2 | Pahk – Doty                  | USA        | 56.73        |
| 3 | Hay – Nunn                   | AUS        | 56.59        |

## Senior Teams

- 1 **Holt USA/CAN (Baran, Godefrin, Holt, Mittelman, Schulte)**
- 2 Freed USA (Erickson, Finkel, Freed, Kivel, Larson, Miller)
- 3 Schippers HOL (Bomhof, Ramer, Schippers, Schippers)

## Senior Pairs

- |   |                        |            |              |
|---|------------------------|------------|--------------|
| 1 | <b>Marsal – Wladow</b> | <b>GER</b> | <b>55.93</b> |
| 2 | Gowdy – Hobart         | CAN        | 54.67        |
| 3 | Larson – Kivel         | USA        | 54.21        |

## Zonal Pairs

- |   |                |     |
|---|----------------|-----|
| 1 | Parain - Dubus | FRA |
|---|----------------|-----|

## Solomon Trophy

The Solomon Trophy was won by the United States Bridge Federation, with Italy second and France third