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Editorial

The International Bridge Press Association and the European Bridge League have announced that they are jointly running a new clippings competition for members of the IBPA. The clipping must mention the European Open Championships to be held in Menton, France, in June 2003, to be eligible for prizes. Please send your clippings to me c/o the IBPA Bulletin, preferably by e-mail, mentioning the publication vehicle and date. Since there is US\$1500 in prize money to be won, all members should be interested in making submissions. Details of how the prize money is to be distributed will be released shortly.

Ever anxious to join the computer age, the IBPA has taken the radical step of allowing members to choose to receive only an electronic version of the Bulletin. This will start in January 2003. As a reward for helping save the IBPA administrative and postage costs, dues for members who opt for this e-service will be reduced from £42 to £28. However, you must make sure Anna Gudge has your e-mail address by year's end so she can send you the appropriate passwords to access the Bulletins.

We trust the World Bridge Federation is not giving up hope of bridge entering the Olympics just yet. You may remember that the IOC's Programme Commission recommended against including bridge in the 2006 Winter Games in Torino. However, the Programme Commission has just had a setback in that another of its recommendations has been soundly rejected by the full IOC. The Commission recommended that baseball, softball, and modern pentathlon be dropped from the Summer Games, effective immediately. Nevertheless, the IOC has given those sports a reprieve, at least until after Athens 2004 or Beijing 2008; reports varied on how long the reprieve is to be in effect. In the case of baseball, at issue is the failure of Major League Baseball in North America to allow its players to compete, and the expense of constructing stadia for countries which do not normally play.

As language and linguistics have always been of interest to me, and being, I think, a logical sort of chap, it naturally occurred to me to try to set standards and guidelines for the IBPA Bulletin. To me, it makes sense to standardize language, deal layouts, auctions, references to compass positions, and so on. It's confusing to see such things as the two of spades referred to as the 2 of spades, the ♠2, and the two of spades in the same journal, or indeed, even in the same article. The problem for us is exacerbated by the huge variety of formats in which submissions are received. In this issue alone, we've received submissions in five different text formats and seven or eight typefaces.

Thus, I contacted Jeff Rubens to ask if The Bridge World, as the arbiter of all things bridge, had a style manual. Jeff replied affirmatively, but feels that we, the IBPA, not The Bridge World, should be the arbiter of style and language in bridge reportage. In one way, Jeff is correct, for who is better placed to do it than we are? Certainly with members in so many countries and speaking so many different languages, standardization is bound to help them better understand the English used in these pages. English is difficult enough for native speakers, never mind those who learn it as a second or third language, although my own experience has been that many of the non-native speakers speak more grammatically correct English than we native speakers do. What I'd like to know is, "Is this a topic that interests IBPA members?" If it is, as it is to Jeff and me, we can use a little of our precious space to discuss it from time to time. If it is not, I'll just bumble along doing my thing without discussion. What do you think?

One of the all-time greats of the bridge world, Boris Schapiro died on December 1. See Patrick Joudain's obituary elsewhere in this issue.

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A Star Is Born - The 1st European Open Bridge Championship

By Jean-Paul Meyer, Paris

The EBL has launched a new event that will take place every two years.

The first edition will be played in Menton, France, from June 14 to June 28, 2003.

The programme is attractive with not less than 8 competitions:

- Mixed pairs and teams
- Women's pairs and teams
- Men's pairs and teams
- Senior pairs and teams (age 55 and over)

More: every competition will be **transnational**, open to all registered members of any NBO of the World Bridge Federation, **not only Europeans**, and there is no limit on the number of pairs or teams per country.

Prizes for journalists

IBPA is pleased to let you know that there will be a **clippings competition**. All you have to do is to send clipping(s) of your article(s) to the IBPA Bulletin Editor. Please give details of the newspaper or magazine where it was published and you will be eligible to win prize money totalling US\$1 500 through a random draw held in Menton.

Menton: where, what, how?

It would be sufficient to tell you that Menton is a seaside resort on the French Riviera whose climate is at its best in June. But there is much more to it: Menton is not very far from Saint-Tropez, Cannes, and Juan-les-Pins. Nice is only 45 minutes away by car and Monte-Carlo is nearer still. It is a quiet, charming place - 30,000 people live in Menton. You will find lots of little restaurants in and around Menton where you can have lunch or dinner outdoors in June. There is the beach if you do not play in the morning or afternoon, and a casino available in the evening - no bridge will be played after 8 p.m. High rollers may prefer Monaco, which can be reached in less than a quarter of an hour. Italy is only a few kilometres away with its famous "Vintimilla Market" near the border.

There are plenty of hotels in Menton at various prices. See www.hotelmenton.com for details and reservations.

You can get to Menton by car (Autoroute from Paris), by train (Menton station), or by plane (to Nice, then bus or taxi).

Menton and bridge

The championships will take place in the Palais de l'Europe (3000 square metres). You must register before April 30th. All details can be found at

www.eurobridge.org/competitions/03menton/menton.htm

The European team championship was held previously in Menton, in 1993, and all participants have memories of it as one of the most charming places they'd ever visited.

One deal from 1993

In the France vs. Slovenia match, Michel Lebel took advantage of a slight error in defence for a spectacular play on the following board.

Board 2. Dealer East. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
--	--	Pass	1 NT
Pass	2 ♦	Pass	2 ♥
Pass	3 NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

The opening lead was the four of diamonds to East's queen. East feared - wrongly - that South could hold the jack of diamonds and therefore returned a heart to the queen and king. West played back a diamond. South took the third round of diamonds with the ace and chose to discard the ace of hearts from hand! It can be seen that these two red aces on the same trick were the right choice for the declarer.

Find Junior

By Sabine Auken, Charlottenlund, Denmark

Juniors are our future. Without them our wonderful sport risks coming to a standstill and dying with us. When my partner, Daniela von Arnim, decided to cut down on her bridge after the birth of her baby girl Lara, I became intrigued by the idea of playing with Martin Schaltz in the Danish 1st Division. Martin, at the age of 18, has already very successfully represented Denmark numerous times at the international level. Our teammates would be his parents, Dorte and Peter Schaltz, and the seasoned pair of Morten Andersen and Søren Christiansen.

However, I thought, don't juniors bid very erratically, make strange opening leads nobody understands, and constantly double and redouble no matter whether the contract makes or not? And when there is no opportunity for any of that, the only question that seems to occupy them on every hand is whether to bid a small

slam or go for the big one by bidding a grand slam. Right? Take a look at the next four deals and see whether you can find the junior on our team.

1. Dealer West. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Pass	1 ♥	2 NT ¹	3 ♣ ²
5 ♦	7 ♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

1. Both minors
2. Forcing with spades

The ace of hearts opening lead abruptly ended whatever hopes declarer may have nurtured.

2. Dealer North. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
--	1 ♦	Pass	1 ♥
2 ♠	3 ♣	3 ♠	Double
Pass	4 ♣	Pass	4 NT
Pass	5 ♥	Pass	6 ♣
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Declarer won the king of spades opening lead with the ace to cash the ace and king of hearts, pitching the spade loser. The jack of clubs went round to the queen, and when East tried to cash a spade trick instead of giving partner an uppercut by playing a third round of hearts, the slam came rolling home.

3. Dealer South. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
--	--	--	Pass
Pass	Pass	2 NT	Pass
3 ♣ ¹	Pass	3 NT ²	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. Puppet Stayman
2. No 4- or 5-card major

Declarer ducked the queen of spades opening lead and the jack of spades continuation, which North overtook with the king. The jack of hearts shift was covered by the queen and king, and when declarer decided to win with the ace in dummy, the hand could no longer be made.

4. Dealer West. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Pass	1 NT ¹	3 ♦	Double ²
Pass	3 ♠	Pass	4 ♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. 12-14
2. Points

Try and play this one with me first. East leads the ace of diamonds and continues with the six of diamonds, West following with the three and the jack. The middle diamond continuation usually indicates no side entry or something in both remaining suits. As East did bid three diamonds at unfavourable vulnerability you are inclined to assume the latter. A heart to the ace is rewarded by the fall of the king on your left. Since East might have doubled the weak NT with the king of spades in addition to everything else, you now follow this up by playing a spade to the ace and another spade. Everybody follows; West wins the king of spades and exits with his last trump. So far so good, and all of a sudden you can make the hand, despite everything, whoever has the club king.

West is marked with 3523 distribution. If you win his trump exit in hand and ruff your last diamond in dummy West will be squeezed. If he discards a heart, you can throw him in with the fourth round of hearts to lead away from the club king. And if he discards a club, you can simply duck a club and drop the king on the next round. If East has the club king, playing toward the queen is the winning play.

Can you resist the temptation to go for the newspaper play? Yes, you should. The inference of the middle diamond play at trick two is too strong and has proven right so far. So declarer reluctantly simply played for the club king onside to take 10 tricks, the EW hands being:

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

Have you found Junior in all four hands?

1. Enterprising bidding all around; Junior could be anywhere. But he was West and found the five diamond bid that made life very difficult for the opponents. Of course, the opponents could have done better. Maybe North should have cue bid six clubs. But would his partner know that basically the spade king and the heart ace would be enough for a grand slam? The way the bidding had gone it certainly wasn't so unreasonable for North to assume that his partner held those two key cards having forced to game. Why did Martin not bid his 'better' minor or four no trump for partner to choose? I very much like the idea of making the bid that takes away most bidding space from the opponents. Over both four no trump and five clubs, the opponents would have had a much easier time getting into a cue bidding sequence.
2. Six clubs is at best a borderline slam, and the defence is very much to blame for letting it through. East probably should have known from the bidding and the carding that their side didn't have a spade trick to cash. And West should have drawn his partner's attention to the uppercut possibility by playing the nine of clubs on the jack from dummy. Surely, Martin was one of the slam bidders? Not guilty! Martin was at the other table defending against a less ambitious three no trump contract. His parents Dorthie and Peter were the rascals here. In Denmark this kind of slam is known as a Schaltz slam. You may have heard the expression before. Now you know what it means. (*It seems a Schaltz slam is not quite as bad as what some Americans refer to as a Canadian slam. — Ed.*)
3. Declarer had several chances to bring home his three no trump contract. Having ducked the first two spades he must refuse to take his heart ace too early. If the defence gets the first four tricks, South can be squeezed in hearts and clubs. But no line of play was very obvious and all credit to the

opening lead. And yes, it was Martin who found that devastating lead.

4. This hand may also be a good example of signals sometimes being more to declarer's benefit than to the defenders' (*See also the Lederer article. — Ed.*). The defenders didn't really do anything wrong here, they just 'talked' a bit too much, telling the whole story of the hand in both the bidding and the play. Thanks, Martin, for putting down such a nice dummy and not criticizing my INT opening.

Now you should have learnt this about juniors:

1. They do not bid in an undisciplined way, but find well-judged and imaginative bids that put pressure on the opponents.
2. They do not bid iffy slams; they leave that to their parents.
3. They don't make strange opening leads, but they don't just always lead fourth best from their longest and strongest either. Instead they listen carefully to the bidding and know that it sometimes can be right to try and find partner's suit.
4. They are polite, friendly, and have a positive attitude towards both partner and opponents. More often than not that makes it easier for partner to play his best.

Exhumed

By Krzysztof Jassem, Poznan, Poland

On the 16-17th of November, Prague hosted the first Central European Cup. The competition was in four categories: open, ladies, seniors, and juniors. The result of each country was calculated as the sum of VPs gained by the teams in their respective categories. Five nations took part in the event: Austria, Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary and Poland. The largest group of players was of Polish origin as one German pair consisted of Tomasz Gotard and Jacek Lesniczak.

Our open team consisted of Mariusz Puczynski and Tomasz Winciorek, as well as Darek Kowalski and me. Darek finished seventh in the Open Pairs Montréal this year, where he played with Piotr Bizon. Puczynski had his first international appearance in the 2000 IOC Cup in Lausanne, where he played with his regular partner, Bartosz Chmurski. Winciorek was a last-minute substitute for Chmurski, who was overcome with a fever just prior to the event.

I had last partnered Kowalski ten years ago (we were regular partners then) but after a few failures to qualify for the national team he gave up bridge for his profession. His comeback after nine years - together with another 'exhumed' player, Piotr Bizon - was terrifying. They won the Polish Pairs Championship in 2001 in their first appearance together; they qualified for the national team in 2002 (beating among others, Gawrys and me), and most recently, they had a very good appearance in

Montréal. This series of successes of the dinosaur pair brought me to the conclusion that our game had not changed much in recent years, so I decided to travel back to the past.

In Prague, however, it turned out that currently, Polish bridge belongs to our youth. The juniors (the Kotorowicz brothers, Baranowski and Skalski) simply demolished their opponents (89VP out of 100), which created a very comfortable situation for the other Polish teams. Our senior and open teams took full advantage of the situation, and won their respective categories by the narrowest of margins. The seniors (Omernik - Pochroń, Mykietyn - Zaremba) collected 63 VP, only 3 VP above average, to come first (is it a Guinness record?). Our team, with 66 VP, dominated Germany by two VP's difference. Our ladies (Grunt - Sarniak, Adamczyk - Kowalska) are young and beautiful, which helped us forgive them for not winning.

The Czech organizers prepared the event very professionally. We stayed and played in a luxurious hotel in Prague, not far away from the Old Town. We were served complimentary food and drinks during the whole event. Also, playing an international event without screens was a nice change from what one is accustomed to, and it contributed to a friendlier atmosphere.

I tried to get a 'press board' from our juniors but they could not remember a single one (with a +143 imp difference over 64 boards)! "Just tradecraft", they said, which in Polish means, "no ingenuity in the play." Such modesty is so uncharacteristic of young bridge players. The juniors in the Polish team are very demanding of themselves, which augers well for their future. This may be demonstrated by the discussion I overheard on the following board.

Dealer South. NS Vul.

	♠ Q 10 9 5		
	♥ J 9 8 6 5		
	♦ 10 7		
	♣ K 3		
♠ J 8 4 3		♠ K 7 6	
♥ Q 3		♥ K 4 2	
♦ J 3		♦ Q 5 2	
♣ Q J 10 8 7		♣ A 5 4 2	
	♠ A 2		
	♥ A 10 7		
	♦ A K 9 8 6 4		
	♣ 9 4		
West	North	East	South
--	--	--	1 ♦
Pass	1 ♥	Pass	3 ♦
Pass	Pass	Pass	

The auction and opening lead were the same at both tables in the Austria v. Poland junior match. At both tables declarer played the king of clubs on the opening lead of the queen, which was taken by the ace. The diamond two was played back and ducked. West cashed the club ten and after that, the defenders' paths diverged.

The Austrian junior chose to attack with the heart queen. Skalski as South did not waste that gift. He drew trumps, played the ten of hearts, and after that had been ducked, he executed the endplay against East.

The younger Kotorowicz brother played a diamond. Declarer drew trumps and played the ace of hearts and another heart. West took it with the queen to play another club. The contract eventually went one down when East was endplayed in the same way as at the other table.

I liked the way the brothers discussed the board. They were not in the least satisfied with their efforts. They concluded that West should have played a spade when he was put on the lead with the queen of hearts. It might have cost the contract if declarer played the ten and East the king, but it might have resulted in one more undertrick if declarer went wrong. Both plays (putting the king on the ten by East, and playing the queen by declarer) are pointless, but the strategy in bridge should assume that the opponents may always go wrong and the partner should not. This maximal approach: "give the opponent any chance to go wrong and collect every possible undertrick" is characteristic of the best Polish pair, Balicki - Zmudzinski. The youngsters seem to follow that way as well.

The way the Czech pair Mraz - Kurka defended this three no trump contract against me shows the level of play characteristic of the event - moments of brilliancy mixed with those of carelessness.

Dealer West. Neither Vul.

	♠ K		
	♥ 8 5 4		
	♦ Q 7 6		
	♣ Q J 8 7 5 4		
♠ Q J 10 7 6 4		♠ 2	
♥ J		♥ K 10 9 7 3 2	
♦ 10 5 4		♦ K J 8 3	
♣ A 10 3		♣ 9 6	
	♠ A 9 8 5 3		
	♥ A Q 6		
	♦ A 9 2		
	♣ K 2		
West	North	East	South
<i>Mraz</i>	<i>Kowalski</i>	<i>Kurka</i>	<i>Jassem</i>
2 ♦	Pass	2 ♠	2 NT
Pass	3NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Two diamonds was Multi and I declared three no trumps on the spade queen lead. At trick two I played a club to the king and another club - two rounds being ducked by Mraz, who could not be sure his partner had a second club. I played a third round of the suit, on which Kurka discarded the nine of hearts and I disposed of a spade.

Mraz continued with the ten of spades, North and East discarding hearts. I suspected East would have both red

kings and decided to endplay him. I played the queen of hearts, won by Kurka, who next exited with the heart ten. This was the ending at that point:

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

I tried to throw Kurka in with a heart but he refused to take the trick - he contributed the three. Then I made another try — I played the nine of diamonds. I hoped Kurka would have the king-jack-ten, which was not the case, but I caught Mraz napping. He played the five and I played the seven from dummy. Kurka ducked again!

He was a little unlucky. His ingenious play did not work because I was now able to establish my ninth trick in spades.

The overall classification of the first Central European Cup:

- | | |
|-------------------|-----|
| 1. Poland | 266 |
| 2. Czech Republic | 250 |
| 3. Germany | 234 |
| 4. Austria | 221 |
| 5. Hungary | 219 |

Nine Ever, Eight Never

By Kees Tammens, Amsterdam

Picking up a crucial queen to land your game contract - umpteen times bridge players all around the world have been faced with this important issue. "Eight ever, nine never." Everybody knows the rule by heart. In the Dutch League, Anton Maas succeeded in making ten tricks in his four heart contract, while the other eleven declarers took only nine. It all depended on locating the queen of trumps with a nine-card fit.

Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
--	--	--	Pass ¹
1 ♦ ²	Pass	1 ♥ ³	1 ♠
Double ⁴	Pass	1 NT ⁵	2 ♥
Pass	4 ♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			

1. Maas is no fan of opening distributional hands with few HCPs
2. East-West were playing a strong club system with priority to four card majors, so 1♦ denied four or more cards in either major
3. Relay
4. Extra (fewer than 16 HCP, so distributional) values
5. Uncertain meaning, but probably no preference for either minor

The opening lead was the club ace, East throwing the queen, and West played another club to East's jack. East then played the diamond king to dummy's ace.

Maas: "It was all about finding the heart queen. What could I tell about the distribution? West had announced at least eight/nine cards in diamonds and clubs. With six cards in either minor, West would have bid his suit after one spade. This left room for eight or nine cards in clubs and diamonds for East. Since East did not give any preference, he likely had three-three or four-four in the minors. So West had either four diamonds and five clubs or five diamonds and six clubs; the latter was not likely because West would have bid clubs instead of doubling. With five clubs and four diamonds in West, this left room for four cards in hearts and spades. They must have been 2-2 or 3-1 since with 4-0 he'd have opened one heart or one spade. How could I find out to guess the heart queen correctly?"

Maas found a neat answer to this question. After winning the diamond ace, he played the spade ace and a spade to West's king. Declarer ruffed the diamond return and played a third spade from South.

Maas: "If West did not follow suit in spades for the third time, I'd know hearts were two-two and I would play for the drop of ♥Q. Well, West did follow suit and I knew hearts were three-one with the three cards in East."

The solution was clear. Maas ruffed the third spade with the king of hearts, then led the jack of hearts to finesse East's hoped-for queen third. When that won he had successfully landed his four heart contract.

The full deal:

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

The aftermath. Maas: "My way of playing was sound, and would lose only to the bare queen of hearts with West. But in that horrible case, I would still have a very nice story about how well I played the hand!"

CA~IB European Champions Cup

By Mark Horton, London

Last month the Editor reported on the results of this eight-team contest held in Warsaw over the weekend of 25-27 October for the CA~IB Trophy and US\$15,000 in prizes. The man behind this tournament was Radek Kielbasinski, President of the Polish Bridge Union, who is rapidly becoming one of the most influential men in European and world bridge. He has the happy knack of not only acquiring sponsors, but also of keeping them. "Send me the best deals," instructed the Editor. Well, there were four matches in play at eight tables and only one reporter, but luckily the players cooperated by producing a number of newsworthy deals. Comparisons with the Champions League in soccer were inevitable, which explains some of the jargon in this report.

BC Kent v. Heimdal Oslo

Dealer North. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>O'Donovan</i>	<i>Austberg</i>	<i>Patterson</i>	<i>Helgemo</i>
--	1 ♦	Pass	1 ♥
Pass	2 ♥	Pass	3 NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

West led the three of spades and declarer put up the jack and ran the jack of clubs to West's king. West knew from the play to the first trick that he had to get his partner in to lead a spade and the best chance was to find him with the queen of hearts. So he switched to that suit. However declarer, one of Europe's finest strikers, banged the ball into the back of the net in a flash, going up with dummy's king and rapidly claiming ten tricks. At the other table declarer did not rise to the occasion and Heimdal had a big swing.

This difficult chance came along just as the whistle was about to blow for the end of the second match, with only one pair hitting the target:

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Heimdal Oslo v. Modalfa Amsterdam

Dealer West. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Helgemo</i>	<i>Paulissen</i>	<i>Furunes</i>	<i>Nab</i>
1 ♠	Double	Redouble	Pass
Pass	2 ♦	Pass	Pass
4 ♦ ¹	Pass	4 ♥ ²	Pass
4 ♠ ³	Pass	5 ♦ ⁴	Pass
6 ♠ ⁵	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. I have a splinter
2. In support of hearts?
3. No
4. I like it anyway
5. Me, too!

Furunes knew his hearts were well-placed and that the king of spades had to be a huge card, so felt he was worth a move over four spades. Not wishing to give the impression he had both the ace and king of hearts he fell back on a catchall five diamonds. That was enough for Heimdal's star striker to score again, and he bid the slam that eluded every other pair. The less-charitable might be tempted to credit North with an own goal.

Final: Lavazza Torino v. BC Tel Aviv

The score at the close of the first half was only 22-10 Lavazza after a quiet set of boards. However, the Italians turned on the power in the second half to deliver a final score of 83-34. Third place went to Heimdal Oslo who defeated Bridge Plus Plovdiv 65-23.

Lorenzo Lauria was in great form on this deal.

Dealer North. Neither Vul.

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

West Altshuler	North Lauria	East Birman	South Versace
--	1 ♠	Pass	1 ♠
Pass	1 NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

East led a low heart, and when West could not cover dummy's nine, declarer won in hand with the ace and played a diamond to the ten. West won with the king and switched to the jack of clubs, hoping to surround the queen in declarer's hand. When declarer played low East overtook with the queen and returned the suit. Declarer ducked again, won the next club and went after the diamonds, playing the ace and another. East won, cashed a diamond and exited with a heart. West had discarded a spade and a club on the last two diamonds, making it a certainty he did not hold both spade honours. Eventually Lauria called for dummy's queen of spades. West covered, declarer won, played a spade, and East resigned.

It still cost his side 1 IMP, as in the other room a soft defence gave declarer an overtrick in the same contract.

This sound game failed at both tables:

Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

West Levin	North Lauria	East Birman	South Versace
--	--	--	Pass
2 NT	Pass	3 ♦ ¹	Pass
4 ♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. Transfer

North led the ten of clubs and declarer won in dummy with the king. For the contract to be in danger, it required the lead to be singleton and South to hold either major suit ace. Declarer played a heart and North won the ace and switched to a spade. Declarer put up the king, but South won and played a club for North to ruff. Had South returned the jack of clubs North might have risked the underlead in spades for two down, but as it was he simply cashed the queen of spades for +100. It proved to be a flat board.

Should declarer risk three rounds of diamonds, intending to discard a spade from dummy? If you are going to do that it must be best to win the club lead in hand.

Now for two boards that helped the Italians on their way:

Dealer West. Neither Vul.

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

West Levin	North Lauria	East Birman	South Versace
1 ♠	Pass	1 ♥	Pass
1 ♠	Pass	2 ♣ ¹	Pass
2 ♦	Pass	2 ♥	Pass
2 NT	Pass	6 ♥	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. Fourth suit forcing

East's precipitous jump to six hearts cost his side dearly, as South led his singleton spade and collected a ruff.

West Duboin	North Cohen	East Bocchi	South Zeligman
1 ♠	Pass	1 ♠ ¹	Pass
2 ♦	Pass	3 ♣ ¹	Pass
3 NT	Pass	6 NT	All Pass

1. Relays

As you can see hearts were never in the picture here as East relayed to the top spot.

In an echo of Helgemo's earlier goal, Versace showed his finishing class on this deal:

Dealer East. NS Vul.

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

West Altshuler	North Lauria	East Birman	South Versace
--	--	Pass	Pass
Pass	1 ♣	Pass	2 ♥ ¹
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. Weakish, five spades and four hearts

West led a trump, and without apparent pause for thought, declarer put up dummy's king and played a low club. East won with the queen, making it clear he

also had the ace, and then cashed the queen of hearts. Declarer could win the diamond return and take the ruffing club finesse to set up a diamond discard. Eight tricks could not be prevented. and that was worth 6 IMPs to Lavazza Torino.

While the Champions fought it out, a Friendly fixture saw Polish celebrities, including politicians and film stars, paired with famous Polish and foreign players. These were the leading positions:

Grzegorz Swietlik & Jens Auken	62.68%
Marek Borowski & Krzysztof Martens	58.30%
Jean-Claude Beneix & Tomasz Winciorek	58.21%

The final highlight of a brilliant weekend was a trip to Warsaw's Sala Koncertowa for a concert by the Philharmonic Orchestra under Anton Wit with guest soloist Isabelle Moretti. The prize-giving ceremony and a lavish reception provided by the sponsors, CA~IB, followed the concert. The Final Table in the CA~IB European Champions Cup:

1st	Lavazza Torino	\$ 7000
2nd	BC Tel Aviv	\$ 3500
3rd	Heimdal Oslo	\$ 2250
4th	Bridge Plus Plovdiv	\$ 1250
5th	Modalfa Amsterdam	\$ 1000

Las Naciones Unidas de España

By Maureen Hiron, Malaga, Spain

A former favourite on the bridge calendar, the casino Marbella Festival of Bridge, has been resurrected. It took place from November 11-17, 2002, and with just one session per day, there was plenty of time for other activities. However, the weather did not live up to expectations: just the previous week we'd been basking poolside in blazing sunshine.

"I found the best defence of my life on Board 9," declaimed Margaret James to anyone who would listen, at the end of one session. As Margaret Courtney, she was in England's gold medal winning women's team at the 2001 European Championships in Tenerife, just four years after having attended her first beginner's class. Three IBPA members were within earshot, so she had her audience.

Dealer East. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
--	--	Pass	1 ♠ ¹
Pass	2 NT ²	Pass	4 ♠

- 5-card majors
- Spade support, limit raise plus strength

Margaret found the best lead of the ten of diamonds, won in dummy with the ace, declarer unblocking the king, and East, Cameron Small giving count. The three of spades went to the seven, nine and queen. West continued with her other diamond, won in dummy.

Next came the spade four to the ten, jack — and *fit!* Margaret had been watching the pips very carefully and appreciated that declarer remained with the deuce. Had she taken the knave with the king, declarer would have had an entry to dummy with the spade six, to access the diamonds.

South now changed tack and played a club to dummy's queen and East's king, Small then leading the heart two to the queen and king. James now exited with her king of spades, at which, according to Margaret, "...declarer nearly fell off her chair!"

Dummy was now well and truly dead, and with declarer having to play entirely from her hand, lost two further tricks in hearts and one in clubs, to finish an ungainly three light. Although declarer was destined for one off unless Margaret had taken the spade king to lead a club, James' brilliant ducking play had exchanged one trump trick for three elsewhere.

It would have been mean-spirited to point out that had declarer held the club king instead of the queen-jack of hearts, an impossible contract would have romped home.

On this deal from the Spanish Category Pairs Championship, a German, partnering a Hungarian, opposed an Irishman and an Englishman. The contact was an exercise in exemplary timing, and Jorg Dombrowe passed the test with flying colours.

Dealer North. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Paul	John	Desmond	Jorg
Fenn	Forro	Deery	Dombrowe
--	Pass	Pass	1 ♣ ¹
2 ♥	3 ♦ ²	Pass	3 NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

- Strong, artificial, forcing
- Nominally 7+ HCP

Dombrowe ducked the opening lead of the heart king. Fenn switched to the four of spades, which went to the jack and ace. The queen of diamonds was covered by the king and declarer had to duck to keep the suit fluid. West continued with the spade ten, and declarer passed this test by ducking for the third time - essential to the contract's success.

Fenn got off lead with the ten of diamonds to Dombrowe's jack, and then came the next crucial play, the king of spades. Only now did South overtake his diamond nine with the ace to run the suit. This was the position when dummy's last diamond was played.

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

Deery discarded his heart and Dombrowe his now worthless spade. What was poor Fenn to do? If he discarded the club seven, he'd be thrown in with the ace to give declarer two heart tricks. In desperation, he threw the club ace, but it was South, not East, who held the king.

The 2002 Lederer Memorial Trophy

By Simon Cochemé, London

The Lederer Trophy was originally presented as a tribute to Richard Lederer, a leading international player who contributed greatly to English bridge in its formative years. It was originally a challenge match for London's bridge clubs, but the 1970's witnessed its metamorphosis into an invitation tournament. The Lederer is currently organized by the London Metropolitan Bridge Association, and this year was played on November 9-10 at the Young Chelsea Bridge Club.

The All Stars team of Zia Mahmood, Andrew Robson, Colin Simpson, Gunnar Hallberg, and Robert Sheehan, in one combination or another, had won the event for 27 years running (actually only four, but it seemed longer to the competition). Could they make it five?

The Lederer must be unique in the bridge world in offering prizes, not only for Best Play, Best Bid Hand, and Best Defence, but also for "Most Amusing Remark!" This year's winner in the last category went to kibitzer Ian Payne, who was overheard to quietly remark, after watching Londoner David Gold choose the wrong line in a slam, "The price of Gold has fallen." It was worth a bottle of champagne.

All Stars v. London

Dealer East. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
David	Andrew	Brian	Zia
Burn	Robson	Callaghan	Mahmood
--	--	1 ♠	Pass
1 NT ¹	Pass	2 ♦ ²	Pass
Pass	Double	Pass	2 ♥
Double	2 NT	Pass	Pass
Double	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. Forcing
2. May be only three-card suit

This was an early board in the first match, where the defending champions, the All Stars, were playing London, considered the team most likely to challenge them. Andrew Robson was perhaps a little too aggressive at the vulnerability and against good quality opposition, ending in two no trumps doubled on the lead of the jack of hearts. He won in hand and played a spade. Callaghan went in with the king to play a second heart to Burn's ten. Burn switched to diamonds and the defence cleared the suit. Robson finished with six tricks, minus 500.

In the other room Colin Simpson opened one spade. Robert Sheehan responded one no trump and played there. David Gold led the king of clubs. Sheehan won with the ace and returned the jack. Gold won and switched to a spade to the jack and queen. Tom Townsend played a spade back and the suit was cleared. If Sheehan comes off dummy with a heart he can make the contract, but he ended up two down, minus 100, and 12 IMPs to London.

Robson achieved a measure of revenge on the next deal, moreover in the same hyper-aggressive fashion.

Dealer East. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Burn</i>	<i>Robson</i>	<i>Callaghan</i>	<i>Mahmood</i>
--	--	1 \diamond^1	Pass
1 \heartsuit	1 \spadesuit	Double ²	Redouble
2 \heartsuit	Pass	Pass	Double
Pass	3 \clubsuit	Pass	3 NT
Double	Pass	Pass	4 \spadesuit
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. Could be as short as two
2. Three-card support for hearts

Robson made the lightest of overcalls, after which Zia, with his 17-count, was never going to stay out of game. There seem to be ten tricks available in three no trumps, but with no way of getting to and fro between the hands to make them. When Zia removed three no trumps doubled to four spades, David Burn might have begun to regret his double. Only an unlikely small club lead beats four spades, and on the actual lead of the king of diamonds, Robson was not in any difficulty. He won in dummy, cashed the king and queen of spades, and came to hand with the ten of diamonds. Robson drew the outstanding trumps with the ace and led his heart towards the king. The defenders could not now prevent an overtrick. After a club switch to his bare ace, West had to lead a red card and give declarer access to the winners in dummy.

The All Stars were one off in two hearts in the other room for an 8 IMP gain. They went on to win the match 33-27. Not surprisingly, no other North-South pair bid to game on these cards.

All Stars v. Juniors

The award for best played hand went to Colin Simpson of the All Stars for the following effort against the Juniors.

Dealer North. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Robert Sheehan</i>	<i>Andrew Woodcock</i>	<i>Colin Simpson</i>	<i>Ed Levy</i>
--	Pass	2 NT	Pass
3 \clubsuit	Pass	4 \heartsuit	Pass
6 NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

Simpson and partner Rob Sheehan had a swift auction to six no trumps after Simpson had opened an off-centre two no trumps.

South found the unfortunate lead of the six of clubs round to Simpson's jack. Simpson crossed to dummy with a diamond and took a heart finesse. On this trick North played the six and South the five. Declarer played the ace of hearts, both defenders completing peters. Away from the bridge table Colin Simpson had a successful career in the police force and he decided that (a) these Juniors were honest, and (b) they were both showing an even number of hearts. He cashed the ace of clubs (North showing out), the ace of spades, and then took a spade finesse. He now played his two winning diamonds, on which South threw a club and a spade. This was the end position with the lead in dummy:

	\spadesuit --		
	\heartsuit K 10		
	\diamond 10 6		
	\clubsuit --		
\spadesuit K J		\spadesuit --	
\heartsuit --		\heartsuit J 9 7 3	
\diamond --		\diamond --	
\clubsuit K 9		\clubsuit --	
	\spadesuit Q 9		
	\heartsuit --		
	\diamond --		
	\clubsuit Q 10		

It was now a simple matter to throw South in with a club and endplay him in spades. Five of the eight North-South pairs bid a slam, but only Simpson was successful.

Indeed the All Stars did win their fifth Lederer in a row, finishing in front of Australia by almost a full match, ahead of London in third.

Danish Bridge Encyclopaedia

By Svend Novrup, Kerteminde, Denmark

"Aschehougs Store Bridgeleksikon" is a 492-page encyclopaedia of bridge that was launched at a big book fair in Copenhagen on November 15. The Editor and prime contributor is Svend Novrup, who has written, among other things, the biographies, most of them with a top-class hand, and the historical material. Lars Blakset, who has 333 caps and has played one Bermuda Bowl, three bridge Olympiads (coming 4th in Salsomaggiore 1992), and seven European championships, has written most of the material concerning bidding. Peter Lund, bronze winner in the European Veteran Series 2002, has written on play and defence. The price of the encyclopaedia is DKK 399 (US\$43).

The publishers put up five encyclopaedias as prizes in connection with the Danish Championships for club teams, and some of the winning entries were unusually good, thus could be in the running for the hand of the year award. The following two are of the sort that an ordinary player would probably never find, but on the other hand, would realise the point in a flash when shown to him afterward. On the first deal, declarer was Thorvald Aagaard:

Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
--	--	--	2 ♦!
4 ♥	Pass	Pass	5 ♦
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. Multicoloured, in this case, a game force hand with diamonds

West led the ace, king of hearts, and on the second South discarded a club while West was left to guess the best continuation. When he chose the club jack, South won, drew trumps and a cashed second top club. He used his two trump entries to establish and cash the clubs, making five!

On the second deal, Peter Schaltz was South. With 451 caps since 1975, Schaltz holds the record as the most capped Danish sportsman in any sport, and on countless occasions he has received prizes for his play.

Dealer West. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Pass	1 ♣	Pass	1 ♠
Pass	1 NT	Pass	2 ♦!
Pass	2 NT	Pass	3 ♠
Pass	4 ♠	Pass	Pass

1. Artificial, forcing to game

West opened the heart two, taken in dummy, and every other declarer then cashed the spade king, destroying communications for the winning line of play. Schaltz first cashed the ace of spades, just in case, and seeing the bad break, continued with a diamond to the ace, a spade to the king, a diamond ruff, a club to the ace, another diamond ruff, and finally, a heart to dummy for a third

diamond ruff. With a sure trump trick yet to come he made his contract. Schaltz was the only one to do so.

If West had held one more club, thus being able to over-ruff the fourth diamond, he would have had to present Schaltz with a trick for the club queen, and Peter would still have made his contract.

Rosenblum Quiz (from the 2002 World Championship Book)

Here are three problems faced by expert players in the semifinals of the Rosenblum Cup in Montréal. See if you can equal or better their efforts.

1.	♠ K J 7 ♥ K J 6 5 4 ♦ K Q 7 ♣ 8 6
----	--

With both sides vulnerable, you are first to speak. You open one heart, and with the opponents silent, you and partner conduct the following auction:

You	Partner
1 ♥	2 ♦
2 ♥	2 ♠
3 ♦	3 ♥
3 ♠	4 ♦
?	

What do you bid now?

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

Although you are playing a strong club, your partner West opens one diamond in first chair vulnerable, to be able to get his suits in comfortably. North passes and you wheel out a favourite toy, two hearts, showing a weakish hand with five spades and four hearts. South bids two no trumps, natural, and partner closes proceedings with four hearts. South leads the ace and king of clubs, getting an even number signal from North. You ruff and play the spade queen, which holds the trick, North playing the nine and South the seven, high-low with an odd number. You decide to play ace and another diamond; North wins the queen, South following low-high, and leads another round of clubs. Take over from here.

3.	South ♠ Q 8 3 2 ♥ 10 8 ♦ K 3 2 ♣ A K 8 7
----	--

	West ♠ A 5 ♥ A 5 3 2 ♦ 10 8 6 4 ♣ 10 5 2
--	--

(Hands rotated for convenience.)

Your partner, East opens one heart in third chair; RHO (South) doubles and you bid two diamonds to show a good raise to two or three hearts. North, on your left, volunteers two spades, which is passed around to you. You compete to three hearts, LHO takes the push to three spades, and all pass. Partner leads the heart king, you give count, and he continues with the queen. Over to you.

World Championship Book Excerpts III

By Eric Kokish, Toronto

Rosenblum Semifinals. Board 39.

Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

Poland v. Indonesia. Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Karwur	Balicki	Sacul	Zmudzinski
--	--	--	1 ♥
Pass	2 ♦	Pass	2 ♥
Pass	2 ♠	Pass	3 ♦
Pass	3 ♥	Pass	3 ♠
Pass	4 ♦	Pass	4 ♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

The best contract for North-South is four spades but no one got there. Curiously, it was at the two tables (*one in each match: Indonesia and Italy — Ed.*) where North responded one spade and South might have raised that the least thorough and least satisfying auctions ensued. However, as both Lasut and Duboin require four trumps for a direct raise in their methods, the three no trump contracts they reached after rebidding one no trump were virtually inevitable, as North could no longer introduce diamonds in forcing mode without overstating his spade length. Both were minus 200.

Lindkvist and Fredin judged that hearts might be the best strain for game. Close, but no cigar. At least in theory. In practice, four hearts produced an overtrick and 13 IMPs for Sweden, suddenly in the lead, 66-64.

The straightforward natural auction by Balicki - Zmudzinski seemed to deal beautifully with all the fit issues (three hearts was unambiguously honour-doubleton support, else a forcing three hearts over two

hearts with three), but in the end it was up to Balicki to choose spades, either over three spades or over four hearts. (*Not so fast, Coach. Zmudzinski may well have bid four spades over four diamonds when Balicki could not bid four hearts himself. After all, he was the one looking at two honours third in spades. Additionally, from Balicki's point of view, partner could have had king doubleton and a stall, with say, three low clubs or an extra heart. After all, Balicki was still unlimited. And, could four diamonds have been 'pick a game?'*) +650. 13 IMPs to Poland, 92-67.

Board 48. Dealer West. EW Vul.

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

Poland v. Indonesia. Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Versace	Lindkvist	Lauria	Fredin
1 ♦	Pass	2 ♥ ¹	2 NT ²
4 ♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. Five spades, four hearts, fairly weak
2. Natural

Lauria's two heart response, which showed a modest hand with five spades and at least four hearts, made life easy for Versace, who drove to game over Fredin's enterprising and natural two no trump overcall. Lauria ruffed the second club in dummy and tried the queen of spades, which held. Then he played ace and another diamond, Lindkvist winning to lead a third round of clubs. Lauria ruffed in hand and discarded dummy's spade loser. He could have scrambled home from here by crossing in trumps to ruff a diamond high, then finishing trumps ending in dummy to use the established diamonds. Instead, thinking that Fredin surely held the outstanding diamond for his two no trump bid, Lauria decided to try to score his remaining trumps separately. He ruffed a spade with the heart queen and led a third diamond. When North surprisingly followed, Lauria had only one chance remaining, to find North with the nine-eight-seven of trumps. Accordingly he ruffed with the heart six but Fredin over-ruffed with the seven and played the spade ace to force dummy. Lauria was two down now: -200. Sweden gained 13 IMPs on this deal and won the third quarter 35-21. With one set to go, Italy was praying for rain with a 1-IMP lead, 84-83.

Board 52. Dealer West. Both Vul.

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

Sweden v. Italy. Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Nyström</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Bertheau</i>	<i>Duboin</i>
Pass	Pass	1 ♥	Double
2 ♦ ¹	2 ♠	Pass	Pass
3 ♥	3 ♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

1. Good raise to two or three hearts

At the table all four West players competed to three

spades only to discover that they couldn't make it, while three hearts also would have been beaten on normal defence.

None of the West players overtook the lead of the heart to switch to a diamond but gave count instead. Sacul switched to the diamond queen at trick two where the other East players continued with the heart queen. Only Fredrik Nyström for Sweden overtook the second heart to switch to a diamond, but this time it did not matter. However, East could have been dealt ace-jack-nine of diamonds, in which case the first diamond play had to come from West. Left on play by their partners, both Burgay and Lauria switched to the diamond queen at trick three. All the declarers lost a trump, two hearts and two diamonds for one down: -100. Poland, 108-103; Italy, 91-84.

World Bridge Calendar

Dates	Event	Location	Contact
2002			
Dec 7-15	Festival Internacional de Bridge	Mar del Plata, Argentina	www.bridgeargentino.org.ar
2003			
Jan 12-19	7th Dead Sea Festival	Dead Sea, Israel	birmand@inter.net.il
Jan 15-27	Summer Festival of Bridge	Canberra, Australia	www.abf.com.au
Jan 20-25	20th Cairo International Festival	Cairo, Egypt	www.egybf.com
Jan 24-26	9th Southern Regional	Port of Spain, Trinidad	www.cacbf.com
Feb 4-9	8th NEC Cup	Yokohama, Japan	www.jcbl.or.jp
Feb 13-22	37th International Bridge Festival	Tel Aviv, Israel	manager@bridge.co.il
Feb 14-17	Icelandair Open	Reykjavik, Iceland	www.bridge.is
Feb 15-23	Gold Coast Congress	Surfer's Paradise, Australia	www.abf.com.au
Feb 16-21	Sharjah Bridge Festival	Dubai, UAE	www.emiratesbridge.org
Mar 6-16	ACBL Spring NABC	Philadelphia PA	www.acbl.org
Mar 21-29	XXXIII International Crans-Montana Bridge Week	Sion, Switzerland	simonderivaz@bluewin.ch
Mar 23-29	XVI Festival Isla de Tenerife	Puerto de la Cruz, Canary Islands, Spain	Ivan Acevedo +34-922-380 550
Apr 17-21	XXXIII International Easter Tournament	Vihtavuori, Finland	Tero Koivu bridge@cojyu.fi
Apr 19-27	ABA Spring Nationals	Minneapolis MN	ABA (Atlanta) 1-404-768-5517
May 7-11	Cavendish Teams and Pairs	Las Vegas NV	Bill Rosenbaum 1-212-725-2135
May 17-25	XVI Internacional de Bridge Tournament	Costa Calida La Manga del Mar, Menor, Murcia, Spain	Maribel Corchero bridgecc@hotmail.com
May 21-29	USBF Women's Team Trials	Orlando FL	www.acbl.org
May 24-31	CACBF Zone 5 Championships	Martinique	dabreteaujy@wanadoo.fr
Jun 1-9	USBF Open Team Trials	Memphis TN	www.acbl.org
Jun 5-15	PABF Championships	Manila, Philippines	altan@info.com.ph
Jun 6-7	WBF Worldwide Pairs	Clubs everywhere	www.ecatsbridge.com
Jun 14-28	European Open Championships	Menton, Côte d'Azur, France	EBL (Milan) 39 02 7000 0022 ebl@federbridge.it
Jul 4-6	World Junior Pairs Championship	Tata, Hungary	www.worldbridge.org
Jul 7-14	World Junior Camp	Tata, Hungary	www.worldbridge.org
Jul 17-27	ACBL Summer NABC	Long Beach CA	www.acbl.org
Jul 24-Aug 3	ABA Summer Nationals	Puerto Rico	ABA (Atlanta) 1 404 768 5517
Aug 8-17	English Summer Nationals	Brighton, England	EBU 44+ 1296 394 414
Aug 25-Sep 6	18th International Bridge Festival	Mamaia, Romania	www.frbridge.ro
Sep 19-22	European University Championships	Wroclaw, Poland	ebf@federbridge.it
Nov 9-16	9th Red Sea Festival	Eilat, Israel	birmand@inter.net.il
Nov 16-22	III International Bridge Festival	La Habana-Varadero, Cuba	www.cacbf.com
Nov 20-23	International Bridge Festival	Brasov, Romania	bridgeclubbrasov@hotmail.com
Nov 20-30	ACBL Fall NABC	New Orleans LA	www.acbl.org

Correspondence ...

The Editor reserves the right to shorten correspondence

Email: ibpaeditor@sympatico.ca

Patrick Jourdain, Bridge Correspondent for the Daily Telegraph of Great Britain writes:

Boris Schapiro, who has died aged 93, was Britain's best-known and most durable bridge player. He won a world bridge title more than thirty years after he was at the centre of a celebrated allegation of cheating in the 1965 World Bridge Championships. Schapiro and his partner, the late Terence Reese, were accused of using signals with their fingers to convey information about the cards they held. At a short hearing held on site in Buenos Aires the World Bridge Federation found them guilty, and referred the case to the British Bridge League, in the expectation of the BBL determining the penalty. But after an inquiry lasting more than a year, conducted before Sir John Foster, QC, and General Lord Bourne, the BBL reported it had accepted the inquiry's finding of not guilty.

Despite the finding of the Foster inquiry, the WBF imposed a suspension on Reese and Schapiro. The disagreement led to Britain's withdrawal from the 1968 World Bridge Olympiad. The conflict was resolved later that year by the WBF declaring that, as three years had passed, the suspension was lifted. The pair did not represent Britain thereafter, but later Schapiro began competing internationally again.

In the 1998 World Pairs Olympiad, at the remarkable age of 89, Schapiro and his partner Irving Gordon won the World Senior Pairs title, competing against a star-studded field of players over the age of 55. Schapiro had been rehabilitated into world bridge. His ninetieth birthday party in London was attended by Jaime Ortiz-Patino, President Emeritus of the WBF and owner of Valderrama Golf Club (*site of the 1997 Ryder Cup — Ed.*) Omar Sharif, the film actor, and Prince Khalid Abudullah of Saudi Arabia, a family friend.

Schapiro was born in Riga, Latvia, on 22nd August, 1909. His family, who were wealthy owners of a horse-breeding company, emigrated to Britain at the time of the revolution, when Schapiro was nine years old. He was educated at a North of England prep school near their home in Doncaster, and then Clifton. He was playing cards for money by the age of ten, but in his youth won more trophies for show-jumping horses than in bridge. His family continued to supply horses for buses and carriages throughout Europe and Africa, leading to the friendship with the Saudi royal family.

The Schapiro family also acquired an interest in the meat trade, and Boris joined the family business. He worked there until, in his forties, he retired and put his love of

gambling to good use by becoming banker of a baccarat syndicate at Crockford's gaming club in London.

Schapiro was fluent in Russian, German and French, and these skills were put to use during the Second World War in the Army Intelligence Corps. When bridge championships re-started after the war, Schapiro was a regular in the British bridge team, winning the European Team Championships four times from 1948. With Terence Reese, he was part of the team that won Britain's only World Open Team title, in 1955. He took silver in the World Open Teams of 1960 and the World Open Pairs of 1962.

Following the accusation of cheating against the pair, Schapiro's international bridge career was put into suspense, but he continued to achieve success at home with other partners. Schapiro won Britain's most prestigious event, the Gold Cup, a record 11 times, the most recent being in 1998 after an interval of 33 years since his tenth win. He was bridge correspondent of the Sunday Times from 1966 until his death, and won its prestigious World Invitation Pairs in 1964. He was a World Grandmaster and in 1990 was made an honorary member of the English Bridge Union.

The characters of Reese and Schapiro were very different. At the bridge table Reese was the cold calculating machine, driven by logic, but witty and good-natured away from it, though with an acerbic phrase when needed. Schapiro was the player of flair, excitable, always on the move, irascible at the table and often grumpy away from it. He did not mellow with old age. Opponents at the 1999 European Senior Teams who called the referee in a vain attempt to protect Schapiro's partner from verbal abuse were told there were special dispensations in standards of behaviour for any competitor over the age of ninety.

Schapiro once bet £50 that Reese's powers of concentration at the bridge table were such that he would not notice if a naked woman entered the room. When the wager was taken up Schapiro had to make the necessary arrangements to test it, but he won the bet. Another anecdote showed the sharp edge to his sense of humour. Reese had been collecting the partnership's collection of trophies from Schapiro's Belgravia flat in a pillow-case, when he was stopped in the street by a curious policeman. Reese eagerly explained that his rightful claim to the silverware could be supported by a nearby resident. When Schapiro answered the door he sized up the situation speedily. "I have never seen this man before," he told the policeman.

Schapiro had an early marriage to a Russian, and then later, in 1970 he married Helen, who survives him. He died on the 1st December.

Carol von Linstow of the WBF Secretariat also sent us an obituary and tribute to Boris, but as it contains much the same information as Patrick's, shan't be printed here.

José Damiani receives a note of support from the Republic of South Africa.

I found the tone and content of the letter sent by the chairman of the Dutch Bridge Federation unpleasant and myopic - I trust he gets limited support from other European Bridge League Presidents - perhaps he would also like to reduce the pack we play with to 50 cards? Go José!

Kind regards,

Chris Convery

Ton Kooijman watches these pages very closely and corresponds regularly — in my experience no bridge administrator is more interested in doing the right thing for the players, and in doing it well.

It took some time to react to one of your statements in the Bulletin. The reason is that I want to check things carefully before they go out. Almost as if I were a journalist, can you imagine?

You are talking about many administrative and technical glitches. (*In Montréal. — E.*) Not being aware of that many I am interested to know what mistakes you are pointing to.

I don't know what you mean by half a dozen entries being misplaced in the Rosenblum. The regulations for the registrations were clear, payment had to be done in advance, closing the evening before the start. As far as I know only one team that had paid was not on our lists. The policy furthermore as given to me was not to seat any unregistered team. All groups had at least 9 seeded teams, some of them 10. So we had to solve late entries, and to add the junior teams, for which, due to the low number of entered junior teams, we decided to let them play in the Rosenblum when we discovered there were enough places. This means that these late tenth entered teams were not of equal strength. Are you suggesting that we should have reorganized the groups at starting time (the earliest moment we knew it all, and even not that because one team entered hours late), delaying the start with an hour or more?

I consider this problem caused by the undisciplined way teams (and pairs) enter a World Championship. The same happened in all other events. When you want well-balanced events you might suggest the WBF to refuse late entries. That will help though it is not a popular measure for some of the players.

I replied to Ton that since I was on one of the 'lost' teams, I had first-hand experience of the cavalier treatment given us by the

Tournament Directors. And, yes, I do not think it unreasonable to suggest pre-registration for a World Championship.

Additionally, to put the blame on the players for undisciplined entry to a World Championship is bit presumptuous — they merely follow procedure.

One of the world's top players responds to the Rosenblum Lead Quiz in the last issue.

I am affronted by the piece entitled Rosenbloom Lead Quiz. What gender-biased man wrote that? He asks if anyone found the aggressive club lead - all he had to do is look at the two other tables where this hand was played (i.e., in the finals of the McConnell, but I'm sure no one thought to look in the women's event). My teammate, Lynn Deas, in fact did lead a club, defeating 4 Hearts; to add to that, my other teammates (Kerri and Irina) had an intelligent auction to bid 3NT.

It would be nice if someone pointed that out in your next edition.

Jill Meyers

You just have! I replied to Jill that I could assure her that the author was not gender-biased, since it was me! At the time I did not have access to the McConnell material, which I have since remedied, thanks to Barry Rigal.

To the editor of the IBPA Bulletin,

Recently, the first edition of Bridge Pass Europe was published. Bridge Pass Europe is a travel guide for bridge players. It has more than 500 bridge locations in 20 countries across Europe that welcome foreign visitors for an inspiring game. Bridge Pass Europe provides a useful overview of bridge phrase translations in all European languages, and a scheme of common bidding systems in each country.

The idea for the guide was triggered when a couple of Amsterdam-based bridge players wanted to play during their holiday in Spain, but did not know where to find a club.

The publisher of Bridge Pass Europe aims to publish an up-to-date edition of Bridge Pass Europe every two years. Preparations for the second edition are already underway. More information about Bridge Pass Europe can be found on the website: www.bridgepass.nl

Members of the IBPA can apply for a free copy of Bridge Pass Europe for editorial purposes. Please contact:

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Thank you, kind regards

Jan Willem Ebbinge

Publisher, Bridge Pass Europe