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Editorial

The opinions expressed here are solely those of the Editor, and do not necessarily reflect those of the IBPA Executive or the members.

The Bridge Hall of Fame was begun by The Bridge World in 1964 with the induction of Ely Culbertson, Charles Goren, and Harold Vanderbilt. It was discontinued just three years later with nine members. The ACBL revived the idea in 1995, calling the new hall the ACBL Hall of Fame, and declaring the original nine to be their first inductees. New members have been added each year since. In 2003, in Long Beach California, at the Summer NABC, our own President, Henry Francis, will be inducted into the ACBL Hall of Fame as the recipient of the Blackwood Award. The award goes to an individual who has made major contributions to bridge outside the area of playing expertise. There can be no doubt that Francis has done that. As the longtime Editor of the ACBL Bulletin and as a member and executive, now President, of the IBPA, he has influenced bridge positively for decades. Francis has also been Editor of the Encyclopaedia of Bridge, the World Championship Books, and the Daily Bulletins at scores of World, North American, Far East, and other Bridge Championships. Francis joins IBPA Chair and President Emeritus Alan Truscott in the Hall of Fame.

Almost forgotten in the mists of time is that Francis was a fine player early in his bridge life and had a thriving career as a Tournament Director before being offered the ACBL Bulletin Editor post when the League moved to Memphis in the early Seventies.

No one is more deserving of this great honour than Henry. He is certain to carry off his induction as he does everything else: with grace, charm and equanimity. Congratulations!

One of the more interesting aspects of the Phoenix NABC was the amount of space in the Daily Bulletins devoted to the presence of officials from the European Bridge League. As well as World Bridge Federation President José Damiani, EBL President Gianarrigo Rona, First Vice-President Jean-Claude Beineix, and Honorary Secretary Panos Gerontopoulos were on site to promote closer ties between the EBL and the ACBL. It had not escaped the EBL's attention that: (1.) many Italian and Polish stars, along with a smattering from England, Norway, Sweden, Germany and Russia have been coming to North American Bridge Championships for some years now; not to mention the usual crowd from Australia, Japan, China and Brazil, and that, (2.) the World Championships in the Rosenblum years have been a huge success. Thus the EBL came up with the idea of Open European Championships, to be held in Menton, France for the first time in June of this year. The Championships are already being affectionately referred to as the 'Ronablum' after their chief advocate and the World Championships upon which they were modelled. The hope is that they will engender the same success as the NABCs and the World Championships. All the best to them. Whatever their level of success, the decision is a good one for international bridge.

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There are special pages concerning Menton and the European Open Championships on the IBPA Website.

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PHOENIX RISING

The Fall 2002 North American Bridge Championships were held from November 29 through December 8 in Phoenix, Arizona. The flagship events are the Reisinger Teams, played at point-a-board (or board-a-match), and the Blue Ribbon Pairs, each six sessions in length. The major championship winners were:

- Reisinger Teams — Steve Landen-Pratap Rajadysasha, Dan Morse-Bobby Wolff, Adam Wildavsky-Doug Doub
- Blue Ribbon Pairs — Sidny Lazard-Bart Bramley
- Master Pairs — Eric Gero-Geoff Hampson
- Life Master Women's Pairs — Mildred Breed-Shawn Quinn
- Open Board-a-Match Teams — George Jacobs Ralph Katz, Norberto Bocchi-Giorgio Duboin, Alfredo Versace-Lorenzo Lauria
- Women's Board-a-Match Teams — Valerie Westheimer-Judi Radin-Hjordis Eythorsdottir, Mildred Breed-Shawn Quinn
- North American Swiss Teams — Mark Gordon-Rich Zucker, Mark Molson-Boris Baran, Withrop Allegaert-Jaggy Shivdasani

Another major winner was IBPA President Henry Francis, honoured as the recipient of the Blackwood Award, presented annually to "an individual, living or deceased, who has made major contributions to the game of bridge outside the area of playing expertise." Francis will be inducted into the ACBL Hall of Fame at the Summer 2003 NABC in Long Beach, California.

Detailed results, daily bulletins, and vugraph presentations can be found at www.acbl.org

Trump Tricks

By Barry Rigal, New York City

When Cezary Balicki tells you he has a fascinating position, you can be sure that it will be worth looking at.

Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

West <i>Balicki</i>	North	East <i>Zmudzinski</i>	South
--	--	--	Pass
1 ♥	2 ♦	3 ♦	3 ♠
4 ♥	Pass	Pass	4 ♠
Pass	Pass	5 ♥	Pass
Pass	5 ♠	Pass	Pass
Double	Pass	Pass	Pass

Balicki led a top heart and shifted to a club. Zmudzinski took the ace and found a diamond shift, won by declarer in hand for a heart ruff (yes, he could have cashed out for minus 500, but thought he could do better).

Now came a club ruff, a heart ruff and a club ruff with the spade six, overruffed with the seven. Back came the diamond jack, locking declarer in dummy. A club ruff with the jack of spades saw declarer exit with the spade queen to the ace.

This was the ending with the defense having four tricks in and East on lead.

♠ 10	♠ --	♠ 5
♥ K Q	♥ --	♥ --
♦ --	♦ K 9 5	♦ --
♣ --	♣ --	♣ A 5
	♠ K 9	
	♥ --	
	♦ 6	
	♣ —	

The ace of clubs delivered the coup de grâce. If declarer ruffed low, West would overruff and play a heart, leaving East with the long trump. If declarer ruffed high, he could not prevent the defense from scoring the last two tricks. Finally, if declarer discarded, East would be on lead at trick 12 for the trump promotion. Down four, minus 800.

Bring Your "A" Game

By Barry Rigal, New York City

You'd better concentrate pretty hard if you intend to play the following Jay Stiefel deal to best advantage. You (South) declare five hearts on the following auction.

West	North	East	South
--	--	1 ♠	Pass
4 ♠	Double	Pass	5 ♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

West leads the jack of spades and this is what you see:

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

The best approach is to assume that if trumps are not three-zero you are cold, and if either club honor is right, you are in great shape. To make your contract if trumps are three-zero, you have to strip off the side suits to effect an endplay, but the problem is that if you ruff two spades, you run out of trumps. The really odd feature is that you don't mind losing an early diamond overruff to East; if you do, you'll be able to endplay him later on. So, win the spade ace, ruff a spade, cash the diamond ace, lead a diamond to the king and ruff a diamond. Say East overruffs. Ruff the spade return, cash the king and ace of hearts and pass the club ten to endplay East. The East-West layout:

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

As it happens, East does best not to overruff in diamonds, but to pitch a spade. You now ruff a spade and pass the club 10 to East — who is now endplayed in two suits, one of which is trumps.

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

If East leads a spade, declarer ruffs in hand and pitches the club loser. Either a heart or club play gives up a trick in that suit. Stiefel admitted he missed this line - so all the more credit to him for bringing this to our attention.

The Winning Line

By Barry Rigal, New York City

An excellent declarer play problem was solved by less than one-fourth of the field in the first qualifying session of the Reisinger Board-a-Match Teams.

Dealer North. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
--	1 ♥	3 ♣	3 ♥
Pass	4 ♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			

On the queen of clubs lead, you win the ace. What now? Decide before reading on.

The answer: to achieve the required number of entries to dummy to strip off the black suits, it is essential to play the eight or nine of hearts to the ten or queen in dummy. Suppose West ducks; you play the club king and ruff a club, then lead the heart king. It can do West no good to duck, so he wins and plays back a third heart which you take in dummy to lead a spade to the king. Whether West hops up with the ace on the first round or ducks, the defenders will be thrown in with the third spade to open up diamonds or give you a ruff and discard, so the diamond loser vanishes.

Geir Helgemo was one of the few declarers to find the winning line - but that does not surprise you, does it?

The Quad

By Alan Truscott, Bronx, New York
(From the New York Times)

Winning back-to-back titles in team play is common, but it is rare in pair competition. The feat of Shawn Quinn and Mildred Breed, in winning the Life Master Women's Pairs at the Fall NABC in Phoenix for the fourth straight year was therefore astonishing. There is nothing comparable at the national level in the history of the game. Two days later, they followed this success with a victory in the Women's Board-a-Match Teams.

Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
--	--	--	1 ♥
Pass	2 ♣	2 ♠	Pass
4 ♠	5 ♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Quinn, currently the world's top-ranked woman player, sat East on the deal shown, and Breed, who is fourth in the rankings, sat West. They went out on a limb in the

bidding, but the opponents did not know it. It is worth taking some risk to push the opposition to the five-level, and Quinn and Breed combined to do that. They could have been doubled in four spades for a penalty of 800, but their opponents continued to five hearts, which was in jeopardy.

West led the spade two. South won the first trick, and as the cards lie she could have survived by leading a low heart. But that could easily have been an error. A better play would have succeeded: cash two diamond winners ending in dummy and lead the heart jack for a finesse. Instead declarer ruffed a spade, a play that appears harmless but was fatal. The declarer next cashed three diamond winners, discarding her remaining spade, and ran the heart jack, finessing. West won and had to lead in this position:

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

Breed made no mistake. She led a diamond, and Quinn discarded the club four. Whether South ruffed in the dummy or in her hand, she had no way to take another heart finesse. The contract failed by a trick, giving the defenders a top score. The normal contract at other tables was four hearts. This succeeded easily, sometimes with an overtrick.

The Triumph of Objectivism

By Alan Truscott, Bronx, New York
(From the New York Times)

The result of the Reisinger Board-a-Match Team Championship was a triumph for the objectivism of Ayn Rand. Two of the winners, Northeasterners Adam Wildavsky and Douglas Doub, are followers of the Rand philosophy, which stresses the importance of reason, keeping emotion in its proper place. That is certainly a good approach to the problems met at the bridge table.

Their teammates were Texans Bobby Wolff and Dan Morse, both winners of many national and international titles, and long-time partners, Midwesterners Steve Landen and Pratap Rajadhyaksha.

Dealer North. NS Vul.

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

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

One of the decisive boards from the final round is shown in the diagram. Doub landed in four hearts, a contract that appears doomed by the bad trump split. The two no trump rebid by Wildavsky, North, was non-forcing.

The diamond six was led, and won with dummy's ace. A heart to the king lost to the ace, and another diamond lead was ruffed in the closed hand. South persevered with trumps, surrendering the fourth round to West. East was already in trouble for discards, and the position was this:

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

There was no escape for the defense. West led another diamond, which forced East to throw a club. South ruffed and surrendered a club to make his game. If West had shifted to a club in the diagrammed position, South would have won in his hand and led the last trump, discarding a club from dummy. Then South could have cashed the king and ace of spades, with a club lead to follow, endplaying East.

In the replay, North-South attempted four spades unsuccessfully. Doub et al won the board and surged to their Reisinger victory.

Ed and the Reisinger

By Jill Meyers, Los Angeles

(Caveat — Some of the spot cards in Meyer's deals had to be 'reconstructed' due to lack of the hand records. However, no material details have been altered. — Ed.)

The quality of play at the three ACBL North American Bridge Championships has improved year after year. I think we can partly attribute this to the fact that there are many fine players who play bridge strictly as a hobby and as a mental challenge, and who are not always seeking the limelight and reaching for the brass ring. One such player is Ed Davis from Los Angeles.

Ed is the person who taught me how to play bridge many years ago, not only the rules of the game, but how to bid and think. He is one of the biggest reasons for my success. At the age of 51, Ed started raising a family, which consequently greatly curtailed his ability to go to tournaments. Now, any opportunity we get to play is a treat for me.

Ed was able to play in the Reisinger Board-a-Match in Phoenix and as this is generally acknowledged as the toughest event on the North American yearly calendar, he expressed concern that he wasn't going to be sharp after a several month layoff from bridge. That couldn't have been further from the truth, as demonstrated by the following three boards. (Ed was East on all of these deals).

1. Dealer South. EW Vul.

♠ K 9 7 4
♥ 9 8
♦ 9 6 4
♣ A Q 10 7

West	North	East	South
--	--	--	1 ♣
Pass	1 ♦	Pass	1 ♥
Pass	1 ♠	Pass	Pass
1 NT	2 ♥	?	

What would you bid? Ed said Double! His reasoning was: he knew we had at least half the deck, the opponents were at best on an eight-card fit, and he thought we could make one no trump; if the opponents went down one in two hearts, plus 50 for our side would likely lose the board. As you can see, two hearts likely makes because of the favorable lie of the cards for the opponents; however, South, with three spades, ran to two spades and Ed doubled again.

♠ 10 8 6 5
♥ Q 10 5
♦ K J 10 7 5
♣ 6

♠ Q 2
♥ K J 3 2
♦ A Q 3
♣ 9 8 5 4

♠ K 9 7 4
♥ 9 8
♦ 9 6 4
♣ A Q 10 7

♠ A J 3
♥ A 7 6 4
♦ 8 2
♣ K J 3 2

On the doubleton heart lead, two spades has no play, so Ed's gutsy bidding won the board for our side.

2. Dealer East. NS Vul.

Now for a double by an opponent that didn't work out so well. At favorable vulnerability, first seat, Ed held:

♠ 2
♥ K Q
♦ K J 10 6
♣ A K Q 8 5 3

West	North	East	South
--	--	1 ♣	Pass
1 ♥	1 ♠	2 ♦	Pass
2 ♥ ¹	Pass	2 ♠	Pass
2 NT	Pass	?	

1. Conventionally, five or more hearts, but also the weakest bid.

Your choice? Ed made the winning bid of three hearts (with such quality it seems right to bid the doubleton), which was raised to four and doubled by South. The whole layout was:

♠ A K J 8 7
♥ 10
♦ Q 7
♣ 10 9 4 2

♠ 10 9 4 3
♥ A J 8 4 2
♦ 8 5 4 2
♣ J

♠ 2
♥ K Q
♦ K J 10 6
♣ A K Q 8 5 3

♠ Q 6 5
♥ 9 7 6 5 3
♦ A 9 3
♣ 7 6

I don't know what kind of bravado South was showing when he doubled four hearts (maybe he didn't know Ed) but it was one of those questionable doubles that telegraphs to the opponent how to play the hand - not only did he indicate trump length but it was a flashing sign that the ace of diamonds was in that hand. After the dummy was tapped at trick two I led a club to the Jack and a heart up to dummy; when the ten appeared on my left I started playing clubs - South ruffed in on the third club and when I pitched a spade he was helpless. I think this is the right line of play without the double but the double drew me a roadmap.

3. Dealer West. Neither Vul.

♠ A Q 10 2
♥ 5 2
♦ Q J 9 6 3
♣ Q 6

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	1 ♦	1 ♥
Double ¹	1 ♠	Pass	Pass
2 ♣	2 ♠	Double	Pass
2 NT	Pass	?	

1. Values, but fewer than four spades.

What now? Ed figured I had five or six clubs and three diamonds, so he bid three diamonds. Then he had to play it:

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

The opening lead was the heart ace, followed by a (very good) shift to a low diamond. North won the diamond, cashed the heart queen, and continued trumps.

Ed cashed two more diamonds; North couldn't pitch any clubs, so he had to pitch three spades. South was able to pitch two hearts on the last two diamonds but when Ed played three rounds of clubs South was squeezed - he had to hold on to three spades since East had pitched three. But he also had to hold onto the last heart (the king). Unfortunately for him, he had to discard. Ed took three spade tricks with the aid of a finesse.

There are a lot of 'Eds' in the world who probably don't get the recognition they deserve as bridge players. So, Ed, here's to you.

The Blues

By Bart Bramley, Chicago

Sidney Lazard and I won the Blue Ribbon Pairs in Phoenix in December. Sidney, at 72, is easily the oldest winner ever of a six-session NABC pair event. His victory in a new decade marked six consecutive decades of winning major national events, starting with the Spingold in 1958.

Despite a 66% game in the first final session and a solid game in the last session, we did not take the lead until the very last round. There, we had two good boards against the afternoon leaders, who had still been

ahead of us until then. It was a very satisfying way to win. Those boards, however dramatic, were not that interesting as bridge deals, and have been reported elsewhere.

Eerie Similarity and Quick Revenge

Early in the final session we played a peculiar two-board round. First:

Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
--	Bramley	--	Lazard
Pass	2 ♣	Pass	1 ♠
Pass	3 ♠	Pass	3 ♣
Pass	Pass	Pass	4 ♠

Sidney had a tough call at his second turn. His shape was okay for two no trump, but his diamond holding was not. Two spades was possible, but Sidney wanted better spots before choosing that call instead of raising my suit, which did not show extras.

Unfortunately, West was paying attention and found the killing lead of the club six, third best. The spade finesse lost and West continued with the club nine. Sidney knew West to be a tricky player, and he also knew that if East could ruff we were due for a bad score, so he rose on the second club, holding himself to plus 420. We got 10 out of 51 matchpoints, but plus 450 would have been worth only four points more. We had lost the board in the bidding.

This was the companion board:

Dealer West. Both Vul.

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

West	North <i>Bramley</i>	East	South <i>Lazard</i>
Pass	1 ♣	Pass	1 ♠
Pass	2 ♠	Pass	4 ♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Again we had an unimpeded auction to four spades, with Sidney declaring, bidding only black suits on the way. Again we had a five-three spade fit, a secondary club fit missing the queen, and ace-queen tight of diamonds. Again West led his third best club. Again Sidney won in dummy and lost the next trick to West, this time by passing the heart eight to the jack. Again West continued clubs, although this time he led the deuce. Again Sidney judged that rising would be better than ducking. But paths diverged when this time he was rewarded by dropping the queen.

Sidney continued with the heart ace and a heart ruff, on which East falsecarded with the queen. The ace and queen of trumps revealed the four-one split. Sidney, who had done his thinking in advance, now continued smoothly with a diamond to the ace. The inferences from the early play suggested that the king was offside, and he also did not want to squander the advantage he had gained from dropping the club queen.

When Sidney ran trumps East did not recognize the necessity of throwing his last heart to help his partner, so when Sidney cashed the good club West had to choose which red king to hold for his last card. There was a strong inference to go right, which was that Sidney would have tried to ruff the last heart if he held that card, but West focused instead on his partner's (unhelpful) plays and on the inference that Sidney had not taken the diamond finesse when he had the chance. Therefore, he threw the diamond king, giving Sidney an impossible twelfth trick. Plus 650 would have been over average, but 680 was nearly a top, 48.5 out of 51 matchpoints.

The moral: keep making the right play and eventually it will work!

A Simple but Effective Defense

Our best defensive hand featured nothing more complicated than good technique and simple logic. It was from the last session:

Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

West <i>Lazard</i>	North	East <i>Bramley</i>	South
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	1 ♥	Pass	1 NT
Pass	2 ♣	Pass	2 NT
Pass	3 NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Sidney, with no attractive lead, chose the seven of spades, readable by me as high from a bad holding. Declarer played the jack (the king might have been a better play), and I encouraged with the eight, keeping control of the suit. Declarer crossed to the club king, passed the heart nine, led a heart to the ten, and continued with the heart ace and a fourth heart to Sidney's king. I pitched a low diamond first, then my two remaining clubs, as declarer pitched two diamonds. Sidney was able to work out the whole layout from the discards and the play to trick one. Thus, he shifted to the diamond king, holding declarer to ten tricks. We had each made one good play: my duck at trick one and Sidney's later shift. Together they were worth a remarkable 44 out of 51 matchpoints!

Natural Bidding

Our best bid hand was from the first final session:

Dealer West. EW Vul.

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

West <i>Lazard</i>	North	East <i>Bramley</i>	South
1 ♥	1 ♠	2 ♣	3 ♠
4 ♦	Pass	4 ♥	Pass
4 ♠	Pass	6 ♣	Pass
7 ♥	Pass	7 NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Sidney eschewed opening two clubs because the opponents were at favorable vulnerability and he had a spade void. When the opponents jammed the auction Sidney still had a big problem at his second turn. His delicate four diamond bid was a great solution, as it was natural, forcing, and low. Four diamonds may look obvious, but ask around and you'll find out differently. My four heart preference was conservative, but I feared bidding more on a potential misfit. Luckily for us, the four heart bid relieved Sidney of any concerns about hearts running. Sidney's next call, the four spade cuebid, continued his gradual approach to a complex hand. Having pulled in a notch earlier, I was comfortable driving to slam over four spades, but I was still not sure of the best trump suit. I chose the descriptive six club call, simultaneously accepting the slam try, showing a strong suit, and offering six clubs as a choice of contract.

Note that six clubs could be the winning contract opposite --, AQxxxx, AK10xx, xx or the like. That was good news for Sidney, who knew that the club king was huge, so he confidently bid seven hearts. Equally confidently, I converted to seven no trumps based on possession of the spade ace. I knew Sidney held solid hearts, the diamond ace, and one of the minor suit kings.

Note that our auction was completely natural except for four spades, a cuebid of a void, hardly a big contribution to a contract of seven no trumps. We used no ace-asking bid and cuebid no aces. Every bid but four spades showed a suit, and our last several bids were all offers to play. Yet when we reached seven no trumps we both knew it was cold! (*We have an early candidate for the Best Bid Hand of the Year.* — Ed)

There was a small point in the play. On the spade lead I pitched a heart from dummy. Sidney, who had been looking nervous, perked up and said, "That's a good sign!" I didn't need the seventh heart for thirteen tricks, but if hearts had been four-zero, I could still have made the contract with the diamond finesse and a squeeze if LHO had Jxxx, J98x, K9xx, x, a holding consistent with the bidding. Plus 2220 was worth 42 on a 51 top.

Just Another Losing Board

By Mark Horton, Romford, England

Here is a deal from the Phoenix NABC, Board-a-Match Teams scoring:

Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

West	North <i>Horton</i>	East	South <i>Helman</i>
--	--	--	Pass
Pass	1 ♠	Double	2 ♠
3 ♣	3 ♠	4 ♠	Pass
5 ♥	Pass	6 ♣	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Tempting fate, North led the six of spades. Leonard 'The Rabbi' Helman was not slow to get the message, returning a diamond for North to ruff. However, at the other table:

West <i>Wernle</i>	North	East <i>Smederevac</i>	South
--	--	--	Pass
Pass	1 ♠	Double	3 ♠
Pass	Pass	Double	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Three spades should have been beaten, but let's just say the defenders lost their way and allowed minus 730 - and just another way to lose a board.

DEALS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

The Giveaway

By Ron Klinger, Sydney, Australia

When defending against no trumps and required to make an early discard, most players will choose to discard from a five-card suit in which they can afford to let one card go. You need to beware of that against a top class player. An expert will note the discard, take the inference and possibly base a whole line of play on that discard.

Look how Bob Richman played this deal from a qualifying round of the 2002 Dick Cummings Pairs:

Dealer South. Neither Vul.

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

West	North <i>George Gaspar</i>	East	South <i>Bob Richman</i>
--	--	--	1 NT
Pass	3 NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			
	Opening lead: ♥7		

Judging that dummy would not hold a major and thus figured to have length in the minors, West chose to lead a heart rather than a diamond. Low from dummy, and the heart king was taken by the ace. Richman continued with the club ace and a second club. On this, West discarded the diamond four, and the Richman antennae were already quivering.

East captured the club ten with the jack and returned the heart five. West took the queen (ducking would have been better), and returned a heart, taken by the jack. Richman now led another club to the queen and West discarded the spade five. East won with the king

and shifted to the spade two. Richman rose with the spade ace, leaving this position:

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

So far declarer had taken four tricks (two hearts, the club ace and the spade ace). He had the club winner and three diamond tricks but still needed one more trick. Where could he find that?

When Richman cashed the eight of clubs, what was West to throw? The heart eight would leave the six high, and another diamond discard would give declarer four diamond tricks. Therefore West threw the spade king.

Richman now pondered over the diamond four discard. Would West have discarded a deceptive four from an original holding of J6542 or 106542? Reading the diamond four discard to be lowest from five diamonds, and hence from J10654, Richman led the diamond three, five from West, and inserted the eight from dummy.

When that held, he played the diamond nine to his queen and exited with the heart six. That gave the lead to West who, with only diamonds left, became the stepping-stone for declarer to reach dummy with two more diamond winners.

Had West inserted the diamond ten or jack on the first round of diamonds, it would have been even easier for declarer. He would win in dummy, return to the diamond queen and exit with the heart as before. Again West would be forced to give dummy the last two tricks.

Lederer Nuggets

By Simon Cochemé, London

“Yes, but I Didn’t Want You to Lead One.”

Dealer West. Neither Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
David	Ed	Tom	Andrew
Gold	Levy	Townsend	Woodcock
Pass	Pass	1 ♥	Double
3 ♥ ¹	3 ♠	4 ♥	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. Pre-emptive raise

This was the auction in the match between the fancied London team and the Juniors (who had done extremely well earlier in the year to reach the final stages of the open trials for the England team). Townsend bid to four hearts with a known ten-card fit, a contract that was almost certainly destined to fail...until Woodcock decided to lead his partner’s suit.

Townsend hopped up with the queen, played a spade to the ace, drew trumps, ruffed a spade and gave up a diamond. North exited with the ten of spades, which Townsend ruffed. He now ruffed his second diamond in dummy and led a club. When Levy played the two, Townsend was able to duck the trick to the South hand, ending playing him in the minors. Levy does no better to play the queen of clubs instead of the two. It would have gone to the king and ace, giving Townsend a nasty moment on the club return. As the cards lie, with South holding the jack and nine of clubs, declarer cannot go wrong, but in the middle of a match, it’s always worth making an opponent sweat a little!

The Gold Standard

Dealer South. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Hugh	David	Tom	Tom
McGann	Gold	Hanlon	Townsend
--	--	--	Pass
1 ♦	2 ♣	2 ♠	4 ♦
4 ♠	Pass	Pass	5 ♣
5 ♠	Pass	Pass	6 ♣
Double	Pass	Pass	Pass

Of the eight players to hold the South hand, three passed, two opened one heart, two opened two hearts and one opened four hearts. In the featured match between London and Ireland Tom Townsend passed for London and then bid a diversionary four diamonds on the way to five clubs. Five spades has three top losers, but Townsend bid six clubs, hoping that his secret heart suit would come in useful, or that Ireland might sacrifice in six spades.

When Hanlon chose to lead the ace of spades a big swing was in prospect. Gold ruffed in dummy and quickly called for a small club. West produced the two and the world (well, the VuGraph audience) waited for Gold to play from his hand. If he got the clubs right he would make a doubled overtrick. After an age he decided to finesse and the contract was two down, 500 to Ireland, who also got plus 300 from six spades doubled in the other room. Thirteen IMPs to Ireland who went on to win the match 47-13.

As the VuGraph audience saw declarer play the queen of clubs, a voice was heard from the back of the room, "There has been a fall in the price of Gold."

Change of Suit

Dealer West. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>John Matheson</i>	<i>Andrew Robson</i>	<i>Willie Coyle</i>	<i>Zia Mahmood</i>
Pass	1 ♣	2 ♦	2 ♠
3 ♦	4 ♠	Pass	5 ♥
Pass	6 ♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			

In the last match of the 2002 Lederer the All Stars faced the President's Team on Vu-Graph. Playing five card majors and a strong no-trump, Robson opened one club as North. Brushing aside the opposition bidding Robson and Zia reached four spades. When Zia bid five hearts Robson realised that, if this was a four-card suit (Zia's shape was quite likely to be 5-4-1-3), twelve tricks might be available in six hearts and only eleven tricks in six spades. And so it proved. The diamond lead was won, trumps drawn, a diamond ruffed and a spade conceded.

Colin Simpson, sitting East for the All Stars at the other table, psyched a one spade overcall and nearly engineered a memorable coup.

West	North	East	South
<i>Robert Sheehan</i>	<i>Geoffrey Breskal</i>	<i>Colin Simpson</i>	<i>David Edwin</i>
Pass	1 ♥	1 ♠	4 ♦
Pass	4 ♥	Pass	4 ♠
Pass	4 NT	Pass	5 ♥
Pass	5 NT	Pass	6 ♥
Pass			

Breskal and Edwin, part of the President's Team that won the Lederer in 1995 and 1997, bid to six hearts with the aid of a four diamond splinter and simple Blackwood for aces and kings. Breskal had noted Simpson's one spade overcall, so he won the diamond lead, drew trumps in three rounds ending in dummy and called for a small spade. This safety play would enable him to make the contract if East held all five spades, as suggested by his overcall, or if West held any singleton. On the actual layout, if West had played low on the first spade, East winning with the ten, then Breskal would surely have finessed on the second round, losing to West's queen. Alas for history, Sheehan went up with queen and the board was flat. (*Perhaps, but Breskal may also have come to the conclusion that East would have led a spade from his putative QJ102 instead of the diamond he actually led.* — Ed.)

Game Theory in Madeira

By Bill Townsend, Leeds, England

The following deal arose in the Swiss Teams event at the 5th International Bridge Festival in Madeira, November 11-18, 2002, in the match between our English team (Bill Hirst, Derek Rue, Keith Stanley, Bill Townsend) and a fancied Italian outfit, the "Allegra" team, which contained at least one of the World Champions.

Dealer East. Both Vul.

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

Table 1

West	North	East	South
<i>Stanley</i>	<i>Allegra</i>	<i>Townsend</i>	<i>Allegra</i>
--	--	1 ♠	Pass
Pass	2 ♦	Pass	3 NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Table 2

West	North	East	South
<i>Allegra</i>	<i>Hirst</i>	<i>Allegra</i>	<i>Rue</i>
--	--	1 ♠	Pass
1 NT	2 ♦	Pass	2 ♠
Pass	3 ♣	Pass	3 NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Both Souths were in three no trumps after East had opened one spade, and effectively needed to get the diamonds right. At our table, declarer cashed the diamond king, and as East I was castigated by teammates for not

dropping an honour. At the other table, teammate Bill Hirst succumbed to this ploy (executed by Norberto Bocchi), taking a second round finesse to go down. Now, this is not a restricted choice situation, and exactly the same position arose in the 2001 European Championships, with at least one declarer falling for that deceptive card, getting much publicity as a result. Perhaps unkindly, I commented that offending teammate might have felt even worse if I had produced this card, and the Italian declarer had refused to fall for it!

Interestingly, this is one of a number of classic false-carding situations where the best strategy for declarer depends on the frequency with which a defender is expected to false card. In the above case, one should always finesse against an opponent who never drops an honour from J10x, as a singleton honour is more likely than J10 doubleton, but should never finesse against someone who always drops one. Interestingly, the optimal strategy for the defender is to drop an honour just over 20% of the time, in which case no information is provided to declarer, who now has a 50-50 guess. The more inclined the declarer is to finesse, the more a defender should drop an honour, and we move into the area of Game Theory, developed by mathematician John Von Neumann and popularised in the film 'A Beautiful Mind'.

Of course, on a single occasion one should drop an honour and aim to look like the kind of player who never false cards, hoping that one's long-term propensity remains secret.

Welsh Rarebit

By Bob Pitts, Flint, Wales

The Welsh National Swiss Teams was held in Llangollen in the middle of November, and the deal that caused the most discussion during the weekend was this one.

Dealer South. NS Vul.

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

I was having my once a year outing with former Welsh international John Salisbury, and playing East-West against Paul Hackett and Alan Mould, we reached six hearts, drifting quietly off for a flat board in our match. At other tables, several East-Wests had managed to reach 6NT, sometimes under their own steam, but occasionally after a warning double from South. Played by East, on the lead of a top diamond, it was generally

agreed that if declarer wins and cashes his nine black suit winners, South would have to unblock all of the diamonds, retaining the three as an exit card to avoid an endplay. Of course, this requires North to not have followed with the nine at trick one, otherwise dummy's eight will threaten to win the decisive trick. Should West be the declarer, it again has to be a diamond lead, and North must start with the small one to avoid the endplay against South - not so easy.

Of course, on this lie of the cards, declarer can give the defence no chance by ducking the first diamond, then on the run of the winners, South gets squeezed in the red suits.

There were also some hard luck stories on the deal. More than one East declared six hearts one off, only to find that his teammates had opened the South hand with a Lucas Two Hearts, showing heart and a minor, and had gone five or six off vulnerable.

Go West, Young Man

By Mark Horton, Romford, England

One of the delights of living in England (and there are not that many left) is listening to Alistair Cooke's weekly radio report, "Letter from America," in which he brings us up to date on what is happening across the Atlantic.

He recently reminded us of the exhortation, "Go west, young man," and, judging by the number of European stars at the recent NABC in Phoenix, a lot of people have taken his advice.

Austria's Sascha Wernle, one of these stars, is a regular member of his country's Open Team, and he was involved in the following sensational deal from this year's tournament in Loibon, Austria.

Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

West <i>Winkler</i>	North <i>Umshaus</i>	East <i>Gal</i>	South <i>Wernle</i>
--	--	--	1 ♣ ¹
Pass	1 ♥ ²	Pass	2 ♦
Pass	3 ♣	Pass	3 ♦
Pass	4 ♦	Pass	4 ♥
Pass	5 ♦	Pass	6 ♦
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. Strong, artificial, forcing.
2. Seven or more high-card points, fewer than three controls.

West led the club jack and declarer, Wernle (South), paused to consider his chances. Clearly, friendly breaks in both minors would make twelve tricks easy to obtain, but why had West made such a seemingly dangerous lead?

Declarer decided that West was protecting awkward holdings in the majors and rejected any idea of playing East for the spade queen. Winning the club lead in hand, he crossed to the diamond king and played a diamond back to his hand, as West discarded a heart. With a deep plan in mind, declarer played all his remaining diamond winners to reach the following position:

```

♠ 8
♥ Q 5
♦ --
♣ Q 8 7

♠ K 10 7
♥ A
♦ --
♣ K 9

```

West had discarded two spades and two more hearts on the diamonds, East a spade and two hearts. To confirm his calculations, declarer cashed the club king and East discarded a heart. Playing West to have been 3-5-1-4, Wernle played the king of spades from his hand and claimed when West's queen appeared.

It would not have helped West to bare the heart king, as declarer would cash the ace, felling the king, and cross to dummy with a club, this time without cashing the king. Amazingly, that would squeeze East, as a spade discard allows declarer to play a spade to the king and a spade; a heart discard allows him to cash the heart queen before playing a spade to the king. This was the full ending:

```

♠ 8
♥ Q 5
♦ --
♣ Q 8 7

♠ Q
♥ K 10
♦ --
♣ 10 6 2

♠ A 5 4
♥ J 9 6
♦ --
♣ --

♠ K 10 7
♥ A
♦ --
♣ K 9

```

Once West has led a club, declarer cannot be defeated provided he reads the cards correctly, but an initial heart lead would have been fatal as it removes the heart ace entry.

Nevertheless, I'm sure you'll agree that declarer's inspired play makes this a worthy candidate for Hand of the Year.

Polish Pairs Championship Quiz

One hundred and twenty-eight pairs played in the Polish Pairs Championship in Starachowice over the weekend of November 20-22. The Semifinal was 90 boards long; the Final was contested by the top 28 pairs over two sessions, 54 boards. The final results:

1. Chmurski — Puczynski
2. Kwiecien — Pszczola
3. Henclik — Sikorski
4. Gawrys — Jassem

See if you can find the winning action on these two deals:

1. Dealer North. NS Vul.

```

♠ 5 4 3
♥ 10 9 4
♦ A K J 8 4
♣ 8 7

```

West	North	East	South
--	1 NT	Pass	6 NT
Pass	Pass	?	

Your opponents are Piotr Gawrys, North, and Krzysztof Jassem, South. Your call?

2. Dealer North. NS Vul.

```

♠ Q 9 8 4 3
♥ J 5
♦ A 3
♣ Q 9 7 2

♠ A 10 5
♥ Q 3
♦ 10 9 7
♣ A J 10 5 4

```

West	North	East	South
--	1 ♥	2 ♣	Pass
2 ♠	Pass	3 ♠	4 ♣
4 ♠	Double	Pass	Pass
Pass			

You and your partner have done a lot of bidding on this deal. North, again Gawrys, leads the ace and king of hearts, South, Jassem, following with the two (even number) and the eight. North continues with the club king and South follows with the three when you win the ace. What's going on here? Can you figure it out? Plan the play.

Solutions

1. Is it too obvious to double, take your ace-king of diamonds, and plus 200, then go on to the next board? Perhaps it is. Look at the full deal:

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

If you were unable to resist temptation and doubled, Jassem on your left would have bid seven clubs, as he did at the table. Now look at the insoluble problem your partner had. He made probably the best theoretical lead of the heart five. Oops!

2.

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

Were you able to figure out what Jassem and Gawrys had for their bidding? If you played a diamond to the ace for a spade play, either the queen or low to the ten, you are minus 100 for a 78% score. Similarly, if you played a low spade off the dummy, one down. If you played ace and another spade to stop the impending club ruff, too bad, minus 300 and a 27% score (Gawrys will win and shift to a diamond, as happened at the table — no pitch on the long club, sorry).

Should you find the winning play? Yes, you should. With club shortness revealed on your right, you should reason that North-South will make four hearts, somewhat luckily. Since each side has half the deck, however, it will not always be bid, so minus 100 should be a decent score. You should also wonder why that sneaky Gawrys was so eager to lead the club king rather than a low one. He also could have insured one off by switching to a diamond (remember Jassem played the heart eight at trick two), but the actual club king switch created the illusion that a make was possible.

The moral of these two deals: Beware of Poles bearing gifts!

Papi

By Teng-Yuan Liang, Tainan, Taiwan

I have a very interesting story for you. The bridge legend Benito Garozzo is involved.

The Internet has magically changed the bridge world. At the least, it makes it possible to play together with someone who is 10,000 miles away. And once in a while you will have a special experience. How about playing against your idol and being praised by him? On OKBridge, a Taiwanese international, Chi-Kuo Shen, who was a 1996 Olympiad semifinalist, played

the following hand against 'Papi' - believed to be the code name of bridge's Master Yoda (Star Wars' legendary Grand Master) - none other than Benito Garozzo.

OKBridge. Board 298. Dec. 2, 2002.

Dealer North. Both Vul.

(Board rotated for convenience)

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

West	North	East	South
Papi (Garozzo)	Saverio	Lupin	Huf (Shen)
--	Pass	Pass	1 ♣
Pass	1 ♥	Pass	2 NT
Pass	3 NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

West led a low spade to his partner's ace and back came a spade to declarer's king. Shen tested the hearts with the king and queen. On the second round, Papi parted with a low club! Shen soon found the way to bring his game home.

Shen cashed the club ace and led to the king in dummy. A spade put Papi in and cut the defenders' communications. West cashed his spades and led a diamond into Shen's tenace. East was down to the bare king in diamonds at this point since he needed to guard the two round suits. Another diamond squeezed East. Papi showed his greatness by praising Shen for his good play.

When Shen told me this story, I replied that if Papi had discarded a diamond on the second round of hearts, he wouldn't have made his game. Shen responded that if West had done that, he would have cashed the heart ace to force West to pitch a club (a non-material squeeze). West would still be thrown in with a spade.

Now, after West cashed his spade tricks, the cards would be reduced to the following position:

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

West could not attack the club entries without giving up the suit, so he led a diamond. Another diamond would terminate East as before.

“What a fantastic coup,” I commented, “but I am sure that had it really been Garozzo, he would have discarded a diamond first, cashed only the fourth spade when thrown in, and then shifted to a diamond.”

Board 39 Revisited

By Neil Cohen, Austin, Texas

The play in four spades on Board 39 from the Rosenblum Semifinals is interesting. Although Eric Kokish pointed out it is the best contract, he didn't discuss the play. These were the cards:

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

In four spades, best defense starts with three rounds of clubs. Declarer should ruff in South, and discard a heart. Now, spades are blocked. Declarer can:

1. Play for a three-three spade split and three-two diamonds by overtaking the spades, or by cashing two spades and playing a diamond to the ace.
2. Play a heart. The defense takes its ace and plays a fourth club. If spades are four-two, you must ruff in North, discarding a diamond from South, cash two diamonds, and try to cash two hearts. If successful, you end with a high crossruff in the red suits. If West ruffs the third round with a high spot, you overruff, and play the diamond ace. If East is out of diamonds, he must ruff, or else you let

the ace ride and finish with a high crossruff. If he ruffs, you overruff and lead a small heart. If West can't ruff with a high spot, you ruff with the six and finish with a high crossruff. All in all, you need three-three hearts or West having a doubleton and only one high spot. You also need three-two diamonds. Or, you can change your mind when West leads a fourth club and ruff in South, playing for three-three spades after all.

Ping Pong

By Barry Rigal, New York City
(IBPA Column Service)

221. Nicola Smith and Pat Davies have been Britain's premier women's pair for the last decade, and they competed in the 1996 Macallan tournament with a great deal of credit, finishing 8th of 16, having never been out of the top half of the field all event. In their final match they lost by the narrowest of margins to the eventual winners, Jeff Meckstroth and Eric Rodwell, but they would have won the match comfortably had it not been for this hand.

Dealer West. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Rodwell</i>	<i>Smith</i>	<i>Meckstroth</i>	<i>Davies</i>
Pass	Pass	1 ♥	1 NT
Pass	3 NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Eric Rodwell led the ten of hearts, and this was covered by the queen, king, and ace. Pat Davies then took three diamond winners, and played a spade to the jack and queen, whereupon a second heart back sealed her fate.

The best line is to cover the ten of hearts at trick one, and to duck the king of hearts; the best the defence can do is to play on clubs, and only misguesses in both spades and clubs could lead to defeat.

A stronger defence would have been for East to duck the heart queen altogether. Now only a spade guess would see declarer home. But then, going back to square one, had Davies guessed spades to begin with, she'd have made the contract at the table.

Correspondence ...

The Editor reserves the right to shorten correspondence

Email: ibpaeditor@sympatico.ca

Enough of you responded positively to my wondering if others were interested in standards and guidelines for bridge writers to print Jeff Rubens' response to an email I'd sent him about a Bridge World Style Manual...

If ever there were a question to which the answer "yes and no" applies, yours is it. I apologize for not being able to answer both briefly and coherently.

Do we have a style manual? YES. Is it online? YES (or it is supposed to be). Would we be willing to share this (and discuss it, etc.)? YES. Do we think this sort of thing is meaningful? YES. Have we kept the style manual up to date? NO. Have we followed through on trying to make improving bridge terminology and consistent style more nearly universal? NO.

Discussion: I (personal I) believe that gentle, gradual improvements in bridge terminology and (to a secondary extent, in that it significantly affects mostly people who are reading bridge in a language other than their native one) consistency in style would not only improve enjoyment of players and readers, but also make the game more accessible to more people at every level, hence enhance its popularity.

I see these improvements as (1) removing ambiguities by avoiding using words in more than one sense when confusion is possible (e.g., avoiding "hand" when one could unambiguously say "deal"; not using "response" - reply is often a good substitute - except for responder's first action), (2) removing ambiguities by separating form from function (e.g., "reverse"), (3) improving diction (e.g., treat defensive signals as "communication," the use of entries as "transportation"), (4) not being sloppy in general, (5) (for use only in appropriate contexts) adding useful words (e.g., "advancer") where there is a need. I also believe in the value of universality and would prefer that The Bridge World not be, as it is in many cases now de facto, the arbiter for bridge language. It is not that I believe any of our decisions has been wrong or harmful (we avoid linguistic pronouncements/suggestions that a preliminary survey suggests might be controversial, and in any case we do it all very slowly); quite the reverse in fact - I am proud of our accomplishments. However, it would be much more appropriate if there were a more widely based "language supervisor." I suggested in print that the International Bridge Press Association could be an appropriate body for this role. Never heard anything further on that.

A possibly important factor: Even among editors and writers, there seems to be a wide spectrum of opinion on the importance of such matters (even where there is little dispute about the actual usages - but there, too, there are clearly distinct categories: for example, some of our suggestions have been readily adopted here and there, but I don't seem to be able to get the time of day on transportation/communication, I suspect because the

only other person to hawk this idea widely was George Coffin, who was such a "nut" in so many things, including some terminological ones, that after a certain point anything he said was discounted as lunatic, regardless of content).

The thought that the Editor of the IBPA Bulletin might be interested in this area is very cheering and might even get me to the point that I found it worthwhile to update the style manual (which Phillip Alder and I were actively concerned with for a while, but we faded out when it came down to adjusting details and we both became or were very busy). I recognize the likely utility of getting the world's editors and writers to act together on anything like his (even on top of everyone's being fixated on the way they have been doing things and the significant differences in usage and spelling between Americans and Commonwealthers), but two is a lot better than one, and perhaps a policy in the IBPA Bulletin would be a big step forward toward getting support here and there. A movement is an accumulation of individual actions.

Best wishes,
Jeff

Barry Rigal comments on Ton Kooijman's letter last month.

Re: Ton's comment that he only knows of one team entry being lost.

On the morning of the event, while I was trying to find my entry I noticed the bye team (team 10) being replaced in at least a handful of groups. I had put our entry in relatively early - we were the ninth entry sold, I believe. Our entry was definitely mislaid solely because of TD error. So if Ton only knows of one entry misplaced, I am here to tell him he is wrong... there were more and one of them was mine.

We lost our seeding by being placed tenth in our group, a totally unfair position based on organizer error. (As did my own team, which I believe was the sixth one sold. — Ed.)

Barry Rigal

Sabine Auken couldn't resist giving me a gentle needle about an error in Jean-Paul Meyer's article on the upcoming European Championships in Menton, alluding to Jill Meyers' letter last month.

I also read JPM's article on Menton and almost got a heart attack. "Mens" pairs and teams? Continuing your gender-biased approach? :-))

Sabine

Sabine refers to the fact that there will be "Open" pairs and teams, not "Men's pairs and teams, as the article stated.

WORLD BRIDGE CALENDAR

Dates	Event	Location	Contact
2003			
Jan 12-19	7 th 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	20 th Cairo International Festival	Cairo, Egypt	www.egybf.com
Jan 24-26	9 th Southern Regional	Port of Spain, Trinidad	www.cacbf.com
Jan 27-Feb 2	Bermuda 2003	Southampton, Bermuda	Sheena Rayner 1-441-293-0531
Feb 4-9	8 th NEC Cup	Yokohama, Japan	www.jcbl.or.jp
Feb 13-22	37 th International Bridge Festival	Tel Aviv, Israel	manager@bridge.co.il
Feb 14-17	Icelandair Open	Rejkyavik, 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 17-23	Mexican Nationals	Ixtapan de la Sal, Mexico	www.d16acbl.org/d16sch.html
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 Marion Watson 1-905-274-5323
Apr 15-20	108 th Canadian Nationals	Toronto, Canada	bridgemw@rogers.com
Apr 16-18	Bridge Pro Tour San Diego Open	San Diego, CA	www.bridgeprotour.com
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
Apr 23-26	Bridge Pro Tour Miami Open	Miami, FL	www.bridgeprotour.com
May 2-9	SPBF Championships (WBF Zone 7)	Tahiti, French Polynesia	Fax. 68-982 9690
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 Murcia, Spain	Maribel Corchero bridgecc@hotmail.com
May 21-29	USBF Women's Team Trials	Orlando, FL	www.acbl.org
May 22-25	Bridge Pro Tour Cleveland Open	Cleveland, OH	www.bridgeprotour.com
May 24-31	CACBF Championships (WBF Zone 5)	Martinique	dabretauji@wanadoo.fr
Jun 1-9	USBF Open Team Trials	Memphis, TN	www.acbl.org
Jun 5-15	PABF Championships (WBF Zone 6)	Makati, Philippines	altan@info.com.ph
Jun 6-7	WBF Worldwide Pairs	Clubs everywhere	anna@ecats.co.uk
Jun 14-28	European Open Championships	Menton, Côte d'Azur, France	EBL (Milan) 39 02 7000 0022 ebl@federbridge.it
Jun 26-28	Bridge Pro Tour Las Vegas Open III	Las Vegas, NV	www.bridgeprotour.com
Jul 4-6	World Junior Pairs Championship	Tata, Hungary	www.worldbridge.org
Jul 7-14	World Junior Camp	Tata, Hungary	www.worldbridge.org
Jul 9-12	Bridge Pro Tour Chicago Open	Chicago, IL	www.bridgeprotour.com
Jul 17-27	ACBL Summer NABC	Long Beach, CA	www.acbl.org
Jul 22-25	Bridge Pro Tour Los Angeles Open II	Long Beach, CA	www.bridgeprotour.com
Jul 24-Aug 3	ABA Summer Nationals	Puerto Rico	ABA (Atlanta) 1 404 768 5517
Aug 6-8	Bridge Pro Tour Secaucus Open	Secaucus, NJ	www.bridgeprotour.com
Aug 8-17	English Summer Nationals	Brighton, England	EBU 44 1296 394 414
Aug 25-Sep 6	18 th International Bridge Festival	Mamaia, Romania	www.frbridge.ro
Aug 29-31	Bridge Pro Tour Santa Clara Open III	Santa Clara, CA	www.bridgeprotour.com
Sep 19-22	European University Championships	Wroclaw, Poland	ebf@federbridge.it
Nov TBD	Bermuda Bowl and Venice Cup		www.worldbridge.org
Nov 9-16	9 th 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
Nov 24-28	EBL Simultaneous Pairs	Clubs	anna@ecats.co.uk
Dec 9-12	Bridge Pro Tour Palm Springs Open	Palm Springs, CA	www.bridgeprotour.com
Dec 26-27	Bridge Pro Tour New York Open	New York, NY	www.bridgeprotour.com
Dec 27-29	Bridge Pro Tour Reno Open	Reno, NV	www.bridgeprotour.com
2004			
Mar 18-28	ACBL Spring NABC	Reno, NV	www.acbl.org
Jun 19-Jul 3	47 th European Bridge Team Championships	Malmö, Sweden	www.bridgefestival.net
Jul 8-18	ACBL Summer NABC	New York, NY	www.acbl.org
Nov 18-28	ACBL Fall NABC	Orlando, FL	www.acbl.org